



## BFUG MEETING

Tartu (Estonia), 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> November 2017

### Draft Minutes

#### 0. List of Participants

Delegation	Last name	First name
Armenia	Harutyunyan	Gayane
Austria	Bacher	Gottfried
Austria	Dulmovits	Stephan
Azerbaijan	Bayramov	Shahin
Belarus	Rytov	Alexander
Belarus	Betenya	Elena
Belgium fl.	Soenen	Magalie
Belgium fl.	Vercruyssen	Noel
Belgium fr.	Hollela	Caroline
BFUG Secretariat	Profit	Francoise
BFUG Secretariat	Saad	Mariana
BFUG Secretariat	Steinmann	Marina
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Duric	Aida
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Maric	Petar
Bulgaria	Radonova	Ivana
Business Europe	Seling	Irene
Council of Europe	Bergan	Sjur
Croatia	Ramljak	Branka
Croatia	Tecilazić Goršić	Ana
Czech Republic	Polakova	Zuzana
Czech Republic	Trojanová	Lucie
Denmark	Johannesen	Jonas
Denmark	Ulf-Møller	Maria
Education International	Keller	Andreas
Education International	Roman	Agnes
ENQA	Kelo	Maria
EQAR	Tück	Colin
Estonia	Co-chair Haidak	Margus

Estonia	Pukk	Janne
Estonia	Kurs	Kalmar
Estonia	Padar	Allan
Estonia	Raudmäe	Kristi
ESU	Gajek	Adam
ESU	Schwitters	Helge
ESU	Sundberg	Caroline
EUA	Gaebel	Michael
EUA	Wilson	Lesley
EURASHE	Karpíšek	Michal
EURASHE	Lauwick	Stéphane
Euridyce	Crosier	David
European Commission	Debiais Sainton	Vanessa
European Commission	Engels-Perenyi	Klara
European Commission	Tyson	Adam
EUROSTUDENT	Hauschildt	Kristina
Finland	Innola	Maija
France	Desprésaux	Denis
France	Lagier	Hélène
France	Vice-chair Ott	Marie-Odile
Georgia	Margvelashvili	Maia
Germany	Greisler	Peter
Germany	Lüddeke	Barbara
Germany	Petrikowski	Frank
Greece	Dionysopoulou	Panagiota
Greece	Skouras	Christos
Holy See	Bechina	Friedrich
Holy See	Rosenbaum	Melanie
Hungary	Keszei	Ernő
Iceland	Vidarsdottir	Una
Ireland	Gleeson	Joseph
Italy	Castellucci	Paola
Italy	Cinquepalmi	Federico
Italy	Lantero	Luca
Kazakhstan	Boiko	Yekaterina
Kazakhstan	Chikibayeva	Zarina
Kazakhstan	Mendaliyeva	Rauza
Kazakhstan	Nurmagambetov	Amantay
Latvia	Ivsina	Daiga

Latvia	Rauhvargers	Andrejs
Liechtenstein	Schädler	Eva-Maria
Lithuania	Viliūnas	Giedrius
Luxembourg	Kox	Corinne
Moldova	Velisco	Nadejda
Netherlands	Bijvank	Tessa
Norway	Johansson	Toril
Norway	Strøm	Tone Flood
Poland	Banaszak	Bartłomiej
Portugal	Dominginhos	Pedro
Portugal	Feyo de Azevedo	Sebastião
Portugal	Martins	Afonso
Portugal	Queiroz	João
Romania	Cezar	Haj
Romania	Toma	Antonela
Russian Federation	Co-chair Kamynina	Nadezda
Serbia	Jocic	Katarina
Serbia	Mandic	Vesna
Slovenia	Sedej	Jana
Spain	de Lezcano-Mújica	Margarita
Sweden	Persson	Martin
Switzerland	Meister-Gampert	Muriel
Switzerland	Studinger	Silvia
Ukraine	Zolotaryova	Iryna
United Kingdom	Thomson	Edward
United Kingdom	Wilkinson	Pamela

Apologies: Albania, Cyprus, Montenegro, Turkey

## 1. Welcome and introduction to the meeting

Prof. Anneli Saro, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs at Tartu University, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Rector.

The outgoing BFUG Co-chair (Norway) thanked the current BFUG Co-chairs for the good co-operation. The Russian BFUG Co-chair expressed her gratitude to the hosting organisation, the Bologna Secretariat, and all co-operation partners and wished the incoming BFUG Co-chairs full success. The BFUG Vice-chair reminded participants that the Drafting Committee for the Communiqué had started its work and that discussions of presentations from the groups should be focused on recommendations.

## 2. Adoption of the agenda

The European Commission proposed to change the order of presentations from AG2 and AG3. ENQA proposed to have the Communiqué point on the first day right after the discussion of the groups' results. Some delegations asked to discuss the Communiqué item on the first day.

On the basis of these proposals, the BFUG Co-chairs decided to swap AG 2 and AG 3, and to start the second day with the discussion of the draft Communiqué.

### **3. Feedback of the last meetings**

The outgoing BFUG Co-chair (Norway) presented the main conclusions from the minutes of the BFUG meeting in Gozo in May 2017. Regarding these minutes, Hungary criticised the 5<sup>th</sup> cycle mentioned under point 5.2, and the Council of Europe explained that the reference should be to the first cycle instead. About point 5.6, Italy questioned the reference to a 'majority' in favour of the proposal by AG3. Some delegations agreed with the comments by Italy, and other supported the minutes as they were. After the discussion, it was agreed to change the sentence referring to the cyclic procedure in paragraph 3, with "a number of BFUG members agreed and a number disagreed" instead of "a majority of BFUG members agreed".

At the meeting with all AG/WG Chairs in Paris in June 2017, they were reminded that reports for this meeting should be short, concise and accessible.

The BFUG Co-chair (Russia) reported that the Board meeting in St. Petersburg last September resulted in having the discussion on Fundamental Values on the agenda of this BFUG meeting and in recommending the BFUG to agree on a short document for the discussion of ministers. She also informed the BFUG that a proposal on the structure of the Communiqué and a first proposal for the agenda of the Ministerial Conference were presented in St. Petersburg.

### **4. Update and discussion concerning the AG/WG work: The Future of the EHEA**

#### *AG1 EHEA International Co-operation*

The AG1 chair (Spain) underlined that in the beginning of its work the group had made a decision on countries for co-operation and identified common topics (e.g. recognition, internationalisation ...). The meetings revealed that all countries can learn from good practice, but in some cases they needed further support. The AG1 chair (Spain) referred to the report of the group and the recommendations underlining that having a meeting every 2-3 years is not the best way for co-operation between the EHEA and other countries. So, in order to keep building an international dialogue, AG1 recommended to have an international seminar every year. The AG1 chair (France) presented the draft agenda for the Bologna Policy Forum where the role of higher education in a changing society is proposed as the main topic under the overarching umbrella of inclusiveness. A keynote speaker is foreseen for the opening session, and the two suggested roundtables are focused on 'widening access and ensuring success for all in higher education' on the one hand, and on 'social responsibility of higher education' on the other hand. One recommendation of AG1 is about a new 'global working group' for an international agenda of the EHEA post 2020.

BFUG members welcomed the AG1 proposal for the Bologna Policy Forum and the effort to reach an audience outside the EHEA. Some delegations questioned the interest of such an event for ministers, though. The following proposals were made: linking inclusiveness with a case study, stressing the geopolitical role of the Bologna Process, paying attention to migrants/the refugee crisis, with a special focus on North-Africa and the Middle East, or enhancing further the role of higher education as underpinning democracy. Other members underlined the importance of revising the BFUG's operational model and linking the work from the current period to the work of the next period(s). Concerns were expressed about AG1 exchanges with intermediate non-European organisations only, and not with representatives of non-European ministries.

The AG1 chair (Spain) thanked the delegations for all remarks and announced that they would be integrated into AG1's further work. In response to other remarks, she pointed out it would be politically difficult to choose one case study instead of offering several topics for discussion. She also underlined that the BPF is not meant to overlap with any other big events such as the UNESCO Global Conference.

#### *WG3 Policy development for new EHEA goals*

The WG3 chairs (Russia, EI and ESU) reported that the group had fulfilled the scheduled work and drafted recommendations. Particular challenges were addressed in the preamble of the recommendations, and were also reflected in the Draft 0 of the Communiqué. The recommendations should be taken as suggested responses to current challenges for European higher education. In addition to active citizenship, linking EHEA and ERA, digitalisation, addressing the issue of students from non-traditional backgrounds, enhancing teacher support and improving professional recognition, the governance topic can be found in the report. The BFUG was invited to give feedback on WG3 recommendations for possible inclusion of some proposals into the draft Communiqué.

Some BFUG members suggested concrete changes which would be sent in writing to WG3 chairs. A number of BFUG members sought to identify the most important recommendations. However, it was agreed that this debate on recommendations was not meant to decide, at this stage, what would be included in the draft Communiqué. The identified challenges should be linked with what governments/ministers can do, and proposals should be more political. Goals of political value have to be translated for the new working period into concrete tasks.

Linking EHEA and ERA, and thus increasing the teaching & research nexus was supported by many delegations, they also proposed including concrete solutions to improve synergy and co-operation. The learning and teaching dimension got general support, and EUA recalled the EFFECT project with some of its 10 principles addressing teacher support. Other proposals regarded sharpening recommendations on teacher support and improving options for individual learning paths in line with an increasingly diverse student body. Some members underlined the importance of funding for higher education, with an unbalanced situation within the EHEA, while EUA pointed out that teacher support meant more funding for structural changes within higher education institutions. It was suggested that the BFUG could connect the European dimension to what the 'European universities' might be for the EHEA. The recommendation about professional recognition (before enrolling, students should know what labour market access possibilities and/or hurdles do exist across the EHEA for taking up a profession in another country) was challenged by some BFUG delegations and made other delegations hesitant: they argued that the issue of professional recognition goes beyond the scope of the EHEA, for which academic recognition should be the focus with further work required on automatic academic recognition. They also underlined that professional recognition deals with regulated professions which are concerned by EU Directives as far as EU members are concerned.

The BFUG Co-chair (Estonia) concluded the discussion, pointing out that many issues would feed into the new version of the draft Communiqué.

#### *AG4 Diploma Supplement revision*

The AG4 chair (Romania) reported that since the Gozo meeting, a number of small changes had been made to both the recommended template and guidelines for a revised diploma supplement.

Germany questioned the idea of a 'minimum commitment' as proposed in recommendation 3, and rather underlined the importance of committing to collect the most relevant student data. A number of BFUG members suggested concrete changes to the wording. The Council of Europe explained that a meeting of the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee planned in early summer 2019 would be the opportunity to adopt the revised Diploma Supplement under the Lisbon Recognition Convention and underlined the importance of adopting identical versions of the revised DS under the frameworks of the Council of Europe and UNESCO and the European Union; and that the decision by Ministers must be worded accordingly (i.e. recommend/ask for adoption under these frameworks). The European Commission suggested that digitalisation should be co-ordinated in some way. She also reminded the BFUG that Erasmus post 2020 regulations would make the Diploma Supplement a condition for higher education institutions to apply for funding.

The AG4 chair (Romania) explained that the group did not include any extra-curricular activities in a general way because these cannot be compared with each other. The idea of a digitalisation platform could be indeed suggested in the report. He insisted on the first recommendation of AG4 to be added to the draft Communiqué, in order to ensure that the revised diploma supplement template and guidelines are adopted along the same format by the Council of Europe, the European Commission and UNESCO.

## **4. Update and discussion concerning the AG/WG work: Implementation and Non-Implementation**

### *WG1 Monitoring*

The WG1 chairs (Eurydice, Norway) reported that all countries but one had completed the data collection. Several countries had only partially completed one or two of the questionnaires. The quality of statistical data (Eurostat) was very good. A survey from EQAR would also be taken into account in addition to Eurostudent, ESU and EUA data. A first draft report for data checking would be sent to countries in December; the next preliminary draft for the 2018 Bologna Process Implementation Report was planned to be presented at the February BFUG meeting. The 2018 Bologna Process Implementation Report would see a first attempt to include Fundamental Values, with academic freedom, institutional autonomy as well as student and staff participation as main areas. The WG1 chairs explained that reference will be made to specific examples where Fundamental Values have been under pressure.

Regarding the scorecard indicators, the WG1 chairs explained that no major changes were proposed. One new scorecard indicator on automatic recognition was proposed, and the WG also suggested splitting one of the indicators into two indicators, so as to better reflect both access and completion for underrepresented groups.

A proposal for a 2018-2020 report would be presented to the BFUG in February 2018.

Comments and suggestions were made from BFUG members on several of the indicators such as the indicator on ECTS, on external quality assurance systems, international participation in quality assurance, cross border quality assurance, automatic recognition and underrepresented groups. The WG1 chairs responded that most of the proposed changes could be taken on board.

### *WG2 Fostering Implementation of agreed key commitments*

The WG2 chair (Belgium fl.) presented the report of the group in context with the WG2 Terms of Reference. As a preliminary note, he recalled that implementation is a complex, multi-level and multi-sided issue, which must be looked at from different perspectives, and that implementation is not a linear process. He explained the strengths and weaknesses of WG2 working methods: Nine "capita selecta" suggestions could be considered, while the different recommendations on various levels might be difficult to integrate in the draft Communiqué.

Some BFUG members suggested concrete changes which would be sent in writing to WG2 chairs, in particular about reversed peer reviews and the recognition of refugees' qualifications. Learning outcomes should be the basis for recognition as the Lisbon Recognition Convention (art. 7) foresees to recognise refugees' qualifications, even if not fully documented. Some BFUG members were in favour of the recommendation about the short cycle as an autonomous cycle with the proposed deletion of "within the first cycle" in the short cycle descriptors; others were reluctant. Germany pointed out that in countries which do not offer short cycle programmes, national requirements regarding access and admission to higher education programmes have to be fulfilled. About short cycles which allow more permeability within systems, EURASHE pointed out the need to take lifelong learning on board.

The WG2 chair (Belgium fl.) commented on the short cycle issue, underlining that access to the first cycle should be made possible for persons with a short cycle qualification, even without any secondary school leaving certificate or wish to continue in the first cycle in systems where short cycle does not exist. Other remarks could be accommodated into the text.

The European Commission asked for a short analysis of the reversed peer review method, to complement the current information included in the report.

### *AG3 Dealing with non-implementation*

The AG3 chair (Iceland) reminded participants of previous Implementation Reports demonstrating uneven implementation, and of the Yerevan Conference where the BFUG was asked to address the issue. As a consequence, AG3 was set up and given the task of developing proposals. In Amsterdam, the BFUG agreed on the three key commitments as indicators for implementation. In Gozo, for the AG3 chair, the presented cyclic procedure itself was approved, but AG3 was asked to elaborate further about the suggested body.

Some BFUG members (France, Italy, Belgium (fl.), Portugal, Russia, Greece, Belgium (fr.) and Spain) agreed on the need to improve implementation across the EHEA but voiced concerns about the AG3 proposal as it stands. They did not see the current AG3 proposal as compatible with the positive Bologna spirit and the voluntary intergovernmental nature of the Bologna Process. In their view, a procedure like this would raise governance issues. Instead, countries facing implementation challenges should be further supported with trust and assistance to implement the necessary reforms. In particular, the 'reversed peer reviews' which WG2 recommended, was regarded as interesting to consider. Therefore, they proposed asking AG3 and WG2 to work together on a new proposal for the next BFUG, trying to incorporate the reversed peer group mechanism suggested by WG2.

Other BFUG members who took the floor (Germany, Denmark, The Netherlands, ESU, Sweden, Finland, Lithuania, Liechtenstein, Croatia, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Norway, Luxembourg, the Council of Europe, EQAR, Estonia, EUA, Austria, Romania, EURASHE, Iceland and the European Commission) were in favour of the proposal although they remained open for improvements, in order to find the procedure to help solve problems, based on open dialogue and peer learning. These delegations underlined that the Yerevan Communiqué explicitly asked the BFUG to put forward procedures for addressing non-implementation and that the current proposal is in line with the mandate given to AG3. They perceived it as a well-balanced way of addressing the tasks given and of going forward together.

Starting over would be a waste of time and energy. However, further improvements and a co-existence with other tools like peer-reviews would be possible to consider.

The AG3 chair (Iceland) explained that AG3 saw the functioning of the work, based on peer support, precisely the way the Flemish delegation was describing. Delegates were asked to send concrete written proposals before the next meeting of AG3, which will involve WG2 and WG1 chairs and where further development of the proposal will be discussed.

The BFUG Co-chair (Estonia) underlined the need for both integrating proposals regarding implementation, and for peer-learning starting soon, and asked AG3 and WG2 to jointly work on a renewed approach. He invited participants to send written comments to AG 3 which will meet in December for rephrasing the procedure. The group should come up with a revised proposal on this topic for the BFUG meeting in February 2018. In the end, it will be up to the ministers to make their own judgments on the results of the 2018 Bologna Process Implementation Report, and on AG3 proposals, and to decide on how to provide support to all EHEA members.

#### *AG2 Belarus roadmap*

The AG2 chair (Germany) in his introduction contextualised the situation in Belarus. So far, the roadmap cannot be considered as fulfilled, even if implementation has been moving forward in certain areas. At the 2018 Paris conference, ministers have to decide whether to go on with a renewed roadmap or to find another option for aiding implementation (e.g. with a focus group). He reported from divergent perceptions of implementation within Belarus.

Belarus clarified that the ministry of education wrote that it considers itself to have fulfilled most of its own part of commitments of the roadmap but the Parliament has to adapt the new legislation and new education code. Belarus described the progress made since May 2015, and stated considerable progress. The country has benefited immensely from peer learning. As for the Implementation Report, it is currently measured on the same principles as all EHEA countries, and in the future it should be supported in the same way as others.

BFUG members were aware that implementation needs time and that further support could be offered in the future, and underlined that things often took longer than expected and that some follow-up on particular issues would be necessary. They stated that membership in the EHEA has been beneficial for Belarusian higher education even if implementation progress could have been better. Several delegations expressed their concerns about the challenge of fulfilling the whole roadmap in only 2.5 years' time. Implementing Bologna reforms is not only an issue of legislation, but it means ownership and changing mind-sets at the grassroots' level. ESU was especially worried about common values and principles of the Bologna Process, including quality and democracy.

The AG2 chair (Holy See) underlined that this group was a unique exercise which should not be repeated within the cyclic procedure. He highlighted positive aspects like the good personal relations within the group, and called for a strategic plan to be put forward from Belarus itself and not from outside the country. The message to ministers for Paris cannot be that the roadmap is fulfilled.

The BFUG Co-chair (Russia) highlighted the challenges of the roadmap and underlined ESU's concerns. Positive developments might be the reason for the BFUG to recommend some form of continuation. AG2 will submit a revised report, including recommendations, for the BFUG meeting in February 2018.

## **5. Draft programme for the Ministerial Conference 2018**

The BFUG Vice-chair [presented](#) a draft programme for the Ministerial Conference to be held in Paris on 24/25 May 2018. Each round table will address a part of the Communiqué. As the Communiqué discussions are actually planned on both days, it is foreseen to validate each part of the Communiqué after each corresponding round table session.

Some BFUG members recommended that if the Bologna Policy Forum is integrated in the Ministerial Conference according to the draft programme, topics should not be dealt with twice. For some delegations opening all parts of the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May to Bologna Policy Forum members might not be easy for the discussion of the Communiqué's provisions. The proposal of a round table "Towards European universities" raised positive interest from several delegations. Stakeholders wish to have a possibility to present their own statements, and participation of ministers who are not part of a panel should be ensured in some way to enable open discussion among all countries represented. It was

postulated that ministers have to be able to influence discussions on the Communiqué during these sessions.

Asked about the status of the event on 23<sup>rd</sup> of May, the BFUG Vice-chair explained that it will be a celebration session, and therefore will not be a part of the conference as such.

## **6. Draft Communiqué for the 2018 Ministerial Conference**

The BFUG Vice-chair, who chairs the Drafting Committee, presented the first draft of the Communiqué built upon a preamble and three thematic parts. Further work will have to consider recommendations from the groups for possible inclusion into the draft, and later, when available, findings of the 2018 Bologna Process Implementation Report as well.

BFUG members underlined the importance of making the Communiqué political, readable and concise. It should contain a limited number of concrete recommendations/commitments connected to existing challenges and specifically to the EHEA. It should highlight the importance of Fundamental Values, the EHEA geopolitical vision, the European dimension, active citizenship, migrants' and refugees' integration, and linking higher education and research. They indicated that the text should explain why and how the EHEA has a key role to play to provide solutions for existing and emerging challenges of society, and why and how EHEA must go further beyond 2020. The text should focus on those things that can or have to be achieved together, underlining the shared responsibility for what happens in individual countries, especially in the field of Fundamental Values. It was mentioned that an answer to the Yerevan Communiqué could be added as an appendix with a few key elements from AG/WGs, and that some space might be reserved for outcomes from Researchers' Conference. Some more technical remarks were also provided for the Drafting Committee.

The BFUG Co-chair (Russia) summarised the following points: the Bologna Process has been experimenting a stagnation in the last period and it was acknowledged that its lack of implementation needed to be addressed; a clearly targeted Communiqué is needed, addressing regional aspects of higher education, gender balance as well as responsibility for social and personal development. Fundamental Values must be explained in a more concrete way, while teaching and learning must include lifelong learning with recognition of prior learning in particular; collaboration of EHEA and ERA need to be further considered with concrete outputs, and connections with the labour market must be enhanced. She concluded with the recommendation that the Draft Communiqué should focus on what could be done by and through the EHEA.

The BFUG Vice-chair made a short conclusion to welcome these comments; she underlined that some further inputs from the Working and Advisory Groups were still pending and might be taken into account in the process of drafting the Communiqué.

The Bologna Secretariat explained that written comments on version 0 of the Draft Communiqué could be sent until 27 November.

## **7. Update on the BFUG Secretariat 2018 – 2020**

Italy affirmed that linking higher education and research, following the third mission of higher education and addressing the societal challenges promoting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals were at the centre of its attention. The Italian Bologna Secretariat would provide maximum support to issues linked to challenges such as the integration of migrants and refugees, and to sharing models of higher education. A roadmap for the future of the Bologna process beyond 2020 would be prepared, and include a possible midterm celebration event for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bologna Declaration in 2019, if the budget allows.

## **8. Fundamental Values of the EHEA**

On the basis of the background paper provided by Estonia for guiding discussions between ministers in Paris, the BFUG Co-chair (Estonia) proposed to look at the future of the EHEA (the period 2018-2020) and at what could be taken into consideration for the potential discussion of ministers.

BFUG members discussed how to focus on the questions that could be put forward for the panel discussion. The first question could be how to implement the shared responsibility for Fundamental Values and make them happen in practice. Fundamental Values had to be seen as the prerequisite for democratic societies. How to deal with obvious violation of academic freedom, how to stimulate commitment to Fundamental Values, or how to support each other in respecting the values might be relevant approaches. The question on the responsibility of higher education institutions could be linked



with how to create safe spaces for students. How to stimulate the participation of students and staff in governance of higher education was proposed as another aspect for consideration. Bringing in other factors such as the diversity of funding sources and its impact on Fundamental Values in practice, together with a non-European perspective, into the panel discussions was also suggested from the Council of Europe.

France supported the idea and explained that one of the panels could start with a definition of what is meant by values and be followed by a discussion about practical issues.

The BFUG Co-chair (Estonia) announced that proposals on how to develop the questions for the discussion will be taken into account.

## **9. Update on the Ministerial Conference 2018**

The Bologna Secretariat gave an update on several logistic aspects of the organisation of the conference: Invitations had been sent to EHEA ministers, consultative members and partners of the BFUG by e-mail; BFUG members received copies by e-mail. It was indicated that the BFUG delegates were asked to provide a first list of their national delegation (name, function and e-mail address) to the Bologna Secretariat by 12 January 2018, with details to be sent by e-mail. In February, the registration platform would be opened and on 12 February registrations would start. Hotels were being identified. Official information about keynote speakers and ministers would be published on the conference website.

## **10. Information by the incoming Co-chairs**

[Serbia](#) announced two upcoming meetings planned in Belgrade next January 2018: the Board meeting on 24 January, and a meeting of the Drafting Committee on 23 January. If another Board meeting would be needed, it could take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> March. The Serbian delegates presented their country and its higher education system.

[Bulgaria](#) presented its own country with two videos and announced the two BFUG meetings to be held in Sofia on 5-6 February and 24-25 April.

## **11. Invitation to all Bologna countries to participate in the next round (2018-2021) of EUROSTUDENT**

EUROSTUDENT briefly [presented](#) the current EUROSTUDENT project on social and economic conditions of students and invited all BFUG member countries to take part in the next round starting in 2018. The invitation and other documents are available on the meeting's [website](#).

## **12. Update from the Consultative Members**

EURASHE drew the attention of delegates to activities on research of universities of applied sciences, and announced its annual conference in Tallinn next April 2018, to be focused on "Partnerships for a digital future".

## **13. AOB**

Austria presented a proposal for a thematic slot on Erasmus KA3 within the Vienna BFUG meeting, 26-27 September 2018. Countries will be invited to present KA3 projects for peer learning purposes.

Romania informed the BFUG that invitations had been distributed for the Bologna Process Researchers' Conference to be held in Bucharest on 27-29 November 2018, and that about 40 papers will be presented.

The Netherlands reported from a peer learning event, organised together with NUFFIC and with support from the Dutch QAA (NVAO), regarding the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes in The Hague, in October 2017. The report would be distributed by the Bologna Secretariat. This European approach could be mentioned in the draft Communiqué.

The BFUG Co-chair (Russia) thanked the participants and the host country, expressed her gratitude to the Bologna Secretariat and the teamwork with outgoing and incoming BFUG Co-chairs.

The BFUG Vice-chair thanked the BFUG Co-chairs, the Bologna Secretariat and the BFUG members, together with the hosting country for the quality of the organisation and the event itself. The BFUG Co-chair (Estonia) referred to the work of the organising team, complimented participants on the good atmosphere, and closed the meeting.