

Review of the ECTS Users' Guide

Update to the BFUG, 24 February 2025

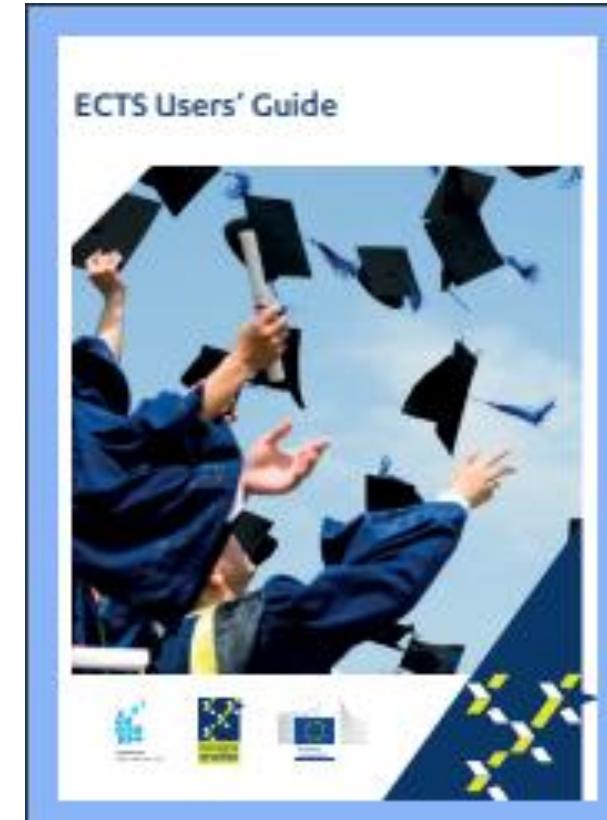


EUROPEAN
Higher Education Area



First Advisory Group meeting 17/02/2025

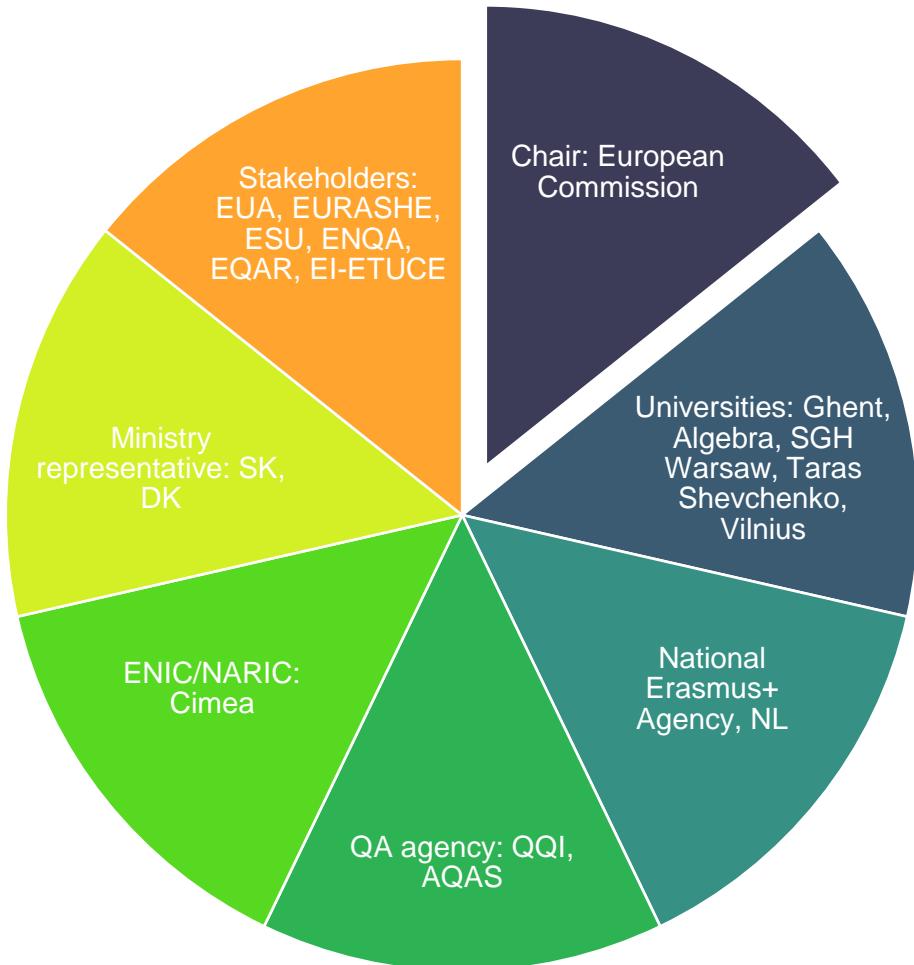
- Key messages
 - Importance of ECTS as a transfer and accumulation system
 - Avoid overloading the Users' Guide, keep in mind what is covered elsewhere
 - No big need of "fixing" the Guide, it is well-established – but take account of developments in policy and practice across the EHEA



Relevant developments that should be addressed

- Micro-credentials and shorter units of learning
- Lifelong learning and recognition of prior learning (RPL)
- Use of ECTS in vocational education and training (VET) and private providers
- Automatic recognition
- Grade conversion
- Transnational cooperation (European Universities, joint learning provisions, embedded mobility)
- Digitalisation, virtual and blended mobility
- Global dimension, i.e. mobility beyond EHEA

Composition of the Advisory Group



Supported by:

- a consultant
- experts participated at the previous revision
- different Commission services on specific topics

➤ 20 members

Research to inform the revision – topics

- Level of implementation of ECTS:
 - Key features such as learning outcomes, workload, etc.
 - Use of ECTS supporting documents (Course Catalogues, Learning Agreement)
 - Automatic recognition of credits, transfer of grades
- Challenges encountered by HEIs
 - In use of ECTS for "traditional" degree programmes
 - In relation to micro-credentials, short courses, joint programmes, blended learning, ...
- Usefulness of the ECTS Users' Guide

Research to inform the revision – method

Selection of 10 HEIs per country from Austria, Bulgaria, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Spain, Sweden

Desk research of all available information on the use of ECTS in 3 disciplines: history, engineering and business

Survey to complement information (100 responses per HEI)

Focus group discussion (2 per HEI) for in-depth understanding

Tentative timeline

When	What	
17 February 2025	Advisory Group meeting #1	
24/25 February 2025	BFUG	Update on the revision process
February – May 2025	Desk research, surveys, focus groups	
April 2025	Advisory Group meeting #2	
June/July 2025	Advisory Group meeting #3	
September 2025	Advisory Group meeting #4	
November 2025	Advisory Group meeting #5 Consultation session(s)	
15/16 December 2025	BFUG	Discussion of initial draft
January 2026	Advisory Group meeting #6	
Q2 2026	BFUG	Endorse final draft
Q2 2027	EHEA Ministerial Conference (Moldova/Romania)	

Thank you!