BICG – report I

BFUG, 24-25 February 2025, Warsaw

ToR of the BICG

- Comments on 2024-27 draft, including templates for a) TPG action plans and b) national action plans in December, **approved by silent procedure (by 1ˢᵗ Feb)**

- **Members of the BICG 2024-27:** Albania, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, EUA, European Commission, ESU, Finland, France, Georgia, Italy and the TPG co-chairs (with usually only one co-chair of each TPG attending the meeting of the BICG)

https://ehea.info/page-Bologna-Implementation-Coordination-Group

Key tasks of the BICG as by ToR

- **Coordinate and support** the work of the TPGs;
- **Identify synergies** in the work of the Thematic Peer Groups: consistence and coherence of outcomes;
- **Keep an overview** of the composition and activities of the different groups;
- Seek to **improve the Peer Support Approach** if and as needed;
- Give the BFUG **regular updates and an overview on the progress** and effectiveness of the Peer Support Approach, based on the activities of the TPGs;
- Prepare **recommendations for further actions** to improve implementation (to BFUG)
- Prepare a template for **national action plans** on implementation of Tirana commitments
- **Ensure synergies** between the national plans and the activities of the TPGs

Operation

- **2 meetings/year,** ideally 2-3 weeks prior to the BFUG Board meetings
- physical or online, taking into account the availability of the BICG members
- reports to the BFUG Board and at least once a year to the BFUG

February 2025, online

May- June 2025, online
- Updates from the TPGs
- Discussion about National action plans and their impact on the work of the TPGs
- Follow-up on key common topics

October 2025, online
- Updates from the TPGs
- Follow up on key common topics
- Preparation of possible BFUG thematic discussion on implementation

First BICG meeting, 4ᵗʰ Feb (online)

- Workplan of the BICG, including timing and topics of meetings

- Draft activity plans of the TPGs

- Clarifying communication channels and reporting requirements between the TPGs, BICG and BFUG (incl. the BFUG Board)

- Encouraging:
  - focus on implementation of commitments (projects in the service of TPGs)
  - reduction of sub-groups
  - synergies between TPGs
  - communication between countries BFUG and TPG representatives

The 2024-2027 TPGs

- **TPG A: Qualifications Frameworks**
  - France, Georgia, Latvia
- **TPG B: Lisbon Recognition Convention**
  - France, Italy, Ukraine
- **TPG C: Quality Assurance**
  - Armenia, France, Romania
- **TPG D: Social Dimension**
  - ESU, Latvia, Malta

Key topics of TPGs

- TPG A:
    - Successful implementation of self-certification process;
    - QFs to support recognition of transnational education and joint programmes;
    - NQF and openness to study programmes outside of the Bologna three-cycle structure/ QF and flexible learning
    - Databases and registers of qualifications reflecting QFs
    - QF and automatic recognition

- TPG B:
    - Optimizing the potential of digital technology;
    - Recognition of alternative pathways.
    - Achieving automatic recognition.
    - Roles and responsibilities in carrying out recognition procedures.
    - Ensuring fair recognition of qualifications held by refugees.
    - Legal frameworks for implementation of the LRC (Global and regional conventions)

Key topics of TPGs – cont.

- TPG C:
  - Addressing ESG implementation gaps through thematic analysis
  - International quality assurance (QA): Cross-border QA, QA of transnational education and implementation of the European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes
  - Innovative QA practices: QA of flexible learning pathways, European University Alliances and promotion of a quality culture

- TPG D:
  - Building practices for the new TPG
  - Implementation of the PAGs, starting with social dimension related policies and strategies → framework and toolkit creation to support national implementation
  - Voluntary country reviews
  - Research and data analysis
  - Online peer-learning activities

Key topics of TPGs – cont.

For all TPGs:

- Planed activities include e.g. PLAs, staff exchanges, mapping of good practice, and policy discussions on the implementation of the commitments

- Some activities depend on project funding (e.g. online vs. in person etc)

- Draft activity plans build on previous work (for TPG A, B and C), and are open to revision based on priorities in national action plans

National action plans

- 1 April deadline for national implementation action plans
  - Boost implementation of Bologna commitments and address implementation gaps
  - Help member countries to plan and coordinate actions
  - Increase transparency and help knowledge sharing
- Tool for the TPGs to plan their activities (key commitments and social dimension)
- Secretariat will publish national action plans in the EHEA website and follows up their submission