

## XCV Bologna Follow-up meeting

25th of February 2025

### Plenary session on „Artificial Intelligence in the context of Higher Education”

#### General background document

#### How to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) in higher education.

In the Rome Communiqué, the ministers noted that *‘While our societies increasingly rely on innovative technologies, including artificial intelligence, we must ensure that these observe ethical standards and human rights and foster inclusion. We recognize that digitalisation does not offer ‘one size fits all’ solutions, and ask the BFUG to propose ways in which all learners can benefit from the new technologies.’*

Due to the advent of large language models (LLMs) and the proliferation of AI tools, higher education required swift adaptations to gauge the technology, be aware of and minimise its pitfalls and ensure that students learn about AI and with AI in a qualitative, research-based and outcomes-oriented manner.

As a consequence, a more consistent space was dedicated to AI in the most recent Tirana Communiqué. Ministers acknowledged that *‘Artificial intelligence (AI) impacts our societies and economies, and also learning, teaching, assessment and research. This requires the adaptation of existing, and development of new practices and policies at the level of institutions and systems in due consideration of opportunities, risks, and challenges. In particular, the ethical considerations in the development and deployment of AI are imperative. Its use should be free of biases, ensure the primacy of human decision-making, maintain data ethics and privacy, and protect academic integrity. Students and staff should be supported to understand and use AI responsibly. Ministers also committed to ‘supporting the ethical, trustworthy, responsible, and rights-based use of AI in learning and teaching, as well as in research practice, to ensure transparency, fairness, student and staff participation and well-being.’*

A specific mandate was given to the BFUG to consider in its work the wider and longer-term impact of the digital transition on higher education in the EHEA, including AI, and in particular with regard to the key commitments and the use of Bologna Process tools.

In the BFUG Work Programme 2024-2027, adopted at the XCIII meeting in Budapest in September 2024, the topic of AI was included as a transversal topic, to be tackled by the BFUG working structures in line with their mandate and responsibilities.

Within the international cooperation frameworks related to higher education, several initiatives have taken shape to support the ethical use of AI in higher education, to analyse its impact or offer policy guidelines to public authorities and stakeholders. Most notably, such developments have taken place within the European Union, the Council of Europe and UNESCO.

The plenary session will be divided into two parts: an expert presentation and a plenary discussion.

The expert introduction will be delivered by Dr. Jan Kwapisz - researcher at the Faculty of Physics at the University of Warsaw, expert in the field of artificial intelligence, with the following structure:

1. What is AI?

AI is systems that analyze data, recognize patterns, and automate decisions. Modern models are multimodal (e.g., they process text and images). AI is not conscious or magical—it is algorithms based on statistics.

2. What to teach in AI programming

- Basics: math, statistics, Python, TensorFlow, PyTorch.
- Practice: model training, data analysis, LLMs, AI implementation.
- Projects: hackathons, real data, AI in applications

3. What to teach in AI for non-programmers

- Business and humanities: data analysis, NLP.
- Ethics and social implications of AI.
- No-code tools: ChatGPT, AutoML, AI in Didactics.

4. AI in higher education

- Personalization of teaching: chatbots, recommendations.
- Automation: AI in administration, assessment of works.
- Scientific research: big data analysis, AI search engines

5. Proposal of an AI platform for lecturers and universities

- Toolkit: generative models, text analysis.
- Repository of didactic scenarios.
- Integration with LMS: AI supporting teaching and assessment.

Following the presentation and questions on the presentation, the plenary discussion will include the following questions:

- 1) What are the issues and main subjects of interest in your country, among the public authorities and stakeholders (higher education institutions, students, staff etc) regarding the use of AI in higher education?
- 2) Have you established/do you plan to establish national policies regarding the use of AI in higher education? If yes, what do they aim to achieve?
- 3) What do you see as the scope for EHEA's work on AI, ensuring synergies with other initiatives, such as those of the Council of Europe and the European Union?