

## Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue

Third Meeting, Online\*  
Thursday, 1 June 2022,  
09.30-11.30 (Brussels time)

### Minutes

### List of Participants

No.	Country	Name	Surname
1	Albania (Co-Chair)	Linda	Pustina
2	Austria	Michael	Roither
3	Belgium Flemish Community (Co-Chair)	Magalie	Soenen
4	Belgium Flemish Community	Caroline	Hollela
5	ENQA	Elena	Cirlan
6	EUA - European University Association	Elizabeth	Colucci
7	European Commission (Co-Chair)	Fiorella	Perotto
8	European Commission	Robin	Clemence
9	Germany	Tim	Maschuw
10	Holy See	Melanie	Rosenbaum
11	Ireland	Orla	Lynch
12	Italy (Co-Chair)	Ann Katherine	Isaacs
13	Kazakhstan	Rauza	Mendaliyeva
14	Malta	Valerie	Attard
15	Malta	Jon	Vercellono
16	Romania	Madalina	Matei
17	UNESCO	Vanja	Gutovic
18	United Kingdom	Ella	Ritchie
19	BFUG Secretariat	Kristina	Metallari
20	BFUG Secretariat	Enis	Fita
21	BFUG Secretariat	Patrik	Bardhi
22	BFUG Secretariat	Vahidije	Kadiu

EI-ETUCE, France and The Netherlands did not attend the meeting. Cyprus and European Students' Union sent regrets.

### 1. Welcome by the Co-Chairs of CG on Global Policy Dialogue

The Co-Chairs welcomed everybody to the third meeting of the 2021-2024 working period.

An outline of the agenda was provided, which was adopted without changes.

Ms. Soenen proceeded to introduce the main objectives of the meeting, which included informing and updating CG members on the work done thus far in the three regional subgroups, as well as defining the next steps for the entire group and its respective subgroups.

Linda Pustina and Fiorella Perotto (Co-Chairs) congratulated all members working in the subgroups on the progress achieved despite the meetings being held online, wishing for further cooperation through knowledge exchange and coordination.

For more information, please see: [CG GPD FR AZ 3 Agenda of meeting](#)

## **2. Update by the Co-Chairs: Presentation to the April 2022 BFUG**

Magalie Soenen (Co-Chair) gave an overview of the CG's work that was presented in the BFUG, which firstly comprised of an outline of the state-of-play of the CG on GPD, including the membership with new delegations (Belgium French Community and Cyprus) recently joining the CG, as well as information on the meetings organized. Furthermore, due to the huge number of CG members and the necessity for flexible and frequent interaction to complete the CG tasks, subgroups were formed, with the option of adding new groups if necessary, during this working period. The subgroups' membership, focus and outcomes were also presented. Moreover, it was stressed that the group is seeking for synergy between the CG and the IN-GLOBAL initiative. Next steps included organization of the CG and subgroups' meetings, as well as reporting of CG activities to the BFUG. It was highlighted that the subgroup meetings would continue in April and May, with the third and fourth CG meetings to be held in June and October respectively.

Ms. Soenen provided some insight on the feedback received by the BFUG members. To promote the global dimension, it was suggested that the CG's tasks be prioritized. In this respect, one of the CG's tasks to organize regional events with various stakeholders was praised. Additional suggestions included making the Global Policy Forum (GPF) more effective and considering whether the current model of incorporating it into the Ministerial Conference is well suited to attract appropriate interest from other regions, as well as having the drafting groups for the GPF and the Communique work together to ensure that the statements are linked. Finally, it was proposed by ESU to introduce the Global Student Forum to the CG, as it is also one of the stakeholders in the mapping exercises and is rapidly expanding in membership.

In response to the BFUG's request to integrate the GPF in the next Ministerial Conference, it was suggested that the CG's geographical work and regional dialogue be linked to this event. As a result, because the GPF's connectedness to the various regions has not been structured in the Ministerial Conference in the past, there should be a clear and holistic articulation of the CG's activity in the various geographic regions. Consequently, presenting this work at the Ministerial Conference, where reports and conclusions may be established, would be crucial.

Furthermore, it was suggested that the CG meet with the IN-GLOBAL project consortium to consider events that the CG could fund through this project, as well as the support that could be provided to the subgroups. As a result, the CG will need to consult with the consortium and explore for synergies in the project and its respective tasks (i.e., mapping mobility flows), which are not part of the CG's initial workplan.

For more information, please see: [Presentation to the April 2022 BFUG Meeting](#)

## **3. State of play of the initiatives taken by the three regional subgroups**

The Co-Chairs informed on the state-of-play and initiatives already undertaken in each of the following subgroups:

### **3.1. 'Africa' Subgroup**

Fiorella Perotto (Co-Chair) gave a summary of the activities of the 'Africa subgroup' and its progress so far. Two meetings have been held, with a third scheduled for June 13, 2022. The scope of work has been established, and it has been decided to focus on topics rather than regions/countries, with particular emphasis on the theme of quality assurance (QA) and recognition. A mapping exercise concerning new and ongoing initiatives, relevant organizations,



upcoming events and contact points related to the subgroup's work is being completed. Furthermore, online hearings on specific issues related to QA and recognition are being planned, which would involve small groups of experts from the EHEA and Africa, to share good practices and facilitate mutual learning. Hearings could be held in-person, if practicable due to the IN-GLOBAL project. The subgroup is now working on identifying possible partners to participate in the first hearing, which will be held towards the end of the year, and will then issue a public report on the hearing's findings in order to raise awareness and visibility. Moreover, work on a background note pertaining to the specifics of these hearings is underway, and it is planned to go into depth on this note at the next meeting, in order to make progress toward the organization of these hearings.

An issue was raised concerning participation in external events/consultations. As a result, it was suggested that the CG clarify the criteria for participation on such occasions. When formal statements of the CG's viewpoint ought to be made, the CG may need to approve them organically, based on the nature of the event or consultation. As a result, common sense will be employed in this regard, and in case when the topic is controversial and/or there is a risk of conflict of interest, the CG will not provide a statement. Finally, if a contribution is made, it was highlighted that the CG should clearly indicate its aims, objectives and function as a group, so that event participants are aware why the group is contributing.

### 3.2. 'Americas' Subgroup

Ann Katherine Isaacs (Co-Chair) provided an overview of the subgroup's progress, indicating that two meetings have been held thus far. The first meeting included discussion on ways of contributing to the mapping exercise, as well as investigating the opportunities that can derive from the IN-GLOBAL project.

The subgroup produced a policy brief which was submitted on behalf of the entire CG to the UNESCO World Higher Education Conference (WHEC2022) held in Barcelona in May. It is published on the website of the conference: [Download from: [whec2022.net/resources/Coordination%20Group%20Global%20Policy%20Dialogue.pdf](https://whec2022.net/resources/Coordination%20Group%20Global%20Policy%20Dialogue.pdf)] The many interventions can be accessed on the website [See: [whec2022.org/EN/homepage](https://whec2022.org/EN/homepage)].

The subgroup also organized a special session with Pablo Beneitone, Argentine HE expert, to analyze in depth the best ways to organize regional contacts in the present phase. It was concluded that, at this time, finding regional interlocutors in Latin America is difficult due to a number of factors, the most promising contacts being with ENLACES and MERCOSUR.

The EUA (Elizabeth Colucci) also furnished information on its participation in the WHEC2022 conference [see [\[Events related to WHEC involving EUA\]](#)]. She underlined Latin America's involvement in particular, and mentioned the importance of ENLACES which now aims at representing all major university associations and rectors' conferences. Based in Columbia, it participated in the Barcelona Forum and has become a member of the OBREAL Global Observatory.

UNESCO (Vanja Gutovic) also underlined the importance of the WHEC2022: it had 2000 in person presences and 8000 on line, 120 roundtables, many talks and activities; it also elaborated a roadmap to shape the future of HE in the coming decade [Available at: <https://www.whec2022.org/EN/homepage/Roadmap2030>].

### 1.1. 'Asia-Pacific' subgroup

Magalie Soenen (Co-Chair) gave an overview of the subgroup's activities. This subgroup also held two meetings, the first of which examined the subgroup's ToR and work schedule, and it was established that regional focus would be based on geographical regions or sets of countries with similar characteristics. The subgroup suggested to explore for synergies with existing



organizations and processes such as ASEAN, EU Share, UNESCO regional offices and so on, as well as look at priorities in the ASEAN Strategy 2030.

The next step included the mapping process, which consisted of three different steps: mapping potential organizations and experts, mapping events and activities, and identifying activities and issues to take up in this subgroup. Some topics, such as recognition and ratification of the Tokyo Recognition Convention, were already proposed during the first meeting. Digitalization, sustainability, quality assurance, and inclusiveness were also discussed, particularly inclusive mobility, which the Belgian Flemish Community will address through a peer learning activity (PLA) for European and Asian countries.

The possibility of organizing EHEA events with the support of the IN-GLOBAL project was discussed during the second meeting. Regarding the event in Asia, it was mentioned in the application that it could be a blended event with EHEA members and the Asia Pacific region, which was planned initially for May/June 2024. The subgroup members, however, proposed that this event be held sooner than the application suggested, preferably in 2023, and that it be held concurrently with or near the ASEAN Education Ministerial Meeting, which is also scheduled for 2023. Another point raised was the importance of taking a similar approach to event planning across all subgroups and tailoring it to the realities of the respective regions. As a result of the mapping exercise, it was agreed to develop four main interest groups: mobility and internationalization; digitalization (including micro-credentials); recognition; and quality assurance.

Ms. Soenen (Co-Chair) shared the excel file on the Google Drive to display the subgroup's mapping exercise, and encouraged the other subgroups to include their mapping information in the file as well, so that all subgroups could have a clear indication of the various initiatives they are working on. In addition, the logistics and format of the events were considered, including how to invite non-EHEA countries in-presence, in which region to organize the events, etc. It was also advised that these events be conducted sooner than planned in order to provide regional input to the GPF.

For more information on the Global Dialogue on Micro-Credentials (organized by DAAD), please visit: [Global Dialogue on Micro-Credentials](#)

## **2. Draft work plan: further steps, discussion, suggestions, timeline**

Ann Katherine Isaacs (Co-Chair) presented the IN-GLOBAL project, under the direction of Italy and Romania with Albania as associate partner, created specifically to support the activities and objectives of the CG on GPD and the TF<sup>1</sup>.

Ms. Isaacs went on to present the work packages (WP) and respective activities. Work Package (WP) 2 was highlighted to support the work of the CG, aimed at mapping the main stakeholders at global level and identifying the key topics for dialogue and collaboration, whilst creating the premises for promoting the values and actions of the EHEA outside its geographical borders. This activity will benefit from the advice and cooperation with the UNESCO offices in the different regions which will be asked to assist the CG in updating and extending its list of stakeholders. Once the key stakeholders have been identified, a questionnaire will be administered to gain insight into their perception of the Bologna Process. This WP is also aimed at supporting the drafting of the 2024 Global Policy Forum Statement. In addition, it will support 9 CG in-person meetings (possibility of support for subgroups) and four international "Bologna events" (in presence for CG members, online for international partners), as well as support the participation of CG members in international events. Moreover, a contract for 1 international expert to assist in the planned surveys is intended.

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<sup>1</sup> Task Force on Enhancing Knowledge Sharing in the EHEA Community.

WP3 focuses on identifying the gaps between the actions carried out within the Bologna Process and the impact on stakeholders both inside and outside the EHEA. Stakeholder involvement will help lay the groundwork for better communication with other macro-regions.

Following the presentation of the IN-GLOBAL project, it was discussed how the project's extra initiatives will be organized and included in the CG's activity, specifically within the subgroups, in terms of content, practicality, and so on. It was also proposed that the CG consult with the European Commission (EC) to see if non-EHEA members are allowed to attend relevant events and/or meetings. It was also underlined that having an expert interpret questions in the form of a survey is beneficial and can assist to specify certain areas of interest to be discussed in meetings and other events.

Further, it was suggested that a structure be established to liaise with the project consortium. The Co-Chairs would firstly hold a meeting with the Consortium to identify possible areas of support, after which communication would be handled by the new CG structure<sup>2</sup>. Furthermore, the new structure was tasked with clarifying possibilities with the project consortium regarding the hosting of events in other regions, after a recommendation was made to host events outside of the EHEA region. Following that, it was agreed that any changes to the project's current WPs should be properly outlined and approved by the EC.

### **3. Decisions on next tasks, next meetings, deadlines**

It was emphasized that the subgroups will continue to meet and further their work. Moreover, even if in-person subgroup meetings are planned, it was advised that online meetings be held as well, to keep the subgroups' work progress moving forward.

The date for the next CG meeting was set for 24 October 2022, and whether it will be held in-presence or online has yet to be determined.

After the meeting, the members would be given the access to the excel file on Google Drive, where they could contribute and provide their input.

### **4. AOB**

No other business was raised and the CG on GPD meeting was concluded with thanks to the Co-Chairs for the well-organized meeting and work on the draft Work Plan.

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<sup>2</sup> Structure composition: Albania, Ireland, Italy, Romania and the United Kingdom.

