

## Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue

Sixth meeting, Online

6 March 2023

09.30-11.00h CET

### Minutes

#### List of participants

Country	Name	Surname
Albania (Co-Chair)	Linda	Pustina
Austria	Michael	Roither
Belgium Flemish Community (Co-Chair)	Magalie	Soenen
Belgium French Community	Caroline	Hollela
CIMEA	Teresa Morales	de la Fuente
ENQA	Elena	Cirlan
EI - ETUCE	Agnes	Roman
Belgium Flemish community	Liesbeth	Hens
France	Mathieu	Musquin
Netherlands	Jenneke	Lokhoff
Romania	Madalina	Matei
European Commission (Co-Chair)	Fiorella	Perotto
Germany	Tim	Maschuw
EUA	Elisabeth	Colucci
Holy See	Melanie	Rosenbaum
Ireland	Orla	Lynch
Italy (Co-Chair)	Ann Katherine	Isaacs
Italy	Vera	Lucke
Malta	Valerie	Attard
Spain	Manuela Luque	Espadas
United Kingdom	Ella	Ritchie
BFUG Secretariat	Edlira	Subashi
BFUG Secretariat	Patrik	Bardhi
BFUG Secretariat	Enis	Fita

Cyprus, European Students' Union, Kazakhstan and UNESCO did not attend the meeting.

**\*Note:** This meeting was held online.

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

Magalie Soenen (Co-Chair) welcomed the participants and shared that this would be her final meeting as Co-Chair, having served for almost 5 years. She stated that she will continue to participate in the Bologna Process as representative from EQAR, starting from May 1<sup>st</sup>. She also announced that Ms. Liesbeth Hens will replace her as the representative of the Belgium Flemish Community in the position of Co-Chair. The participants were given a brief introduction of the new Co-Chair and a tour de table was held. The meeting agenda was adopted without changes,

and the minutes of the previous meeting would be formally approved after the members provide written feedback. The objectives of the meeting were to provide continuity and momentum with new Co-Chair and to update members on the status of the CG report in preparation for the upcoming BFUG Board Meeting.

For more detailed information, please see *CG\_GPD\_6\_SE\_BA\_Agenda*

## **2. State of play from the three regional subgroups**

### **2.1. Asia subgroup**

Magalie Soenen (Co-Chair) provided an update on the Asia subgroup and requested updates from other subgroup members as well. There was especially attention for the continuing cooperation with the ASEM Education Process.

Ms. Soenen shared that the ASEM Senior Officials' Meeting, focused on cooperation between Europe and Asia, will be held in Malta on 22-23 May 2023.

Vera Lucke, on behalf of the ASEM Education Secretariat that is currently hosted by Italy, shared that an expert group on recognition and balanced mobility had been formed, with two Co-Chairs from India and Italy. The group has discussed the terms of reference and will focus on finding good practices for discussion and dialogue on recognition and mobility between Europe and Asia. Ms. Lucke emphasized the importance of this group as one of the largest expert groups in the ASEM Education Process, given the significant interest in recognition and mobility expressed by Asian and European countries. Another two ASEM Education Expert Groups, one on SDGs and education and one on LLL and TVET have started their work recently.

Tim Maschuw reported that the fourth ASEM Education's expert group on digitalization will have a meeting scheduled between mid-April and mid-May. This group had previously held two meetings in 2022 on micro-credentials and digitally enhanced learning and teaching. The next meeting would likely focus on the impact of artificial intelligence on learning and teaching.

Ann Katherine Isaacs (Co-Chair) reported that the Kazakh Bologna Center had requested her assistance in developing a project for an Erasmus+ cooperation partnership to support the CAHEA and ministerial meetings, as well as the development of universities' compliance with ECTS and the other Bologna tools. The project, which will be submitted on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, involves partners such as the Polytechnic of Bucharest, ENQA, and the University of Applied Sciences of Burgenland. It was highlighted that the project would contribute to the CG objectives on the CAHEA.

### **2.2. Americas subgroup**

Ann Katherine Isaacs (Co-Chair) reported on the colloquium held on December 5<sup>th</sup>, which focused on fostering communication between MERCOSUR and Latin American countries. Ms. Isaacs described the event's format and provided an overview of the discussions that took place. She also announced that another meeting is planned to take place during Argentina's pro tempore presidency of MERCOSUR this semester. Ms. Isaacs explained that the CG on GPD had written to the Secretary for Higher Education of Argentina, who attended the December colloquium, with suggestions for themes and dates for the upcoming meeting, but had not yet received a response. However, she noted that the Secretary of the Latin American System of Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ACEEU) is actively working to organize another colloquium in the same successful format.

Ms Isaacs also described the initiative taken with respect to North America, specifically to the United States, where a delegation composed of herself, Elena Cirlan and Orla Lynch proposed and held a session at the annual CHEA Conference in Washington DC on 25 January 2023 (CHEA

is the organization of the US higher education accreditation agencies). The session was called "Let's talk: fostering global dialogue about diversity in a common framework", and was attended by about 60 participants.

### 2.3. Africa subgroup

Fiorella Perotto (Co-Chair) reported on the recent online EHEA conversation on academic recognition that took place on December 12<sup>th</sup> 2022. She informed that the subgroup was currently finalizing an article summarizing the conversation and collecting feedback from the participants and speakers. The finalized text will be shared with the CG and disseminated through EHEA and relevant African channels. Ms. Perotto recalled that the December conversation was the first of a series of three EHEA-Africa conversations scheduled to be held between 2022 and 2023.

She informed that the subgroup had started preparing for the second online EHEA-Africa conversation on recognition, which is expected to be held before the summer. The SG has agreed to focus the second conversation with Africa on recognition for lifelong learning and include aspects such as digital learning, prior learning, micro-credentials, and more. The subgroup is considering involving representatives from the Near East to cover this sub-region as well, in line with its mandate.

Ms. Perotto expressed gratitude towards the IN-GLOBAL project for offering logistical and organizational support for the second Conversation. During the meeting, participants suggested creating brief articles that could be sent to the university World News-African edition and asking Co-Chairs of the Task Force on Enhancing Knowledge Sharing in the EHEA community to promote the articles and spread the word on the Bologna process. They also suggested potentially organizing colloquia between the CG, other regions, and BFUG working groups to create a dialogue on themes of common interest.

### **3. Setup of the subgroup on the Global Policy Forum (GPF)**

Linda Pustina (Co-Chair) provided a brief progress report on the subgroup that was established last week, comprising five members. During their first meeting, the French representative shared insights about organizing the Global Policy Forum during the Ministerial in Paris. The subgroup agreed to share documents among themselves, and their next meeting was scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Pustina emphasized that the subgroup aims to prepare an update on their work to be presented at the Board Meeting.

### **4. Update of the Subgroup working on the Global Policy Forum Statement + discussion**

Ann Katherine Isaacs (Co-Chair) announced that the subgroup held its first meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, in which it discussed how the subgroup will operate going forward. The group had a second meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and planned to have another on March 9<sup>th</sup>. The subgroup recognized the need for information from the Drafting Committee to understand how their statement would fit in, but in any case, decided to start work using the Statement from the previous work period which had not been finalized because of the pandemic. The group plans to add two new parts, one describing the ways now devised to foster dialogue with other macro regions and the other explaining the urgencies, interests, orientations, and perceptions related to the need for dialogue in different parts of the world. The subgroup will review the existing statement and make changes based on the tasks that the group members have agreed to undertake. They aim to have an initial first draft ready by March 17<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Isaacs mentioned that the subgroup hopes to promote the idea that countries that have worked to align their systems with the EHEA be recognized as "global dialogue partners" of the EHEA, and they plan

to schedule a meeting before the BFUG Board meeting in Sarajevo and after the March 17<sup>th</sup> deadline to facilitate reporting at the Board meeting.

During the meeting, there were concerns raised regarding the validation process of the statement beyond the group's dialogue partners to ensure that it is not one directional. It was also emphasized that the draft needs to be shared with the BFUG, as it is a major obligation and necessary for obtaining consent. It was highlighted that it is important to understand how the Forum will be planned, as the document needs to be shared with other individuals who are expected to agree with it or suggest modifications. It must be a document that provides space for evidence-based discussion. There was a question regarding the specific name of the document, whether it will be called "EHEA dialogue partners" or "EHEA global dialogue partners." This issue may be put on the next meeting's agenda.

## **5. Decisions on upcoming activities and next meeting**

Magalie Soenen (Co-Chair) emphasized the need for a CG on GPD meeting in the second half of April to discuss the latest updates and decisions. To determine the most suitable date, a doodle poll will be sent out for a range of dates between April 17<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, with the aim of ensuring that the Co-Chairs could report to the BFUG Meeting on 11-12 May 2023.

The discussion then focused on upcoming activities from the regional subgroups for 2023. The possibility of organizing physical conferences as part of the IN-Global project was discussed. Ms. Lucke provided an update on what could be financed, informing the group that conferences with around 60 participants are foreseen (hybrid) and that travel costs could be reimbursed according to the Commission's rules. The regional subgroups were asked to propose the format of the events and how they should be organized and to be in close contact with the project coordinator.

During the meeting, it was announced that a consortium consisting of EUA and OBREAL Global had won the Sphere contract to support higher education reform experts, with funding for an event. The consortium planned to propose a dialogue activity to the European Commission, and it was asked if the IN-GLOBAL project would cover the cost of translation for these events. However, it was explained that translation is extremely expensive and is not foreseen in the project, and thus cannot be covered.

The question was then raised on how the regional subgroups envisioned organizing a big event, possibly towards the end of the year in preparation for the GPF. The Co-Chair of the Africa subgroup expressed concern about the difficulty of organizing both online conversations and a big regional in-person event simultaneously due to resource constraints. On the other hand, the Co-Chair of the Asia group suggested organizing an event on global dialogue coming from the Bologna process towards Asia, back-to-back with the ASEM Education Ministerial Meeting in the beginning of 2024, which is hosted by Malta. It was suggested that other regions explore the option of back-to-back events towards the end of 2023 or beginning of 2024. It was agreed that different regions would discuss and decide within their groups before reporting back with their proposed plans. Magalie Soenen proposed that the subgroups reconvene to determine the best approach for each group's work, acknowledging that it may differ from past methods. At the conclusion of the meeting,

Ms. Soenen expressed gratitude to the Co-Chairs and CG members for their collaborative efforts, some of which had been ongoing since 2018 in the previous work program. She also confirmed that they would be meeting again in the Bologna Process, in various working groups, structures or activities.

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