

Draft Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Internationalisation and Mobility, 2024-2027

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| Name of the working structure | Working Group on Internationalisation and Mobility (WG I&M) |
| Work period | 2024-2027 |
| Co-chairs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Akrami Flores – Germany (akrami@daad.de) • Rodica Crudu - Moldova (rodika.krudu@gmail.com) • Arthur Belle – Netherlands (p.belle@minocw.nl) • Maryna Mruha – Ukraine (maryna.mruha@mon.gov.ua) |
| Composition | Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium – Flemish Community, Belgium – French Community, BusinessEurope, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Education International – ETUCE, ENQA, Estonia, European Commission, EUA, EURASHE, ESU, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Latvia, Republic of Moldova, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom – Scotland, United Kingdom, UNESCO |
| Reference to the Tirana Communiqué | <p><i>‘We reaffirm our commitment to enabling all learners to acquire international and intercultural competencies, and we will reinforce our efforts to identify and remove barriers and promote physical mobility, also in order to achieve the benchmark of at least 20% of mobile students. We mandate the BFUG to prepare an action plan to stimulate mobility and internationalisation of higher education and to support measures for achieving a greener, more inclusive, and more balanced mobility’.</i></p> <p><i>‘We will support higher education institutions in their exploration of practices and benefits of blended mobility and virtual exchanges, and in fostering the internationalisation of the curricula. We commit to supporting transnational cooperation, including for joint programmes and joint degrees, through better implementation of the key commitments and by removing undue administrative and legal barriers’</i></p> |

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| Main goals | <p>Develop an EHEA action plan on Internationalisation and Mobility, considering the experience of the 2012 action plan adopted at the Bucharest Ministerial Conference, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Supports the EHEA members in developing and implementing internationalisation policies that enable all learners to acquire international and intercultural competencies. ➤ Fosters a discussion of EHEA mobility targets in light of greatly varying mobility numbers in different countries, between credit and degree mobility and different cycles, and identify the barriers to mobility as well as offering recommendations for the removal of these barriers. ➤ Provide concrete recommendations for member countries to develop or enhance policies that collectively strive for 1) more inclusive, 2) more balanced, and 3) greener mobility’. ➤ Includes a glossary of the key terms in the area of internationalisation and mobility, to ensure common understanding of terminology. |
| Outcomes | <p>The WG will deliver an EHEA Action Plan for internationalisation and mobility, to be submitted for approval to the BFUG and adopted by the Ministerial Conference in 2027.</p> |
| Specific tasks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Draft an EHEA Action Plan on Internationalisation and Mobility. ➤ Facilitate an exchange of views on EHEA member countries’ broad internationalisation strategies and priorities, such as internationalisation at home, staff mobility, regional and international strategies, and how EHEA member states support institutional (cross-border) efforts on internationalisation and mobility. ➤ Organise expert hearings and peer-learning activities on internationalisation and mobility strategies (also in context of transversal topics like inclusivity, sustainability, competitiveness, labour market relevance) and other relevant reports from different EHEA member states. ➤ Based on consultation with EHEA countries’ delegates, academic experts and relevant stakeholder organisations, identify barriers to mobility and outline recommendations for their removal. |
| Meetings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The work will be divided in two phases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phase one: Identify all the relevant themes and topics, including barriers to and benefits of mobility, to be included in the action plan and to provide definitions for these themes in a glossary to promote common understanding. ○ Phase two: develop the action plan itself. ➤ Regular WG meetings once per semester; ideally in connection with peer-learning activities/expert hearings on the day before the actual WG meeting. ➤ Additional drafting meetings for the EHEA action plan with a smaller drafting group shall be held twice per semester and start |

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| | <p>in the second half of 2025.</p> <p>➤ This draft will subsequently be discussed with the whole WG before a first complete draft version will be presented to the second BFUG of 2026.</p> |
| Liaison with other working structures | <p>Liaise with the BFUG working structures, most notably:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TPG A (on qualification frameworks and ECTS) • TPG B (regarding recognition of periods abroad); • TPG C (on promoting more flexible programs, the promotion of joint programmes and quality assurance of transnational education/crossborder QA); and • TPG D (to make internationalisation more inclusive). • CG GPD (on the international dimension of mobility, taking into account the international frameworks and initiatives) |
| Contribution to enhancing mobility | <p>This WG is the main structure tasked with providing policy recommendations to enhance mobility, while making sure the EHEA members strive for 1) more inclusive, 2) more balanced, and 3) greener mobility.</p> |
| Correlation with initiatives outside the Bologna Process | <p>The aims of this WG will be closely aligned to the EU initiative 'Europe on the Move' and the broader Erasmus+ funding for mobility opportunities across Europe. This WG will work closely with the European Commission to work towards the complementarity of the work, bearing in mind that the WG focuses on the entire EHEA and that students and staff from non-EEA countries face specific barriers (visa, tuition fees etc).</p> |
| Reporting | <p>Minutes of WG meetings will be made available by the EHEA Secretariat. Minute taking for the drafting sub-group is not foreseen, beyond the draft action plan itself. The BFUG will receive regular reports and updates which requires the presence of at least one of the Co-Chairs at the BFUG meetings. A final report will be presented for adoption to the BFUG and to the EHEA Ministerial Conference in 2027. The EHEA action plan for mobility and internationalisation as the central output of the working group shall be subject to approval by the BFUG. A first draft version shall be presented to the BFUG by summer/autumn 2026 to be discussed at the second BFUG meeting in 2026, with a finalized version being approved preferably in the first, latest in the second BFUG meeting of 2027, i.e. before the EHEA Ministerial Conference.</p> |
| Dissemination and enhancing knowledge sharing | <p>The WG will promote its work during the working period through dedicated dissemination activities. Once adopted, key outputs of the WG, such as the action plan may be presented to the public through an (online) event.</p> |

Tackling transversal
topics

The group will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of different internationalisation strategies. This includes, on the one hand, exploring different types of mobility and the specific objectives associated with each form, and on the other, considering aspects like internationalization at home as an emerging approach to bridge distances in an inclusive and holistic way. This comprehensive perspective will focus on development of internationalisation strategies in the context of issues such as inclusivity, sustainability and competitiveness.