Draft Terms of Reference for the Bologna Implementation Coordination Group, 2024-2027

Name of the working structure	Bologna Implementation Coordination Group (BICG)
Work period	2024-2027
Co-chairs	• Finland: Maija Innola • Bulgaria: Ivana Radonova • EUA: Maria Kelo
Composition	The Bologna Implementation Coordination Group (BICG) is a small coordination group composed of representatives nominated by members and consultative members of the BFUG and the co-chairs of each of the Thematic Peer Groups (TPGs). A representative of the WG on Monitoring is invited to participate in the group as an observer. The group is composed of the following members: 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). In principle, the BICG co-chairs should not be chairs of a Thematic Peer Group. The BICG should represent the diversity of the EHEA and ensure a balance of expertise across all key commitments. To ensure continuity and diversity, there should be a maximum turnover of two thirds of the BICG members from one work-period to the other.
Reference to the Tirana Communiqué	”*The 2024 Bologna Process Implementation Report confirms and illustrates the still incomplete and uneven implementation of these key commitments, but also the important contribution of the Thematic Peer Groups under the guidance of the Bologna Implementation Coordination Group in improving the situation. Therefore, we commit to ensuring that we have, or will devise, and will publish appropriate action plans to address any remaining implementation gaps, and to promoting knowledge-sharing activities related to the EHEA.*” “*The adoption of the Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA in the 2020 Rome Communique was an important step in this direction, but more is needed to ensure their implementation by 2030. We commit to measuring progress in their implementation and ask the BFUG to*

	report back on this in 2027.”
Main goals	The purpose of the BICG is to facilitate a coordinated implementation of the four identified topics: the three key commitments (ECTS and QFs; recognition; and quality assurance) as well as of social dimension of higher education. To achieve that, the BICG coordinates the work of the TPGs, and facilitates an exchange of experience and best practice between the TPGs. The BICG follows the peer support activities and reports to the BFUG and the BFUG Board on overall progress and any necessary revision of the peer support approach or methodology. The activities should build upon the work and the results/achievements of the BICG in the period 2021 to 2024 and the outcomes of and recommendations for the work of the TPGs presented in the BICG Report 2024.
Outcomes	The BICG will deliver reports to the BFUG and the BFUG Board at least once a year. It will also provide input for the BFUG discussions about implementation. The BICG will deliver a draft template for national action plans for discussions, feedback and adoption by the BFUG. The draft will be provided by 5th November 2024 and consultation with the BFUG will be completed in written procedure by 15th November 2024. The BICG will deliver a draft template for national action plans for discussions, feedback and adoption of the template by the BFUG. The TPG action plans should be completed by 15 January 2025 and the National action plans are submitted to the EHEA Secretariat by each member state by early 2025, within a specific deadline agreed by the BFUG.
Specific tasks	• Coordinate the work of the TPGs; • Follow-up peer support activities by keeping an overview of the composition and activities of the different groups; • Seek to improve the Peer Support Approach for the implementation of the Key Commitments and of social dimension, including possible adjustments; • Identify synergies in the work of the Thematic Peer Groups and ensure consistence and coherence of outcomes • 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 the implementation of the topics of the TPGs for consideration

	by the BFUG; • Prepare a template, for approval by the BFUG, for the national action plans regarding implementation of the Tirana commitments, with focus on the four TPG topics. • Ensure synergies between the national plans and the activities of the TPGs and their working plans.
Meetings	Two meetings per year will be held, ideally three weeks prior to the BFUG Board meetings. Meetings can be physical or online, taking into account the availability of the BICG members. Physical meetings can be one or one and a half day and could also be held in combination with other meetings (BFUG or TPG).
Liaison with other working structures	In addition to the TPGs and the BFUG and the Board, the BICG will specifically liaise and search synergies with the following groups: - WG on Monitoring - AG on Future of the Bologna Process - WG on Mobility and internationalisation
Contribution to enhancing mobility	The work of the BICG will have an indirect but very important contribution to enhancing mobility by supporting the correct and thorough implementation of reform agendas that are enablers of mobility.
Correlation with initiatives outside the Bologna Process	The key commitments and the social dimension have strong connections to EU policies within the EEA, and their implementation will be an important precondition for the fruitful achievement of the EEA objectives. Global Dialogue has traditionally focused strongly on a number of the key commitments, as issues related to recognition, quality assurance and balanced mobility flows are high on the regional agendas across the Globe.
Reporting	Minimum of yearly reporting to the BFUG and final reporting containing reflections on the success of the methodology of peer support for the implementation purposes of the four thematic areas, with particular attention to the TPG D on Social Dimension as the newest TPG.
Dissemination and enhancing knowledge sharing	The task of the BICG is to coordinate a comprehensive system of peer support activities divided into the four TPGs. It is not thus a direct task for the BICG to disseminate information into the wider academic community.
Tackling transversal topics	The work of the BICG will take into consideration and feed back into the discussions on transversal topics such as digitalisation & AI and learning and teaching.

| Additional remarks on TPGs | **Additional remarks on the Thematic Peer Groups (TPGs)**

The objective of the TPGs is to provide a forum to support countries in working together to implement the Key Commitments and reforms related to the social dimension of higher education. The TPGs should continue using the Peer Support Approach and build on the work accomplished during the previous work period.

Each TPG (with the exception of the TPG D on social dimension, which is to start its work only in this working period) should follow up and update its overall Action Plan to reflect countries' progress and developments. The BICG provides feedback to the Action Plans of the TPGs and the TPG regularly report their activities to the BICG. Each participating country should prepare, update and follow their own priorities coordinated with the TPG's Action Plan and objectives, in line with the National Action Plan mandated by the Tirana Communiqué.

The countries and organisations should nominate representatives of authorities and stakeholders with relevant responsibility and expertise in the topic for the duration of the entire work period. Country representatives in the different TPGs need to communicate to and collaborate with their BFUG representatives at national level to ensure consistency and impact.

The co-chairs of the TPGs should be appointed by the BFUG and are responsible for planning, coordinating and reporting on the activities of the TPGs to the BICG.

There should be up to three co-chairs per TPG, respecting also a principle that one country representative should not co-chair more than one TPG or the BICG.

The TPGs' co-chairs:

TPG A: France, Georgia, Latvia

TPG B: France, Italy, Ukraine

TPG C: Armenia, France, Romania

TPG D: ESU, Latvia, Malta |
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