

Terms of Reference for the Advisory Group on the ECTS Users' Guide Revision

Name of the working structure	Advisory Group on the ECTS Users' Guide Revision
Work period	February 2025 until the first BFUG meeting of 2026
Co-chairs	European Commission
Composition	<p>National experts appointed by the European Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • max. 12 – to be confirmed after invitations (<i>invitees see annex</i>) <p>Stakeholder representatives/non-voting BFUG members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EUA • EURASHE • ESU • ENQA • EQAR • EI-ETUCE <p>Commission services/experts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DG EAC • DG EMPL • Cedefop (tbc) <p>Senior advisers involved in previous revision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann Katherine Isaacs • Robert Wagenaar
Reference to the Tirana Communiqué	<i>To support the implementation of the ECTS, including learning outcomes, we invite the BFUG to review the ECTS Users' Guide 2015 by 2027, to strengthen its key features and adapt it to current developments, including micro credentials.</i>
Main goals	Propose a revised ECTS Users' Guide for adoption by the 2027 Ministerial meeting
Outcomes	Revised ECTS Users' Guide – for consideration at the first BFUG of 2026
Specific tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify areas that need revision in light of EHEA developments • Provide input to the design of research on the use of ECTS by higher education institutions • Consider the findings of the research • Conduct wider consultations of stakeholders as appropriate • Review draft versions of the revised Users' Guide • Propose a draft revised Users' Guide to the BFUG
Meetings	Up to 6 meetings, 3 on-site in Brussels and 3 online
Liaison with other working structures	Coordination with ESG revision

Contribution to enhancing mobility	ECTS is a main transparency tool, keeping the Users' Guide up-to-date thus contributes to a smooth mobility experience and supports transnational cooperation. The research on the use of ECTS will yield insights into the current obstacles and barriers experienced in practice, including with a view to seamless recognition of study periods abroad. The revision will aim, among others, to address these obstacles.
Correlation with initiatives outside the Bologna Process	Erasmus+ Programme European Education Area
Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft ToR presented at 1st BFUG Board of 2025 • ToR submitted to BFUG electronically by end of January 2025 • Research results presented at 2nd BFUG of 2025 • Draft revised Users' Guide submitted to 1st BFUG of 2026
Dissemination and enhancing knowledge sharing	Once the draft revised Guide has been validated by the BFUG, dissemination activities could commence to inform the academic community of the forthcoming changes and improvements.
Tackling transversal topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micro-credentials • Recognition • Transnational cooperation • Digitalisation

Annex: List of Invited National Experts

The following experts will be invited to join the group. All individuals and countries are currently **to be confirmed**.

- Frederik De Decker, Ghent University, BE (Fl.)
- José Ravenstein, National E+ Agency, NL
- Raimonda Markeviciene, Vilnius University, LT
- Ronny Heintze, AQAS (QA agency), DE
- Ana Tecilazić, Algebra University, HR
- Jonna Korhonen, Ministry of Education, FI
- Chiara Finocchietti, CIMEA (ENIC-NARIC), IT
- Jakub Brdulak, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, PL
- Peter Ondreička, Ministry of Education, SK
- Ukraine (person tbc)
- Denmark (person tbc)
- Ireland (person tbc)