

Terms of Reference for the Task Force on the Future of Bologna, 2024-2027

Name of the working structure	Task Force on the Future of Bologna (TF FoB)
Work period	2024-2027
Co-chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belgium - Flemish Community: Liesbeth Hens Germany: Lea Kröger/ Andrea Herdegen Ireland: Orla Lynch/Stephanie Thompson Ukraine: Maryna Mruga
Composition	Albania, Azerbaijan, Belgium – Flemish Community, EUA, Croatia, ETUCE, EURASHE, ESU, France, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Malta, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom – Scotland
Reference to the Tirana Communiqué	<p><i>'We also ask the BFUG to submit to us in 2027 proposals for the main priorities for the next decade, in close cooperation with higher education institutions, staff and students.'</i></p> <p><i>As the Bologna Process tools have developed throughout the last decade, we mandate the BFUG to work on their future-proof development, dissemination and possible expansion.</i></p>
Main goals	<p>To take up the mandate of the Tirana communiqué by :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Preparing and organising debates in the BFUG on topics relevant to the future of the Bologna Process. Setting up the debates so that the topics can be openly explored and result in clear conclusions that can be translated into actions by BFUG. This will enable the EHEA and the Bologna process to evolve its commitments, methodologies and tools to remain relevant and well prepared for the future. Develop a Report to the BFUG with the main findings of the task force and recommendations on the way forward, both on content and methods of the Bologna process. <p>The debates will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on a small number of future oriented priority topics for the EHEA, keeping in mind possible synergies with the EEA and the ERA; explore the relevance and further development of the suite of existing tools and the potential for new tools <p>To take up the mandate of the Tirana communiqué to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respond to ongoing change, due to societal, economic, geopolitical, environmental and technological developments in close cooperation

	<p>with higher education institutions, staff and students</p> <p>- Align with the changes that are already taking place and will continue in higher education and research. This includes changes within higher education, as well as in the broader context of a changing society and a changing and more flexible education system.</p>
Outcomes	<p>The TF will focus on enabling and facilitating debates in the BFUG so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each debate will result in the recording of a conclusion by BFUG. - As the BFUG debate series continues, a series of conclusions by the BFUG will grow iteratively. - At the end these iterative conclusions will be drawn together into a Report, advice and inputs for the next communique, setting out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a focussed set of relevant topics for the BFUG for the next decade, as an outcome of these discussions and debates in the BFUG and throughout its working structures, to be approved by the BFUG latest at the first BFUG meeting of 2027. - an outline of the potential synergies with the European Education Area and European Research Area - a conclusion on the relevance and further development of the suite of existing tools and methodologies and the potential for new tools <p>- A reflection by the TF on the process that was facilitated for the BFUG, will be submitted to the BFUG latest by the first BFUG meeting of 2027.</p>
Specific tasks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify a schedule of topics and priorities for debate drawing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the topics listed throughout the Tirana communique (LLL – shorter programmes etc.; AI and digitalisation; intensifying the international connectedness of higher education in a world that is facing new challenges; climate change, ...) - suggestions for topics from working structures, stakeholders and the BICG - the topic of synergy with the European Education Area and European Research Area - the topic of enhancing and updating the Bologna tools and methodologies (in close collaboration with the BICG) 2. Bring these topics forward for debate by BFUG in an ongoing and structured manner. This might mean extending the duration of BFUG meetings if necessary to give more time for debate and

	<p>discussion; organising a seminar back-to-back with a BFUG meeting; and/or organising a webinar before a BFUG meeting.</p> <p>3. Support the BFUG debates by proposing innovative methodologies to ensure effective dialogue and clear and actionable conclusions. These might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing a briefing paper on future topics for debate; - using future-friendly practices/work methodologies such as scenario building for the future; - inviting in experts/speakers on future topics who can engage with and provide insights to the BFUG and, potentially, the other working groups. <p>4. Subject to further discussion: To test and strengthen the evidence base for the topics by conducting a brief preparatory survey prior to a BFUG where the outcomes of the survey would be discussed and/or conducting an evidence-based study/meta study, investigating potential outcomes, successes and challenges for the Bologna process,</p>
Meetings	<p>Meetings of the TF: one or two meetings per semester, one prior to the BFUG meeting and, if needed, one after the BFUG meeting.</p> <p>BFUG: a working session (ideally 2h) in all BFUG meetings in the working period.</p> <p>The TF Future of Bologna will investigate to possibility of working in close collaboration with BFUG working structures and/or BFUG members, to organise collaboratively joint meetings or events that include the theme of the future of Bologna.</p> <p>In order to do its tasks, the TF will provide the BFUG with an annual work plan.</p>
Liaison with other working structures	<p>The TF has by nature a close cooperation with all other working structures of the BFUG and the BFUG itself.</p> <p>Possible liaisons exist with all working structures focussing on content. The TF will reach out to co-chairs and the Board to bring priority themes and new methodologies into their work programmes and to feedback on their relevance and effectiveness.</p> <p>This includes working with the team working on the potential installation of a long-term secretariat to explore if this has the potential to improve working methods, coherence and cooperation in BFUG, task division, etc...</p> <p>The BICG had been highlighted as a key group with which to cooperate and ensure regular communication and links.</p>
Contribution to enhancing mobility	<p>By bringing topics focussed on the future, improving synergies and enhancing tools and methodologies, the TF can contribute to</p>

	ensuring that the work of BFUG aimed at enhancing mobility in the EHEA is relevant and more future-proofed.
Correlation with initiatives outside the Bologna Process	The focus of this TF is supporting the BFUG discussions. Where possible and useful we will seek connection with other activities organised by Erasmus+ projects and other initiatives of BFUG or TF members.
Reporting	<p>A thematically focussed working session in all BFUG meetings in the working period. In general, we would opt for a two hour time slot, but the exact timings will be discussed at the board meeting.</p> <p>The TF will propose topics, external experts and methods for the session. The BFUG co-chairs and vice chair will agree and confirm the final programme and invitations.</p>
Dissemination and enhancing knowledge sharing	In first order the TF will focus on the BFUG and its working structures and will work with and through these structures to disseminate and enhance knowledge sharing with stakeholders.
Tackling transversal topics	The TF will enhance the focus of BFUG on future-proofing the topics that are relevant including fundamental values, AI, climate change, LLL, competitiveness, international cooperation, synergies with European Education Area and European Research Area and enhancing and updating the Bologna tools and methodologies.