

BFUG 2 7
26 February 2004

REPORTING TO THE 2005 MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Discussion document for the BFUG Meeting on 9 March 2004

1. BACKGROUND

In the communiqué from their Berlin meeting on 19 September 2003, Ministers responsible for higher education asked the Bologna Follow-up Group (BFUG) to co-ordinate activities for progress of the Bologna Process as indicated in the themes and actions covered by the communiqué *and to report on them in time for the next Ministerial Conference in 2005.*

2. A SET OF COMPLEMENTARY REPORTS

2.1. General Report on BFUG Activities

The Board meeting on 15 Nov 03 concluded that the role of the General Rapporteur was no longer necessary and that the Secretariat should be given the task of preparing a short report to the ministers in Bergen on BFUG activities 2003-2005. This was accepted by the BFUG by electronic consultation (letter from the Chair 09 Dec 03).

The General Report on BFUG Activities will be a short report on all activities in the Work Programme 2003-2005, to which recommendations from seminars and reports on the stocktaking and other projects may be appended. The report will be drafted by the Secretariat and submitted to the BFUG for approval.

2.2. National Reports

All member and candidate member countries produced national reports before the Berlin Conference. The reports are available at <http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no>. A new set of national reports will be useful for member countries and for the Bergen Conference.

The Board has recommended that national reports should be submitted to the BFUG in good time before the Bergen Conference. A common format for the 2005 reports from member countries will be defined, and the Board has asked the Secretariat to produce a draft format, to be submitted to the next Board meeting.

A recent Eurydice report, *Focus on the Structure of Higher Education in Europe 2003/04: National Trends in the Bologna Process*, gives an overall picture of the situation in higher education in the 29 pre-Berlin signatory countries. National reports for 2005 should not duplicate the Eurydice effort, but supplement it. A link to the Eurydice report can be found at <http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no/b/hind.htm>.

2.3. Co-ordination with the EUA *Trends 2005* Report

The EUA *Trends* reports have been valuable contributions to the monitoring of the Bologna Process. *Trends 2003* was based on questionnaires sent to ministries, rectors' conferences, student organisations, individual institutions and social partners. At the Board meeting in Oslo, the EUA confirmed that there will be a *Trends 2005* report, building on the results of the previous reports. Based on an analysis of data at the national level, two to four institutions per country will be selected for site visits, with the aim of revalidating the data from *Trends 2003* in the three priority areas. The EUA will co-operate with EURASHE to make sure that the picture presented is as complete as possible. Ministries will not be included, as they will be the addressees of questions through other channels in the stocktaking project. Data from *Trends* will be used in the stocktaking.

2.4. Co-ordination with the ESIB student survey

ESIB is planning to undertake a survey amongst its members on the implementation of some of the Bologna objectives. ESIB will contribute to the stocktaking exercise by supplementing the information with the student perspective through the use of this survey.

2.5. Preparing the Bergen Communiqué

The Communiqué from the Ministerial Conference will evaluate progress and give directions and priorities for the continuing development of the European Higher Education Area. The Communiqué must build on the various reports and bring the results together in a clear and short statement. The responsibility for preparing the Communiqué lies with the BFUG.

The Board will take responsibility for the preparatory drafting of the Bergen Communiqué.

3. CONCLUSION

The General Report on BFUG Activities 2003-2005 should be a short report on all activities in the Work Programme, to which recommendations from seminars and reports on the stocktaking and other projects may be appended. This report will be drafted by the Secretariat and submitted to the BFUG for approval.

National reports on progress in the Bologna Process should be submitted to the BFUG in good time before the Bergen Conference. A common format for the 2005 reports from member countries should be defined, and the Secretariat has been asked to produce a draft format.

The Chair and the Secretariat will co-ordinate with the EUA the preparation of the *Trends 2005* Report and the reporting to be carried out by the BFUG. The planned ESIB student survey should also be taken into consideration.

The Board takes responsibility for preparatory drafting of the Bergen Communiqué. This may be done through the establishment of a dedicated working group.