



## **Bologna Data Collection Working Group Minutes of meeting of 9 November 2007, Brussels**

### Participants

Germain Dondelinger (Luxembourg) – Chair  
Jean-Louis Mercy (Eurostat)  
Dominic Orr (Eurostudent)  
Yvan Slapnicar (Croatia)  
Paolo Turchetti (Italy)  
Andrejs Rauhvargers (Latvia)  
David Crosier (EUA)  
Amaury Parra d'Antert (European Commission)  
Marie-Anne Persoons (Bologna Secretariat)

### Observer

Maria Kelo (ACA)

### Apologies

Bosnia-Herzegovina, Germany, France, Hungary, Russia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, EI, ESU

### **0. Context**

The meeting followed a meeting organised by the European Commission, aiming at the presentation of ongoing and future exercises on data collection in the field of higher education (statistical work, surveys, research projects etc.).

Minutes will be drafted by the European Commission.

### **1. Introduction : terms of reference for the working group**

The Chair presented the broad outline of the work on data collection in the context of the Bologna 2007-2009 work programme. The London Communiqué has given explicit mandate to Eurostat and Eurostudent in the field of data collection.

For the next two years the focus will lie on the social dimension, defined as participative equity.

The working group will participate in the data collection itself but will rather act as a political steering group, facilitating the contextualisation of the data.

Apart from the organisations that received the data collection mandate (Eurostat and Eurostudent), the working group is composed of 10 countries (Luxembourg-Chair, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Hungary, Italy, Germany, Latvia, Russia, Switzerland and UK), the European Commission (DG EAC and Eurydice) and 3 consultative members : EI, ESU and EUA. ACA will also participate as an observer based on their expertise in the Eurodata publication on mobility.

The fact that the Bologna work programme is agreed for a 2-year period does not mean that the work will stop in 2009. The working group should strive for sustainable data collection which will continue after 2009. For Eurostat also the convergence with EU data collection is essential.

Meanwhile, it should be observed that in the context of Bologna stocktaking, Eurydice will be active in the field of data collection on transparency tools (ECTS, DS and qualifications framework) for all Bologna countries and on mobility and portability of student support for 33 countries.

## **2. Geographical scope of the work**

The fact that the geographical scope of the Bologna Process is wider than the number of countries where Eurostat and Eurostudent can be active remains a major challenge.

In case of UOE data, the scope is worldwide and therefore all Bologna countries are covered but many data exist only on EU (possibly also on EFTA level or candidate country level), while Eurostudent is a consortium where only a limited number of countries participate in.

Eurostat and Eurostudent should, however, have access to as many data as possible.

To help Eurostat to have the information on the Labour Force Survey in non-EU Bologna countries a letter from the Luxembourg Minister will be sent to the Ministers in those countries announcing that Eurostat will contact their national statistical offices and asking them for facilitating this contact.

For encouraging countries to participate in Eurostudent, the usual BFUG channels can be used.

## **3. Timing of the work**

The initial timeline proposed by Eurostat and Eurostudent has been presented at the BFUG meeting, 2-3 October 2007. The BFUG has set a general deadline for all working groups for delivering the draft report for January 15, 2008. Eurostat and Eurostudent will adjust their planning to this general timeline.

## **4. Next meeting of working group**

Due to the late notice for this introductory meeting, several colleagues were not able to come to Brussels. They are however expected at the next meeting that will take place in Luxembourg on Monday, February 25, 2008.