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Update on the activities of the Bologna Data Collection Working Group

***Required action of BFUG at Brdo meeting, 13-14 March 2008 :
Take note of the information***

Since the establishment of a data collection action line in the Bologna work programme 2007-2009 by the BFUG at its October meeting, the data collection working group met twice, in Brussels, 9 November 2007 and in Luxembourg, 25 February 2008.

The next meeting is planned for 6 June 2008, Luxembourg.

Meeting of 9 November 2007

The mandate of the working group and broad outline of the work were clarified. 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, in the sense of "participative equity".

The working group will not 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 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.

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.

Meeting of 25 February 2008

Following the work plan agreed in November, the working group discussed a set of 27 indicators proposed by Eurostat and Eurostudent for data collection in the following broad fields :

- Widening access
- Study framework
- Effective outcomes

All indicators rely on already available data (mainly UOE and Eurostudent survey).

For the next meeting the discussion will concentrate on a new set of indicators relating to mobility.