
Bologna Coordination Group on Mobility Update to the BFUG, 13-14 March 2008, Brdo

During the period between Lisbon BFUG meeting and the current BFUG meeting in Slovenia the CG on mobility had met in Vienna on 23 November 2007. During this meeting the CG discussed and agreed on various points: ToR , organization of the work, activities related to mobility, preparation of the final report to the BFUG, next meetings of the group.

1. Terms of reference and organization of the CG

The CG agreed on the main purpose of this group i.e. to coordinate the different activities within the mobility action line into a coherent programme, building upon seminars and other activities of previous periods. Coordination work consists of two specific tasks:

- (1) coordinating the events, to insure they build upon and complement each other and cover all elements referred to in the London Communiqué.
- (2) coordinating the results and recommendations of the events, integrating them into one coherent report with one set of recommendations.

Therefore, the CG assigned a contact person for each conference/seminar/other activity who would then act as an adviser to the organisers and afterwards also provide a brief report to the group. The contact person, indicated hereafter, could attend meetings of the committee preparing a conference/seminar/other activity but could also be involved via e-mail or phone.

2. Latest developments on conference/seminar/other activity

2.1 Mobility Campaign – EI/ESU

EI and ESU have been working on the campaign since its launch in November 2007. The mobility campaign website is still under construction and will be launched on the 28th of February. It will include an interactive Wiki-style part where students and staff can exchange knowledge and mobility experiences. This will eventually serve as the ground for identifying remaining concrete obstacles to mobility. Also, templates for campaign materials, such as leaflets and posters will be available for download and support the activities at the national level with information and research regarding mobility. In order to express our demands we will invite our members and affiliates to develop an online petition, addressing European authorities. The petition will be available for signing at the website.

An Expert group was set up to support the work of EI and ESU and come with advice and input to the material that will be produced for the website, the online petition and the Validation conference. The group will have its first meeting on the 3rd of March in Brussels. At the national level the setting up of campaign activities is on its way, student and teacher unions are making contacts with each other. Information on activities developed in each country will be made available on the website.

The Validation conference “Let’s Go! – Where to now?” concluding the campaign will be held on the 6-9 of October 2008 in Lille, France. The Bologna Seminar is part of the conference and will take place on the 6th and 7th of October. During the conference participants will be given the opportunity to exchange experiences and outcomes from the national campaigns, as well as define future actions that should lead to mobility for all higher education staff and students.

Gottfried Bacher (Austria) will act as a contact person for the CG.

2.2 Seminar on staff mobility and pension arrangements – Germany

The seminar will take place on June 12-13, 2008. The main purpose of the conference is to address the nationally diverse and frequently divergent forms of social welfare systems, focussing in particular on the issue of pension and retirement schemes as an obstacle to mobility. The conference will also deal with and hopefully raise awareness of this most serious and complex problem regarding the mobility of researchers and academics. A review of selected case studies and examples will illustrate how the diverse pension and retirement schemes affect the mobility of academics and their social position. In addition, seminar participants will have the opportunity to learn about new pension scheme options, discuss short-, medium- and long-term possibilities for improvement and formulate a political-action agenda.

Monique Fouilhoux will act as contact person for the group.

2.3 Conference on student mobility – French Community of Belgium

The Conference is entitled “Fostering student mobility: next steps? – Involving stakeholders for an improved mobility inside the EHEA” will take place on 29-30 May 2008 in Brussels, hosted by the *Université Libre de Bruxelles*. The main objective is to identify and discuss “inconvenient truths” on mobility taking into account the different stakeholders’ perspectives i.e. governments, HEIs and students. A first official invitation was sent to BFUG members on 1 February.

In order to define the programme and the content of the conference, an international scientific committee has been set up, including BFUG delegates and mobility experts from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, ESU, the Netherlands and the network on student support. Based on the suggestions of the scientific committee, the French Community is currently in the process of contacting potential speakers for the panels.

Ivan Simonovic (Croatia) and Rafael Bonete (Spain) will act as contact persons for the group.

2.4 Conference on Erasmus Mundus II – France

The conference will take place on 20-21 November and will officially launch the second phase of the Erasmus Mundus programme. There will be 3 main conference topics: Development of university mobility in Europe, financial aspects of mobility, administration of mobility. The next meeting of the Steering Committee will take place in April, in Paris. The draft conference programme will be sent out in April.

Siegbert Wuttig and Katalin Kukucz will act as contact persons of the CG.

2.5 Seminar on joint programmes and student mobility – Russia

The conference is planned to take place in the end of January 2008. The exact dates are still to be confirmed. The main purpose of the conference will be discussing joint programmes and student mobility. The draft agenda will be delivered by organisers in two months.

Michael Harms (Germany) and Gayane Harutyunyan (Armenia) will act as contact persons for the group.

3. First discussion on the preparation of the report

The CG on mobility has to submit the final report to the BFUG by mid-January 2009. The group agreed to opt for a concise report, which would mainly summarise the main results of the various events, highlighting the main recommendations for the following period and for “Bologna Beyond 2010” as well as producing a concise and well-formulated paragraph for the 2009 communiqué. Chair and Secretariat will prepare the first draft of both the report and the communiqué paragraph by the end of November 2008 as basis for the discussion at the CG meeting early December 2008.

4. Liaison with Bologna working/coordination groups and network on student support

As far as stocktaking is concerned, while prime responsibility clearly lies in the stocktaking WG, the mobility CG has already suggested questions dealing with mobility to be included in the national report template.

With the network on student support, the data collection WG and the social dimension CG the necessary exchange of information and coordination would be assured through close contacts among the chairs of the respective groups as well as through the Bologna Secretariat.

5. Next meetings

The CG agreed to have two more meetings:

19 September 2008, Yerevan

- To discuss the results of the two seminars in May and June 2008 with a view to the final report and also providing further input for the following seminars.
- To discuss the outline of the final report.
- To prepare a written update that needs to be sent to BFUG in preparation of its October 2008 meeting.

8 December 2008, Brussels (to be confirmed)

- To discuss the results of the remaining seminars.
- To discuss the draft of the final report that will be prepared and circulated by Chair and Secretariat by the end of November 2008.