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Strasbourg, Brussels, Vatican City, Warsaw, June 13, 2014

**BOLOGNA BOARD**

*Vatican City, July 9, 2014*

**REPORT BY THE STRUCTURAL REFORMS WORKING GROUP**

**Introduction**

In the 2012 – 15 EHEA work program, the Structural Reforms Working Groups (SRWG) is perhaps the group with the broadest mandate and the most complex set-up. Co-chaired by the Council of Europe (coordinator), Belgium (Flemish Community), the Holy See and Poland, it has some 40 members as well as four sub-structures:

* *Ad hoc* group on third cycle qualifications
* *Ad hoc* group on the revision of the ECTS Users’ Guide
* Network on Recognition of Prior learning (RPL)
* Network of national correspondents for qualifications frameworks.

The BFUG adopted the terms of reference of all sub-structures at its meeting in Dublin in March 2013, with the Exception of the ToR of the RPL Network, which were adopted at the meeting in Vilnius on November 7 – 8, 2013. At this meeting, the BFUG also agreed to add Georgia as a member of the SRWG and a representative of Georgia participated in the SRWG meetings held since then.

The present report aims to provide the BFUG with an update on the activities of the SRWG since the April BFUG meeting.

**Working group meetings**

The SRWG met in Warsaw on May 27 - 28, 2014. The main issue was the report to be submitted to the BFUG in fall 2014**.** An advanced draft was considered in detail and will be modified in accordance with the discussions in the SRWG.

In addition to discussing the outline of the report, the SRWG also reviewed the revised draft of the ECTS Users’ Guide and discussed the U-Mulitrank project, both on the basis of presentations by the European Commission. The SRWG also discussed the draft report of the *ad hoc* group on third cycle qualifications, which was presented by its co-chair Marzia Foroni.

**Sub-groups**

For the ad hoc groups on third cycle qualifications and on the ECTS Users’ Guide, see above.

The Network of national correspondents for qualifications frameworks met in Athens on April 11, 2014, immediately after the BFUG meeting. In particular, the Network considered the development and implementation of qualifications frameworks from a stakeholder perspective, based on presentations by the EUA and EURASHE. While participation was now somewhat better than at previous meetings and 25 countries were present, the regular absence of almost one half of EHEA countries remains a serious concern and could threaten the viability of the group in the next program period.

The Network on Recognition of Prior learning (RPL), which consists of 46 members representing 25 EHEA countries as well as UNESCO, EUA, EURASHE, has not provided information on any activities since the April BFUG or significant input to the draft report and has also not contributed to the draft SRWG report as foreseen. The Secretariat will again contact the Chair of the RPL Network to underline that its contribution to the draft report must be submitted by June 25, after which no further contribution will be taken into account.

**Further work**

The tentative timetable for the SRWG in 2014 is as follows:

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| July 10 | Meeting of co-chairs, Vatican City |
| September 15 | Meeting of co-chairs, Vatican City |
| September 16 – 17 | Meeting of the SRWG, Vatican City |
| October 10 | Draft report submitted to the BFUG |
| November 27 - 28 | Discussion of the draft SRWG report by the BFUG, Rome |
| December 15 – 16 (tbc) | Meeting of the SRWG to consider the comments by the BFUG, if and as required (Brussels) |