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Terms of Reference of the Network of Experts on Student Support in Europe

Name of the working group

Network of Experts on Student Support in Europe (NESSIE)

The Co-Chairs from three representative countries are elected by the network members every two years.

Co-Chairs steering committee

Period: September 2013 - September 2015

Tomislav Vodička	Croatia (tomislav.vodicka@mzos.hr)
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Alan Scott	Scotland(Alan.Scott@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

Composition

Austria, Belgium /Flemish Community, Belgium/French Community, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Scotland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, EC, ESU, EUA.

Purpose and/or outcome

- To contribute to the implementation of the full portability of national grants and loans through strengthening EHEA countries' national policies.
- To offer practical solutions for EHEA countries with regard to the implementation of schemes of portable student support.
- To share information on developments and examples of good practice in relation to the portability of student grants and loans in order to ensure balanced and sustainable mechanisms to support the mobility of students.
- To raise issues of common concern in relation to the portability of student support.
- To support the student body entering and graduating from higher education institutions to reflect the diversity of Europe's populations, reduce inequalities and provide adequate student support services.

Reference to the Bucharest Communiqué 2012

Paragraph 24

"We reiterate our commitment to full portability of national grants and loans across the EHEA and call on the European Union to underpin this endeavour through its policies".

Mobility Strategy 2020 for the EHEA "Mobility for better Learning" 2012



"As far as possible, to expand mobility funding and to enable a wide-reaching portability of grants, loans and scholarships provided by our countries as well as to further improve the exchange of information regarding the portability of national grants and loans across the EHEA to reach the mobility targets agreed upon in the EHEA".

Specific tasks

- To provide comprehensive and update information on grants and loans systems of EHEA countries in the form of Country Information Templates available in public and restricted areas of the EHEA website (<http://www.ehea.info/wrk-news-and-documents.aspx?wkgroupId=15>).
- To explore ways to ensure sufficient financial support for equal access and balanced mobility within EHEA, including measures targeting the increased participation of underrepresented groups.
- To contribute to expanding mobility funding, particularly on finding a common approach with regard to portable student support.
- To consider and make recommendations towards the full portability of national grants and loans across the EHEA, especially in support of the WG Mobility's efforts in this direction.
- To contribute to the implementation of the strategy of "Mobility for better learning".
- To promote further internationalisation developments and the international attractiveness of the EHEA by overcoming financial obstacles.

Liaison with other working groups

- WG on Mobility and Internationalisation
The network is a sub-structure of the WG on Mobility and Internationalisation.
- WG on Social Dimension and Lifelong Learning
The network cooperates with the WG on Social Dimension and Lifelong Learning.

Reporting

Minutes of network meetings will be made available on the restricted area of the EHEA website by the BFUG Secretariat.
As a sub-structure of the WG on Mobility and Internationalisation, the network reports directly to the WG on Mobility and Internationalisation.
On request by the BFUG Secretariat, progress reports are submitted to the BFUG by the network before BFUG meetings.

Meeting schedule

Chairs' coordination meetings:

5 March 2013, Oslo, Norway
25 September 2013, Zagreb, Croatia (Co-Chairs' handover meeting)
Spring 2014, Scotland
Spring 2015, Helsinki, Finland

Network annual meetings:

May 23/24, 2013, Berlin
May/June 2014, Glasgow, Scotland (tbd)
May/June 2015, Helsinki, Finland

