

The first meeting of the BFUG WG on Portability of grants and loans will take place in The Hague on June 16 2006. The meeting will start at 10am and finish around 17:30.

Time schedule

It is suggested that the work is carried out in three phases:

- Phase 1: mid-June – mid-September, see details below, reporting to the BFUG meeting in Helsinki.
- Phase 2: mid-September – mid-January, process the input of Phase 1.
- Phase 3: mid-January – mid-March, winding up, reporting to Ministerial conference in London.

Organisation of work

In Phase 1 we should concentrate on the first 4 bullets in the terms of reference as put down in the proposal. We suggest (at least) the following subgroups:

EU-law:

- The juridical consequences on the portability of grants and loans

Best practices (of at least) Scandinavia:

- How does the portability work.
- What bi/multilateral agreements are made in order to carry this out.

Description of national student support systems:

- What support systems are there in the different countries.
- To what extent are these portable.
- What obstacles are restricting portability.

Definition group:

- What is understood by...

Remaining mobility issues:

- How do we include countries with no student financial support systems

When preparing for the WG meeting, please consider whether these subgroups cover the work we should be doing. Are we missing essential issues? It is important to find a good balance between the right subgroups and the amount of groups. Also think of the subgroup in which you would like

to participate (i.e. where can you contribute the most?). On the 16th we will be splitting up into the different groups in order to make a first start.

With the information gathered in Phase 1, in Phase 2 we should be able to process the last 4 bullets of the proposed terms of reference. Phase 3 should be reserved for preparing the paper that will be submitted for the ministerial conference.

Next meetings

During the meeting in The Hague we will have to set a couple of dates on which the WG will meet. Please bring your agenda and that of your colleague(s) that will participate in the WG. Also we have to decide on the location(s) where to meet. Please inform within your country what options are available (or not).

WG members

If you are unable to attend on the 16th, please let me know your reaction on anything mentioned above (before the 16th). More specifically I would like to know in what subgroup you would like to participate, and on what dates you definitely cannot come to a WG meeting.

Annelise Sprenger

*Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap
Directie Studiefinancieringsbeleid / IPC 2600
Postbus 16375
2500 BJ Den Haag
Tel. 31-70-412 3414*

<<WG portability participants 1 june.xls>> <<Portability of grants and loans
BFUG document - FINAL 21.3.06.doc>>