Bologna Thematic Peer Group B on Key Commitment 2:
National legislation and procedures
compliant with the Lisbon Recognition Convention

4th TPG B on LRC meeting

24th June 2026, 9:00 – 16:00 CEST

France Éducation International – 1 avenue Léon Journault, Sèvres

Preparatory note

The fourth meeting of the Thematic Peer Group B on Key Commitment 2: National legislation and procedures compliant with the Lisbon Recognition Convention is aimed at stimulating reflection on flexible learning paths.

Policy Context

- **Tirana Communiqué (2024)**

"The need for Lifelong learning in society is increasing, especially for all those requiring or desiring new competences to enhance their professional, personal or civic potential. Learning paths need to be flexible, properly delivered, quality assured, and recognised. They should promote inclusion, upskilling and reskilling, and be aligned with the requirements of learners, changing societies and labour markets. This also includes the recognition of prior learning, and new forms of education provision, such as micro-credentials. We commit to fostering such flexible learning paths in all higher education programmes." [...] "We commit to fostering flexible learning paths, which need to be flexible, properly delivered, quality assured, and recognised, in all higher education programmes. This also includes the recognition of prior learning, and new forms of education provision, such as micro-credentials. We need to ensure student-centred learning is a reality for all students."

Evidence from Implementation

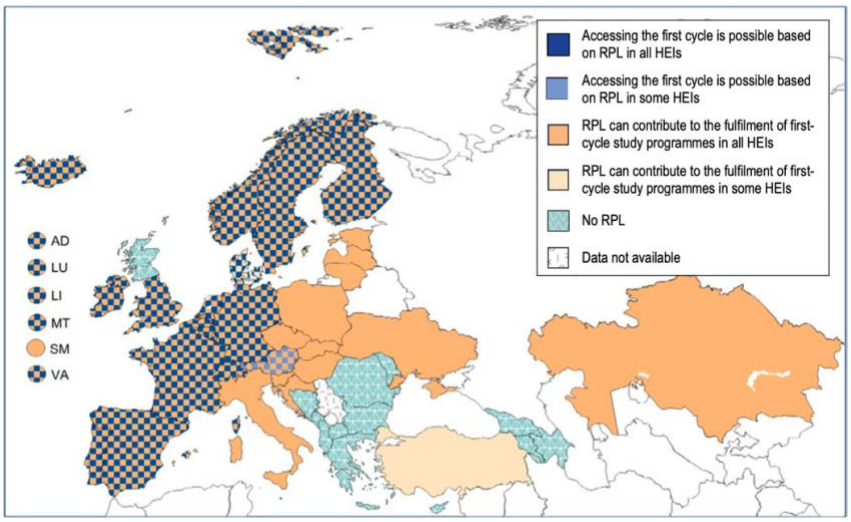
- **The European Higher Education Area in 2024. Bologna Process Implementation Report (2024)**

"Legislation or guidelines encourage comparing of learning outcomes rather than programme content" is among the principles highlighted in the indicator (see p.71).

Co-funded by the European Union

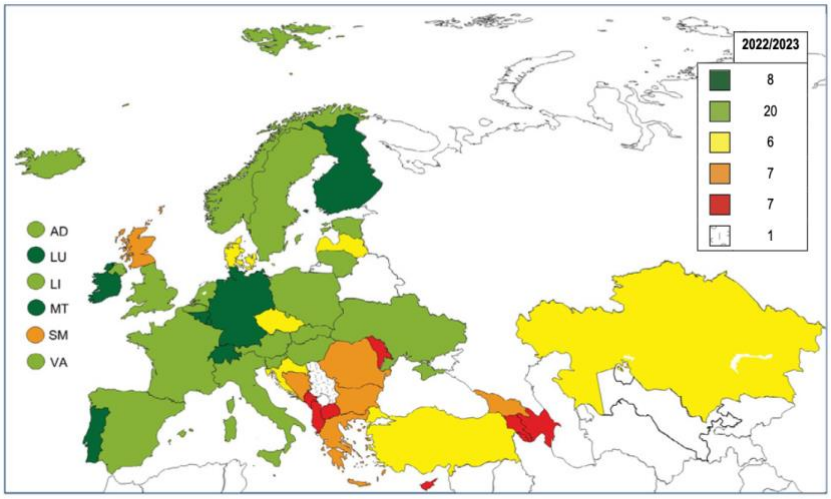
"Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them."

Figure 4.3: Recognition of prior learning in accessing and for the fulfilment of first-cycle higher education study programmes, 2022/2023



Source: BFUG data collection.

Figure 4.4: Scorecard indicator n°10: P & G 2: Enabling flexible modes of lifelong learning in higher education, 2022/2023



Source: BFUG data collection.

Scorecard categories

Enabling flexible modes of lifelong learning in higher education through the following four elements: • Top-level regulations allow higher education institutions to offer flexible pathways like part-time studies, blended and distance learning programmes. • Candidates are allowed to enter first-cycle higher education based on recognition of prior non-formal and/or informal learning in all higher education institutions. • Prior non-formal and informal learning counts towards the fulfilment of a higher education study programme in the first cycle. • Quality assurance agencies are required to address the recognition of prior non-formal and/or informal learning in higher education in their external evaluation procedures.	
Enabling flexible modes of lifelong learning in higher education through **three** of the four mentioned elements.	Enabling flexible modes of lifelong learning in higher education through **two** of the four mentioned elements.
Enabling flexible modes of lifelong learning in higher education through **one** of the four mentioned elements.	**No possibility** for flexible modes of learning in higher education through the four mentioned elements.
Data not available	

Co-funded by the European Union

"Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them."

- **National Action Plans**
  https://ehea.info/Download/EHEA_Secretariat_presentation_BICG_meeting_05.06.2025.pdf

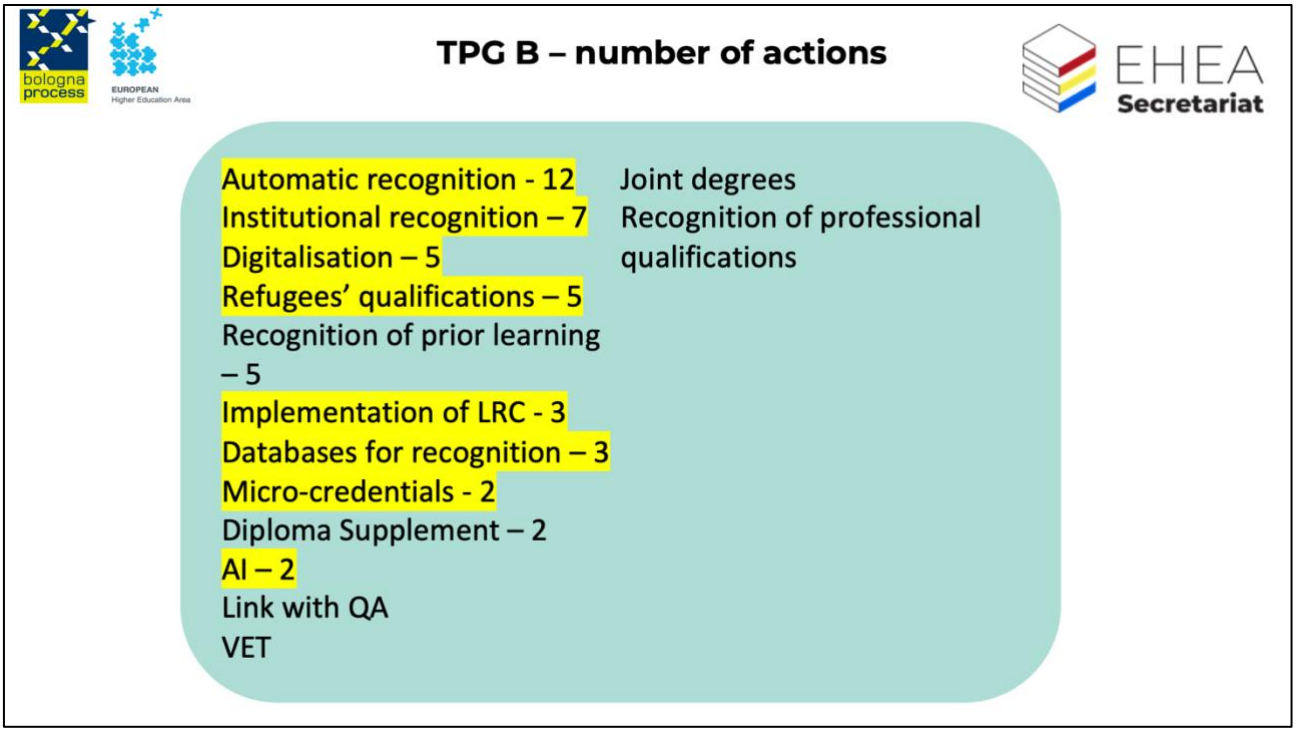


Figure 1. EHEA Secretariat, 2nd BICG meeting (5th June 2025)

Preparatory materials

- **Webinar on QA of flexible learning pathways**, organised on 18th September 2025 in the framework of the project Support for the Enhancement-Oriented Implementation of the Quality Assurance Key Commitment (SIQA), co-funded by the European Union under the Erasmus+ programme and supporting the institutional activity of TPG C during the BFUG mandate 2024-2027.
- Resources from the **4th meeting of the Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue** focusing on Lifelong Learning (LLL), held in Rome on 17th and 18th February 2026. Relevant materials and presentations can be found here: https://ehea.info/page.php?id=841.
- Article "**Skills recognition project helps to plug health sector gaps**" by Merel Eimers, Nuffic (published on University World News on 26 September 2026, last access on 10th March 2026). Available at https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20250923155058531.
- Publication "**Micro-credentials for Higher Education Institutions. Approaches developed in the EHEA using peer support**" (2024), developed within the TPG-LRC CoRE project, co-funded by the European Union under the Erasmus+ programme and supporting the institutional activity of TPG B during the BFUG mandate 2021-2024. Available at the following link: https://www.cimea.it/Upload/Documenti/Micro-credentials%20in%20HE_1.pdf.

Co-funded by the European Union

"Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them."

- Report "**Flexible learning and teaching. Thematic Peer Group Report**" (2024), published by EUA and available at: https://www.eua.eu/publications/reports/flexible-learning-and-teaching.html.
- UNESCO IIEP, **"SDG-4: Flexible learning pathways in higher education – from policy to practice: an international comparative analysis"** (2022), edited by Michaela Martin and Uliana Furiv. Available here: https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000383069.
- Document "**European guidelines for validating non-formal and informal learning. Third edition**" (2023), published by CEDEFOP: https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/files/3093_en.pdf.
- Document **"Policy brief External quality assurance of flexible learning pathways in the European Higher Education Area"** (November 2025), published in the framework of the SIQA project and part of the action plan of the Bologna Follow-Up Group's Thematic Peer Group on Quality Assurance (TPG-C). Available at: https://www.hceres.fr/sites/default/files/media/downloads/bologna-processus-policy-brief.pdf.
- Document **"Bologna with Students Eyes 2024"** (May 2024), published by European Students' Union (ESU): https://esu-online.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/ESU-BWSE-2024-1.pdf.
- Document **"An EU reference framework for lifelong guidance. 18 guidelines for policy and systems development."** (2026), published by Cedefop: http://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2801/8255414.

This meeting is the fourth organised under the BFUG mandate and the third supported by the umbrella project TPG-LRC Plus – Fostering LRC implementation in the EHEA, co-funded by the European Union under the Erasmus+ programme. A slot in the agenda will be devoted to present how project activities will support the institutional action plan of the TPG B.

Co-funded by the European Union

"Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them."

Bologna Thematic Peer Group B on Key Commitment 2:
National legislation and procedures
compliant with the Lisbon Recognition Convention

Draft Agenda

8:30	**Arrivals and registration**
9:00	**Welcome remarks** • Henri de Rohan-Csermak – *General Director France Éducation International (FEI)*
9:10	**Introduction to the meeting by TPG B Co-Chairs** *TPG B Co-Chairs*
9:20	**Flexible learning paths: current policies, new developments and future scenarios look** • Wesley Teter – *Senior Specialist, Higher Education Section at UNESCO*
9:50	**Global perspectives on lifelong learning: reporting from the recent Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue** • Elisa Petrucci – *CG GPD Co-Chair, Italy*
10:05	**Union of Skills & ECTS** • Camille Odent – *Directorate General for Education and Culture, European Commission*
10:20	Q&A session
10:30	*Coffee break*

10:45	**Experiences sharing session from the perspective of…**
	• **TPG B members**
	  ○ Skills recognition
	  ▪ Merel Eimers – *the Netherlands*
	  ○ VAE
	  ▪ Zacharia Haryouli – *France*
	  ○ RPL
	  ▪ Tetiana Vahina – *Ukraine*

Co-funded by the European Union

"Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them."

	• **TPG A and TPG C**
	  ○ Flexible learning paths and Qualifications Framework: the experience of TPG A
	  ▪ Sara Thornton – *TPG A Co-Chair, France*
	  ○ Quality assurance of Flexible learning paths: the perspective of TPG C
	  ▪ Sophie Guillet – *TPG C Co-Chairs, France*
	
	• **Stakeholders' organisations**
	  ○ EUA – "Flexible learning and teaching"
	  ▪ Maria Kelo – *European University Association (EUA)*
	  ○ EQAR – Knowledge Base resource
	  ▪ Aleksandra Zhivkovikj – *European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR)*

11:45	**Peer support activity – PLA Laboratory: flexible learning paths from the perspective of…**
	
	• **Learners**
	  ○ *Setting the scene*
	  ▪ Katariina Järve – *European Students' Union (ESU)*
	  ○ *Workshop*
	  ▪ Céline Hoffert – *Paris Nanterre University*
	
	• **Higher education institutions**
	  ○ *Setting the scene*
	  ▪ Jakub Grodecki – *European Association for the Applied Sciences in Higher Education (EURASHE)*
	  ○ *Workshop*
	  ▪ Jakub Grodecki – *European Association for the Applied Sciences in Higher Education (EURASHE)*
	• **Ministries**
	  ○ *Setting the scene*
	  ▪ Andrina Wafer – *Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), NARIC Ireland*
	  ○ *Workshop*
	  ▪ Andrina Wafer – *Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), NARIC Ireland*

12:45	*Lunch*

Co-funded by the European Union

"Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them."

Bologna Thematic Peer Group B on Key Commitment 2:
National legislation and procedures
compliant with the Lisbon Recognition Convention

13:45	Reporting in plenary
14:15	**Presentation of TPG B mid-term monitoring survey results** *TPG B Co-Chairs*
14:30	**Presentation of the narrative text for the Bologna Process Implementation Report**
14:45	**Presentation of staff mobility**
14:55	Matchmaking activity
15:55	**Updates from the TPG-LRC Plus project** Marianna Tardioli – *CIMEA, Italy*
16:05	**Conclusions** *TPG B Co-Chairs*
16:15	End of the meeting

Co-funded by the European Union

"Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them."