



Mechanisms of the Bologna Process

WG of the BFUG



The Ministerial Conferences

- Since the Bologna declaration (1999), Ministries are convinced that :
« the establishment of the European area of higher education requires constant support, supervision and adaptation to the continuously evolving needs, we decide to meet again within two years in order to assess the progress achieved and the new steps to be taken »
- Since this declaration, every 2 or 3 years a Ministerial Conference is held in order to achieve these purposes
- The recommendations and purposes defined at the Conference are followed by the so called BFUG (Bologna Follow Up Group)
- Several WG are created according to the recommendations of the Ministry Conference. They present the results of their work at the BFUG meetings (twice a year)
- The aim is the preparation of the next Ministerial Conference



The Yerevan communiqué (1)

The Yerevan communiqué stresses the following points :

Priorities

- Enhancing the quality and relevance of learning and teaching
- Fostering the employability of graduates throughout their working lives
- Making our systems more inclusive
- Implementing agreed structural reforms



The Yerevan communiqué (2)

- **Policy measures adopted**
 - the revised Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)
 - the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes
 - the revised ECTS Users' Guide, as an official EHEA document
- **Commitments**
 - Short cycles
 - RPL
 - Social dimension
 - ...



Specific recommendations

- Taking into account the issue of non-implementation :
 - « Non-implementation in some countries undermines the functioning and credibility of the whole EHEA. We need more precise measurement of performance as a basis for reporting from member countries. Through policy dialogue and exchange of good practice, we will provide targeted support to member countries experiencing difficulties in implementing the agreed goals and enable those who wish to go further to do so. »
- Providing a road map to the Belarus , new country within the the EHEA



Working/ Advisory Groups

- Monitoring
- Implementation
- Dealing with non implementation
- Diploma Supplement
- Belarus Roadmap
- New goals
- International cooperation / The Bologna Policy Forum



Monitoring

- It has the task to monitor and to report on the current state of implementation of the Bologna Process, as it was done in the period 2012-2015.
- Monitoring is critical for providing countries with a strong evidence based on the progress of implementation.
- The report of 2018 will constitute the basis for the period 2018-2020.



Monitoring The 2018 report

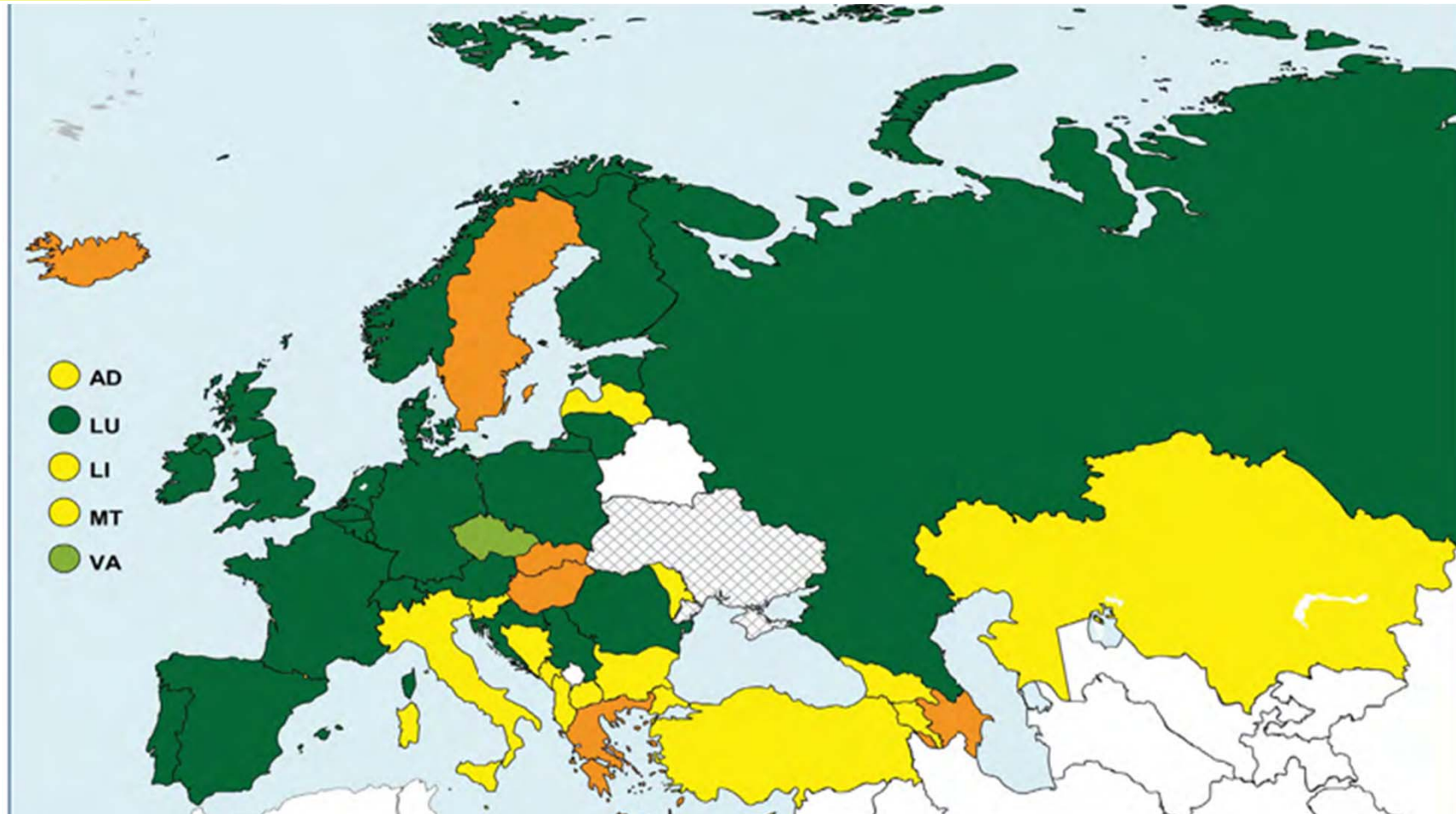
- **Based on a questionnaire sent to EHEA countries**, but will also include
 - Data from other sources such as the Council of Europe Recommendation on Public Responsibility for Higher Education, the EUA Autonomy Scoreboard, ESU data on student participation and other relevant sources
- **Will include new thematic indicators**
 - Teaching and learning
 - Autonomy
- **With a focus on fundamental values of the EHEA :**
 - The issues of academic freedom and institutional autonomy have been defined as the main areas for the reporting on fundamental values, and a series of questions on these issues have been included in the Questionnaire.

Precision of data

- Visibility
 - System of colours



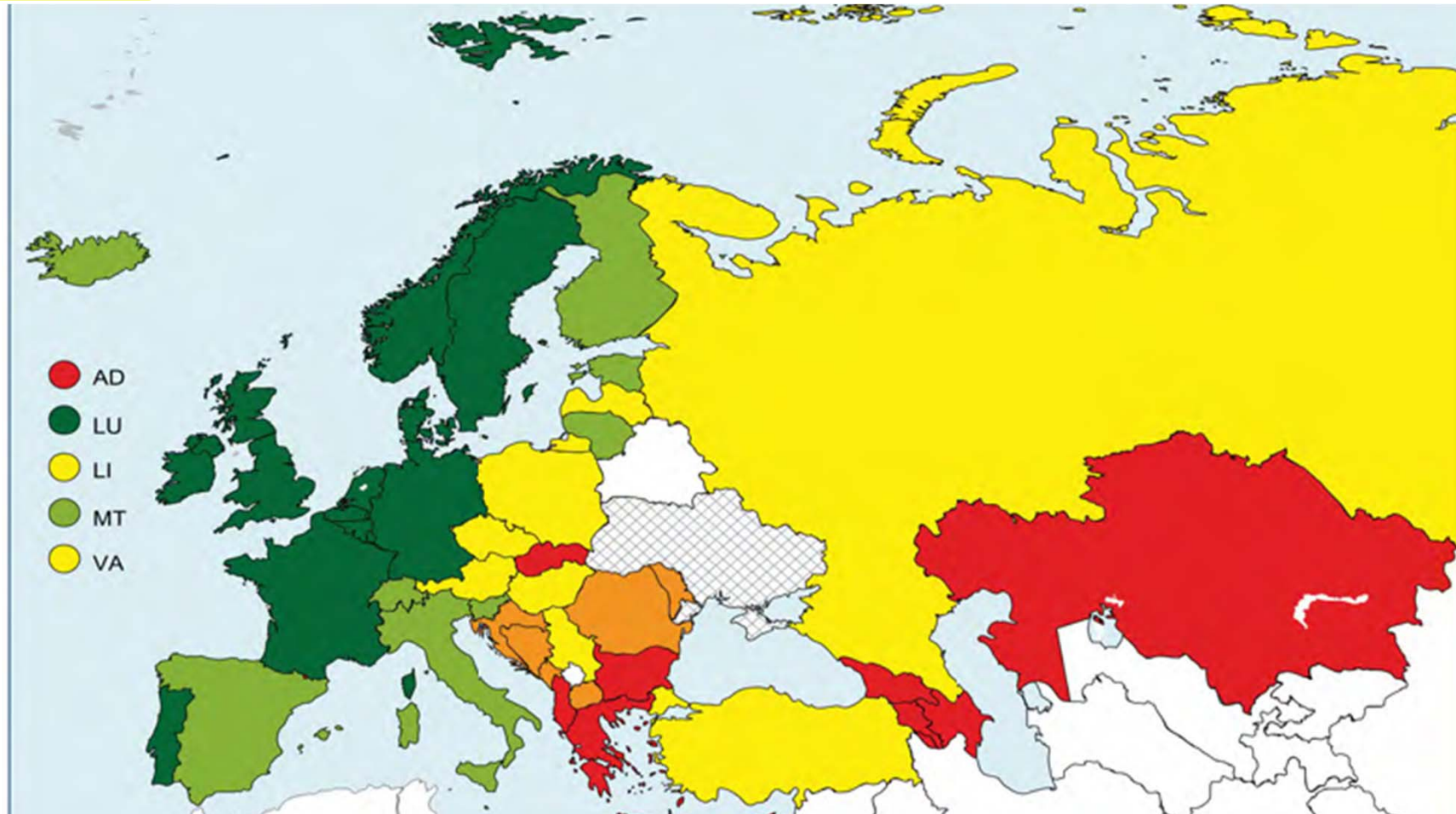
An example : Stage of development of external quality assurance system, 2013/14





An example

Recognition of prior learning, 2013/14





Implementation (1)

- The WG on “Fostering implementation of agreed key commitments” support implementation on agreed goals by peer learning and peer exchange events offering exchanges of good practice on the basis of the implementation report 2015 and the measures adopted in the Yerevan communiqué.
- It involves stakeholders in the activities



Implementation (2)

- **The concept of implementation has been discussed**
- **Topics discussed in the different meetings:**
 - Short cycles
 - Social dimension
 - Quality assurance
 - Recognition of prior learning
 - Staff mobility



Focus on short cycles

- Some are included in Higher Education System
- Other are not part of the HE system
- > Are they in or outside of the First cycle ?
- > Is there a possibility to integrate them in the first cycle ?



Dealing with non implementation

- **The Yerevan communiqué :**
 - The BFUG is asked « to submit proposals for addressing the issue of non-implementation of key commitments in time for our next meeting »
- A group is mandated to propose the best way for member countries to further their implementation in the Bologna's key commitments.
- **The three key commitments taken into account :**
 - Implementation of the three cycles
 - Implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention
 - Quality Assurance



Dealing with non implementation (2)

- Based on the Bologna Process Implementation Report (green, yellow orange, red colors)
- **Questions :**
 - How to improve the level of implementation of Countries which do not comply with the commitments defined ?
 - A so called « cycling procedure » has been validated at the last BFUG meeting in Malta
 - Should there incentive / non incentive measures provided
 - Which kind of measure ?
- It is up to the Ministers to decide



Implementation / non Implementation

- Complementarity
- Different points of view :
 - WG Implementation : stresses that the BP relies on voluntary arrangements; so there are no legally binding requirements to oblige a state to implement reforms
 - AG Non Implementation : when a state decides to adhere to the BP, it implies the respect of the Bologna principles.
- Different topics :
 - AG 3 : 3 commitments
 - WG 2 : Other topics (short cycles, social dimension, RPL, etc.)



The Belarus roadmap (1)

- Ministerial Conference of Yerevan :
 - « Ministers welcome Belarus as a member of the EHEA and look forward to working with the national authorities and stakeholders to implement the reforms identified by the BFUG and included in the agreed road map attached to Belarusian accession. Ministers ask the BFUG to report on the implementation of the roadmap in time for the 2018 ministerial conference »
 - A Group is following the implementation of the roadmap submitted to the Belarus



The Belarus roadmap (2)

Stage of implementation :

- **Progress** have been made concerning
 - the length oh the first cycle (previously 4, 5 years
 - the implementation of ECTS
- **Issues remaining :**
 - the compulsory trainee / work for students who had a grant during their studies
- But actually the main issue is the lack of academic freedom which is not easy to be assessed



Revision of Diploma Supplement

The advisory group on the “Revision of Diploma Supplement” is responsible for producing a renewed version of the Diploma Supplement so as to ensure its efficiency

- A proposal for a revised version of the Diploma Supplement is on track, taking into account the advice of stakeholders.
- The importance of LO is one more enlightened



New Goals (1)

It is dedicated to new priorities for the future of the EHEA.

Among the proposals :

- New learners
- Active citizenship
- Teacher support
- Digital education
- EHEA / ERA (European Research Area)



New Goals (2)

Focus on :

- **New learners**
 - Providing an alternative in addition to physical international mobility((using digital technologies)
 - Providing flexible paths (with a recognition of prior learning)
 - Taking into account the rights of persons with disabilities
- **EHEA / ERA**
 - Increasing the interaction between both ERA and EHEA in order to develop critical thinking of students through the latest advance sin research, inorder to:
 - help companies and public institutions in their research developments
 - Facilitate lifelong learning of new technologies



International cooperation / The Bologna Policy Forum (1)

The WG « International cooperation » prepares the Bologna Policy Forum. Its aims :

- strengthening dialogue and cooperation outside the EHEA.
- Finding common solutions to societal, technological, political challenges :
 - Tackling unemployment
 - Enhancing mobility and joint programmes
 - Implementing Quality Assurance, etc.



International Cooperation (2)

- **Since 2016 a dialogue started with :**
 - The Mediterranean Countries (Union for the Mediterranean)
 - Five African regions
 - The organisation of Ibero-American states
 - The ASEAN region
- **Topics.** Among those expressed by several countries :
 - Inclusiveness and citizenship as one of the role for HE in our societies
 - Migration issues as integration in HE, this a major issue in several countries, it is also an issue for
 - Recognition of skills and competences (this could be a topic of Inclusiveness)
 - Academic freedom\Freedom of expression
 - Mobility
 - Quality



The aim

- The communiqué which will be produced during the conference
- The future of the Bologna process