

Peer Learning Activity 3

Towards an Interconnected EHEA by 2030

During the 2020 Rome Ministerial Conference, ministers for higher education set a vision of building an inclusive, innovative, and interconnected European Higher Education Area (EHEA) that can underpin a sustainable, cohesive, and peaceful Europe, by 2030. To support this process, the BWSE FOR2030 project is conducting three peer-learning activities (PLAs) with the aim to bring together higher education ministries, higher education institutions, students, and other relevant stakeholders. The PLAs follow the three related goals outlined in the [Rome Communiqué](#): 1) inclusive, 2) innovative, and 3) inter-connected EHEA.

The purpose of the PLAs is to:

- Focus on mutual learning and exchange of practices;
- Identify potential solutions for existing barriers to innovation in European higher education;
- Gather tangible recommendations to support innovative processes in the Bologna Process in the long term.

The first PLA, entitled “Towards an **inclusive** EHEA by 2030”, took place in February 2023 in The Hague (The Netherlands), and the second one, “Towards an **innovative** EHEA by 2030”, took place last April in Zagreb (Croatia).

Interconnectivity in higher education

The Rome Communiqué states (pp. 4 and 6) that the EHEA member states commit to building an inclusive, innovative, and interconnected EHEA by 2030, able to underpin a sustainable, cohesive, and peaceful Europe.

According to the Communiqué, an interconnected EHEA will facilitate and enhance international cooperation and reform, as well as exchange of knowledge and mobility of staff and students through shared frameworks and tools. It will thus also enhance equitable quality education and research by making it easier for students and researchers to access educational resources and opportunities across borders, including online courses, distance learning programs, and international exchange programs. An interconnected EHEA could facilitate the sharing of best practices and the exchange of knowledge, as well as increased international competitiveness. Overall, interconnectivity in higher education can help to create a more dynamic and integrated educational landscape, with greater opportunities for collaboration, innovation, and excellence.



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Programme PLA 3

The aim of the PLA is to exchange examples of good practice from across the EHEA based on existing knowledge, including that which is generated through projects and other activities geared towards enhancing higher education. The PLA will facilitate a practice driven process to 'translate' existing ambitions and policy into sustainable ideas for implementation.

The interactive PLA sessions will foster the exchange of knowledge based on both experience and research. Participants will share their understanding of an interconnected EHEA and the main issues that will need to be addressed in the next Bologna cycle on internationalisation and mobility. In addition, they will actively engage in collaborative processes to jointly formulate considerations which will feed into a set of policy recommendations developed by the BWSE FOR2030 project consortium in preparation for the Tirana Ministerial Conference in 2024.

Peer Learning Activity 3: Towards an Interconnected EHEA by 2030 <i>Friday, 23rd June 2023 10.00h – 16.00h CEST Online</i>	
09.45-10.00h	Room is open
10.00-10.15h	Welcome & Introduction Welcome speech and PLA presentation <i>Helene Peterbauer, Project Partner & Policy Analyst, European University Association (EUA)</i> Bologna with Stakeholders' Eyes by 2030 project <i>Nuria Portero, Project Coordinator, European Students' Union (ESU)</i>
10.15-10.30h	Tour de table <i>Participants briefly present themselves. No preparation is required for this agenda item.</i>
10.30-10.50h	Interconnected EHEA by 2030: Part I <i>Setting the scene: what do we understand by an 'interconnected' EHEA? Perspectives from students, universities, and EU institutions.</i> <i>Moderator: Nuria Portero (ESU)</i>
10.50-11.30h	Interconnected EHEA by 2030: Part II <i>We want to hear from you! Breakout sessions defining interconnectivity</i> <i>Moderators: Helene Peterbauer (EUA) & Nuria Portero (ESU)</i>
11.30-12.00h	Coffee Break

12.00-12.10h	Pocket of inspiration I <i>A short presentation by a participant selected through the call for applications about a particular approach to interconnectivity in higher education, followed by Q&A.</i>
12.10-13.00h	Carving out the challenges <i>Participants will be invited to identify key challenges associated with an interconnected EHEA.</i>
13.00-14.00h	Lunch Break
14.00-14.10h	Pocket of inspiration II <i>A short presentation by a participant selected through the call for applications about a particular approach to interconnectivity in higher education, followed by Q&A.</i>
14.10-14.50	Finding solutions <i>Based on the previously identified key challenges, participants will outline needs and solutions to achieving an interconnected EHEA.</i>
14.50-15.00h	Coffee Break
15.00-15.10h	Pocket of inspiration III <i>A short presentation by a participant selected through the call for applications about a particular approach to interconnectivity in higher education, followed by Q&A.</i>
15.10-15.50h	Let's do policy-making! Our policy recommendations <i>An open, facilitated discussion with participants on how to formulate policy recommendations geared towards fostering an interconnected EHEA by 2030. Moderator: TBC</i>
15.50-16.00h	Final Remarks <i>Helene Peterbauer, Policy Analyst, EUA</i>