

# CAHEA and EHEA: Global Policy Dialogue, the Forum and Enhancing Knowledge Sharing in the HE community

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## On the Bologna 'Key Commitments':

These are basic **structural elements** of the Bologna Process and today of the EHEA:

- they made possible communication and connection among our **very different preexisting HE systems**
- they **made possible** student mobility and the development of international curricula within Europe and, as a term of reference, also beyond
- implementing them required **radical change** in nearly all countries

**That approach**, some of its features and its current developments are certainly of interest while **building and consolidating the Central Asian Higher Education Area, the CAHEA.**

Already a number of such reforms have been implemented or agreed in your countries, and provide a shared common ground for the future.

Of course, as we will hear later today, the structural aspects of the EHEA are by no means the only significant ones.

Here though I will speak first as Co-chair of the BFUG's **Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue**, then as a longtime **friend and supporter of HE cooperation** among Central Asian countries – ministries, universities, and 'learners'.



## Global Policy Dialogue:

In the EHEA, there has been a recent important **shift**, not only in terminology.

From 2009 to 2018 a '**Bologna Policy Forum**' was organised in conjunction with each EHEA Ministerial Conference.

At the Paris Ministerial Conference, 2018, the EHEA Ministers asked the Bologna Follow Up Group (the BFUG), to organise a «**Global Policy Forum**» in conjunction with the future Ministerial Conference, and also to develop **more constant and fruitful ongoing dialogue** with other **world higher education regions**.

## Global Policy Dialogue:

The **shift** recognizes that:

- many world regions and macro-regions are engaged in building **their own higher education areas:**
- the pandemic has shown us **how fast** our world context can change
- dialogue and communication are **even more necessary** today than in the past.

Higher education has a **strategic role** to address global challenges and goals, not least the United Nations SDGs.

Because of the pandemic the first opportunity to organise a **Global Policy Forum** will be in **Tirana, in 2024**. Of course we hope to be able to **welcome the CAHEA** as one of the most significant participants.

Central Asian HE authorities, Rectors and academic staff have long **looked at ‘Bologna’ with interest**. We started to discuss this together in April 2004, eighteen years ago.

There have been numerous common initiatives – including the large-scale **TuCAHEA** project (“Tuning the Central Asian Higher Education Area”) in which many of you participated.

These made relevant contributions to building innovative **curricula**, experimenting with regional **student mobility** and reaching **preliminary cooperation agreements** at Vice-ministerial level in 2015 and 2016.



Today the **CAHEA** has strong bases for participating in the Global Policy Dialogue:

The **CAHEA** also provides an **important model for other regions**:

- it **interlocks** with the EHEA, since Kazakhstan is a member of both;

- it is **well positioned** to express and promote the **specificity of the culture, the values and higher education systems** of its countries – while implementing structures that facilitate communication with other HE regions.



One final note:

The BFUG now has something new: a «**Task Force on «Enhancing Knowledge Sharing in the EHEA Community»**».

Its purpose is to develop **greater knowledge** of the EHEA and the Bologna Process among such key actors as university staff, administrators, professors and students – and also to ensure that their **ideas and suggestions** reach the BFUG, and the EHEA Ministers.

For the **CAHEA**, such a **Forum** as yours, of **Rectors of Central Asian countries**, where **ministers, rectors and other experts meet to discuss and make agreements** surely has an important role in carrying out this important function.

I congratulate you on the **varied , concrete and future oriented presentations** in your programme, and I look forward to seeing the future developments.

Thank you!  
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[www.ehea.info](http://www.ehea.info)  
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