

# THE EHEA – WHY AND HOW?

Conference of Central Asian Ministers of Education

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# WHY THE EHEA?

## Political developments

- Fall of the Berlin Wall
- Democratic institutions – and then what?
- Pan-European cooperation a possibility

## Economic developments

- Globalization
- Unemployment/skills mismatch

## Higher education

- Still attractive?
- Adapted to the needs of society?

## European cooperation – what Europe?

# PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT

- Launching the EHEA: 1999 (1998) – 2001
  - Vision for 2010, membership; linked to the EU framework
- Developing the EHEA: 2003 – 2005
  - ESG, QF-EHA, stocktaking, moving beyond the EU framework
- Consolidating the EHEA: 2007 – 2010
  - Balance new goals/implementation; global dimension
- Continuing to develop the EHEA: 2012
  - Maintaining political commitment; mobility strategy
- Relaunching the EHEA? 2015
- Nature of the EHEA and its commitments: 2018 - 20

# STRUCTURAL REFORMS

## Recognition

- Lisbon Recognition Convention
- ENIC/NARIC Networks
- ECTS

## Qualifications Frameworks

- Overarching frameworks
- National frameworks
- Learning outcomes

## Quality Assurance

- From whether to how
- Brought into the EHEA in 2001
- ESG 2005, 2015

# VALUES AND INCLUSION

## Fundamental values

- academic freedom and integrity,
- institutional autonomy,
- participation of students and staff in higher education governance,
- public responsibility for and of higher education

## Social inclusion

- From statement to policy
- Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA (2020)

# A ROAD NOT TRAVELED – FINANCING HIGHER EDUCATION

Variety of models and objectives

Variety of economic situations between EHEA members

Disagreement on the responsibility of public authorities for financing higher education

“securing the highest possible level of public funding for higher education and drawing on other appropriate sources, as an investment in our future” (Bucharest Communiqué)

# THE NATURE OF THE EHEA

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What is a « voluntary process »?

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Are commitments binding?

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Peer learning – or also other forms of follow up?

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Bologna Implementation Coordination Group

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Peer groups on structural reform

# EHEA EXPERIENCE

Identifying issues that can be addressed within a fairly loose cooperation structure

- Structural reforms
- Social inclusion
- Which values basis?
- Mobility?

Governance

- Follow up between Ministerial conferences
- How binding are commitments?

Secretariat support