

4th meeting of the Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue

17th of February 2026, 11:00 – 17:00 CET

18th of February 2026, 09:15 – 17:00 CET

Hybrid event

Location: Università degli Studi Guglielmo Marconi

Online: [Zoom link](#)

Preparatory note

In line with the [Terms of Reference](#) for the Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue (CG GPD) and the information previously shared with the Group, the 4th meeting of the CG GPD will **focus on Lifelong Learning (LLL)**.

LLL has been a recurrent topic in European policy over the last two decades. It is referred to in all the Communiqués signed by Ministers responsible for higher education in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), starting with the 1998 Paris Declaration and the 1999 Bologna Declaration. Another recurring term in the Communiqués is employability, for which growing importance is placed on skills and the capacity to adapt to evolving societies. In the Rome and Tirana Communiqués, LLL has been connected to the emerging topic of micro-credentials.

LLL, flexible pathways, and micro-credentials are highly significant in a rapidly evolving world where societies and individuals must adapt, reskill, upskill, and learn throughout their lives. They are also connected to the broader theme of holistic human and societal development, as well as to the growing focus on a student-centred approach and inclusive, equitable education systems.

The work done within the Bologna Process has contributed to shifting the concept of qualifications, as codified in the second-generation recognition conventions, toward learning outcomes. In the [Global Convention on Higher Education](#), the definition of qualification includes the validation of prior learning¹, while LLL is defined as “a process which refers to all learning activities, whether formal, non-formal, or informal (...”).

¹ any degree, diploma, certificate, or award issued by a competent authority and attesting the successful completion of a higher-education programme or the validation of prior learning, where applicable.

One element that could ensure the comparability and portability of skills defined in terms of learning outcomes – whether acquired through formal, non-formal, or informal learning – is the Qualifications Framework.

During the 4th meeting of the CG on GPD, the focus will be on LLL from a global perspective, looking into the topics of:

- Skills and enhancement of human development.
- Flexible learning pathways, micro-credentials and recognition of prior learning.
- Qualifications Frameworks and credit transfer systems.

These topics will be addressed from the perspectives of Intergovernmental Cooperation areas in Higher Education, namely, the European Higher Education Area, the Central Asia Higher Education Area, the Common Space in Southeast Asian Higher Education, Espacio Latinoamericano y Caribeño de Educación Superior, and the East Africa Higher Education Area.

The **main aim** of the meeting is to identify the key elements to prioritise for improving dialogue and cooperation in lifelong learning at a global level.

- During the afternoon of the first day, presentations and a peer-learning activity (PLA) on LLL from a global perspective will be featured.
- The **second day** will be devoted to sharing the latest developments in the field, including participation from international, European, and regional organisations, as well as representatives from EHEA and non-EHEA countries and institutions.

Input from the meeting and PLA will inform the Global Policy Statement, which will be adopted at the Global Policy Forum in 2027.

Draft Agenda

Day 1 – 17th of February 2026

Afternoon session – CG on GPD meeting with external partners

12:45 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
<i>Second part of the meeting open to external participants</i>	
Peer Learning Activity on LLL – CG GPD members and external partners	
14:00	Welcome addresses and introduction
14:10	<p>Setting the scene: LLL from the perspectives of intergovernmental cooperation areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>European Higher Education Area</u> <i>Elisa Petrucci, CG GPD Co-Chair, Italy</i> ○ <u>Central Asia Higher Education Area</u> <i>Rauza Mendaliyeva, Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan</i> ○ <u>Common Space in Southeast Asian Higher Education</u> <i>Choltis Dhirathiti, Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO RIHED)</i> ○ <u>Espacio Latinoamericano y Caribeño de Educación Superior</u> <i>Sandra Regina Goulart Almeida, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brasil</i> ○ <u>East Africa Higher Education Area</u> <i>Michael Mawa, Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA)</i>
15:00	<p>Presentations from national perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Germany</u> – <i>Frederike Krist, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany</i> ○ <u>Malta</u> – <i>Jon Vercellono, Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA), Malta</i> ○ <u>South Africa</u> – <i>Makhapa Makhafola, South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), South Africa</i>

15:45	Working Group 1: Flexible learning pathways (social impact, social justice, entrepreneurship)
15:45	Working Group 2: Micro-credentials and short learning courses
15:45	Working Group 3: Enablers (recognition and QA; funding, resources and sustainability)
16:30-16:45	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:45	<i>Official Family Photo</i>
17:00	End of Day 1
20:00	Informal dinner

Day 2 – 18th of February 2026

Lifelong Learning in policy and practices – open to external partners

09:00	Arrivals and registration of participants
09:15	Welcome addresses and introduction to the meeting <i>CG GPD Co-Chairs</i>
09:25	Keynote - LLL in the next 20 years <i>Peter Mayo, University of Malta and UNESCO Chair in Global Adult Education</i>
10:00	Policy and frameworks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The social impact of LLL – <i>Leila Loupis, CG GPD Co-Chair, UNESCO</i> ○ Union of Skills – <i>Camille Odent, Directorate General for Education and Culture, European Commission</i> ○ ECTS User guide – <i>Camille Odent, Directorate General for Education and Culture, European Commission</i> Q&A
10:45	Reporting from the working groups
11:15-11:45	Coffee Break
11:45	Intergovernmental cooperation areas in higher education: Synergies and future perspectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>European Higher Education Area</u> <i>Elisa Petrucci, CG GPD Co-Chair, Italy</i> ○ <u>Central Asia Higher Education Area</u> <i>Rauza Mendaliyeva, Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan</i> ○ <u>Common Space in Southeast Asian Higher Education</u> <i>Choltis Dhirathiti, Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO RIHED)</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Espacio Latinoamericano y Caribeño de Educación Superior</u> <i>Sandra Regina Goulart Almeida, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brasil</i> ○ <u>East Africa Higher Education Area</u> <i>Michael Mawa, Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA)</i> <p>Q&A</p>
13:00 – 14:15	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:15	LLL from policy to practice
14:15	<p>Qualifications frameworks (QF), transparency and social impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ QF as a transparency tool – <i>Baiba Ramina, TPG A Co-Chair, Latvia</i> ○ South Africa's QF – <i>Makhapa Makhafola, South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), South Africa</i> <p>Q&A</p>
15:00	<p>Implementing flexible learning pathways</p> <p>Experiences from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>ASEF Higher Education Innovation Laboratory 7 – Reka Tozsa. Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)</u> (TBC) ○ <u>France – Sara Thornton, Ministry for Higher Education and Research, France</u> ○ <u>Jamaica – Norda Seymour-Hall, Tertiary Education Commission, Jamaica</u> ○ <u>Italy – Elisa Petrucci, CG GPD Co-Chair, Italy</u> ○ <u>Uganda – Michael Niyitegeka, Refactory Clarke International University, Uganda</u>
16:30	Conclusions and way forward
17:00	End of Day 2

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.