SUMMARY

NATIONAL BOLOGNA EVENT – XIV Annual International Bologna Conference
"European Integration of Ukraine's Higher Education in the context of Bologna Process.
Bologna Process Principles and Tools"
(20 years of Achievements, Challenges and Prospects)
6 November 2025
Hybrid format: ZOOM platform, venue – Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

Objective. Discussion of achievements, challenges and prospects for implementing the Bologna principles and tools in higher education in line with the Sustainable Development Goals over the past 20 years and future steps for full integration into the European Higher Education Area to improve competences for the higher education modernization.

On 6 November 2025 the XIV International Conference "European Integration of Higher Education of Ukraine in the Context of the Bologna Process. *Bologna Process Principles and Tools*" – National Bologna Event took place. The event was organised by the National Erasmus+ Office – Ukraine and the Institute of Higher Education of the NAES of Ukraine in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine, the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance, the Union of Rectors of Higher Education Institutions of Ukraine, and the National Higher Education Reform Experts Team (HERE team). The BOLOGNA NATIONAL EVENT was supported by the SPHERE consortium, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Commission, the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) and EU Delegation to Ukraine.

Antoaneta IRIKOVA, Policy Officer, Unit C.3 International cooperation, the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (DG EAC), European Commission, highlighted Ukraine's progress in aligning with the Bologna Process, noting achievements such as the three-cycle system of higher education degrees, quality assurance, etc. She acknowledged the current challenges but emphasized that these are opportunities for further reforms and integration.

Bodo RICHTER, Head of Unit A4: International Capacity Building, Department Erasmus+, EU Solidarity Corps, European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA), European Commission, emphasized the importance of higher education in building the future and developing cooperation, and also expressed solidarity with the Ukrainian academic community, which continues its work in difficult conditions.

Horia ONITA, Head of the European Higher Education Area Secretariat, *EU expert, SPHERE* presented the current situation and priorities of the Bologna Process, stressing the need for creativity and bold thinking to address new challenges. He also mentioned the continuous monitoring of the fundamental values of the EHEA and the revision of instruments such as quality assurance standards and guidelines. Horia recalled the importance of higher education institutions contributing to sustainable development and the need to combine this with the digital and green transitions.

Review of the Bologna Process and Higher Education Reform in Ukraine

Yuriy RASHKEVYCH, Professor, Lviv Polytechnic National University; Member of the National Qualifications Agency (Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine, 2017-2019), HERE presented

an overview of the Bologna Process in Ukraine, highlighting two main aspects: the implementation of basic tools and the focus on quality assurance. He noted the challenges faced by University students and teachers, as well as the need for further development of the National qualifications framework.

Mychailo WYNNYCKYJ, Associate Professor, National University "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy" (Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine, 2023-2025; Head of the Secretariat of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, 2019-2022), HERE, emphasized the importance of cultural change in higher education and the need for greater University autonomy and investment in people.

Marina MRUGA, Head of the Expert Group on Integration into the European Higher Education Area and Education Quality Assurance, Directorate of Higher and Adult Education, Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine; Member of the European BFUG, HERE discussed the history and current state of the Bologna Process, noting that Ukraine has made progress, but still lags behind some European countries in meeting its requirements. She presented Ukraine's progress in implementing the Bologna Process, highlighting achievements in higher education reforms and the need for further efforts to achieve European standards. She stressed the importance of implementing EHEA values such as academic freedom, integrity and institutional autonomy.

Svitlana KALASHNIKOVA, Advisor to the Directorate of the Institute of Higher Education, the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine; Coordinator of EU and British Council programmes on HEIs capacity development, HERE presented outcomes of the leadership development programmes for Ukrainian universities, noting the achievements of universities in modernizing governance in recent years

The European Quality Assurance Framework and the Higher Education Quality Evolution in Ukraine

Horia ONITA, Head of the European Higher Education Area Secretariat, *EU expert, SPHERE* presented the issue of quality assurance and enhancement in the Bologna Process, highlighting the success of the European Standards and Guidelines (ESGs) in creating a common framework for quality assurance in European higher education institutions. He stressed that while the ESGs set minimum standards, they allow for national interpretations of quality, focusing on principles rather than specific indicators. Horia discussed the need for both accountability and quality assurance, as well as the importance of involving different stakeholders in the process. He also touched on the challenges of quality assurance in the context of transnational education and the future revision of the ESG, inviting stakeholders to discuss the relevant draft.

Iryna ZOLOTARYOVA, Member of the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (NAQA), Professor of the Simon Kuznets Kharkiv National University of Economics, HERE, presented an overview of the development of the higher education system of Ukraine since joining the Bologna Process 20 years ago. She highlighted the transition from a paradigm of a quality culture based on control to a paradigm of a quality culture based on the shared responsibility of all participants in the educational process. The presentation concerned the creation of an internal quality assurance system, the role of digital technologies, the need for continuous improvement and communication between universities.

Volodymyr BUGROV, Rector of the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv discussed the institutional dimension of ensuring quality higher education, emphasizing the need for a balanced approach to teaching, research and service, as well as the importance of leadership and administrative responsibility in shaping a culture of quality.

Recognition of qualifications in the context of the EHEA

Horia ONITA, Head of the European Higher Education Area Secretariat, *EU expert, SPHERE* presented the Bologna Process development, highlighting the automatic recognition of qualifications and issues such as significant differences in qualifications.

Yuriy RASHKEVYCH, Professor of the Lviv Polytechnic National University, Member of the National Qualifications Agency (Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine, 2017-2019), HERE discussed Ukraine's approaches to the recognition of professional qualifications, emphasizing the role of professional standards and the National qualifications framework in matching education with labor market needs. The discussion also addressed the recognition of qualifications obtained abroad, particularly in the context of Ukrainian citizens who may have been educated outside the country due to the war.

Vadym ZAKHARCHENKO, Acting Rector, National University "Odessa Maritime Academy", HERE considered the issues of recognition of non-formal and informal education, as well as the importance of clear documentation and professional standards for this process, stressed the need to raise awareness among HEIs, better coordination between stakeholders and improve recognition procedures.

The following next steps have been identified:

- Develop *national action plans* to address gaps in qualifications frameworks, the use of learning outcomes and ECTS, recognition policies, quality assurance and social dimension in higher education.

- Adopt by the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) the Law on *Academic Integrity*, prepared by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.

- Joining the National Agency of Higher Education Quality Assurance in the *ENQA* and inclusion into the *EQAR*.

- Provide feedback on the *new draft ECTS* during the public consultations that will open on November 17, 2025, incl. engagement of the Conference participants.

- Prepare a *review of the Bologna Process in Ukraine over the 20-year* period by the NEO and the National Team of Experts.

- Universities: *implementation* of state grants and reforms of the new funding system.

- Universities: *develop and maintain* online registers of educational programmes and their components with codes, descriptions and learning outcomes to facilitate the recognition of qualifications, including *microcredentials*.

- Universities: develop *internal quality assurance policies* and disseminate information about them.

- Universities: investing in professional development programmes *for academic managers*.

- Universities: improving the formulation and documentation of *learning outcomes*, especially for the recognition of *microcredentials.*

- Qualification centers and higher education institutions: introducing *procedures* for the recognition of qualifications obtained abroad.