



OCTOBER 16 -19, 2023

# GRONINGEN DECLARATION NETWORK ANNUAL MEETING

Partners in Digital Mobilization

# 2023

## Digital cooperation with the European Higher Education Area? Exploring pathways

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# Today

Main question:

**How to strengthen collaboration in education and research with the EHEA and other regions through digital student data?**



## 2 parts:

- 1. The EHEA, working structures & digitization**
- 2. Exchange how digital student data can support collaboration between EHEA and other regions/regional structures?**



# Part 1. Context: the EHEA

- 1. Recap: What is the EHEA?**
- 2. The EHEA working structures and the CG GPD**
- 3. The EHEA and digital student data**



## Recap: What is Bologna and the EHEA? (2)

The **European Higher Education Area**, with its orientations, achievements, tools and activities is the product of the «Bologna Process».

The **European Higher Education Area** is not the same as the European Union!

It includes the EU countries and many more.  
Membership is restricted to countries that are members of the **Council of Europe**, and signatories of the **European Cultural Convention**.



## Recap: What is Bologna and the EHEA?

«**Bologna**» is a process: a cooperation process that has developed over decades and **continues to develop** new tools and perspectives in a changing higher education world.

«**Bologna**» is not a 'quality label', it is not a quick recipe, it is not a short cut to higher education modernization and reform.

.... But **it can be a model** and a **source of inspiration** for countries interested in higher education reform and in developing cooperation with other parts of the world.



## Recap: What is Bologna and the EHEA? (3)

The 'Bologna Process' has its **roots** in the 1980s and the hopes for stronger cooperation in the European Community (later the European Union): at that time the higher education systems in Europe were very different, so different that transfer of students from one country to another was in practice very difficult, as was the recognition of their studies.



## Recap: What is Bologna and the EHEA? (4)

The basic idea of agreeing on certain common structural reforms was first expressed at the **Sorbonne** in September 1998 by the Ministers of Education of France, Italy, Germany and UK.

The next year (June 1999), in response to an open call, 29 countries came to **Bologna** and committed to work together to make their HE systems compatible.

That was the '**birth certificate**' of 'Bologna'.





# Bologna Declaration 1999 Signatories

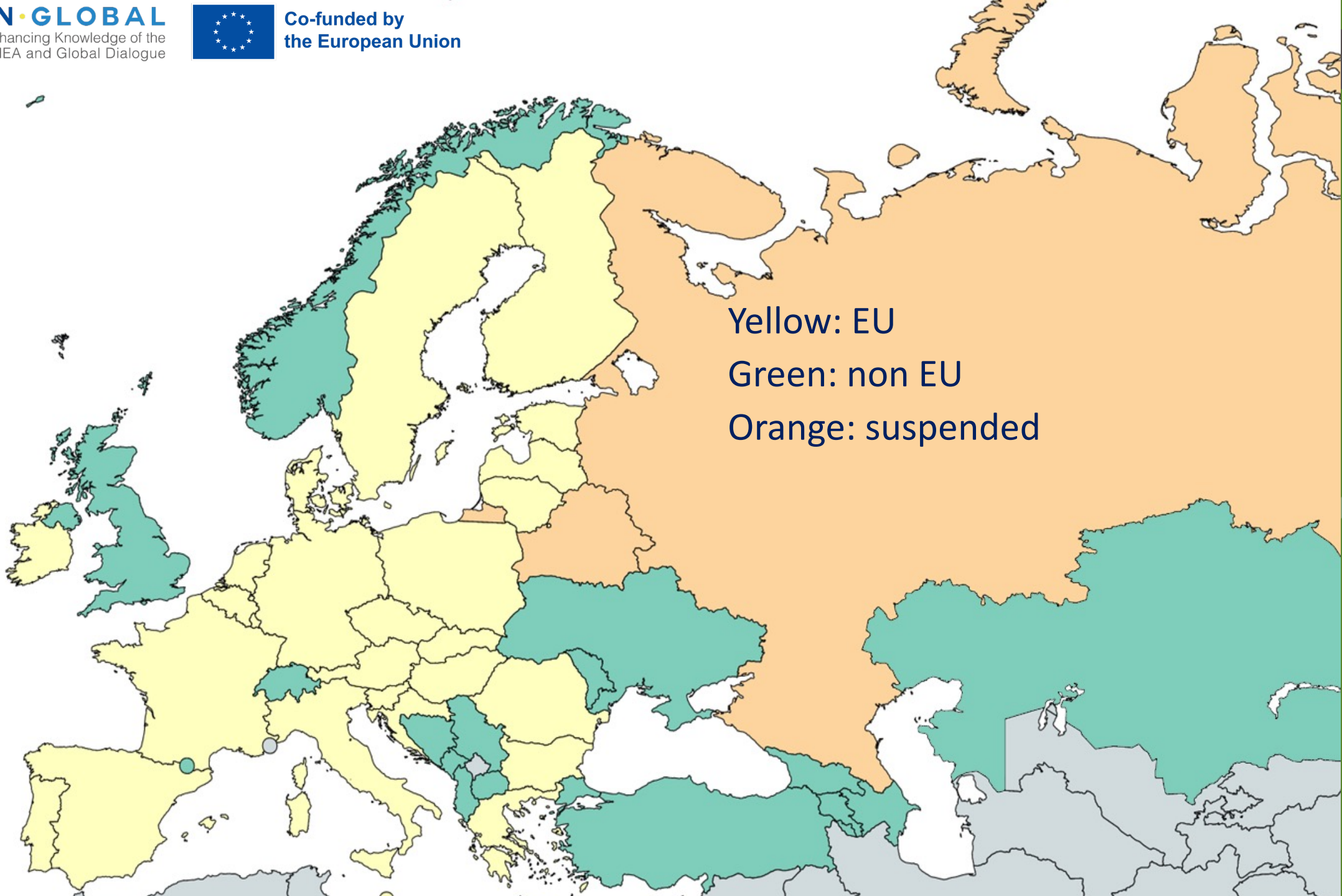
- Yellow: EU
- Green: EFTA
- Orange: Non-EU, non EFTA (in 1999)



# Groningen Declaration

Since then 'Bologna' has grown.

In the number of countries it comprises, and also in the aspects of higher education that it addresses, and in its aspirations.





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## 2. EHEA structures. How 'Bologna' works

**The EHEA is not the EU.** EU has no 'hard power' over education – although it provides important support to HE and to the EHEA.

The **EHEA is a 'loose intergovernmental cooperation'**, works through consensus of Ministers, with the contribution of the Consultative Members (ie BusinessEurope, Council of Europe, EI-ETUCE, ENQA, ESU, EUA, EURASHE, UNESCO).

## 2. EHEA structures (2)

The **Bologna Follow Up Group (BFUG)** is the organism that supports the operation of the EHEA between Ministerial Conferences.

It is formed **of two delegates** designated by each member country, delegates from the 'Consultative members' (the organizations): more than 100 people, who meet at least once a semester.



## 2. EHEA structures (3)

### The BFUG Working Groups:

- Learning, Teaching and Assessment,
- Social Dimension
- Fundamental Values (academic freedom, institutional autonomy, public responsibility)
- Linking Teaching and Research
- Monitoring
- Enhancing Knowledge Sharing\*

**+ three thematic peer groups!**

There are two 'Coordination Groups':

- Bologna Implementation Coordination Group
- Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue\*



## 2. EHEA structures (4)

### Goals CG GPD:

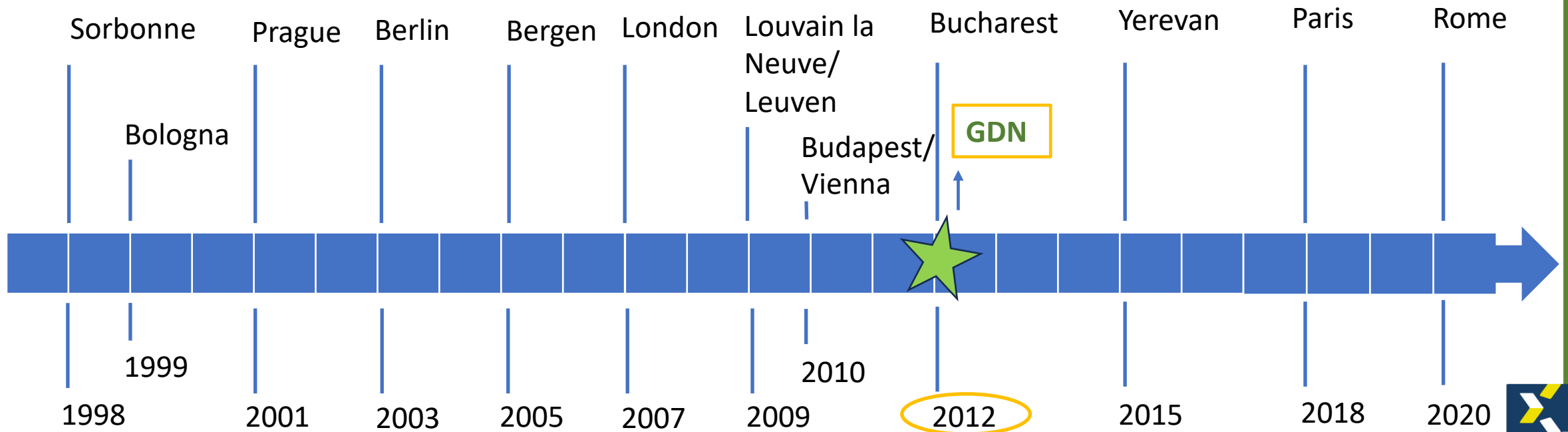
- Reinforces ongoing dialogue at the global level;
- Achieves greater awareness of the various vital roles of HE in achieving the SDG's and find paths for global collaboration to do so effectively;
- Proposes how to enhance the EHEA's ability to foster, participate in and benefit from this dialogue.

-> The EHEA Global Policy Forum and Statement in conjunction with the ministerial Conference





# 3. EHEA & digital student data (1)

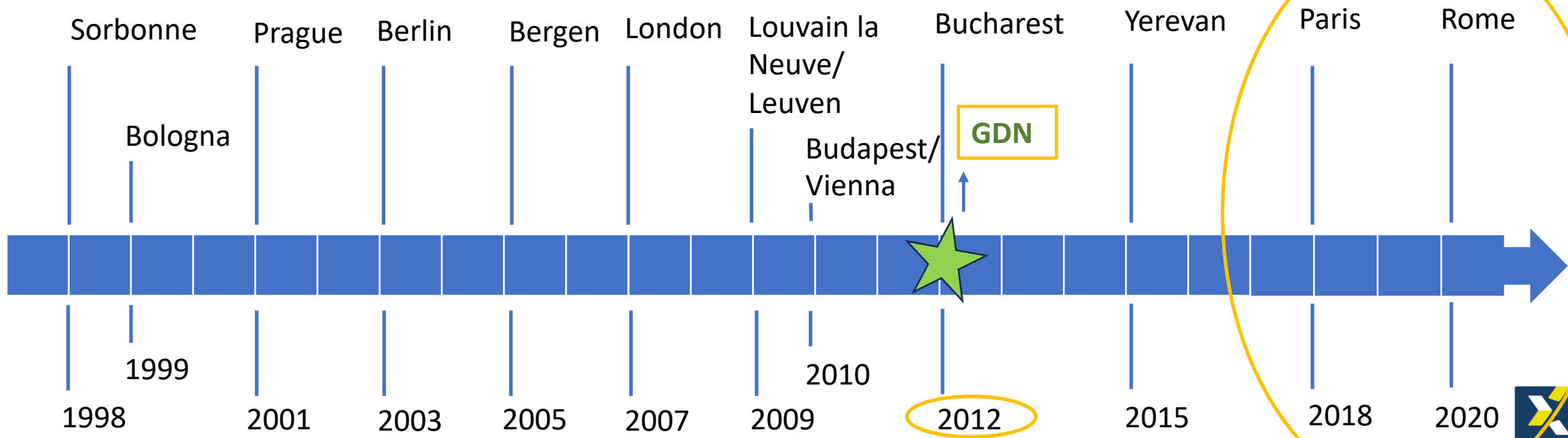






# 3. EHEA & digital student data

Mention digital student data





## Part 2. Exchange

**How do we strengthen collaboration in education and research with the EHEA and other regions through digital student data?**

- **Discuss with your neighbor 2 of the following questions and complete the padlet (10 min)**
  1. What should the dialogue of the EHEA with global stakeholders focus on to strengthen collaboration in education and research?
    - Name three elements/topics and shortly explain why;
  2. What do you expect will be the advantages for the EHEA in this dialogue? (strengths?)
  3. What do you expect will be the challenges?
  4. What examples of inter-regional collaboration in digital student data that solidly support collaboration in education and/or research (ie intergovernmental or inter-institutional level) could inspire the EHEA dialogue?
  5. General reflections on the topic?



## 3. Digital Student Data in Communiqués (3)

### Paris (2018)

“We also urge the adoption of transparent procedures for the recognition of qualifications, prior learning and study periods, supported by **interoperable digital solutions**”.

### Rome (2020)

“**Digital solutions** will facilitate secure, efficient and transparent **exchange of data**. **Joint digital approaches** to enhance recognition, quality assurance and mobility are needed. We ask the BFUG to map existing and find new solutions to **enhance the interoperability of digital systems** and the **exchange of student and institutional data** in full respect of privacy and security, taking into account the experiences of the European Student Card Initiative and other initiatives”.



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<https://padlet.com/inglobal/bfug/how-do-we-strengthen-collaboration-in-education-and-research-2xh56steywiz99kp>



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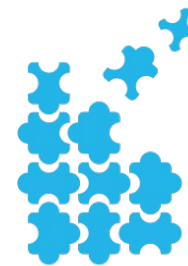
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# Questions?

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