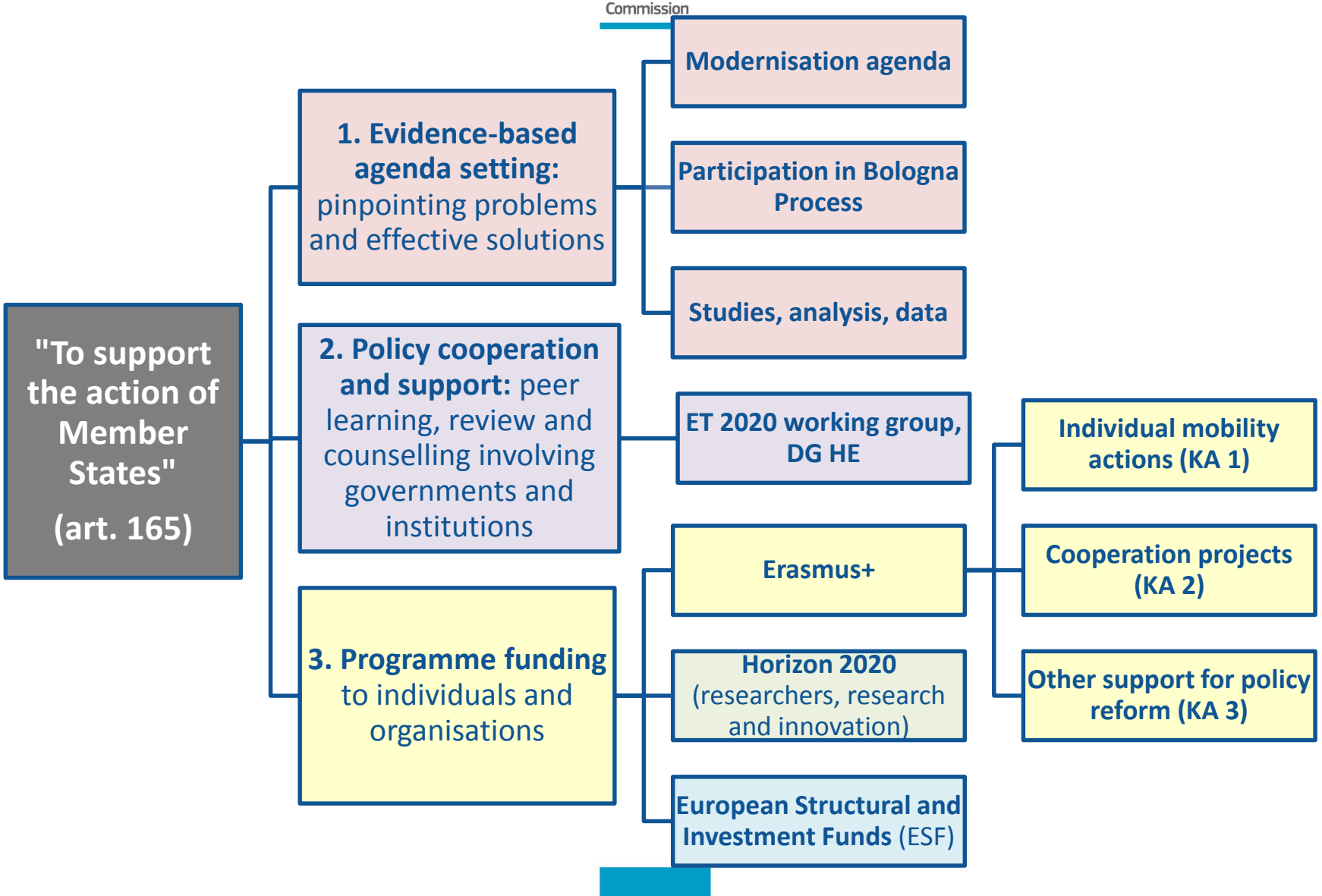
European Commission

Education and Training 2020

Highlights from the ET 2020 Working Group on Modernisation of Higher Education

2014-2015


"To support the action of Member States" (art. 165)
1. Evidence-based agenda setting: pinpointing problems and effective solutions
Modernisation agenda
Participation in Bologna Process
Studies, analysis, data
2. Policy cooperation and support: peer learning, review and counselling involving governments and institutions
ET 2020 working group, DG HE
3. Programme funding to individuals and organisations
Erasmus+
Individual mobility actions (KA 1)
Cooperation projects (KA 2)
Other support for policy reform (KA 3)
Horizon 2020 (researchers, research and innovation)
European Structural and Investment Funds (ESF)

WG on the Modernisation of Higher Education

Rationale:

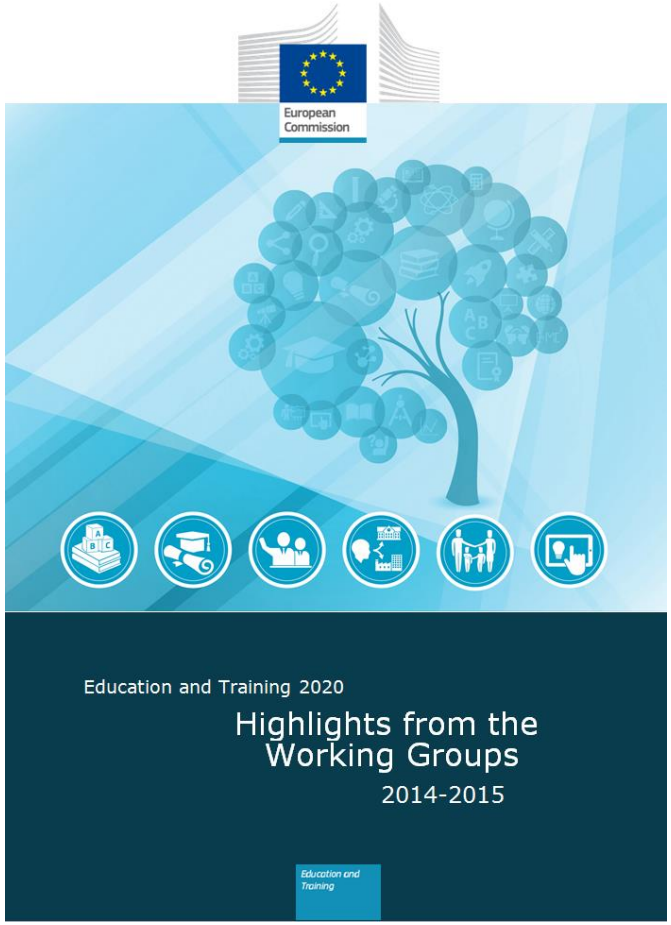
- To maximise the potential of higher education systems to provide high quality higher education
- Based on priorities in Modernisation Agenda for higher education
- WP in line with Presidency priorities (DG HE topic prepared by CFW, outcomes discussed in WG, DG HE to decide on next steps)

Social Partner nominations to WG

• BusinessEurope	Joe TANTI
• CSEE-ETUCE	Jens VRAA JENSEN
• EFEE	Esa HÄMÄLÄINEN
• ETUC	Erik SCHMIDT
• UEAPME	Belinda HÖDL

Topics covered in 2014-15

1. Specialisation, consolidation and territorial development (April 2014)
2. Performance agreements (September 2014)
3. Graduate employability (February 2015)
4. Drop-out / completion in HE (September 2015)
5. Internationalisation and mobility
6. Response to migration crisis, integration of migrants in higher education



- 31 October 2015: end of mandate
- 30 November 2015: publication of **the Highlights,** a presentation of **key outputs and policy messages**

- Drafted by the Commission in cooperation with Working Group members
- These messages do not necessarily reflect the Commission nor the Member States' positions, but are intended to summarise the main conclusions of the informal work undertaken in the Groups

New mandate

(1) **Relevance**: strengthening societal and labour market relevance at all levels of higher education (Priority Area 1.vi).

(2) **Innovation**: within a broad concept of innovation, building partnerships through interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral approaches enhancing regional development and the knowledge triangle through closer links between higher education, research and innovation, optimising opportunities offered through open and digital education (Priority Area 3.i, iii and v).

(3) **Inclusion**: supporting the social engagement of higher education institutions, improving the transition from secondary to higher education, promoting intercultural and civic competences of students, promoting a diverse student body including by tackling gender gaps,and integrating newly arrived migrants (Priority Area 2.i and iv).

(4) **Teaching**: promoting quality teaching and pedagogical training and ensuring that teaching is seen as comparable to research in academic careers. (Priority Area 4.iv).

(5) **Internationalisation**: promoting internationalisation, recognition and mobility (including through joint programmes, cross-border higher education, internationalising curricula, etc.) to enhance quality and innovation potential (Priority Area 5.i, iii and iv).

Sustainable investment and governance: focussing on effectiveness by examining performance-based funding and system governance and leadership - ensuring higher education systems are structured, governed and funded in a sustainable, future-oriented way (Priority Area 6.iii).

Reviewing the modernisation agenda

- Consultation process with Member States and stakeholders now underway
- Linked to Skills Agenda in May/June 2016
- Renewed policy framework by late 2016
- Online questionnaire (deadline = end February): http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/more_info/consultations/new-modernisation-agenda_en.htm