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It had been decided by the Executive Committee (EC) in 2021 to establish ‘thematic research groups’ and to let those update (and where necessary — create) relevant research pages. The EC had also agreed to start with the formation of an experimental research group and to ask Jurgen De Wispelaere to take its lead, who has already agreed to do so. De Wispelaere and other concerned EC members have been discussing the particularities of how the thematic research group should function, with the aim of finding a workable, practical plan for the ‘thematic research groups’.

The group on the ‘Clarification of the BI definition’ had been formed following a 2019 General Assembly (GA) decision, with co-chairs Annie Miller and Toru Yamamori, joined by Ali Mutlu Köylüoğlu and Telemaque Mason. (Toru Yamamori was the chair of the working group that mediated two motions on changing the definition prior to the 2016 GA and Mason was a member. Miller, seconded by Köylüoğlu, submitted a motion on the clarification of the definition.) The group has continued to operate on a monthly basis — working towards organising a series of open fora, three of which were held during the annual conference in August 2021. The 4rd open forum was held in October 2021, the 5th — in April 2022, and the 6th — in June 2022. The group submitted requests and was granted approval to hold two fora at the annual conference at Brisbane. The existence of these fora has facilitated both rigorous academic discussions and provided an avenue for open communication among BIEN members who would like to express their opinion on the matter.