

# BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024



## **Overview of progress in 2022-2024**

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19.2.2024.

**BFUG Meeting, Brussels**

# I. Background

**BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024**



Bologna Follow-up Group

Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

# Terms of Reference 2021-2024

Workplan 2021-2024

2021

- In 2020, the EHEA members expressed a **need for additional help** in ‘materializing’ the principles for social dimension in the particular policies



- Adoption of the **Terms of Reference** for the Working Group on Social Dimension in 2021.



- Main objective: Defining **indicators** for the Principles for social dimension.



However,

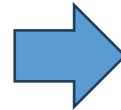
The evidence shows the following results...

Figure 11.1: Results of the 10 scoreboard indicators on Principles & Guidelines, 2020/2021

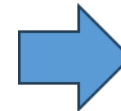
	P&Gs 1	P&Gs 2	P&Gs 3	P&Gs 4	P&Gs 5	P&Gs 6	P&Gs 7	P&Gs 8	P&Gs 9	P&Gs 10	Points per country
Belgium (BE fr)	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	20
Belgium (BE de)	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	6
Belgium (BE nl)	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Red	Yellow	18
Bulgaria	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	11
Czechia	Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	23
Denmark	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Red	Green	Red	Red	16
Germany	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	14
Estonia	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	25
Ireland	Green	Green	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	14
Greece	Green	Red	Red	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	15
Spain	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	Yellow	25
France	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	25
Croatia	Green	Red	Red	Green	Red	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	18
Italy	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Red	28
Cyprus	Yellow	Red	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	15
Latvia	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Yellow	8
Lithuania	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	17
Luxembourg	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	11
Hungary	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	14
Malta	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	25
Netherlands	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	18
Austria	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	21
Poland	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	20
Portugal	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	19
Romania	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	24
Slovenia	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Red	20
Slovakia	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	9
Finland	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	27
Sweden	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Red	25
Albania	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red	3
Switzerland	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	19
Liechtenstein	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	6
Montenegro	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	5
North Macedonia	Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	13
Norway	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Red	Yellow	24
Serbia	Green	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	12
Turkey	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	15
Points per P&Gs	91	65	62	97	76	73	51	68	27	24	635

■ All criteria are met (4 pts)   
 ■ Most criteria are met (3 pts)   
 ■ Some criteria are met (2 pts)  
■ Few criteria are met (1 pt)   
 ■ No criteria are met (0 pts)

There is still much to be improved in the EHEA in addressing the social dimension!



Eurydice report (2022) shows that the **total number of points achieved** by the countries covered by this report is **635**.



If all the education systems had been in the dark green category, **the total number would have been 1 520** (38 education systems × 40 points).



The result indicates that **European systems have implemented nearly 42% of the policies** required to meet the commitments.

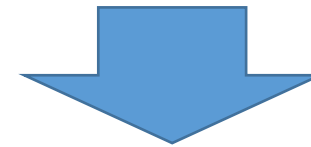
European Commission/EACEA/Eurydice. (2022). Towards equity and inclusion in higher education in Europe. Eurydice report. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

## **II. Key achievements**

**BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024**

# Principles and Guidelines

- Taken as a basis of our work > we did not change them!
- **10 principles** for the social dimension **for the upcoming decade** (8 pages):



- **Principles** = should be understood as high-level statements that serve as a **basis for the conceptualization of different policies** for social dimension enhancement.
- **Guidelines** = recommendations intended to advise policy makers on how the principles should be implemented in practice.

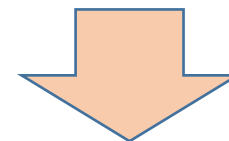


## Key achievements

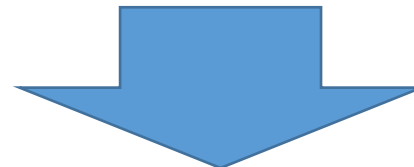
# Indicators and descriptors

for Principles and Guidelines

- **Indicators** = tools for measuring progress in implementing the principles of the social dimension in higher education.



- **Descriptors** = each indicator has its descriptor, which outlines the attributes, features, and characteristics of the indicators in more detail providing a better understanding of the indicators and how they can be implemented.

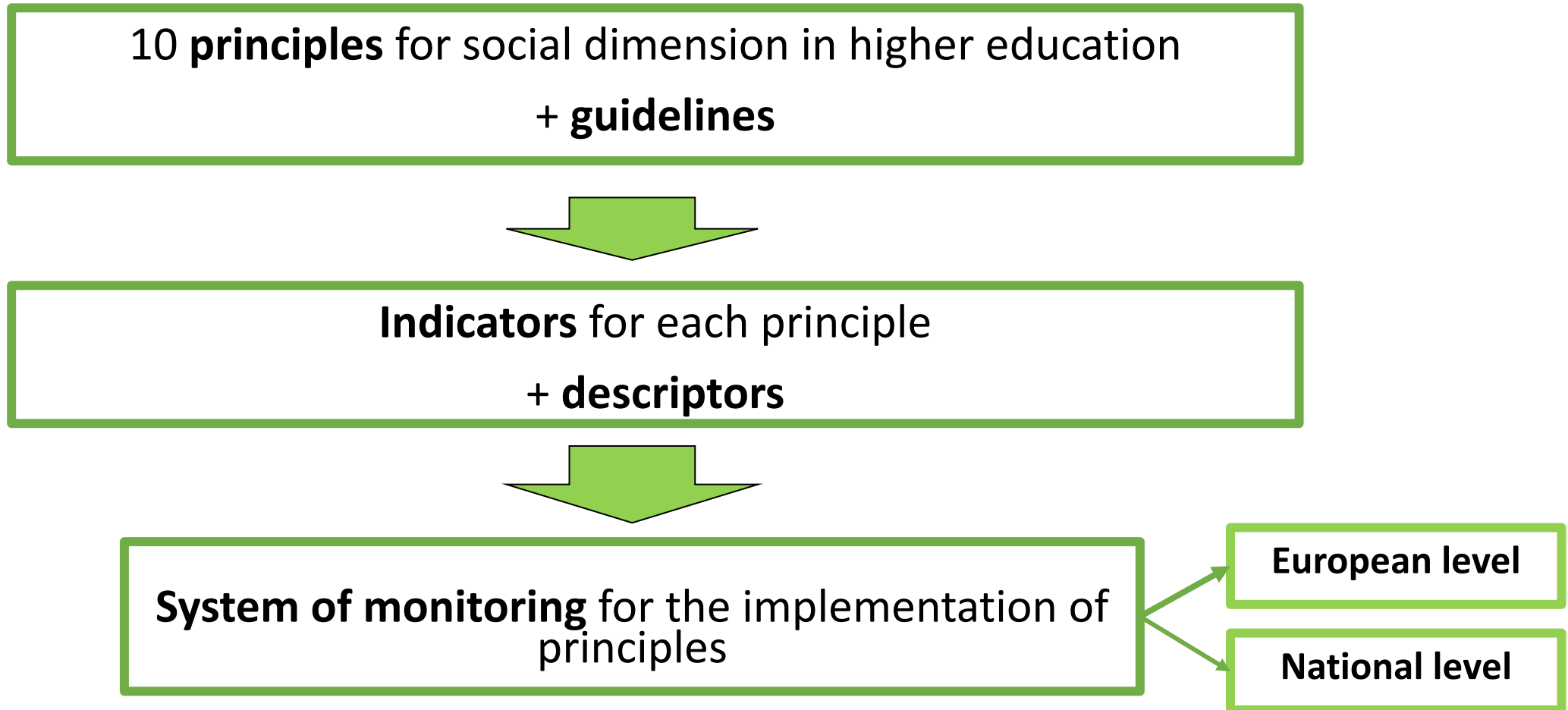


- **not prescriptive – toolbox approach!** > enable the EHEA countries to implement them in a way that suits their national higher education systems (8 pages).
- for creating and strengthening **European-level** and **national-level SYSTEMS OF MONITORING and evaluating** the progress in the implementation of the principles for the social dimension.



# Comprehensive **EHEA policy framework for the social dimension** in higher education

> new architecture for the social dimension in the EHEA:



**III.**  
**Consultation with the BFUG 2022-2024 on  
indicators for social dimension**

**BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024**



## Comprehensive consultation related to:

# Proposal of indicators and descriptors for Principles and Guidelines

- **2022 - the consultation started (+1):**
  - presented at the BFUG Meeting in Czech Republic in November 2022
- **2023 consultations (+4):**
  - BFUG Board meeting in Bosnia and Herzegovina (3/23)
  - BFUG meeting in Sweden (5/23)
  - BFUG Board meeting in Georgia (10/23)
  - BFUG meeting in Spain (11/23)
- **+ 2023 consultations (+5):**
  - 5 BFUG WG on social dimension meetings > involved extensive consultations with members of E4 (ENQA, ESU, EUA, EURASHE) and Education International – ETUCE (European Trade Union Committee for Education).



## Comprehensive consultation related to:

# Proposal of indicators and descriptors for Principles and Guidelines

- **+2023 online consultative meeting (+1) FOR ALL BFUG MEMBERS – 6 September 2023:**
  - attended by 20 BFUG representatives
  - **1st goal:** to gather feedback on the document's **content** (8 pages + 8 pages = 16 pages)
    - BFUG representatives expressed their support for the document and suggested additional improvements.



## Comprehensive consultation related to:

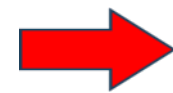
# Proposal of indicators and descriptors for Principles and Guidelines

- **+2024 online consultative meeting (+1) for Nordic countries, Germany, Belgium, the Holy See, and the European Commission-Eurydice – 10 January 2024:**
  - **1st goal:** to gather feedback on the document's **content**
    - *new version prepared after the BFUG Madrid meeting*
    - > ***toolbox approach and flexibility*** in usage highlighted
      - Result: agreed on the content; further written comments welcomed until Jan 31, 2024.
  - **2nd goal:** to discuss the **modalities of adopting** the document at the end of the BFUG cycle in 2024
    - The EHEA ministers could opt to adopt/endorse the document as a standalone document, provided there is a clear reference to its adoption in the communiqué's text.

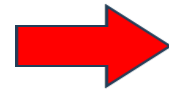


**Comprehensive  
consultation**  
related to:

**Proposal of  
indicators and  
descriptors**  
for Principles and  
Guidelines



TOTAL: **12 cycles** of  
consultation



TOTAL: **20 iterations** of  
the document

## **IV.**

# **Proposal of the ToR for the future Working Group on Social Dimension 2024-2027**

**BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024**

## Objective of the future WG on social dimension

- **Proposal:** creation of the **WORKING GROUP on social dimension** for the period 2024-2027
- **Objectives:**
  - 1) Create recommendations on how to develop a **national action plan for the implementation** of the social dimension principles
    - Put the focus on helping counties creating national systems of monitoring the implementation of the social dimension principles
  - 2) Develop **policy recommendations** on establishing linkages between social dimension and other policy areas in education



## Activities of the future WG on social dimension

Social dimension is **cross-cutting topic** that can be **linked with other policy areas** in education. WG could produce **POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS** on linkages with other policy areas:

- Supporting UN SDGs
- Lifelong learning (it also includes the role of the RPL for the advancement of the social dimension)
- Transition from secondary to tertiary education (how the pretertiary education system could enhance social dimension in education)
- Contributing to the development of democratic citizenship

# Activities of the future WG on social dimension

Social dimension is **cross-cutting topic** that can be **linked with other policy areas** in education. WG could produce **POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS** on linkages with other policy areas:

- Financing of higher education
- Quality assurance in higher education
- Governance and management in higher education that supports implementation of the social dimension principles of the social dimension
- Community engagement in higher education

**Glossary of key terms** for the social dimension:

- Improve the current glossary with definitions of the social dimension terms > put special attention on definitions related to the staff in higher education.

**V.**  
**Conclusion: Way Forward Proposal**

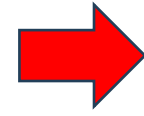
**BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024**



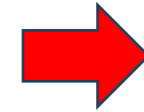
## Way Forward Proposal:

# „Principles, Guidelines and Indicators

to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA”



Following **extensive consultations** conducted by the WG with BFUG members, each BFUG member had the opportunity to provide recommendations for its enhancement in 12 stages.



BFUG WG on Social Dimension (32 members) recommends:

- The current version of the document **be adopted by the BFUG during the meeting in Brussels on Feb 19-20, 2024**
- Based on the **conclusions drawn from the consultative meetings** the Working Group proposes to the BFUG that the document be adopted/endorsed
  - As a stand-alone document, with the condition that the communique text contains a clear reference to its adoption.

# Thank you very much for your attention!

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