

BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

Reporting for BFUG Board

Horia Onița, Co-Chair, ESU

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BFUG Board Meeting LXXXI, Astana, Kazakhstan

I. **Our objectives 2021-2024**

BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

We are developing methods that should help public authorities implementing Principles and Guidelines for Social Dimension

Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA



We need to develop a framework for the implementation of the Principles and Guidelines!

Specific objectives for our BFUG WG on SD 2021-24:

- 1) Organizing **peer support activities** for social dimension to support the implementation of the Principles among the EHEA members
- 2) Defining **indicators and benchmarks** for the Principles
- 3) Developing a **system of monitoring the implementation** of the Principles

II. Workplan 2021-2024

BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

BFUG WG on Social Dimension Workplan for 2021-2024

- WG on Social Dimension-meetings in 2022:
 - ✓ 4th meeting in February 2022: **17 Feb 2022** > on-line
 - ✓ 5th meeting in April 2022: **26 Apr 2022** > hosted by Malta
 - ✓ 6th meeting in June 2022: **14 June 2022** > hosted by the Netherlands
 - ✓ 7th meeting in October 2022: **29-30 September 2022** > hosted by the EUA
 - ✓ 8th meeting in November 2022: **14-15 Nov 2022, online**
- **Web site for the WG on SD at the www.ehea.info + cloud-folder (Google Drive):**
 - Key documents related to the work of the WG on Social Dimension and its subgroups
 - Documents related to the WG-meetings and subgroups-meetings
 - Useful resources: literature, policy briefs, information on useful projects etc.

Coordination with the BFUG working structures

Coordination with the WG on Learning and Teaching:

- Agreed to have coordination meetings every 1-2 months
- 1st coordination meeting: 20 January 2022
- 2nd coordination meeting: 31 March 2022
- 3rd coordination meeting: 3 May 2022
- **4th coordination meeting: 15 July 2022 + Co-chairs guests at WG 7th meeting on 29-30 September 2022**

Coordination with the WG on Monitoring the implementation of the Bologna Process:

- 1st coordination meeting: 8 July 2021
- 2nd coordination meeting: 6 October 2021
- 3rd coordination meeting: 13 June 2022
- **4th coordination meeting: 29 September 2022**

Achievements 2021-2022

✓ 5 Peer-learning activities (PLA) in 2021 + 3 PLAs in 2022 = 8 PLAs

- In the past 3 meetings in 2021 + in the meeting in February 2022

✓ **Erasmus+** project proposal successfully applied on the KA3 call in October 2021 > approved for funding in March 2022 > project started on June 1, 2022:

- the project „**Peer Learning Activities and Resources to Underpin the Principles and Guidelines for Social Dimension**” should support fulfillment of the objectives of the BFUG WG on Social Dimension
- **Project coordinator:** Flemish Community, Department of Education and Training, Belgium-Flanders
- **Partners:** SIHO-Support Centre Inclusive Higher Education (Belgium), Ministry of Education and Science (Croatia), Institute for the Development of Education (Croatia), European Students’ Union
- **Kick-off meeting:** 15 June 2022 Brussels, hosted by the Flemish Community, Department of Education and Training

Peer-learning activities (PLA) in 2021

PLA for **developing system of monitoring** the implementation of Principles and Guidelines (PAGs) – **July-October 2021:**

- **European Commission/ Eurydice: Questionnaire on Fostering Equity and Inclusion** in Higher Education
 - The questionnaire asks questions that will allow Eurydice to assess the state of national policy action to implement the PAGs

Peer-learning activities (PLA) in 2021

PLAs related to the Principle No.4 in the PAGs **on collecting reliable data for social dimension – October 2021:**

*(“Reliable data is a necessary precondition for an evidence-based improvement of the social dimension of higher education. Higher education systems should **define the purpose and goals of collecting certain types of data**, taking into account the particularities of the national legal frameworks”)*

- **Eurostudent**

- Key findings from the Eurostudent VII Synopsis of Indicators report. Could the Eurostudent surveys help in the implementation of the principle No.4 of the PAGs?

- **U-Multirank, Center for Higher Education Policy Studies (CHEPS), University of Twente, NL**

- Key findings from the U-Multirank concept paper on **new indicator development on social inclusion (2020)** and the proposal for New Indicators in U-Multirank (2021).

Peer-learning activities (PLA) in 2021

PLAs related to the Principle No.8 in the PAGs on inclusive international mobility programs – November 2021:

("International mobility programs in higher education should be structured and implemented in a way that foster diversity, equity and inclusion and should particularly foster participation of students and staff from vulnerable, disadvantaged or underrepresented backgrounds")

- **Support Centre for Inclusive Higher Education (SIHO)**, Belgium/Flanders
 - Presentation of the **'The InclusiveMobility.eu'**, which is the **European platform about inclusion** and support services offered by higher education institutions, national agencies, and ministries for education to international students
 - Could the InclusiveMobility Platform, particularly with its framework, Self-Assessment Tool and the Toolbox help in the implementation of the principle No.8 of the PAGs?
- **European Commission, DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture**
 - Key information on the **'Inclusiveness in the new Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027'**. Could the new Erasmus+ priorities related to inclusion and diversity help in the implementation of the principle No.8 of the PAGs?

Peer-learning activities (PLA) in 2022

PLAs related to the Principle No.9 in the PAGs on importance of community engagement for social dimension – February 2022:

("Higher education institutions should ensure that community engagement in higher education promotes diversity, equity and inclusion")

- **Council of Europe**
 - Presentation of the CoE's **Platform on the local democratic mission of higher education**
- **Institute for the Development of Education, Croatia**
 - Presentation of the key outputs of 2 Erasmus+ projects: (1) **"TEFCE Toolbox: An Institutional Self-Reflection Framework for Community Engagement in Higher Education"**; (2) European on-line portal and network for community engagement in higher education
- **EURASHE: European Association of Institutions in Higher Education**
 - Presentation of the the **self-assessment tool for regional engagement** of universities of applied sciences
- **European Commission, DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture**
 - Presentation of the **European strategy for universities** and its relevance for social dimension

Creation of 3 Subgroups on Social Dimension

3 Subgroups established within the WG on Social Dimension - on 17 February 2022 :

- Subgroup 1 > coordinator Berto Bosscha (The Netherlands) > 11 members
- Subgroup 2 > coordinator Martina Darmanin (ESU) > 11 members
- Subgroup 3 > coordinator Nino Schmidt (Croatia) > 11 members

Subgroups goals:

1. Propose indicators for each Principle for social dimension

> PHASE 1: February-September 2022

2. Propose monitoring mechanism for each Principle for social dimension

> PHASE 2: October-December 2022

Conclusions of the Malta meeting

- Dominant **approach to indicators** > in the form of statements which signal that a principle is operationalized through SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-bound) activities:
 - Revision and regrouping > into main indicators and subindicators > now we have 4-5 main indicators + each indicator has a set of subindicators
 - We have used and incorporated Eurydice's indicators (primarily as main indicators)
 - We have marked Eurydice's indicators
 - WG SD list of indicators is more comprehensive than the Eurydice's list, but encompasses almost all Eurydice-indicators

Conclusions of the Malta meeting

- Indicators > statements // system of monitoring = questions
 - Monitoring could be implemented through the Bologna Implementation Report, through the Eurydices's questionnaire on fostering equity and inclusion and through national quality assurance agencies
- We should create explanation/toolbox/'preambula' on how to use indicators and system of monitoring
 - Importance of visualizations of final outputs > importance of being user friendly ('traffic light approach')
 - Consider having on-line version of the toolbox

Conclusions of the Hague meeting

- **New Erasmus+ project:**
 - present the project at the meeting in Brussels and inform WG members on the main activities of the project
- **Establish cooperation with ENQA and EQAR:**
 - If/when the ESGs are revised, propose to include statements related to social dimension enhancement
- **Organize one more round of internal WG SD consultation on indicators and create a new version of indicators for social dimension principles:**
 - A new version of the indicators should be confirmed in Brussels

Conclusions of the Brussels meeting

- **The list of indicators and subindicators finalised**
 - The list of indicators will be sent to the WG on Monitoring to be used for 2024 BPIR
 - The list of indicators + subindicators will be sent to BFUG
 - We still need to determine the name and nature of subindicators
- In November we will start working on the **monitoring system**
- **5 meetings in 2023**, of which at least 3 in person
- **Aim for indicators + monitoring → adding them to PAGs**

Thank you very much for your attention! Questions?

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