

# BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024



## **Overview of progress in 2021-2024**

Nino S. Schmidt, Co-Chair, CROATIA

Horia Onita, Co-Chair, European Students' Union

11-12.04.2024.

**BFUG Meeting, Brussels**

# I. Background

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

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



- **Game changer** for strengthening social dimension in the EHEA.
- Evidence: an **increasing number of the EHEA countries** has started to **implement the principles** for social dimension into their national policies (Eurydice, 2022).

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



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.



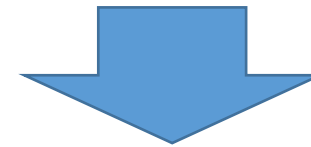
- Main objective: Defining **indicators** for the Principles for social dimension.

## **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):



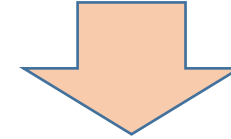
- **Principles** = should be understood as high-level statements that serve as a **basis for the conceptualization of different policies** for social dimension enhancement.
- **Guidelines** = recommendations intended to **advise policy makers on how the principles should be implemented** in practice.

# Key achievements

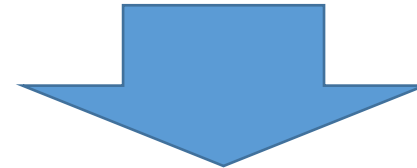
## Indicators and descriptors

for the principles of the social dimension in the EHEA

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



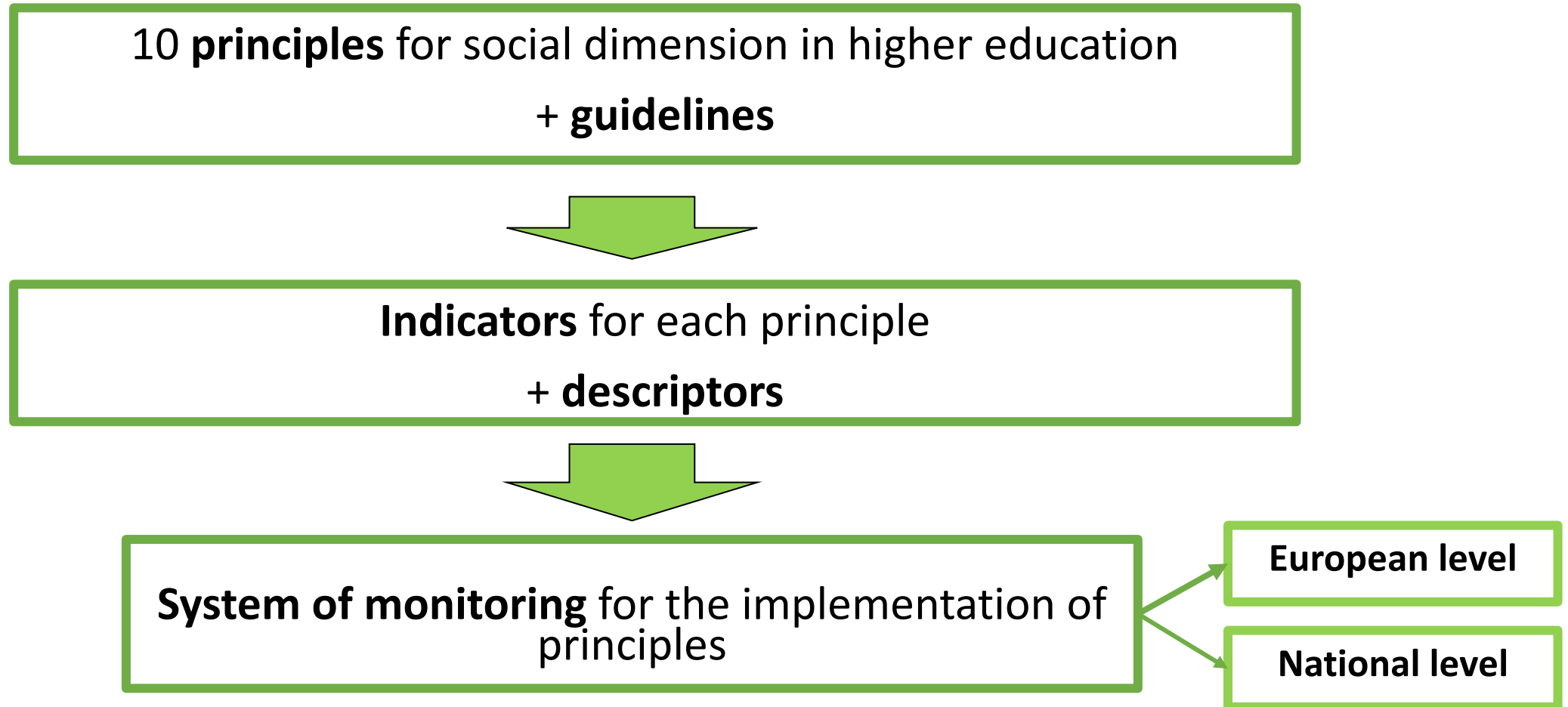
- **Descriptors** = each indicator has its descriptor, which outlines characteristics of the indicators in more detail providing a better understanding of the indicators and how they can be implemented.



- **not prescriptive – toolbox approach!** > enable the EHEA countries to implement them in a way that suits their national higher education systems.
- 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.

# EHEA policy framework for the social dimension in higher education

> a **coherent system** that enables public authorities to incorporate social dimension principles in the policies and strategies





# **III. Consultation with the BFUG 2021-2024**

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

**Comprehensive  
consultation  
related to:**

**Indicators  
and  
descriptors**

**for the principles of the social  
dimension in the EHEA**

- With all the BFUG structures.
- With members of the E4 (ENQA, ESU, EUA, EURASHE) and Education International – ETUCE (European Trade Union Committee for Education).
- With certain groups of countries (e.g. Nordic countries).

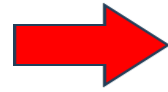
**➔ TOTAL: 12 cycles** of  
consultation

**➔ TOTAL: 20 iterations** of  
the document

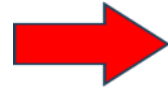
**Comprehensive  
consultation**  
related to:

# Indicators and descriptors

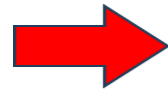
for the principles of the social  
dimension in the EHEA



The document **was adopted** at the **BFUG Meeting in Brussels on Feb 19, 2024**



The document was adopted **as a stand-alone document**, with the agreement that the **communique text contains a clear reference** to its adoption.



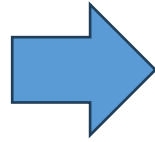
The document will be included in the set of adopted documents for the **2024 EHEA Ministerial Conference in Tirana** on May 29-30, 2024.

**V.**  
**Conclusion:**  
**Final Report for the Period 2021 -2024**

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

# Conclusion:

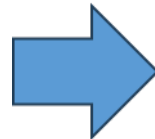
## Working Group on Social Dimension Final Report for the Period 2021 -2024



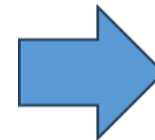
- The BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension (2021-2024) **significantly advanced the social dimension** within the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).



- This period of work has undeniably positioned the social dimension as a **central pillar within the EHEA**, providing a robust **EHEA framework for enhancing equity, diversity, and inclusivity** across higher education systems.



- The Working Group organized **15 meetings** in this period > **WG's web page** at the [www.ehea.info](http://www.ehea.info) demonstrates its extensive work and developed resources.



- The achievements of the BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension epitomize a **collaborative, innovative, and strategic approach to fostering a more inclusive and equitable higher education landscape**, paving the way for continued progress in the years ahead.

# Thank you very much for your cooperation!

- **Co-Chair – CROATIA:**

**Ninoslav S. Schmidt**

Institute for the Development of Education  
in Zagreb

[nscukanec@iro.hr](mailto:nscukanec@iro.hr)

- **Co-Chair – ESU:**

**Horia Onita**

European Students' Union

[horia.onita@esu-online.org](mailto:horia.onita@esu-online.org)