



Bologna Follow-up Group
Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

Workplan 2021-2024

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Introduction

The content of the Workplan 2021-2024 was agreed at the three meetings of the BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension held in 2021: on July 8, October 6 and November 16. The Co-Chairs, Ninoslav Šćukanec Schmidt (Croatia) and Martina Darmanin (European Students’ Union) have created the content of this Workplan based on the conclusions of the before mentioned meetings.

Purpose of the Working Group on Social Dimension

The purpose of the Working Group on Social Dimension is to support the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) members in developing social dimension policies that will create an inclusive environment in higher education that fosters equity, diversity, and is responsive to the needs of local communities. The Working Group will follow up and will further develop the main outcome of the work of the AG1 on Social



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Dimension 2018-2020: [“Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA”](#), which is annexed to the 2020 Rome Communiqué. All the documents from the 2020 Rome Ministerial Conference are available here: <http://www.ehea.info/page-ministerial-conference-rome-2020>.

Reference to the 2020 Rome Communiqué: *“We adopt the ‘Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA’ (Annex II) based on a broadened understanding of the social dimension and commit to implementing them in our systems. We will engage in wide-ranging policy dialogue on how to implement the principles and guidelines fully at the national level. We will support our higher education institutions in integrating them into their institutional culture and core missions: learning and teaching, research and innovation, knowledge circulation and outreach, institutional governance and management. We ask the BFUG to report back to us in 2024 on the steps taken and the related monitoring measures to assure evidence-based follow-up”.*

Definition of the ‘social dimension of higher education’

This Working Group takes as its starting point the definition of the social dimension provided in the [2007 London Communiqué](#), namely that the composition of the student body entering, participating in and completing higher education at all levels should correspond to the heterogeneous social profile of society at large in the EHEA countries. In 2020 the [Rome Communiqué](#) has enlarged before mentioned definition by stressing that the social dimension encompasses creation of inclusive environment in higher education that fosters equity, diversity, and is responsive to the needs of local communities.

Specific objectives for the Working Group on Social Dimension for the period 2021-2024

- **Developing a system of monitoring** the implementation of the ‘Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA’ (Principles and Guidelines). It will enable measuring the impact of the broadened definition of the social dimension in the Principles and Guidelines on the work of different higher education institutions.
- **Defining indicators and benchmarks** for the principles included in the Principles and Guidelines.
- **Developing tools** for the implementation of the Principles and Guidelines.
- **Organizing peer support activities** for social dimension to support the implementation of the Principles and Guidelines among the EHEA members.



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- **Organizing a seminar on the social dimension** at the end of the cycle in 2024 to discuss the progress made in developing social dimension policies in the EHEA members.

The above objectives will help public authorities in the EHEA to implement Principles and Guidelines into their higher education systems. Public authorities should support the implementation of the Principles by offering a legal, financial, administrative and informative framework that can initiate process of implementation at the national level. Also, public authorities should engage in a policy dialogue with higher education institutions and other stakeholders to develop fit-for purpose policy measures for 10 Principles for social dimension in higher education.

Agreed methods of work

During the working period 2021-2024 the Working Group will organize five (5) meetings per year. The meetings will include the following methods of work:

- Peer-learning activities and examples of best practices on the implementation of the Principles and Guidelines.
- Discussion on tools, indicators and benchmarks for the Principles and Guidelines.
- Discussion on a system of monitoring the implementation of the Principles and Guidelines.

Timeline

The Terms of Reference for the Working group envisage the following timeline:

Year 2021:

- Defining the Workplan for the mandate of the Working Group with the methods of work.

Year 2021 – 2022:

- Defining indicators and benchmarks for the principles included in the Principles and Guidelines.

Year 2021 – 2024:

- Organizing peer support activities for the social dimension.

Year 2022 – 2024:

- Defining a system of monitoring the implementation of the Principles and Guidelines.



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Year 2024 (in the framework of the ministerial conference):

- Organizing a seminar on the social dimension.

The Working Group agreed to organize five meetings per year – the duration of the single meetings will range between four to eight hours per meeting (depending on the on-line or in-person mode of the meetings). The dates of the meetings in 2021-2022 are listed below.

Timeline for 2021

In 2021 all the meetings will be held on-line, because of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- 1st on-line meeting: 8 July 2021
- 2nd on-line meeting: 6 October 2021
- 3rd on-line meeting: 16 November 2021

Timeline for 2022

In 2022 there will be a combination of on-line and in-person meetings, depending on the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic. **The Working Group agreed on the following dates of the meetings in 2022:**

- 4th meeting in February 2022: **17 February 2022 (on-line)**
- 5th meeting in April 2022: **25-26 April 2022 (Malta)**
- 6th meeting in June 2022: **13-14 June 2022 (The Netherlands, The Hague)**
- 7th meeting in September 2022: **29-30 September 2022 (Belgium, Brussels)**
- 8th meeting in November 2022: **14 November 2022 (on-line)**

Until December 1, 2022, the Working Group will decide on the exact dates of the meetings in 2023-2024.

Timeline for 2023

In 2023 there will be a combination of on-line and in-person meetings. **The Working Group agreed on the following dates of the meetings in 2023:**

- 9th meeting in February 2023: **7-8 February 2023 (Belgium, Ghent).**

The PLA-2 within the project PLAR-U-PAGs will take place on 9-10 February 2023 in Ghent – members of the WG SD are encouraged to apply for the PLA2.

- 10th meeting in April 2023: **24-25 April 2023** (more details TBC).



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- 11th meeting in June 2023: **12-13 June 2022 (Croatia, Dubrovnik, University of Dubrovnik).**

The PLA-3 within the project PLAR-U-PAGs will take place on 13-14 June 2023 in Dubrovnik at the University of Dubrovnik – members of the WG SD are encouraged to apply for the PLA-3.

- 12th meeting in October 2023: **24-25 October 2023** (Gent, Belgium).
- 13th meeting in December 2023: **7-8 December 2023** (Gent, Belgium).

Until December 1, 2023, the Working Group will decide on the exact dates of the meetings in 2024 (there will be 2 meetings in the period January – May 2024).

Timeline for 2024

In 2024 there will be a combination of on-line and in-person meetings. **The Working Group agreed on the following dates of the meetings in 2024:**

- 14th meeting in February 2024: **ON-LINE, 2 February 2024**, 10-13h
- 15th meeting in April 2024: **4-5 April 2024 in Vienna, Austria** (4.4.2023. from 14-19h; 5.4. from 9-13,30h)

Resources and communication channels

The Working Group has a section on the www.ehea.info web site: <http://www.ehea.info/page-Working-Group-SD>. This section will contain:

- Documents related to all the meetings of the Working Group (including minutes and agenda of the meetings).
- Key documents relevant for the work of the Working Group.
- Useful resources: literature, policy briefs, information on useful projects etc.

Communication channels:

- The Co-Chairs encourage the communication via the BFUG Secretariat (secretariat@ehea.info), because this will ensure that all the members of the Working Group are included in the correspondence. The Bologna Secretariat will provide administrative support for the work of the Working Group.
- Both Co-Chairs are also available via email: Ninoslav Scukanec Schmidt, Croatia (nscukanec@iro.hr) and Martina Darmanin, European Students' Union (martina.darmanin@esu-online.org).
- The on-line meetings will be held using the Zoom or MS Teams platforms and links to the meetings will be available in the agenda of the meetings.



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List of the members of the Working Group on Social Dimension

No.	Country	Name	Last Name
1	Albania	Iliriana	Topulli
2	Austria	Sara	Velić
3	Belgium Flemish Community	Patrick	Willems
4	Belgium French Community	Caroline	Hollela
5	Council of Europe	Katia	Dolgova-Dreyer
6	Croatia (Co-chair)	Ninoslav Šćukanec	Schmidt
7	Croatia	Mario	Vinkovic
8	Cyprus	Kyriacos	Charalambous
9	Cyprus	Alexandra	Petridou
10	Denmark	Jacob	Blasius Thomsen
11	EI - ETUCE	Annette	Dolan
12	Estonia	Janne	Pukk
13	ESU (Co-chair)	Horia	Onita
14	EUA	Henriette	Stoeber
15	European Commission	Lucie	Trojanova
17	EUROSTUDENT	Martin	Unger
18	EUROSTUDENT	Christoph	Gwoś
19	France	Stéphane	Lauwick
20	Georgia	Tornike	Bakakuri
21	Germany	Carlotta	Ekloh
22	Italy	Raffaella Ida	Rumiati
23	Italy	Maria Antonietta	Ciclista
24	Kazakhstan	Indira	Abilmazhinova
25	Lithuania	Andrius	Zalitis
26	Malta	Madonna	Maroun
27	Moldova	Doina	Usaci
28	The Netherlands	Arthur	Belle
29	Poland	Krzysztof	Marcynski
30	Romania	Mihai Cezar	Hâj
31	Romania	Horia	Oniã
32	Russia	Irina	Karelina
33	Slovak Republic	Marcel	Vysocký
34	Slovenia	Maja	Švent
35	Spain	Margarita	de Lezcano-Mújica
36	Turkey	Lütfiye	Durak Ata
37	United Kingdom	Graeme	Atherton
38	United Kingdom	Angharad	Penny Evans