

BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

BFUG Board meeting, Tbilisi

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2nd of October 2023

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.



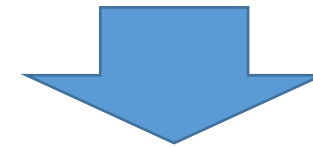
- Main objective: Defining **indicators** for the Principles for social dimension.

II. Key achievements

BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

Principles and Guidelines – already adopted in 2020

- Taken as a basis of our work > we did not change them! **The adopted Principles and Guidelines should not be changed.**
- **10 principles** for the social dimension **for the upcoming decade:**



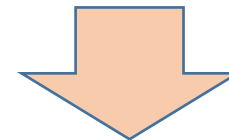
- **Principles** = should be understood as high-level statements that serve as a **basis for the conceptualization of different policies** for social dimension enhancement.
- **Guidelines** = recommendations intended to advise policy makers on how the principles should be implemented in practice.



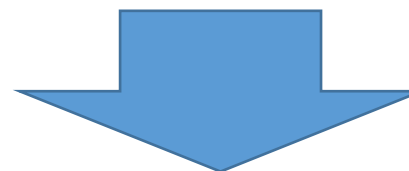
Key achievements - - NEW

Indicators and explanatory descriptors for Principles and Guidelines

- **Indicators** = instruments for measuring progress in the implementation of the principles for the social dimension.



- **Explanatory descriptors** = each indicator has its explanatory descriptor, which describes the attributes, features, and characteristics of the indicators in more detail in order to help better understanding of the indicators and how they can be implemented.



- **not prescriptive!** > enable the EHEA countries to implement them in a way that suits their national higher education systems.
- for creating and strengthening **national systems of monitoring and evaluating** the progress in the implementation of the principles for the social dimension.

2020



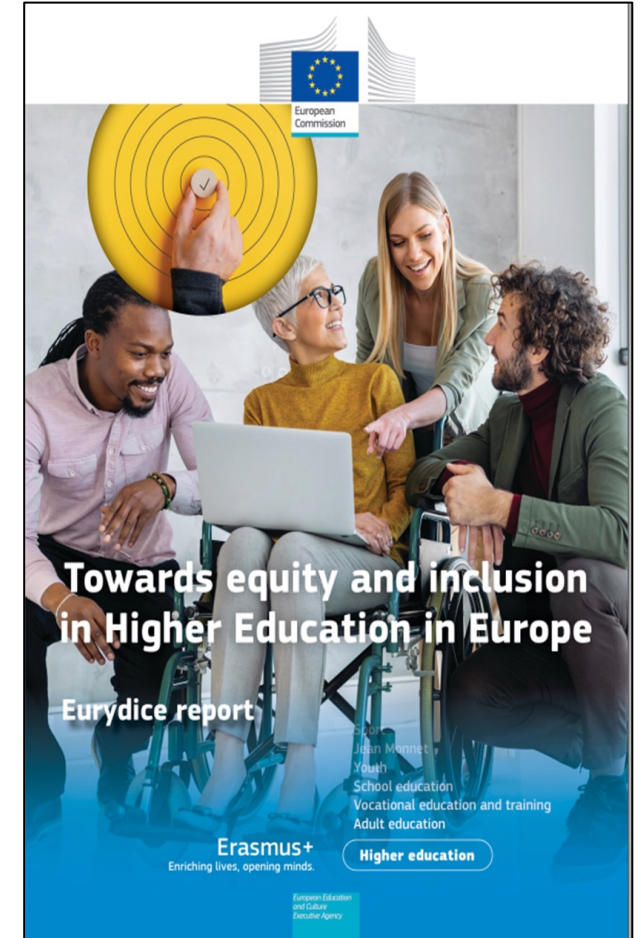
Cooperation - **NEW**

- Cooperation with the European Commission/Eurydice > we agreed to **adopt most of the Eurydice's indicators** developed for the principles for the social dimension (Eurydice, 2022).
- The specific contribution of the BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension is that it expanded the scope of indicators and has also created additional **explanatory descriptors** for each indicator.



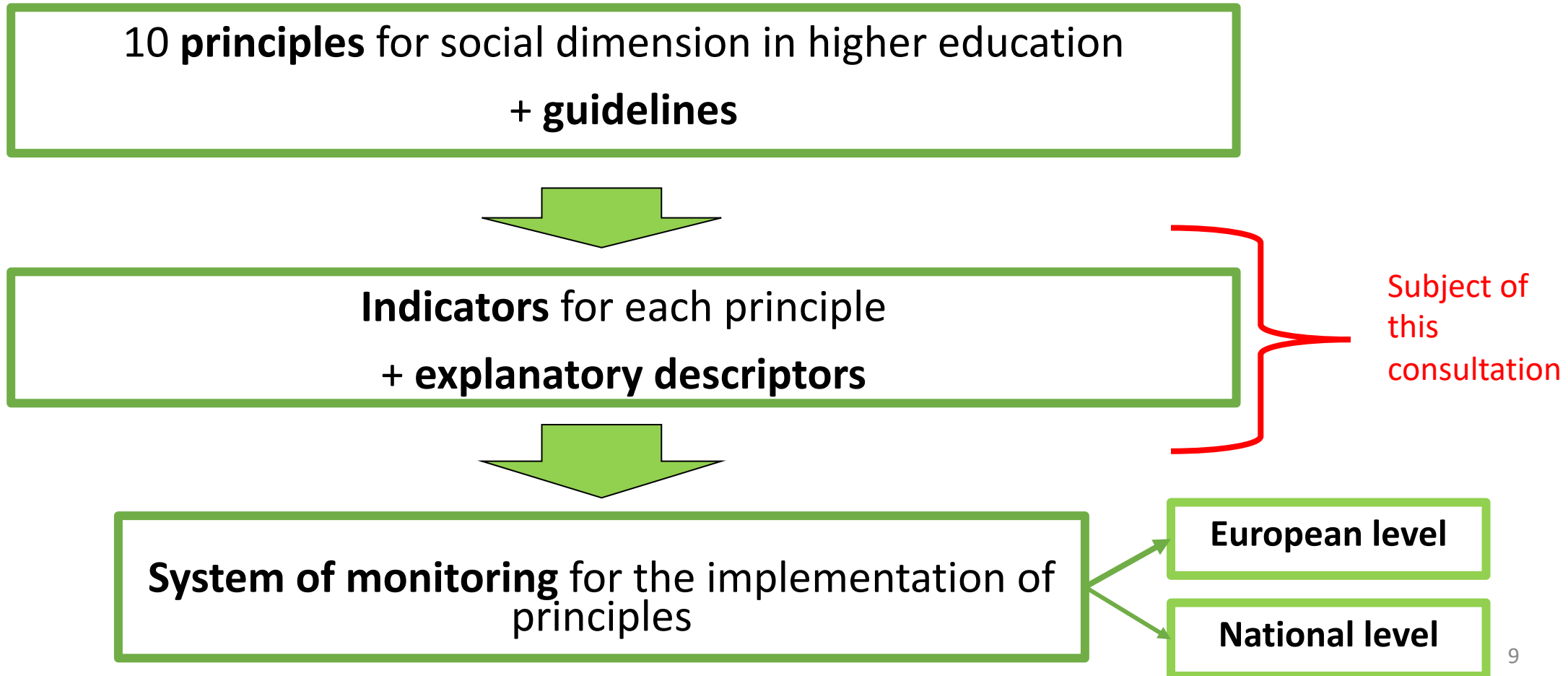
- **Evidence-based approach** to indicators

2022



Comprehensive EHEA policy framework for the social dimension in higher education

> new architecture for the social dimension in the EHEA:





Key achievements - **NEW**

Introduction

into the Principles, Guidelines
and Indicators

- Summary (**new**)
- **Definition** of the social dimension in higher education (Rome Communiqué)
- **Positive impact** of the social dimension on societies (Rome Communiqué)
- The comprehensive **EHEA framework** for the social dimension in higher education (**new**)
- **Policy alignment** with previous EHEA documents (Rome Communiqué)
- **Principles and guidelines** for the social dimension in higher education (Rome Communiqué)
- **Indicators and explanatory descriptors** for the social dimension in higher education (**new**)



- Proposal of the new and **extended title**: “Principles, Guidelines and Indicators to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the European Higher Education Area”

III.
**Consultation with the BFUG members on
6 September 2023**

BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024



Consultation related to:

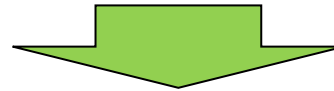
Proposal of indicators for Principles and Guidelines

1. **Indicators and explanatory descriptors + introduction:** revised after the BFUG Plenary Meeting in Stockholm (12-13 May 2023), according to the feedback received at the meeting and after the meeting (until 5 August 2023).
2. **Modality of the adoption** of the ‘Principles, guidelines and indicators’ document:
 - a. The same as in the 2020: annex to the 2024 Tirana Communique, or
 - b. As a separate, stand-alone document adopted by the ministers at the 2024 Tirana Ministerial Conference

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

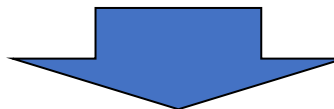
> new architecture for the social dimension in the EHEA:

10 principles for social dimension in higher education
+ guidelines



Indicators for each principle
+ explanatory descriptors; + text of the Introduction

1. Subject
of the
consultation



Modality of the adoption by the BFUG?

2. Subject
of the
consultation



Consultation related to:

Proposal of indicators for Principles and Guidelines

Conclusion:

- General support for the content of the document
- Fine-tuning needed for some indicators and descriptors. Specific suggestions received for some indicators (but no feedback in writing)
- Some clarifications needed for terminology and scope, but overall clear
- Support for stressing the overall political significance of the document, including through its adoption by ministers

Thank you very much for your attention!

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