

# BFUG Advisory Group 1 on Social Dimension

**Update for the BFUG Meeting in Helsinki**

November 12-13, 2019

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

- **Starting point:** the definition of the social dimension provided in the 2007 London Communique:
  - “[...] the student body entering, participating in and completing higher education at all levels should reflect the diversity of our populations.”

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

- **New elements:** social dimension encompasses creation of inclusive environment in higher education that fosters equity, diversity, and is responsive to the needs of local communities.
  - Social dimension goes beyond identifying vulnerable, disadvantaged and underrepresented groups of students.
  - Social dimension principles should be integrated into the core higher education functions:
    - Learning and teaching
    - Research
    - Knowledge exchange and outreach
    - Institutional governance and management
    - Policies for empowering students and staff

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

- **Forward-looking** strategic document for higher education development:
  - Establishes a horizontal link between social dimension and other core higher education policy areas > will make our higher education systems and universities closer to the real needs of our communities and citizens.
  - Defines 10 principles for social dimension in higher education for upcoming decade of the Bologna process 2020-2030.
  - Each principle accompanied with a set of guidelines that explain the implementation of principles.

# 10 Principles for strengthening the social dimension of higher education:

1. The social dimension should be **central to higher education strategies** at national, regional, local and institutional level, as well as at the EHEA and the EU level.
2. **Holistic approach** to social dimension should create coherent policy measures from early childhood, through schooling and into higher education and throughout lifelong learning.
3. Governments should support higher education institutions to **strengthen their capacity** in responding to the **needs of a more diverse student body**, particularly through continuing professional training both for academic and administrative staff.

# 10 Principles for strengthening the social dimension of higher education:

4. Higher education systems should define goals of **collecting certain types of data** and develop the necessary capacities to collect, process and use such data to support the social dimension policy.
5. Governments should have policies that ensure **effective counselling and guidance** for potential and enrolled students.
6. Governments should establish a strategic **framework for higher education funding** which promotes social dimension.
7. **Mobility programs** in higher education should be structured in a way that foster diversity, equity and inclusion.

# 10 Principles for strengthening the social dimension of higher education:

8. **Community and civic engagement** in higher education should be used as an instrument to promote diversity, equity and inclusion.
9. Governments should ensure that **legal regulations enable** higher education institutions to work effectively **to improve the social dimension policies.**
10. Governments should engage in a **policy dialogue with higher education institutions** about how these principles can be implemented both at national system and institutional level.