

Report from the WG on Fundamental Values for the BFUG Meeting

15 December 2025, Copenhagen



WG on Fundamental Values - Composition

Co-chairs:

Romania and
Malta

BFUG Members (18):

Austria, Croatia, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, United Kingdom, European Commission

BFUG Consultative Members (4):

European University Association (EUA), Council of Europe (CoE), Education International (EI-ETUCE), European Students Union (ESU)

Main goals of the WG (ToR)

Framework Completion

Finalise comprehensive monitoring framework and indicators

Reporting to BFUG

Collect findings and report back to BFUG



Implementing the Monitoring Tool

Coordinate the first round of implementation

Knowledge Sharing

Promote and raise awareness across EHEA

The journey towards this point

2018 – Paris Ministerial Communiqué – fundamental values were listed.

2020 – Rome Ministerial Communiqué

- The definition and the common understanding regarding academic freedom were adopted.
- A monitoring framework was requested by ministers to monitor the implementation of commitments towards the fundamental values.

2020–2024 – The NewFAV project was implemented to support the work of the WG on Fundamental Values, particularly in the development of the monitoring framework

2024 – Tirana Ministerial Communiqué

- The definitions and common understanding regarding the remaining fundamental values were adopted.
- Ministers requested the implementation of a monitoring framework taking into account the work already done and report back.
- The EHEA Implementation Report should seek to assess not only the state of each value but also how the fundamental values of the EHEA are put into practice as a whole. The indicators should therefore make it possible to assess the extent to which members of the EHEA respect and practice the values on which the EHEA builds.

2025

- The NewFAV2 project started implementation to support the work of the WG on Fundamental Values in monitoring and promoting FV.
- BFUG meeting in Poland (February 2025) – the monitoring framework was presented together with the project plan that would support the monitoring.
- This presentation included the indicators, the approach with the monitoring tool (questionnaires), the use of NOs and an open platform.

2027

1. Monitoring report on Fundamental Values
2. Chapter on Fundamental Values within the Bologna Process Implementation Report

1. Monitoring report on Fundamental Values

- Drafted with the support of the NewFAV2 project, adopted by the WG on Fundamental Values

2. Chapter on Fundamental Values within the Bologna Process Implementation Report

- Drafted with the support of Eurydice and adopted by the WG on Monitoring the Implementation of the BP

Framework used for the monitoring of fundamental values

VALUES	Type of monitoring and Indicators	
Rights/Freedoms		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academic freedom - Institutional autonomy - Participation of students and staff in university governance 	<i>De jure</i>	
	Protection	Outlook
	Promotion	
	<i>De facto</i>	
	Infringements	
	Threats	
	Positive developments	

VALUES	Type of monitoring and Indicators	
Duties/Obligations		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academic integrity - Public responsibility <i>for</i> higher education - Public responsibility <i>of</i> higher education 	<i>De jure</i>	
	Protection	Outlook
	Promotion	
	<i>De facto</i>	
	Fulfilment	
	Threats	
	Positive developments	

The monitoring framework was presented at three consecutive BFUG meetings (Brussels, Brussels, Warsaw) and all comments were integrated. It was part of the 2021-2024 WG FV report to the Tirana Ministerial Conference.

For the monitoring of FV 2027, the Questionnaire has been updated.

Questionnaire details

- 1 EHEA statements on fundamental values are analyzed to extract dimensions and commitments.
- 2 Questions are based on EURYDICE model or generated using the same approach.

NO new policy/commitments



The process of identifying the subdimensions for institutional autonomy – organizational autonomy

"Higher education institutions need to be able and willing to define their leadership and governance models. This organisational autonomy also entails the autonomy to set an institution's priorities and strategic direction. It should ensure participatory rights for the different members of the academic community. Bodies representing the interests of staff and students should be able to function freely, contribute to institutional policies, further the interests of their constituents and help protect them against discrimination, harassment or intimidation. Public as well as institutional regulations and policy must ensure campus integrity and prevent the use of force and reprisals against academic staff and students, which would constitute a violation of the fundamental values of the European Higher Education Area."

DIMENSIONS

HEIs are able & willing to define their leadership & governance models.

HEIs are able to set institutional priorities and strategic direction.

Participatory rights for the different members of the academic community

Bodies representing the interests of staff and students should be able to function freely, contribute to institutional policies, further the interests of their constituents and help protect them against discrimination, harassment or intimidation.

Campus integrity



Questionnaire development based on the identified dimensions for each fundamental value

ORGANIZATIONAL

HEIs are able & willing to define their leadership & governance models.

HEIs are able to set institutional priorities and strategic direction.

Participatory rights for the different members of the academic community

Bodies representing the interests of staff and students should be able to function freely, contribute to institutional policies, further the interests of their constituents and help protect them against discrimination, harassment or intimidation.

Campus integrity

3.2.6. Who decides on the responsibilities of HEIs' governing bodies?

	Decision on governing body responsibilities
Responsibilities of HEIs' governing bodies regulated in legislation	?
HEI's governing body decides responsibilities for itself	
Other	

If 'Other', please specify

3.2.2. Is there a requirement for higher education institutions' (HEIs) governing bodies to include:

	Required by legislation	Not required by legislation, but usually included in HEIs' governing bodies	Not required by legislation usually not included in HE governing bodies
Government / top-level authority representative			
Student representative(s)			
Staff representative(s)			
Employer representative			
Other			

3.2.5. Does legislation specify that all members of governing bodies have full rights to take decisions on issues?

	Required by legislation	Not required, but usually happens	Not required and usually does not happen
All members have full rights to take decisions on all issues			

If "Not required and usually does not happen", please explain which members may not be able to contribute on some matters

3.2.4. Does legislation specify that all members of governing bodies have full rights to contribute to all issues?

	Required by legislation	Not required, but usually happens	Not required, and usually does not happen
All members have full rights to contribute to all issues			

If "Not required and usually does not happen", please explain which category(es) of members may not be able to contribute on some matters

Academic freedom

*

Q1.3. If the concept of academic freedom mentioned is defined in different legal instruments in the respective system, are these definitions consistent?

Select all that apply

- Yes, they are fully or mostly consistent.
- No, there is a contradiction between constitution and laws.

*

Q1.5.2. To what groups do these protections apply?

Select all that apply

- Tenured staff (permanent contract)
- Non-tenured staff (fixed term contract)
- Students
- Unspecified in the legislation





Questions were divided into 4 questionnaires

A. For public authorities

1

A survey with 12 questions

- On the "**de jure**" as part of the Bologna Process Implementation Report (**BPIR_1**):
- will support BPIR 2027 and FV Monitoring Report 2027

2

A survey with 22 questions

- On the "**de jure**" as part of the WG on Fundamental Values monitoring process (complementary to the BPIR process) (**FVMonitoring_2**)
- will support FV Monitoring Report 2027

3

An optional survey with 20+16 questions

- On the "**de facto**" as part of WG on Fundamental Values monitoring process - following the BFUG request in Poland (**FVMonitoring_3**) + "**de jure**" outlook
- will support FV Monitoring Report 2027

B. For stakeholders

1

A survey with 70 questions

- Addressed to national stakeholders (**FVMonitoring_4**)
- will support FV Monitoring Report 2027

Bologna Process Implementation Report (BPIR 2027)

Chapter 4 Fundamental Values

- *Figure 3.1: Academic freedom in national legislation*
- *New indicator: Dimensions of academic freedom covered by legislation*
- *Figure 3.3: Academic integrity in national legislation*
- *New indicator: Quality assurance procedures to evaluate how academic integrity is ensured in HEIs*
- *Figure 3.6: Institutional autonomy in national legislation*
- *Figure 3.8: Evaluation of institutional autonomy covered by legislation*
- *New indicator: Legally protected rights of students and staff*
- *New indicator: legislation to ensure public responsibility for higher education*
- *New indicator: legislation to ensure public responsibility of higher education*

About this chapter:

- Follows the general rules of the Bologna Process Monitoring Process
- **Data will be shared and integrated in the Fundamental Values Monitoring Report**
- Aimed at providing a general overview on fundamental values.
- Will be accompanied by narrative text provided by the Fundamental Values WG (for context).
- **Elements from the FV Monitoring Report could be added depending on the future decisions of the WG on Monitoring/BFUG.**

Fundamental Values Monitoring Report

Will include the results from all data collection processes:

- The 4 surveys (including the BPIR survey on FV)
- The desk research from third-party reports (Academic Freedom Index, Institutional Autonomy Scorecard etc.)
- Input provided by the academic community within the platform that will be open for a limited period of time.

About the report

- Will provide an in-depth perspective on fundamental values
- Will provide information in a similar manner to the Bologna Process Implementation Report – Traffic light system for each fundamental value and a narrative description of de facto findings.
- There will not be national reports/sections but a report at the level of EHEA with maps, graphs and narrative text like the BPIR.



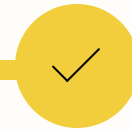
BFUG, WG on Fundamental Values and the NewFAV2 Project

The ERASMUS+ NewFAV2 project was funded to support the work of the WG on Fundamental Values on monitoring and promoting fundamental values, similar to projects of other working structures or the previous project on FV.

The project is led by the Co-chairs of the WG on Fundamental Values

The work is carried out in constant consultation with the WG on FV members.





The project team is responsible for:

- Implementing the data collection process (Lymesurveys, platform form, desk research), data cleaning, clarifications, data analysis with coordination from WG on FV at each step
- Drafting the report based on data collection
- Providing a final version of the report based on the feedback received.

The WG on Fundamental Values and BFUG

1

The WG on Fundamental Values, as the structure responsible for the first round of implementation, will discuss/validate the outcomes of the monitoring process according to the decision of the BFUG.

2

The WG on Fundamental Values will be reporting back to the BFUG throughout the process, as it did in the past.

3

The BFUG will provide input on the monitoring process and report on the monitoring to the Ministerial Conference as mandated by ministers. For this the BFUG can acknowledge or not the report proposed by the WG on FV.

National Operators (1)

- National Operators (NOs) selected for the NewFAV2 project to support EHEA-wide monitoring of fundamental values.
- National Operators were proposed by the project team to be selected in coordination with BFUG members as requested in the last BFUG meeting.
- The consultation process began with the FV WG members.
- **Selection:**
 - National Operators were identified based on previous work with project team members and desk research.
 - National Operator profile provided the criteria for selection.
 - Where WG FV or BFUG members expressed opposition, National Operators were replaced with other recommended experts.





Role of NOs

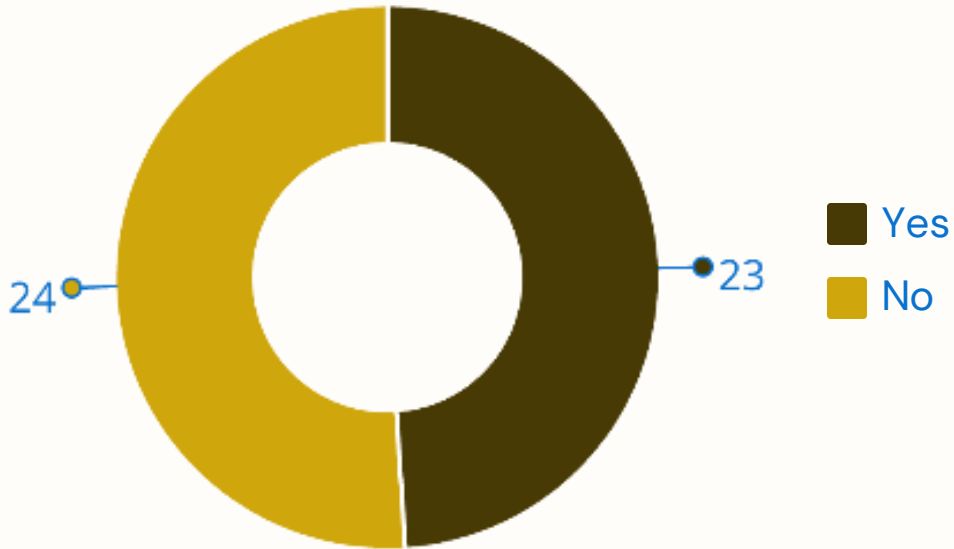
- Pre-fill the de jure section (excluding the outlook section) of the questionnaire using existing data sources (e.g., Eurydice reports, EUA Autonomy Scorecard, ESU reports, Scholars at Risk, databases, press reports).
- Respondents (public authorities/stakeholders) must verify, amend, or complete the pre-filled data but may opt for a blank questionnaire if preferred.
- Cross-check information for each indicator and clarify factual contradictions.
- For the "de facto monitoring," gather information from external reports, databases, and media, then cross-check against respondent inputs.
- Their objective is to ensure accuracy and neutrality
- National operators do not interpret information; they focus solely on rigorous collection, verification, and cross-checking.
- Fact-check that evidence aligns with answers without adding subjective analysis.

Training of National Operators

- As of December 2025/January 2026, NOs are in the process of being trained on the monitoring framework and tools
- Training focuses on:
 - Understanding fundamental values definitions,
 - indicator application,
 - ethical data handling
 - using the LimeSurvey instrument
- Sessions include practical guidance on prefilling questionnaires and collaborating with Eurydice;
- Goal: Build capacity for accurate, consistent implementation across EHEA systems



Status of the BFUG consultation – as of 1st of December



No answer	24
Will come back with alternatives	3
Confirmed the proposed operator(s)	9
Proposed alternative operator(s)	11

Next Steps

1

National operators

- Contacting NOs (ongoing with the confirmed NOs)
- Contacting BFUG representatives for alternatives (as needed if proposed NOs refuse)
- Contracting of the Nos within the project
- Training of the National Operators in 2 waves:
 - one training with the first confirmed group,
 - one training with the next confirmed group.

(By 15th of February 2026)

2

BPIR Survey

Next Steps

FV monitoring (February – June 2026)

- prefilling survey (**FV_monitoring_1**) by the NOs
- Sending the survey to public authorities
- Public authorities will have time to validate / change the content
- Identifying **national stakeholders**:
 - ESU members for student unions
 - EUA / EURASHE members for national rectors conferences representatives
 - EI/ETUCE - for trade unions
- prefilling survey (**FV_monitoring_3**) by the NOs
- Sending the survey to national stakeholders
- Opening the online platform for input from academic communities

Next Steps



Data processing (July - October 2026)

- Data analysis, data cleaning
- Contacting respondents for clarifications (if needed)



Report on FV (November 2026 - January 2027)

- Drafting the report
- Consultations (WG FV/BFUG)
- Integrating the feedback



BFUG consultation/validation (according the BFUG Work Plan)

- BFUG Meeting Lithuania (early spring 2027) - draft FV monitoring report
- BFUG Meeting Lithuania (late spring 2027) - final FV monitoring report

Main activities

1. 1st WG on Fundamental Values meeting, 6 December 2024 (online)
 2. 2nd WG on Fundamental Values meeting, 16–17 June 2025 (Hamrun, Malta)
 3. PLA on Academic freedom and academic integrity in the EHEA, 19 November 2025 (Bucharest, Romania)
 4. 3rd WG on Fundamental Values meeting, 20–21 November 2025 (Bucharest, Romania)
- Online consultations with the WG on Fundamental Values (proposal of FV indicators for BPIR 2027, proposed NOs)
 - 4 Co–chairs Coordination meetings
 - 2 Coordination meetings with the Co–chairs of the WG on Monitoring

Q&A

Open for questions!

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Thank you!

