

Fostering Fundamental Values

Daniela Crăciun

4th Bologna Process Drafting Committee meeting
Bucharest, Romania, 16th – 17th of June 2026

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Almost Half-time in the Bologna Process — Where Do We Stand?

CHRISTIAN TAUCH

Beyond the Bologna Process

By Marvin Lazerson

April 6, 2015

My advice to the 47 higher-education ministers headed to Armenia in May to discuss the future of the Bologna Process is: Celebrate Bologna's extraordinary achievements and then bid it goodbye.

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GABRIELLA PUSZTAI AND PÉTER CS. SZABÓ

The Bologna Process as a Trojan Horse

Is The Bologna Process Abolishing Itself?

Kalina Georgieva

🕒 5 min.

Published on 18.08.2021

Updated on 22.01.2025

KEYNOTE: 20 YEARS BOLOGNA – AND STILL MORE TO GO?

SIEGFRIED LEWARK

What's Left of the Bologna Process

May 30, 2018 | Alex Usher

In sum: the Bologna Process finished successfully ten years ago and was replaced by a Bologna Policy Discussion Group that will probably never die. Both are worthwhile, but they are not the same thing. Just don't bet on the nomenclature changing anytime soon.

Franz-Dominik Imhof, Andrea C. Blättler

Bologna emeritus?

Bologna implementation: Slow steps forward?

31 May 2024



**THE
BOLOGNA
PROCESS IS
DEAD, LONG
LIVE THE
BOLOGNA
PROCESS**

Academic
freedom

Institutional
autonomy

Participation of
students & staff
in governance

Academic
integrity

Responsibility
of HE

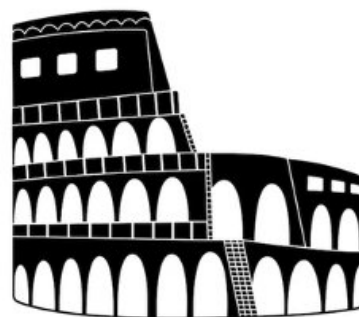
Responsibility
for HE



BOLOGNA

1999

2018



ROME

2020



TIRANA

2024



CHISINAU



IASI

2027

Key developments

Fundamental academic values under pressure:

not just in autocratic regimes, also in democracies ☾ emerging *architecture of contestation* (Marques, Craciun, Ronay, forthcoming)

not just because of political developments, but technological ones too ☾ AI

(Geo)politicization of higher education: recalibration of relationship between state and academia ☾ emerging *postliberal university* (Taylor & Cantwell, forthcoming)

Reconfiguration of international cooperation: security–openness dilemma ☾ move from pursuing integrated global academic collaboration to *geopolitical* considerations (Marginson, 2024; Moscovitz & Sabzalieva, 2023; Marginson, 2026; Azzam & Hylke Dijkstra, 2026)

Areas where the Communiqué could make a difference in fostering fundamental values

01

Values as the DNA
of the Bologna
Process

02

Values as a
coherent whole,
not a checklist of
single issues

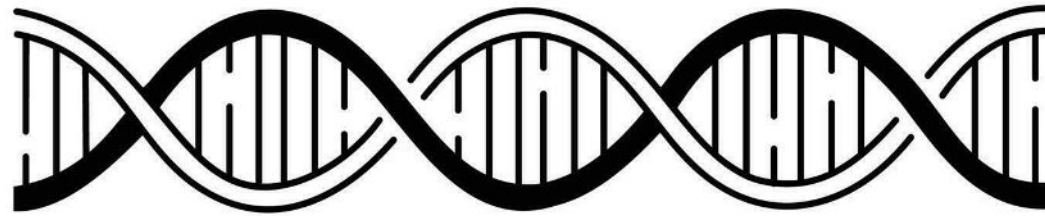
03

Values as
governance tools to
navigate current &
future challenges

04

Values as a bridge,
not a battleground

1. Embed values as the DNA of the Bologna Process



Implications for the Communiqué: values aren't a side commitment alongside the technical machinery, they're what makes the machinery trustworthy in the first place. Affirm fundamental values are an enabling condition for all Bologna commitments.

2. Treat values as a coherent whole, not a checklist

VALUES	TYPE OF MONITORING	
Rights/Freedoms		
-Academic Freedom -Institutional Autonomy -Participation of students & staff in governance	<i>De jure</i>	
	Protection	Outlook
	Promotion	
	<i>De facto</i>	
	Infringements	
	Threats	
	Positive developments	

VALUES	TYPE OF MONITORING	
Duties/Obligations		
- Academic integrity - Responsibility <i>for</i> HE - Responsibility <i>of</i> HE	<i>De jure</i>	
	Protection	Outlook
	Promotion	
	<i>De facto</i>	
	Fulfilment	
	Threats	
	Positive developments	

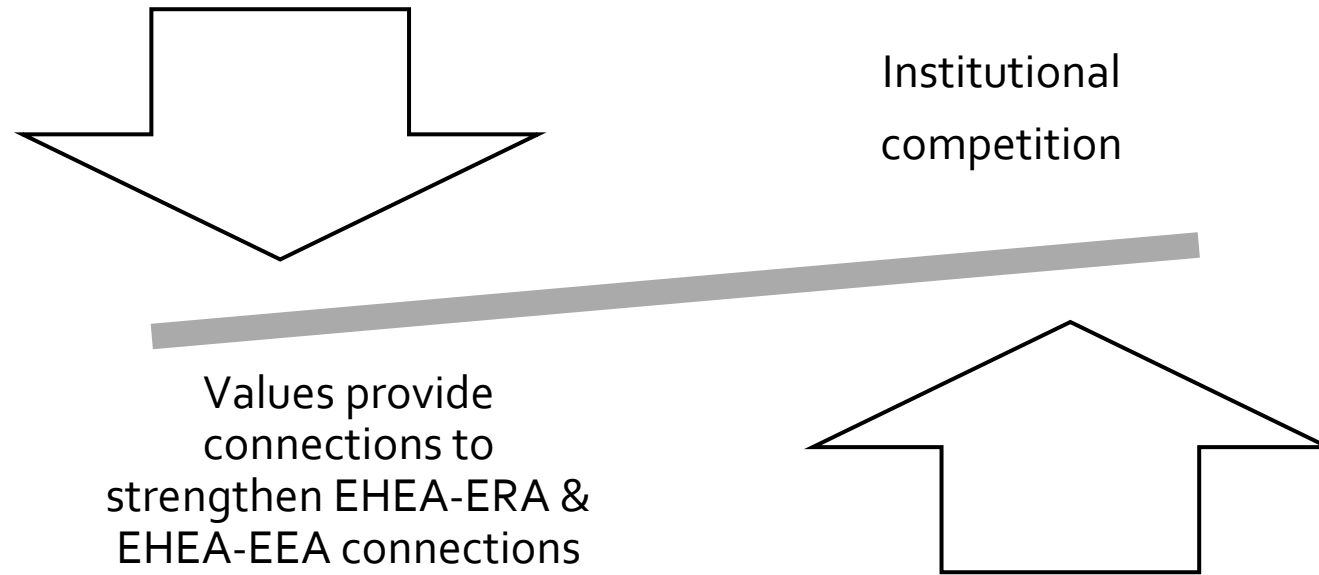
Implications for the Communiqué: : Protect the systemic framing , including its internal tensions , since that integrative view is the contribution no other actor is making.

3. Reinforce values as governance tools to navigate current & future challenges

Value	Contemporary challenge
Academic Freedom	Geopolitical competition & research security
Institutional Autonomy	Politicisation of higher education
Participation	Democratic legitimacy & inclusion
Academic Integrity	AI, disinformation & trust in knowledge
Public Responsibility for HE	Sustainable governance & enabling conditions for HE
Public Responsibility of HE	Societal impact & democratic resilience

Implications for the Communiqué: commit to using the fundamental values framework as the EHEA's standing reference point for evaluating new and unanticipated pressures (geopolitical, technological, financial, etc.) rather than waiting to draft case-by-case responses

4. Position values as a bridge not a battle ground



Implications for the Communiqué: Position Bologna as a place of building cooperation with overlapping policy actor, values as space of collaboration not institutional turf.

A vertical ruler and a vernier caliper are positioned on the left side of the image. The ruler is marked from 1 to 28 cm. The vernier caliper is marked from 0 to 10 mm. The background is a solid grey color.

THE FUTURE RELEVANCE OF THE EHEA WILL DEPEND NOT ONLY ON MAINTAINING ITS TOOLS OR DEVELOPING NEW ONES

but on safeguarding the values that make those
tools trustworthy and the EHEA space distinctive



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Thank you!

Questions, comments, suggestions...

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