

# BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024



## **Overview of progress in 2022-2023**

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13.11.2023

**BFUG plenary Meeting, Madrid, May 16-17, 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.



However,

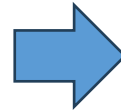
The evidence shows the following results...

Figure 11.1: Results of the 10 scoreboard indicators on Principles & Guidelines, 2020/2021

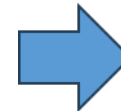
	P&Gs 1	P&Gs 2	P&Gs 3	P&Gs 4	P&Gs 5	P&Gs 6	P&Gs 7	P&Gs 8	P&Gs 9	P&Gs 10	Points per country
Belgium (BE fr)	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	20
Belgium (BE de)	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	6
Belgium (BE nl)	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Red	Yellow	18
Bulgaria	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	11
Czechia	Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	23
Denmark	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Red	Green	Red	Red	16
Germany	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	14
Estonia	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	25
Ireland	Green	Green	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	14
Greece	Green	Red	Red	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	15
Spain	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	Yellow	25
France	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	25
Croatia	Green	Red	Red	Green	Red	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	18
Italy	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Red	28
Cyprus	Yellow	Red	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	15
Latvia	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Yellow	8
Lithuania	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	17
Luxembourg	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	11
Hungary	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	14
Malta	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	25
Netherlands	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	18
Austria	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	21
Poland	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	20
Portugal	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	19
Romania	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	24
Slovenia	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Red	20
Slovakia	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	9
Finland	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	27
Sweden	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Red	25
Albania	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Red	3
Switzerland	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	19
Liechtenstein	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	6
Montenegro	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	5
North Macedonia	Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	13
Norway	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Red	Yellow	24
Serbia	Green	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Red	Yellow	12
Turkey	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	15
Points per P&Gs	91	65	62	97	76	73	51	68	27	24	635

■ All criteria are met (4 pts)   
 ■ Most criteria are met (3 pts)   
 ■ Some criteria are met (2 pts)  
■ Few criteria are met (1 pt)   
 ■ No criteria are met (0 pts)

There is still much to be improved in the EHEA in addressing the social dimension!



Eurydice report (2022) shows that the **total number of points achieved** by the countries covered by this report is **635**.



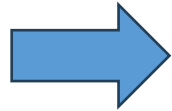
If all the education systems had been in the dark green category, **the total number would have been 1 520** (38 education systems × 40 points).



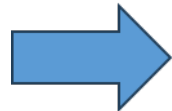
The result indicates that **European systems have implemented nearly 42% of the policies** required to meet the commitments.

European Commission/EACEA/Eurydice. (2022). Towards equity and inclusion in higher education in Europe. Eurydice report. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

# The equity crisis - higher education access and success to 2030



Around 90% of respondents thought that between now and 2025 **for equity groups participation would decrease, attainment fall, student drop out increase and progression to graduate employment decrease.**



Nearly a quarter of respondents feared that this **fall in participation would be over 20%!**

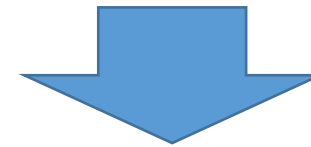
## **II. Key achievements**

**BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024**



# Principles and Guidelines

- Taken as a basis of our work > we did not change them!
- **10 principles** for the social dimension **for the upcoming decade** (8 pages):



- **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.

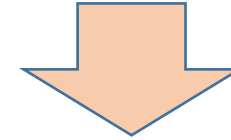


## Key achievements

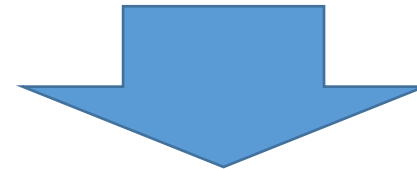
# Indicators and descriptors

for Principles and Guidelines

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



- **Descriptors** = each indicator has its descriptor, which describes the attributes, features, and characteristics of the indicators in more detail providing a better understanding of the indicators and how they can be implemented.



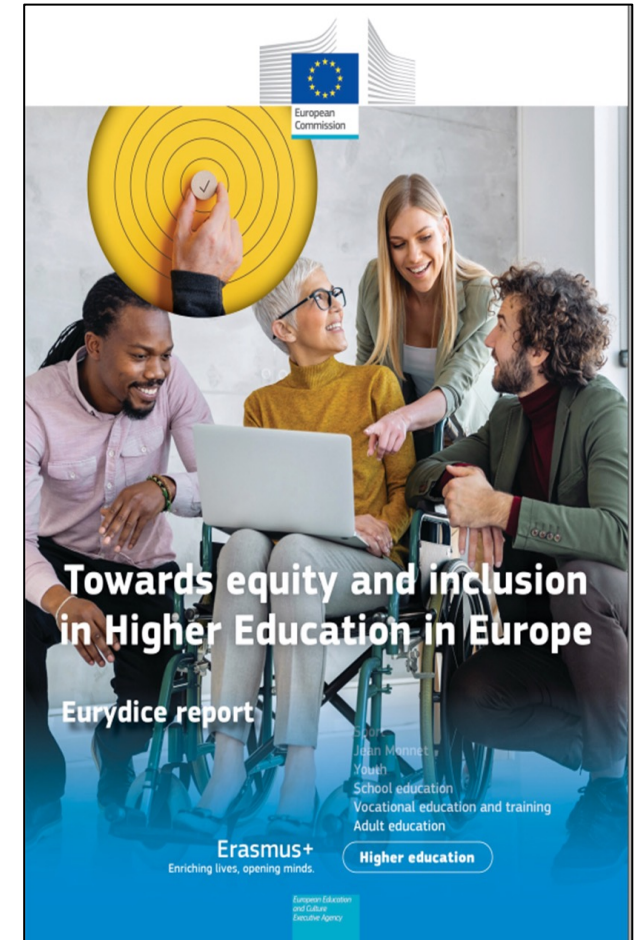
- **not prescriptive!** > enable the EHEA countries to implement them in a way that suits their national higher education systems (8 pages).
- for creating and strengthening **European-level** and **national-level SYSTEMS OF MONITORING** and **evaluating** the progress in the implementation of the principles for the social dimension.

# 2020



# 2022

- In 2021-2022, the WG on Social Dimension **collaborated** with the **European Commission/Eurydice** to **develop indicators** of the social dimension.
- By the end of 2022, the WG agreed to **adopt most of Eurydice's indicators** for each of the 10 social dimension principles, which typically include three to five indicators per principle.
- The WG's **contribution is the creation** of additional **descriptors** for each indicator.



2020

Cooperation:  
survey 1

2022

Cooperation:  
survey 2

2024



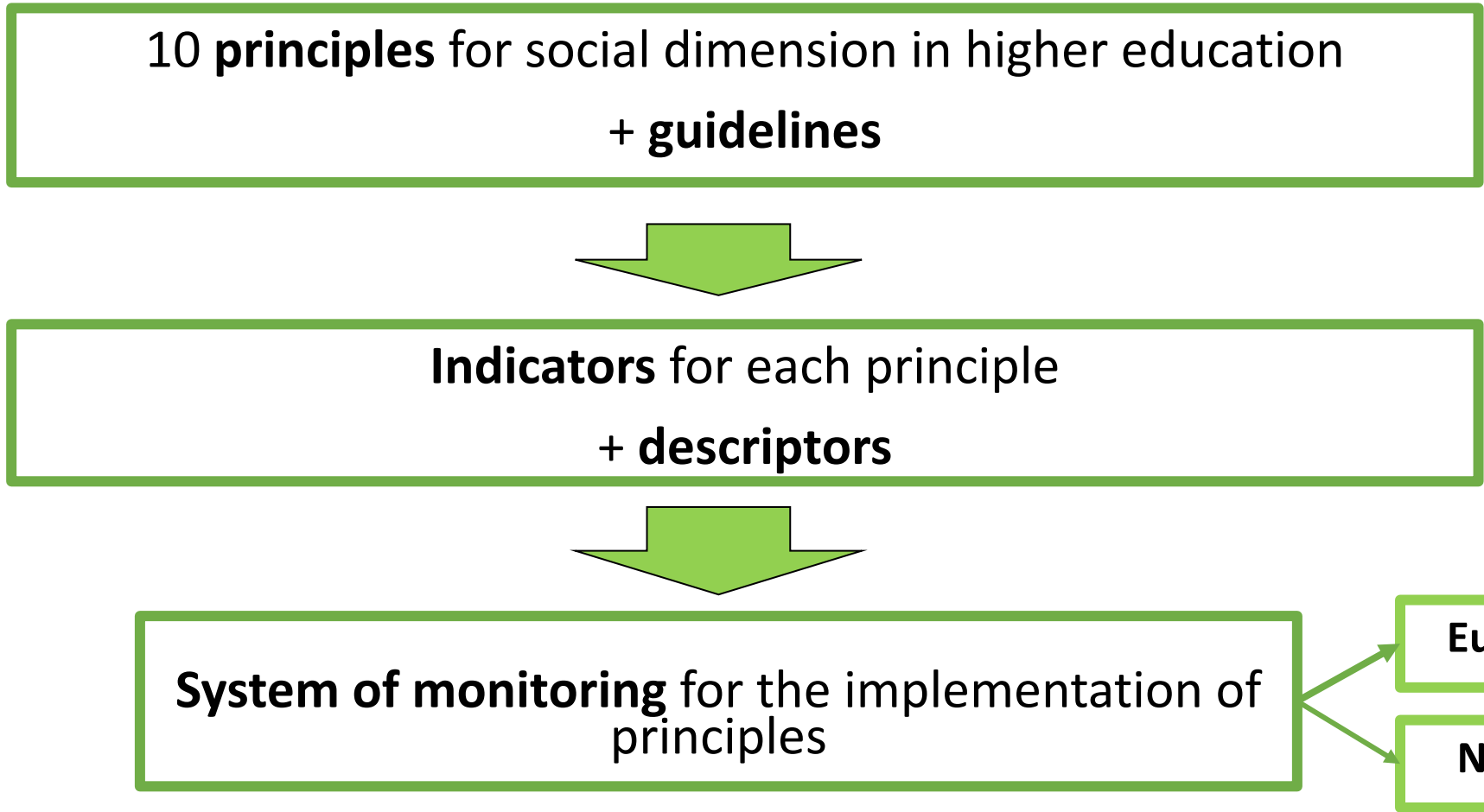
2024 Bologna  
Implementation  
Report

Chapter 4: Social  
Dimension

- The EC/Eurydice surveys in 2021 + 2023 **mark validation** of the principles and their indicators > they **work very well in practice!**
- This evidence underscores their importance for the EHEA members in enhancing the social dimension policies!

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

> new architecture for the social dimension in the EHEA:



**III.**  
**Consultation with the BFUG 2022-2023 on  
indicators for social dimension**

**BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024**



## Comprehensive consultation related to:

# Proposal of indicators and descriptors for Principles and Guidelines

- **2022 - the consultation started (+1):**
  - presented at the BFUG Meeting in Czech Republic in November 2022
- **2023 consultations (+4):**
  - BFUG Board meeting in Bosnia and Herzegovina (3/23)
  - BFUG meeting in Sweden (5/23)
  - BFUG Board meeting in Georgia (10/23)
  - BFUG meeting in Spain (11/23)
- **+ 2023 consultations (+5):**
  - 5 BFUG WG on social dimension meetings > involved extensive consultations with members of E4 (ENQA, ESU, EUA, EURASHE) and Education International – ETUCE (European Trade Union Committee for Education).



**Comprehensive consultation related to:**

**Proposal of indicators and descriptors for Principles and Guidelines**

- **+2023 final online consultative meeting (+1) FOR ALL BFUG MEMBERS – 6 September 2023:**
  - attended by 20 BFUG representatives
  - **1st goal:** to gather feedback on the document's **content** (8 pages + 8 pages = 16 pages)
    - BFUG representatives expressed their support for the document and suggested additional improvements.
  - **2nd goal:** to discuss the **modalities of adopting** the document at the end of the BFUG cycle in 2024
    - The majority opted towards adopting it in the same manner as it was in 2020, as an annex to the 2024 Tirana Communiqué;
    - Alternatively, the EHEA ministers could opt to adopt the document as a standalone document, provided there is a clear reference to its adoption in the communiqué's text.

**➡ TOTAL: 11 cycles** of consultation

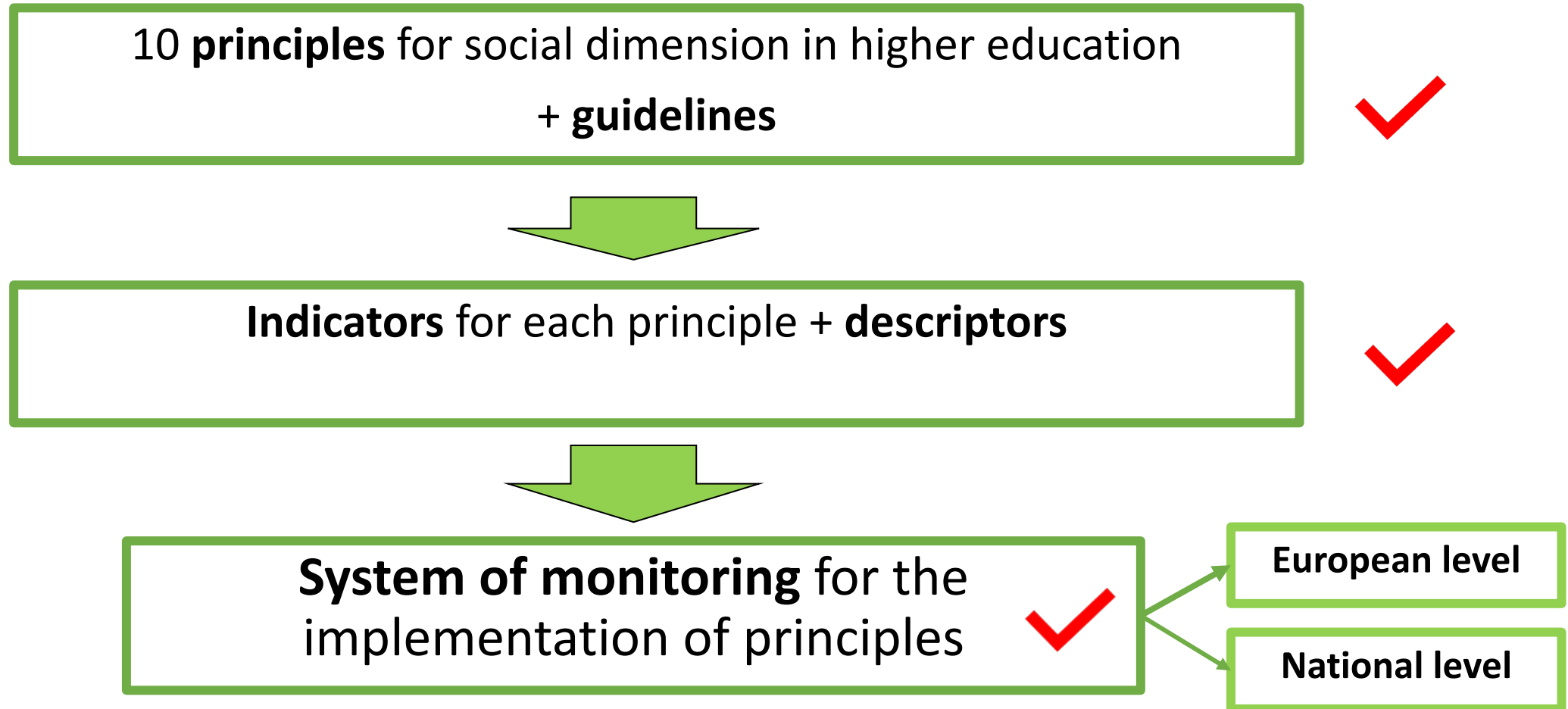
**➡ TOTAL: 19 iterations** of the document



# **IV. Conclusion: Way Forward Proposal**

**BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024**

The BFUG WG on Social Dimension is developing an **EHEA policy framework for social dimension in HE** for public authorities:

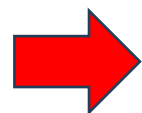




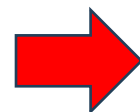
## Way Forward Proposal:

# „Principles, Guidelines and Indicators

to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA”



Following **extensive consultations** conducted by the WG with BFUG members, each BFUG member had the opportunity to provide recommendations for its enhancement in 11 stages.



BFUG WG on Social Dimension (32 members) recommends:

- The current version of the document **be adopted** by the BFUG during the meeting **in Madrid**.
- Based on the **conclusions drawn from the consultative meeting on 6 September 2023**, the Working Group proposes to the BFUG that the document be adopted
  - Primarily, as **an annex to the 2024 Tirana communique**, or
  - Alternatively, as a stand-alone document, with the condition that the communique text contains a clear reference to its adoption.

# Thank you very much for your attention!

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