

# BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

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

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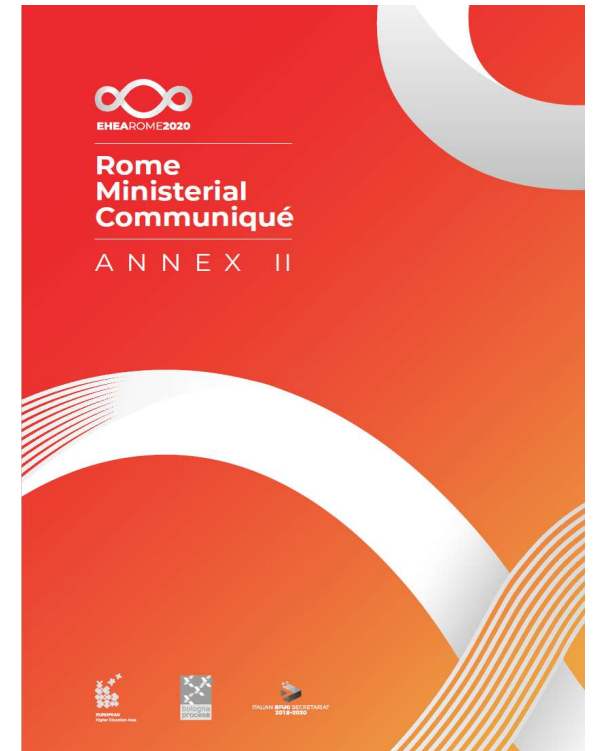
11-12 May 2023

**BFUG plenary Meeting, Stockholm, May 11-12, 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**



EHEAROME2020

## Rome Ministerial Communiqué

A N N E X II

# 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**:



- **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.

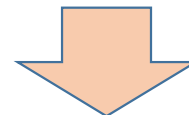




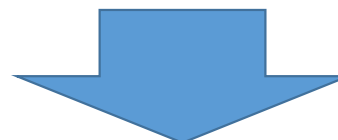
## Key achievements

# Indicators and 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.

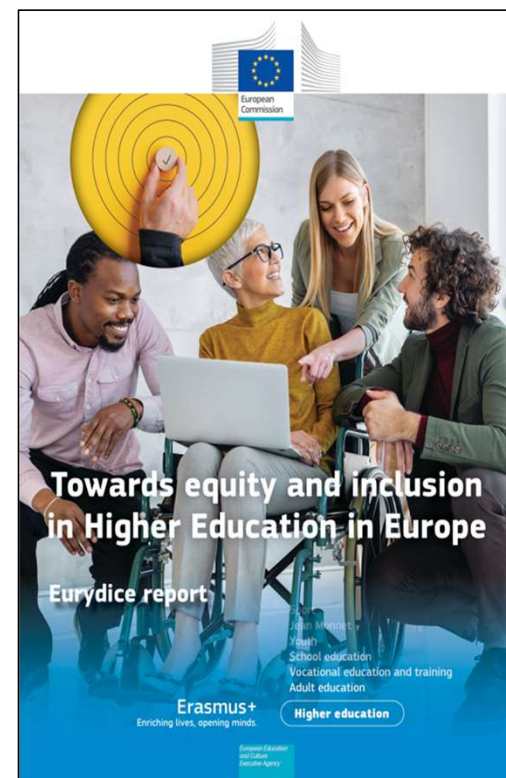


- **not prescriptive** > enable the EHEA countries to implement them in a way that suits their national higher education systems.
- for creating and strengthening **national systems of monitoring and evaluating** the progress in the implementation of the principles for the social dimension.

# 2020



# 2022



- 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.

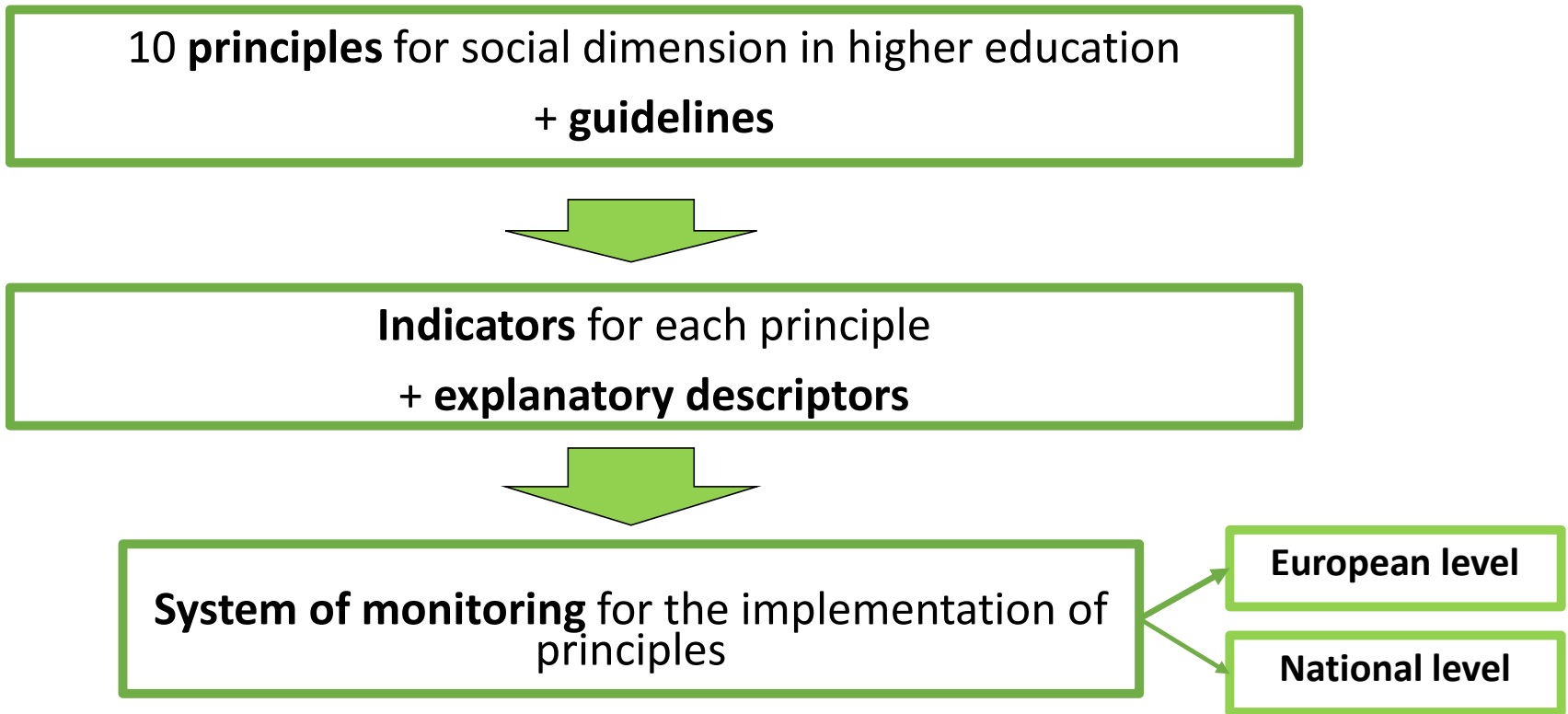


- **Evidence-based approach** to indicators
- **Reduction** in the number of indicators



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

> new architecture for the social dimension in the EHEA:





## Key achievements

### 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 **extended title**: “Principles, Guidelines and Indicators to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the European Higher Education Area”
  - Proposal: to **adopt it as an annex to the 2024 Tirana Communiqué**

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

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



## Consultation related to:

### Proposal of indicators for Principles and Guidelines

- Indicators on social dimension presented at the BFUG Meeting in Brno in November 2022 and at the BFUG Board Meeting in March 2023 > BFUG members were asked to provide feedback.
- The WG on Social Dimension received **written comments by the ENQA on the link between social dimension and quality assurance:**
  - The director of the ENQA was at the WG meeting in Gent on 7 February 2023.
  - Consultation with the E4 members (ENQA, EQAR, EUA, ESU) at the WG meeting in Brussels on 24 April 2023.
  - **Successful outcome:** New solution implemented for the indicators that link the social dimension and quality assurance.



## Consultation related to:

### Proposal of indicators for Principles and Guidelines

- Consultation with the **Education International – ETUCE** (European Trade Union Committee for Education), Brussels, 24 April 2023.
  - Importance of including staff, in a similar way as students, in the final version of the document.
- **New improved version** of the “Principles, Guidelines and Indicators to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the European Higher Education Area” prepared for the BFUG meeting in Stockholm.
  - **Open for further consultation** until the BFUG plenary meeting in Madrid in November 2023.
  - New indicators will help creating national and institutional (university level) action plans for social dimension in HE.



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Bologna Follow-up Group

Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

## Workplan 2021-2024

Prepared by Co-Chairs:  
CROATIA – Ninoslav Šćukanec Schmidt  
EUROPEAN STUDENTS' UNION – Martina Darmanin

January 2022

# IV. Workplan 2021-2024

## BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

# BFUG WG on Social Dimension Workplan for 2023

- WG on Social Dimension-meetings in 2023 – **5 meetings per year:**
  - ✓ **9th meeting in February 2023: 7-8 February 2023 (Belgium, Ghent).**

The PLA-2 within the project PLAR-U-PAGs: 9-10 February 2023 in Ghent
  - ✓ **10th meeting in April 2023: 24-25 April 2023 (Belgium, Brussels).**
  - ✓ **11th meeting in June 2023: 12 June 2022 (on-line).**

The PLA-3 within the project PLAR-U-PAGs will take place online on 13-14 June 2023.
  - ✓ **12th meeting in October 2023: 24-25 October 2023 (more details TBC).**
  - ✓ **13th meeting in December 2023: 7-8 December 2023 (more details TBC).**
- **Web site for the WG on SD at the [www.ehea.info](http://www.ehea.info) + cloud-folder (Google Drive):**
  - Key documents related to the work of the WG on Social Dimension and its subgroups
  - Documents related to the WG-meetings

# Work Plan 2021-2024

WG on Monitoring the Implementation of the Bologna Process

WG on Fundamental Values

Bologna Implementation Coordination Group

Thematic Peer Group A on Qualifications Framework (TPG A on QF)

WG on Social Dimension

Thematic Peer Group B on the Lisbon Recognition Convention (TPG B on LRC)

WG on Learning and Teaching

Thematic Peer Group C on Quality Assurance (TPG C on QA)

WG on Supporting the Implementation of the Roadmap for San Marino's Accession to EHEA

EHEA Network of National Qualifications Framework Correspondents

Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue

Taskforce on Enhancing Knowledge Sharing in the EHEA Community

Ad Hoc Task Force to Increase Synergies Between the EHEA, the Higher Education Dimension of the EEA and the ERA



# BFUG WG on Social Dimension Workplan for 2023

## ✓ Erasmus+ project that supports fulfillment of the objectives of the WG on Social Dimension > project started on June 1, 2022:

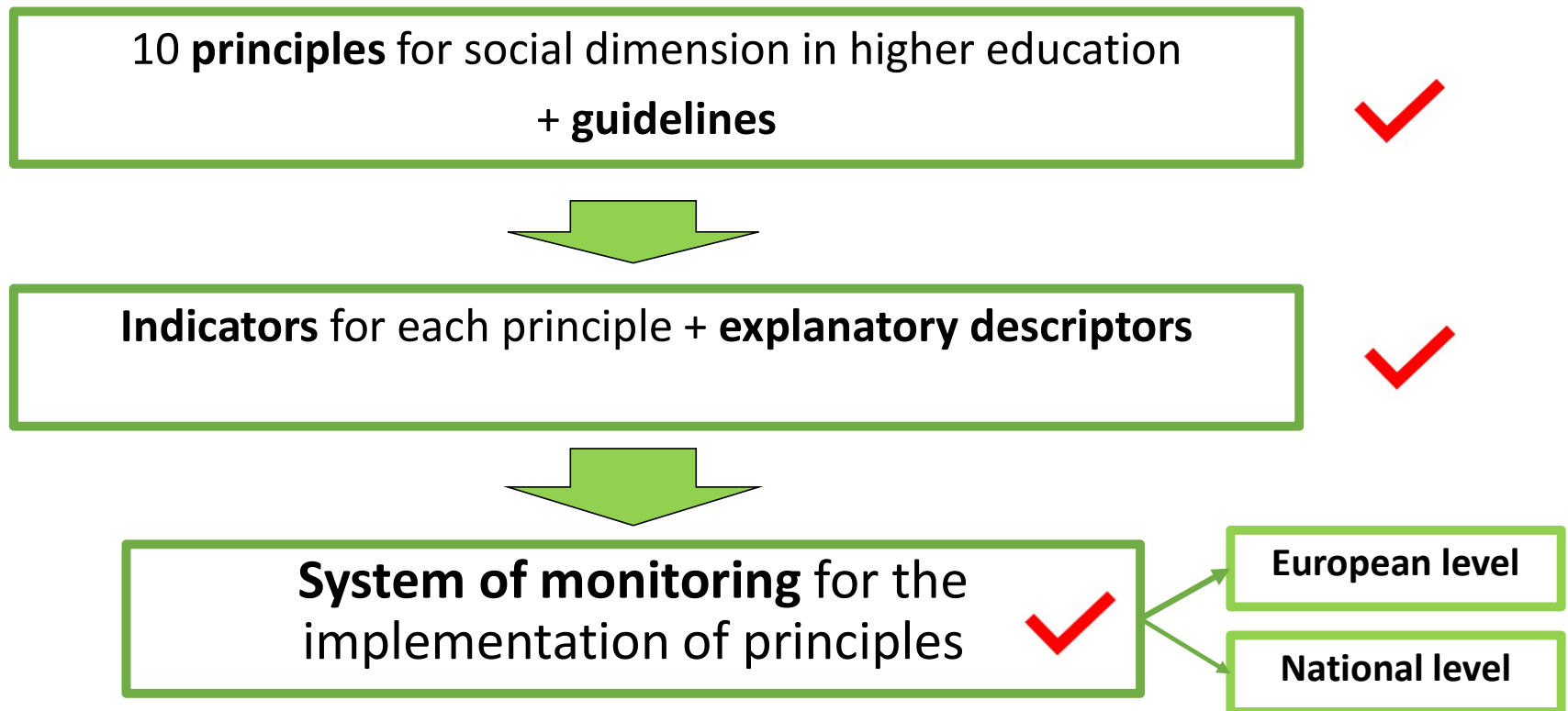
- the project „Peer Learning Activities and Resources to Underpin the Principles and Guidelines for Social Dimension”
- Project coordinator: Flemish Community, Department of Education and Training, Belgium-Flanders
- Partners: SIHO-Support Centre Inclusive Higher Education (Belgium), Ministry of Education and Science (Croatia), Institute for the Development of Education (Croatia), European Students’ Union
- **1st PLA meeting on social dimension: 16-17 November 2022, Zagreb-Croatia**, hosted by the Croatian Ministry of Science and Education
- **2nd PLA meeting on social dimension: 9-10 February 2023, Brussels-Belgium**, hosted by SIHO
- **3rd PLA meeting on social dimension: 13-14 June 2023, online**

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# **V. Conclusion**

**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:



**Thank you very much for your attention!**

• **Co-Chair – CROATIA:**

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in Zagreb

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