

BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

Overview of progress in 2021-2022

Hosted by Malta Further and Higher Education Authority

25-26 April 2022

BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension Meeting, hosted by Malta

BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

Overview of progress in 2021-2022

Ninoslav S. Schmidt, Co-Chair, CROATIA

25-26 April 2022

BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension Meeting, hosted by Malta

I. **Our objectives 2021-2024**

BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

We are developing methods that should help public authorities implementing Principles and Guidelines for Social Dimension

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



We need to materialize the new definition of the social dimension!

- **Definition:** composition of the student body entering, participating in and completing higher education at all levels should **correspond to the heterogeneous social profile of society** at large

Starting point:
definition in
the 2007
London
Communique

New:
fosters
equity

- **New enlarged definition:** the social dimension encompasses the **creation of an inclusive environment** in higher education that fosters **equity** and **diversity** and is responsive to the **needs of local communities**

- **New:** integrate the principles into the **core higher education mission:** learning and teaching, research, innovation, knowledge exchange and outreach

New:
responsive to
the needs of
local
communities

New:
fosters
diversity

- **New:** integrate the principles into the **core higher education mission:** institutional governance and management, policies for empowering students and staff

We need to develop a framework for the implementation of the Principles and Guidelines!

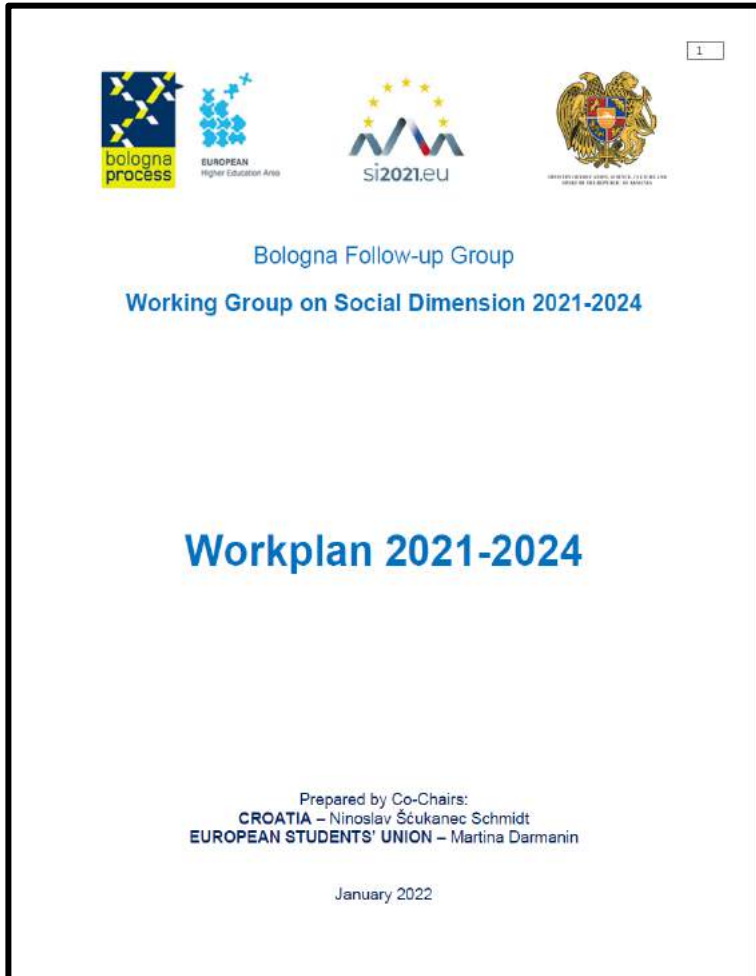
Specific objectives for our BFUG WG on SD 2021-24:

- 1) Organizing **peer support activities** for social dimension to support the implementation of the Principles among the EHEA members
- 2) Defining **indicators and benchmarks** for the Principles
- 3) Developing a **system of monitoring the implementation** of the Principles

II. Workplan 2021-2024

BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

New Workplan 2021-2024, published in January 2022



Content:

- **Purpose** of the Working Group on Social Dimension
- **Definition** of the ‘social dimension’
- **Specific objectives** for the Working Group
- Agreed **methods of work** (5 meetings per year)
- **Timeline**
- Resources and communication channels

BFUG WG on Social Dimension Workplan for 2021-2024

- WG on Social Dimension-meetings in 2022:
 - ✓ 4th meeting in February 2022: **17 Feb 2022** > **on-line**
 - ✓ 5th meeting in April 2022: **26 Apr 2022** > hosted by Malta
 - ✓ 6th meeting in June 2022: **14 June 2022**
 - ✓ 7th meeting in October 2022: **4 Oct 2022**
 - ✓ 8th meeting in November 2022: **15 Nov 2022**
- **NEW** Three (3) subgroups > each subgroup works on producing indicators for 3 principles for social dimension
- **NEW** Web site for the WG on SD at the 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 and subgroups-meetings
 - Useful resources: literature, policy briefs, information on useful projects etc.

WG on SD in 2021

Working Group on Social Dimension

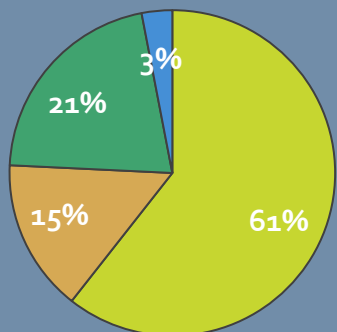
1 *First Meeting*

Hosted by Croatia,
July 8, 2021

Attendance

Attendance Rate

78%



- Country Members
- Consultative Members
- Not Attended
- Other

Membership

Albania; Austria; Belgium Flemish Community; Belgium French Community; Council of Europe; Croatia; Cyprus; Denmark; EI – ETUCE; Estonia; ESU - European Students' Union; EUA - European University Association; European Commission; EUROSTUDENT; France; Georgia; Germany; Italy; Kazakhstan; Lithuania; Malta; Moldova; The Netherlands; Poland; Romania; Russia; Slovak Republic; Slovenia; Spain; Turkey; United Kingdom; United Kingdom (Scotland).

32 Entities

- 27 Country Members
- 5 Consultative Members
- 37 Participants

3 *Third Meeting*

Hosted by Croatia,
November 16, 2021

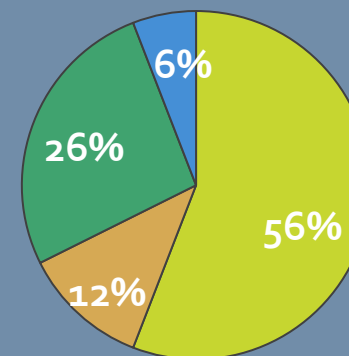
2 *Second Meeting*

Hosted by ESU,
October 6, 2021

Attendance

Attendance Rate

72%



- Country Members
- Consultative Members
- Not attended
- Other

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



Coordination with the BFUG working structures

Coordination with the WG on Learning and Teaching:

- Agreed to have coordination meetings every 1-2 months
- 1st coordination meeting: 20 January 2022
- 2nd coordination meeting: 31 March 2022
- 3rd coordination meeting: 3 May 2022 – upcoming

Coordination with the WG on Monitoring the implementation of the Bologna Process:

- 1st coordination meeting: 8 July 2021
- 2nd coordination meeting: 6 October 2021

Achievements 2021-2022

- ✓ **5 Peer-learning activities (PLA) in 2021 + 3 PLAs in 2022 = 8 PLAs**
 - In the past 3 meetings in 2021 + in the meeting in February 2022
- ✓ **Erasmus+ project proposal successfully applied on the KA3 call in October 2021 > approved for funding in March 2022 > currently the contracting procedure in progress:**
 - the project „**Peer Learning Activities and Resources to Underpin the Principles and Guidelines for Social Dimension**” should support fulfillment of the objectives of the BFUG WG on 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

Peer-learning activities (PLA) in 2021

PLA for **developing system of monitoring** the implementation of Principles and Guidelines (PAGs) – **July-October 2021:**

- **European Commission/ Eurydice: Questionnaire on Fostering Equity and Inclusion** in Higher Education
 - The questionnaire asks questions that will allow Eurydice to assess the state of national policy action to implement the PAGs

Peer-learning activities (PLA) in 2021

PLAs related to the Principle No.4 in the PAGs **on collecting reliable data** for social dimension – **October 2021**:

*(“Reliable data is a necessary precondition for an evidence-based improvement of the social dimension of higher education. Higher education systems should **define the purpose and goals of collecting certain types of data**, taking into account the particularities of the national legal frameworks”)*

- **Eurostudent**

- Key findings from the Eurostudent VII Synopsis of Indicators report. Could the Eurostudent surveys help in the implementation of the principle No.4 of the PAGs?

- **U-Multirank, Center for Higher Education Policy Studies (CHEPS), University of Twente, NL**

- Key findings from the U-Multirank concept paper on **new indicator development on social inclusion (2020)** and the proposal for New Indicators in U-Multirank (2021).

Peer-learning activities (PLA) in 2021

PLAs related to the Principle No.8 in the PAGs on **inclusive international mobility programs – November 2021:**

("International mobility programs in higher education should be structured and implemented in a way that foster diversity, equity and inclusion and should particularly foster participation of students and staff from vulnerable, disadvantaged or underrepresented backgrounds")

- **Support Centre for Inclusive Higher Education (SIHO), Belgium/Flanders**
 - Presentation of the **'The InclusiveMobility.eu', which is the European platform about inclusion** and support services offered by higher education institutions, national agencies, and ministries for education to international students
 - Could the InclusiveMobility Platform, particularly with its framework, Self-Assessment Tool and the Toolbox help in the implementation of the principle No.8 of the PAGs?
- **European Commission, DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture**
 - Key information on the **'Inclusiveness in the new Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027'**. Could the new Erasmus+ priorities related to inclusion and diversity help in the implementation of the principle No.8 of the PAGs?

Peer-learning activities (PLA) in 2022

PLAs related to the Principle No.9 in the PAGs on importance of community engagement for social dimension – February 2022:

("Higher education institutions should ensure that community engagement in higher education promotes diversity, equity and inclusion")

- **Council of Europe**
 - Presentation of the CoE's **Platform on the local democratic mission of higher education**
- **Institute for the Development of Education, Croatia**
 - Presentation of the key outputs of 2 Erasmus+ projects: (1) **"TEFCE Toolbox: An Institutional Self-Reflection Framework for Community Engagement in Higher Education"**; (2) European on-line portal and network for community engagement in higher education
- **EURASHE: European Association of Institutions in Higher Education**
 - Presentation of the the **self-assessment tool for regional engagement** of universities of applied sciences
- **European Commission, DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture**
 - Presentation of the **European strategy for universities** and its relevance for social dimension

Creation of 3 Subgroups on Social Dimension

3 Subgroups established within the WG on Social Dimension - on 17 February 2022 :

- Subgroup 1 > coordinator Berto Bosscha (The Netherlands) > 11 members
- Subgroup 2 > coordinator Martina Darmanin (ESU) > 11 members
- Subgroup 3 > coordinator Nino Schmidt (Croatia) > 11 members

Subgroups goals:

1. Propose indicators for each Principle for social dimension

> PHASE 1: February-September 2022

2. Propose monitoring mechanism for each Principle for social dimension

> PHASE 2: September-December 2022

Creation of 3 Subgroups on Social Dimension

Subgroups objectives:

- Each subgroup **works on 3 Principles** of Social Dimension
- Subgroups work on-line in-between WG-meetings > each subgroup coordinator responsible for agreed outputs > outputs presented at each WG-meeting > conclusion of each WG-meeting provides guidelines for the subgroup work for the period until the next WG-meeting

Subgroups results:

- Each subgroup produced 1st version of the indicators for the Principles for social dimension > **approx. 10 indicators per principle x 9 principles = 90 indicators**
- The current 1st version of the indicators > enters the consultation process within the WG SD > will be revised at the WG-meeting on April 26, 2022 on Malta

Update on BFUG Meetings

✓ **BFUG on-line Meeting hosted by Slovenia: 1-2 December 2021**

- WG SD Co-chairs presented outcomes of our work in 2021
- More information at www.ehea.info

✓ **BFUG on-line Board Meeting hosted by Azerbaijan: 9 February 2021**

- WG SD Co-chairs presented outcomes of our work in 2021-2022
- More information at www.ehea.info

✓ **BFUG Meeting hosted by France: 11-12 April 2022, Strasbourg**

- WG SD Co-chairs present outcomes of our work in 2021-2022

✓ **BFUG Board Meeting hosted by Kazakhstan: 5 October 2022**

✓ **BFUG Meeting hosted by Czech Republic: 7-8 November 2022**

Successful in
on-line
environment,
but the
transition to in-
person
meetings is in
progress

In **April 2022** the WG SD meeting will be held **in Malta** – thank you Malta for hosting the WG SD!

The WG SD received invitations to held the upcoming meetings in 2022 from the following hosts:

- United Kingdom
- The Netherlands
- EUA: European University Association

Thank you very much for your attention!

- **Co-Chair – CROATIA:**

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