

Terms of Reference of Working Group on Social Dimension

Name of the Working Group

Working Group on Social Dimension

Contact persons/Co-Chairs

- Croatia - Ninoslav Ščukanec Schmidt (nscukanec@iro.hr)
- ESU – European Students’ Union - Martina Darmanin (martina.darmanin@esu-online.org)

Composition

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

Purpose and/or outcome

- To support the EHEA members in developing social dimension policies that will create an inclusive environment in higher education that fosters equity, diversity, and is responsive to the needs of local communities. The Working Group will follow up and will further develop the main outcomes of the work of the AG1 on Social Dimension 2018-2020: “*Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA*”, which is annexed to the Rome Communiqué.

Reference to the Rome Communiqué

We adopt the “Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA” (Annex II) based on a broadened understanding of the social dimension and commit to implementing them in our systems. We will engage in wide-ranging policy dialogue on how to implement the principles and guidelines fully at the national level. We will support our higher education institutions in integrating them into their institutional culture and core missions: learning and teaching, research and innovation, knowledge circulation and outreach, institutional governance and management. We ask the BFUG to report back to us in 2024 on the steps taken and the related monitoring measures to assure evidence-based follow-up.



Specific Tasks

- Developing a system of monitoring the implementation of the Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA. It will enable measuring the impact of the broadened definition of the social dimension in the Principles and Guidelines on the work of different higher education institutions;
- Defining indicators and benchmarks for the principles included in the Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA;
- Organising peer support activities for social dimension to support the implementation of the Principles and Guidelines among the EHEA members. The Working Group should consider establishing partnerships for implementing Thematic Country Reviews for Social Dimension to systematically collect country needs for peer support;
- Organising a seminar on the social dimension at the end of the cycle in 2024 to discuss the progress made in developing social dimension policies in the EHEA members.

Reporting

Minutes of working group meetings and key documents developed by the Working group will be made available on the EHEA website www.ehea.info. The Bologna Secretariat will provide administrative support for the work of the Working Group. The BFUG should also receive regular reports and updates from the group. To ensure good communication and consultations with the BFUG as a whole, progress reports should be submitted at least two weeks before each BFUG meeting.

Draft meeting schedule

The content and timeline of the meetings will be discussed amongst the co-chairs and the members of this Working Group; however, the following can be seen as a draft schedule:

Year 2021 – 1st quarter:

- Defining the Workplan for the mandate of the WG with the methods of work.

Year 2021 – 2024:

- Organising peer support activities for the social dimension.

Year 2021 – 2022 (1st quarter)

- Defining indicators and benchmarks for the principles included in the *Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA*.

Year 2022 (1st quarter) – 2024 (1st quarter)



- Defining a system of monitoring the implementation of the Principles and Guidelines.
- Year 2024 (in the framework of the ministerial conference)
- Organising a seminar on the social dimension.

Liaison with other WGs' activities

TBC