

BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024



Overview of progress in 2022-2024

Nino S. Schmidt, Co-Chair, CROATIA

Horia Onita, Co-Chair, European Students' Union

2.2.2024.

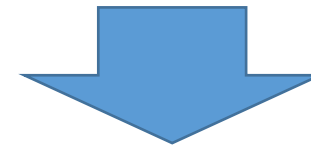
BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension Online Meeting

I. 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.

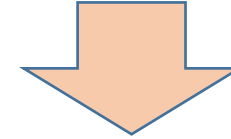


Key achievements

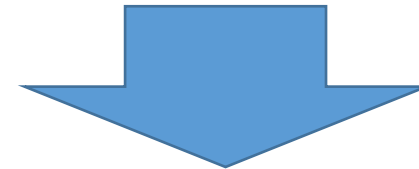
Indicators and descriptors

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.

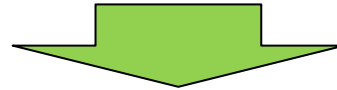


- **not prescriptive!** > enable the EHEA countries to implement them in a way that suits their national higher education systems (8 pages).
- for creating and strengthening **European-level** and **national-level SYSTEMS OF MONITORING** and **evaluating** the progress in the implementation of the principles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

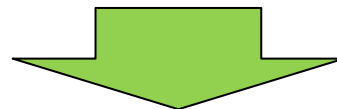
Comprehensive **EHEA policy framework for the social dimension** in higher education

> new architecture for the social dimension in the EHEA:

10 principles for social dimension in higher education
+ **guidelines**



Indicators for each principle
+ **descriptors**



System of monitoring for the implementation of
principles

European level

National level

II.
**Consultation with the BFUG 2022-2024 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 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.



Comprehensive consultation related to:

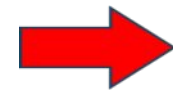
Proposal of indicators and descriptors for Principles and Guidelines

- **+2024 online consultative meeting (+1) for Nordic countries, Germany, Belgium, the Holy See, and the European Commission/Eurydice – 10 January 2024:**
 - **1st goal:** to gather feedback on the document's **content** – *new version prepared after the BFUG Madrid meeting*
 - > **toolbox approach and flexibility** in usage highlighted
 - Result: agreed on the content; further written comments welcome until Jan 31, 2024.
 - **2nd goal:** to discuss the **modalities of adopting** the document at the end of the BFUG cycle in 2024
 - The EHEA ministers could opt to adopt/endorse the document as a standalone document, provided there is a clear reference to its adoption in the communiqué's text.

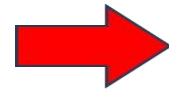


**Comprehensive
consultation**
related to:

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



TOTAL: **12 cycles** of
consultation

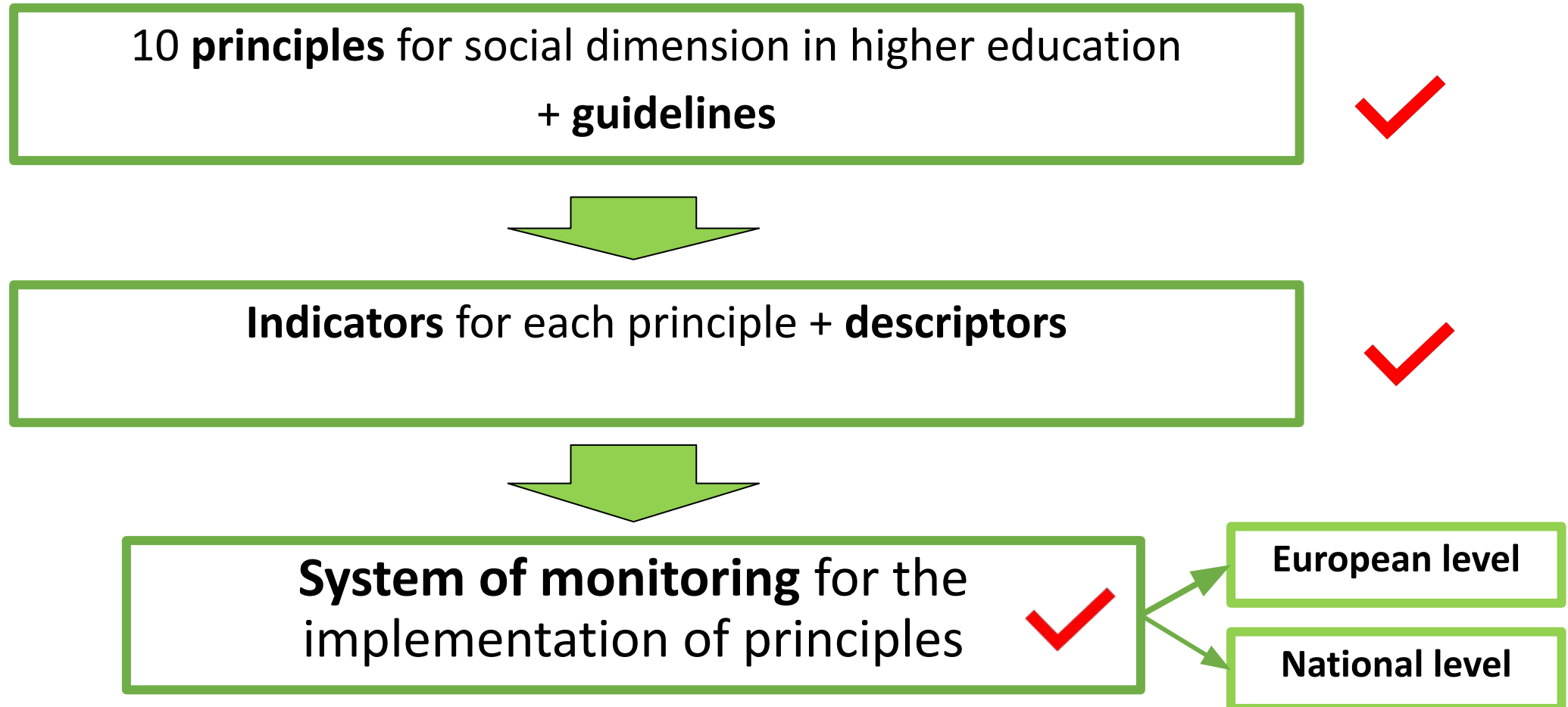


TOTAL: **20 iterations** of
the document

III. 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 12 stages.

- ➔ BFUG WG on Social Dimension (32 members) recommends:
- The current version of the document **be adopted** by the BFUG during the meeting **in Brussels on Feb 19-20, 2024**
 - Based on the **conclusions drawn from the consultative meetings** the Working Group proposes to the BFUG that the document be adopted/endorsed
 - As a stand-alone document, with the condition that the **communiqué text contains a clear reference to its adoption.**

Thank you very much for your attention!

- Co-Chair – CROATIA:

Ninoslav S. Schmidt

Institute for the Development of Education
in Zagreb

nscukanec@iro.hr

- Co-Chair – ESU:

Horia Onita

European Students' Union

horia.onita@esu-online.org