

BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

Overview of progress in 2021-2022

Ninoslav S. Schmidt, Co-Chair, CROATIA

13-14 June 2022

BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension Meeting, hosted by the Netherlands

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:
responsive to
the **needs of**
local
communities

New:
fosters
diversity

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

- **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!

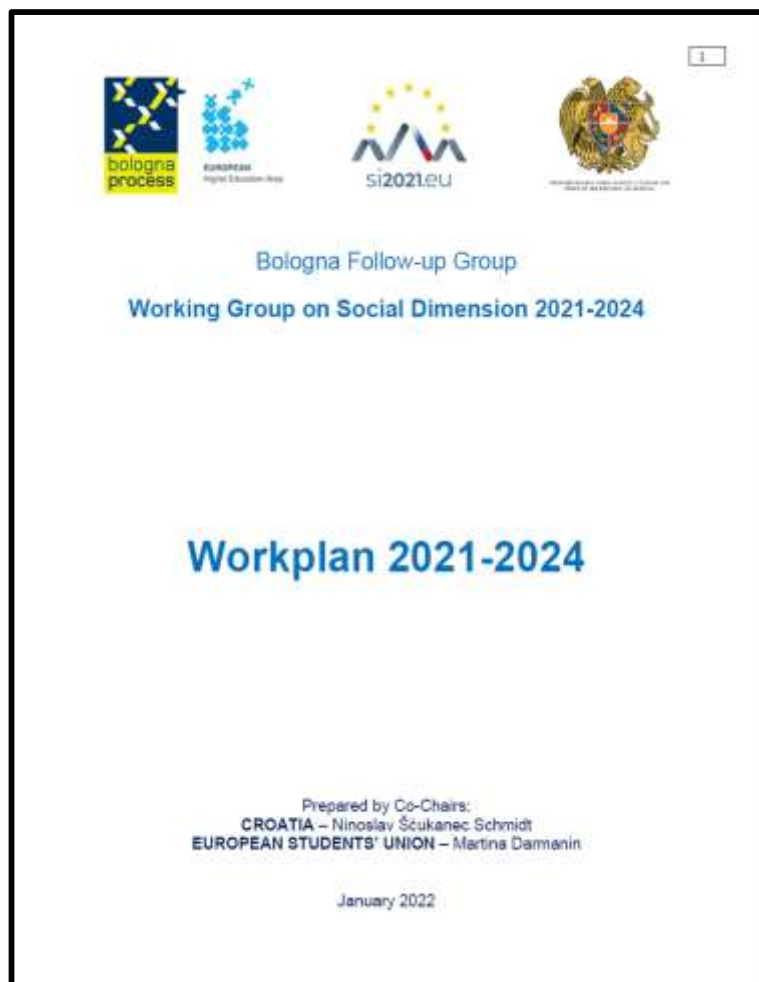
Specific objectives for our BFUG WG on SD 2021-24:

- 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



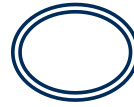
Content:

- **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** > hosted by the Netherlands
 - ✓ 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.

Working Group on Social Dimension



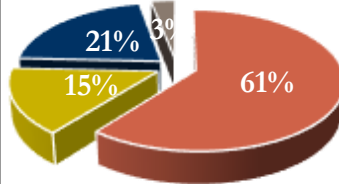
Membership

31 Entities
26 Country Members
5 Consultative Members
36 Participants

Upcoming Events

Sixth meeting, June

First Meeting

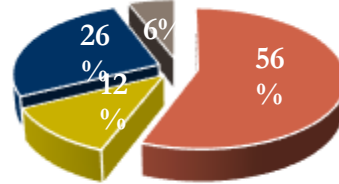


■ Country Members
■ Consultative Member
■ Not Attended
■ Other

Attendance Rate

78%

Second Meeting

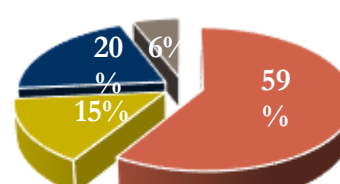


■ Country Members
■ Consultative Member
■ Not Attended
■ Other

Attendance Rate

71%

Third Meeting

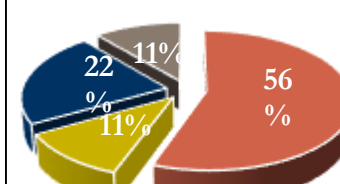


■ Country Members
■ Consultative Member
■ Not Attended
■ Other

Attendance Rate

78%

Fourth Meeting

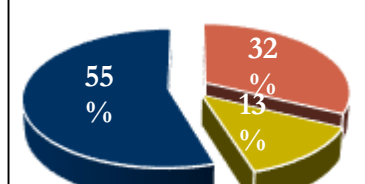


■ Country Members
■ Consultative Member
■ Not Attended
■ Other

Attendance Rate

75%

Fifth Meeting



■ Country Members
■ Consultative Member
■ Not Attended

Attendance Rate

45%

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)



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



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



EHEA Network of
National Qualifications
Framework
Correspondents



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



Taskforce on
Enhancing Knowledge
Sharing in the EHEA
Community



Coordination Group on
Global Policy Dialogue



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



WG on Learning
and Teaching



WG on Social
Dimension



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

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

- 1st coordination meeting: 8 July 2021
- 2nd coordination meeting: 6 October 2021
- **3rd coordination meeting: 13 June 2022**

Update on BFUG Meetings

- ✓ **BFUG Meeting hosted by France: 11-12 April 2022, Strasbourg**
 - WG SD Co-chairs presented 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**

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 > project started on June 1, 2022:**
 - 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
 - **Kick-off meeting:** 15 June 2022 Brussels, hosted by the Flemish Community, Department of Education and Training

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 (April 2022) of the indicators for the Principles for social dimension > **approx. 10 indicators per principle x 9 principles = 90 indicators**
- Malta meeting: revision of the 1st version of the SD-indicators

Conclusions of the Malta meeting

- Dominant **approach to indicators** > in the form of statements which signal that a principle is operationalized through SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, time-bound) activities:
 - Revision and regrouping > into main indicators and subindicators > now we have 4-5 main indicators + each indicator has a set of subindicators
 - We have used and incorporated Eurydice's indicators (primarily as main indicators)
 - We have marked Eurydice's indicators > brackets at the beginning
 - WG SD list of indicators is more comprehensive than the Eurydice's list, but encompasses almost all Eurydice-indicators
 - Is our list of indicators and subindicators too comprehensive (too many indicators) in comparison with the Eurydice?
 - We decided to create one document with indicators of all three subgroups

Conclusions of the Malta meeting

- Indicators > statements // system of monitoring = questions
 - Monitoring could be implemented through the Bologna Implementation Report, through the Eurydices's questionnaire on fostering equity and inclusion and through national quality assurance agencies
- We should have some quantitative indicators
 - Consider creating levels of implementation for each indicator (it would measure depth of the implementation)
- We should create explanation/toolbox/'preamble' on how to use indicators and system of monitoring
 - Importance of visualizations of final outputs > importance of being user friendly ('traffic light approach')
 - Consider having on-line version of the toolbox

Conclusions of the Malta meeting

- **New Erasmus+ project:**

- Consider creating a bank of good practices in the implementation of the PAGs (countries and HEIs)
 - Consider collecting data on the implementation of national action plans for SD > as requested by the Yerevan Communique
- Consider creating videos on how to implement indicators for social dimension

- **Establish cooperation with ENQA and EQAR**

- if the ESGs are revised, propose to include statements related to social dimension enhancement

Summary

- Created a new version of social dimension indicators for each principle after the meeting on Malta
 - Regrouping of previous indicators into the MAIN INDICATORS and SUBINDICATORS
 - New version sent into the consultations
- Received feedback of WG-members > created a version of indicators for the Hague meeting
 - We will be working in the plenary format today and tomorrow on improving the current version of the indicators

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:

Martina Darmanin

European Students Union

martina.darmanin@esu-online.org