



Bologna Follow-up Group

Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

7 February 2023 (Ghent, Belgium)

Lucie Trojanova, Policy Officer Higher Education,
DG Education, Culture, Youth and Sport (DG EAC)



European Strategy for Universities: 4 objectives

1 Strengthen the European dimension in higher education and research

Bringing transnational cooperation to a higher level contributes to a culture of excellence and inclusion, a true European identity, and global competitiveness and attractiveness

2 Consolidate universities as lighthouses of our European way of life

Strengthen quality and relevance for future-proof skills

In a fast changing environment, universities need to strengthen their capacities to equip young people, lifelong learners and researchers with the right competences and skills

Foster diversity, inclusiveness and gender equality

More institutional changes are needed for universities to become places of truly equal opportunities

Promote and protect European democratic values

Universities need to be places of freedom: for speech, thought, learning, research

3 Empower universities as key actors of change in the twin green and digital transitions

Develop skills, competences and technological innovation for the green and digital transition

Universities are key actors for the green transition and for a more sustainable world. We need to make 'connected universities' a reality

4 Reinforce universities as drivers of Europe's global role and leadership

Universities are instrumental in building Europe's connections with the world

European Higher Education Sector Observatory

Key initiative under the European strategy for universities

(January 2022)

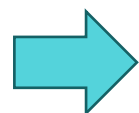
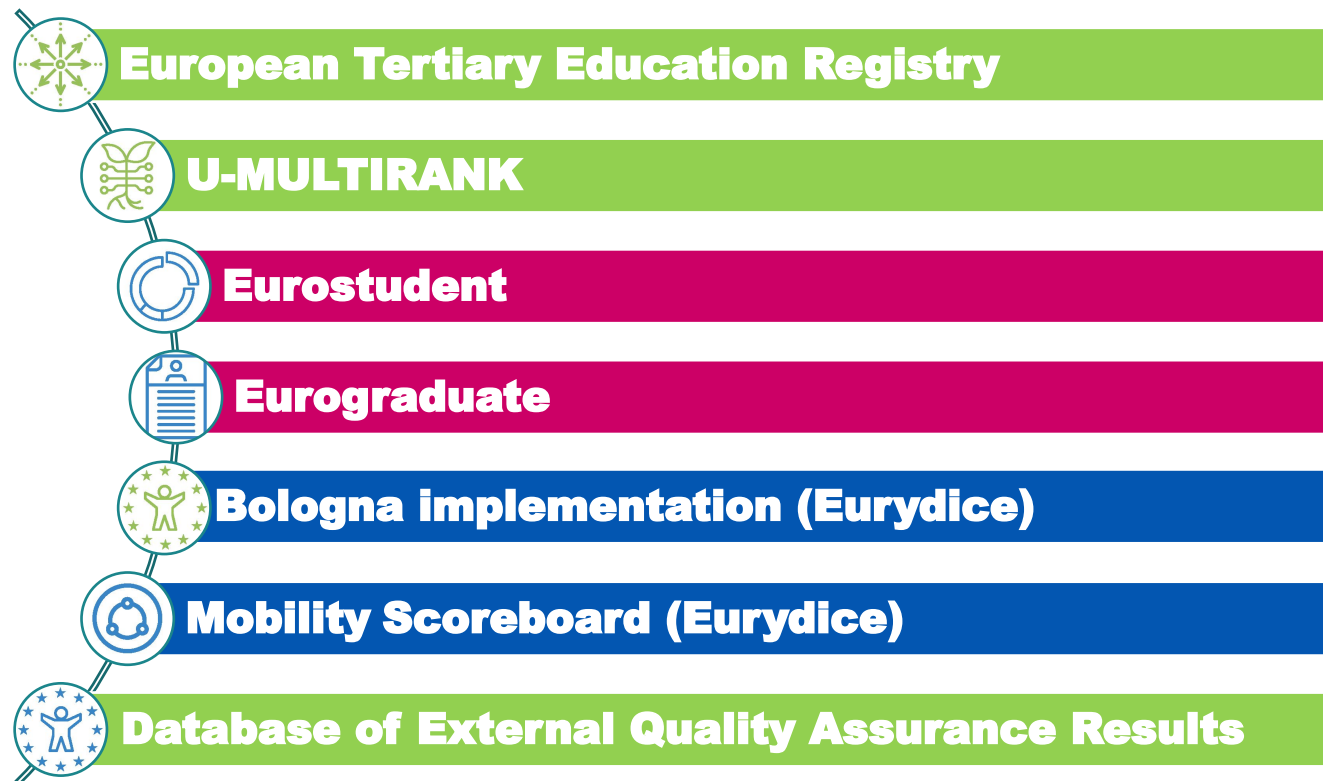


Set-up a European Higher Education Sector Observatory to monitor progress

The Observatory will combine the best of the current EU data tools and capacities in one single place and make it possible to:

- ▶ Monitor the implementation of European policy priorities
- ▶ Support data needs of Member States and higher education institutions
- ▶ Promote competitiveness and attractiveness of higher education institutions and attracting talent

HE Observatory – intergrate and align existing tools



Align Strategy reporting with existing EEA and ERA policy monitoring e.g. 2025 EEA Progress Report, Expert Group on Quality Investment in Education and Training, EEA key HE indicators; European Research Area monitoring system (RISIS-ETER facility)

Added value of the Observatory

wide, complete, coordinated and more integrated database



One stop shop portal

for reliable, complete, easy to access and analyse, comparable data across the EU

Aggregated & linked data on HE systems, HEIs & students

Simplification

Reduce administrative burden linked to overlap in existing data collection

NO new data collection

Rationalise existing tools

for HE to foster synergies and interoperability

Does NOT question their governance, nor the indicators

Enhanced use and relevance of existing tools for policy makers, HEIs, students, academics, researchers

Enhanced international visibility

Observatory's organisation

Data exploitation and communication

Policy documents for policy makers in EU and national level

Communication to institutions and self-assessment toolboxes

Communication to students, media, wider public

Indicator development and statistical analysis

Higher Education sector Scoreboard

Benchmarking

Trends development

Open access data for researchers

Data Centre of the Observatory

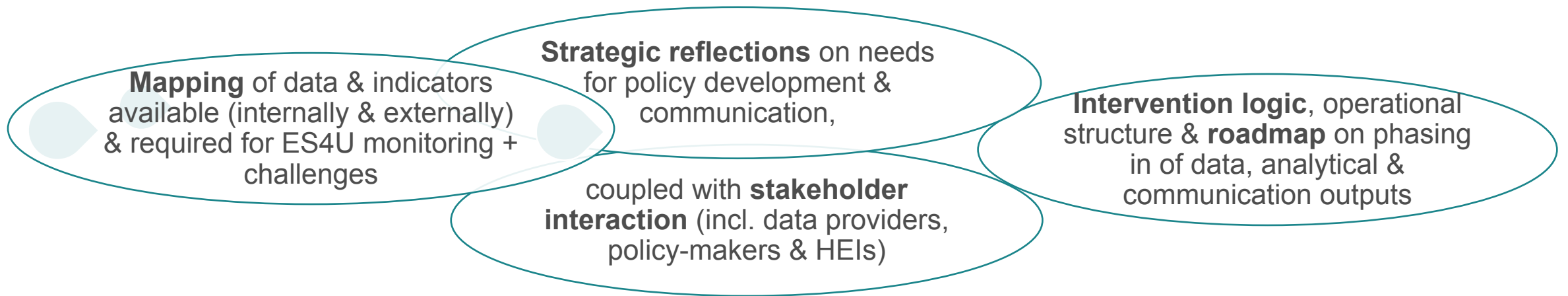
Institutional micro data

Student micro data

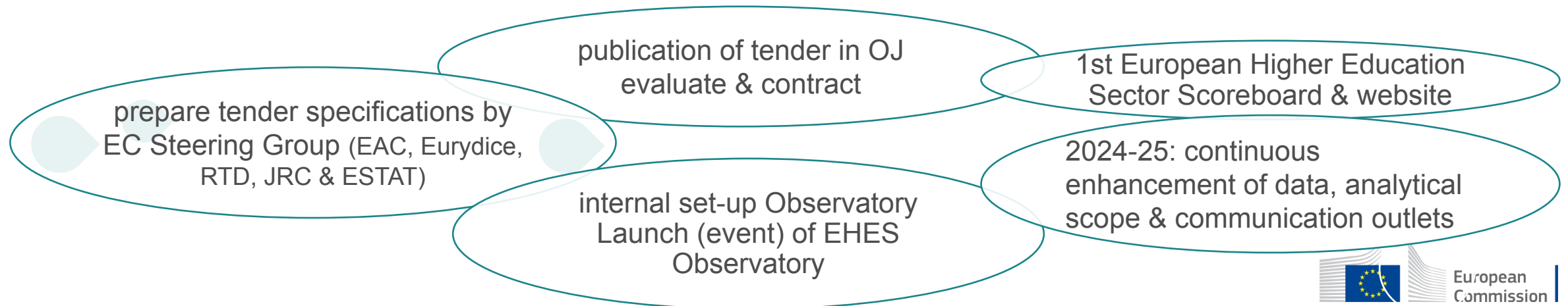
information on system level

Observatory's timeline

2022-23 - Methodological support study for the EHES Observatory



2023-25 – Launch & enhancement of the EHES Observatory



Observatory's timeline

2023

It is planned to present a first version of the Observatory Portal by end 2023, with a first draft of the Higher Education Sector scoreboard (based on currently available data, e.g. from ETER, U-Multirank, Eurostudent, etc.).

Building on this indicator framework, the Observatory will allow to monitor progress on the ES4U priorities; the portal will focus on policy-makers, HEIs & researchers and students as main stakeholders

Tender planned to be launched in spring 2023 to enhance the data collection

Observatory will continue to liaise with the stakeholder communities on further development, data collection and exploitation needs

European framework for diversity and inclusion

**Key initiative under
the European
strategy for
universities**

(January 2022)

Study to support the development of a European framework for diversity and inclusion

- **The study will help the Commission to identify the main challenges that hinder access and attainment in higher education.**

In order to develop a European framework for diversity and inclusion, and to identify challenges and solutions, the Commission will need evidence on some of the factors that may hamper access to higher education.

- **The study will be: policy oriented, focusing on evidence and what the EU and MSs could do.**
- **The study will not duplicate, but build on the on-going work under the EHEA (Working Group on Social Dimension), the Eurostudent survey and the work of Eurydice on social inclusion.**

Manifesto from STE(A)M-oriented universities on gender-inclusive STE(A)M education

-Address the underrepresentation of women in STEM fields through a roadmap that includes a manifesto from STE(A)M-oriented universities on gender-inclusive STE(A)M education

The EC will not produce the Manifesto itself, since education is a MS competency.

The first step is now to publish a factsheet to showcase the EC's commitment to address the underrepresentation of women in STEM, and taking stock of the preparatory work with stakeholders for a STE(A)M manifesto (e.g. presenting the principles and actions that emerged from a recent survey and the participatory workshop).

The manifesto is planned to be further developed and implemented under the Horizon Europe WIDERA Work Programme call, which will set up a network between the relevant entities.

Thank you

Lucie Trojanova
European Commission
DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture
Unit B1 – Higher Education
<http://ec.europa.eu/education>

More information:

[Higher education initiatives | European Education Area \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Proposal for a Council Recommendation on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation | European Education Area \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Commission Communication on a European strategy for universities | European Education Area \(europa.eu\)](#)