

BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

Overview of progress in 2021-2022

Ninoslav S. Schmidt, Co-Chair, CROATIA

7-8 November 2022

BFUG Meeting, Brno, hosted by Czech Republic

I. **Our objectives 2021-2024**

BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

We are developing a European policy framework for social dimension that should help public authorities structuring and developing effective national social dimension policies in HE

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





Rome
Ministerial
Communiqué

A N N E X II

Principles and Guidelines

- **10 principles** for the social dimension **for the upcoming decade**:

- **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.



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**

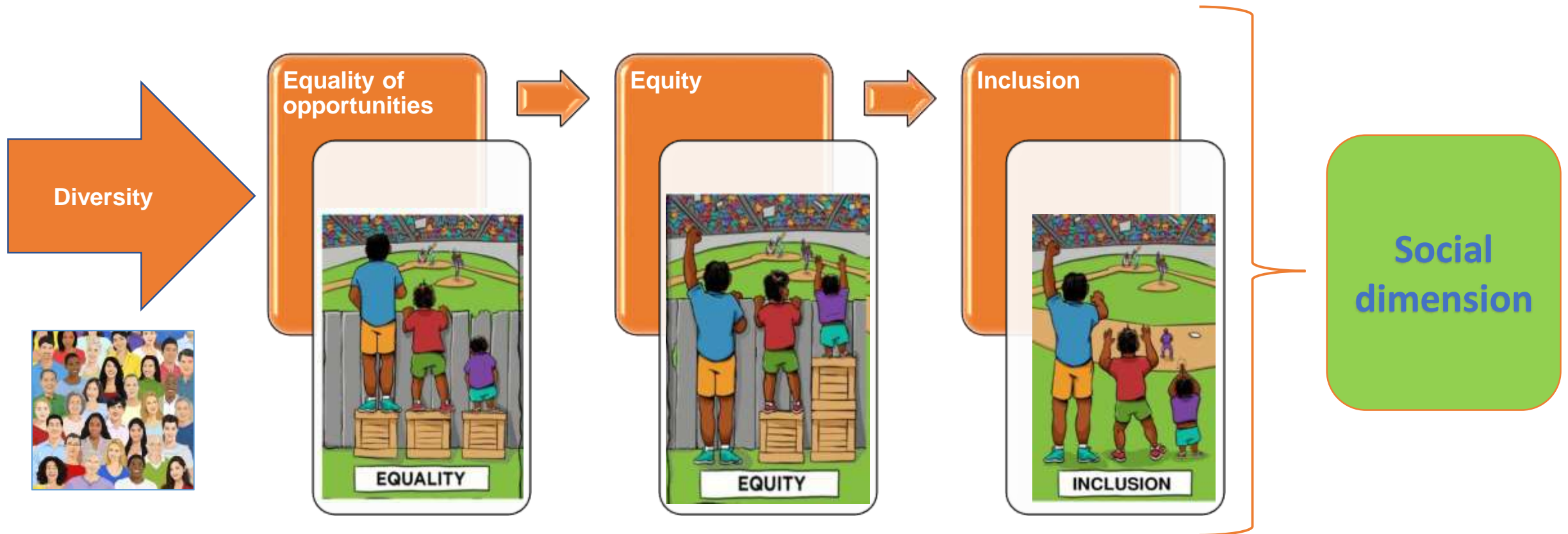
New:
responsive to
the needs of
local
communities

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

Bologna Process: new definition of the social dimension (2020)



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

Specific objectives for our BFUG WG on Social Dimension 2021-24:

- 1) Defining **indicators and benchmarks** for the Principles for social dimension
- 2) Developing a **system of monitoring the implementation** of the Principles
- 3) Organizing **peer support activities** for social dimension to support the implementation of the Principles among the EHEA members
- 4) Organising a **seminar on the social dimension at the end of the cycle in 2024**, within the events connected with the EHEA ministerial conference, to discuss the progress made in developing social dimension policies in the EHEA members.



Bologna Follow-up Group

Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

Workplan 2021-2024

Prepared by Co-Chairs:
CROATIA – Ninoslav Šćukanec Schmidt
EUROPEAN STUDENTS' UNION – Martina Darmanin

January 2022

II. Workplan 2021-2024

BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

BFUG WG on Social Dimension Workplan for 2021-2024

- WG on Social Dimension-meetings in 2022 – 5 meetings per year:
 - ✓ 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: **29-30 September 2022** > hosted by the EUA
 - ✓ 8th meeting in November 2022: **14-15 Nov 2022** > > on-line
- WG on Social Dimension-meetings in 2023 – 5 meetings in the process to be defined
- **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

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



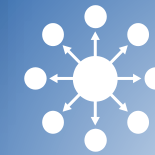
Thematic Peer
Group B on the
Lisbon
Recognition
Convention
(TPG B on LRC)



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
- 4th coordination meeting: 15 July 2022
- 5th coordination meeting: 29 September 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
- 4th coordination meeting: 29 September 2022

Achievements 2021-2022

- ✓ **Key achievement: 1st objective related to the creation of indicators for social dimension is successfully accomplished**
- ✓ **5 Peer-learning activities (PLA) in 2021 + 3 PLAs in 2022 = 8 PLAs**
- ✓ **Erasmus+ project that supports fulfillment of the objectives of the WG on Social Dimension > project started on June 1, 2022:**
 - the project „**Peer Learning Activities and Resources to Underpin the Principles and Guidelines for 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
 - **1st PLA meeting on social dimension:** 16-17 November, hosted by the Croatian Ministry of Education and Science

III.
**Consultation with the BFUG 2022-2023 on
indicators for social dimension**

BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024



Consultation related to:

Proposal of indicators for Principles and Guidelines

- The WGoN Social Dimension worked on indicators for the principles of social dimension in higher education in the period 2021-2022.
- The indicators should be adopted by the BFUG until 2024.
- **Each of the ten principles contains two to six indicators** (marked in bold) > **42 indicators in total**.
- **Each indicator contains several explanatory descriptors that provide more information on how an indicator could be implemented** (listed in bullet points).
- **Approach to indicators > in the form of statements** that enable public authorities to operationalize certain principle for social dimension (combination of qualitative and quantitative indicators)

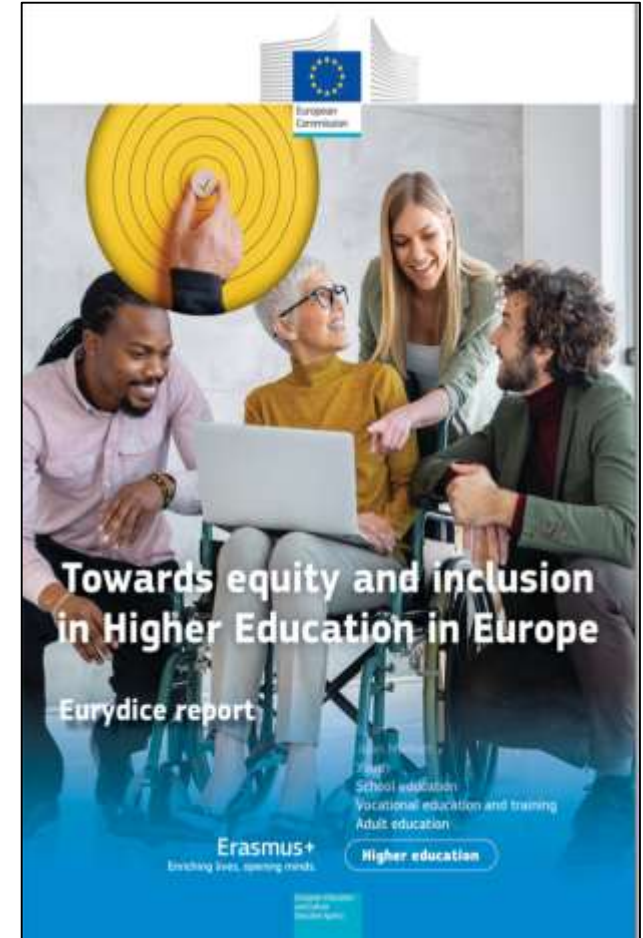
2020



Ideal policy scenario

- During 2021-2022, in parallel with the work of the BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension, the European Commission/ EACEA/Eurydice developed indicators for the principles of social dimension
- The WG on Social Dimension and Eurydice cooperated closely on the above activities
- The final outcome of Eurydice's work is the publication "Towards equity and inclusion in higher education in Europe"

2022





Consultation related to:

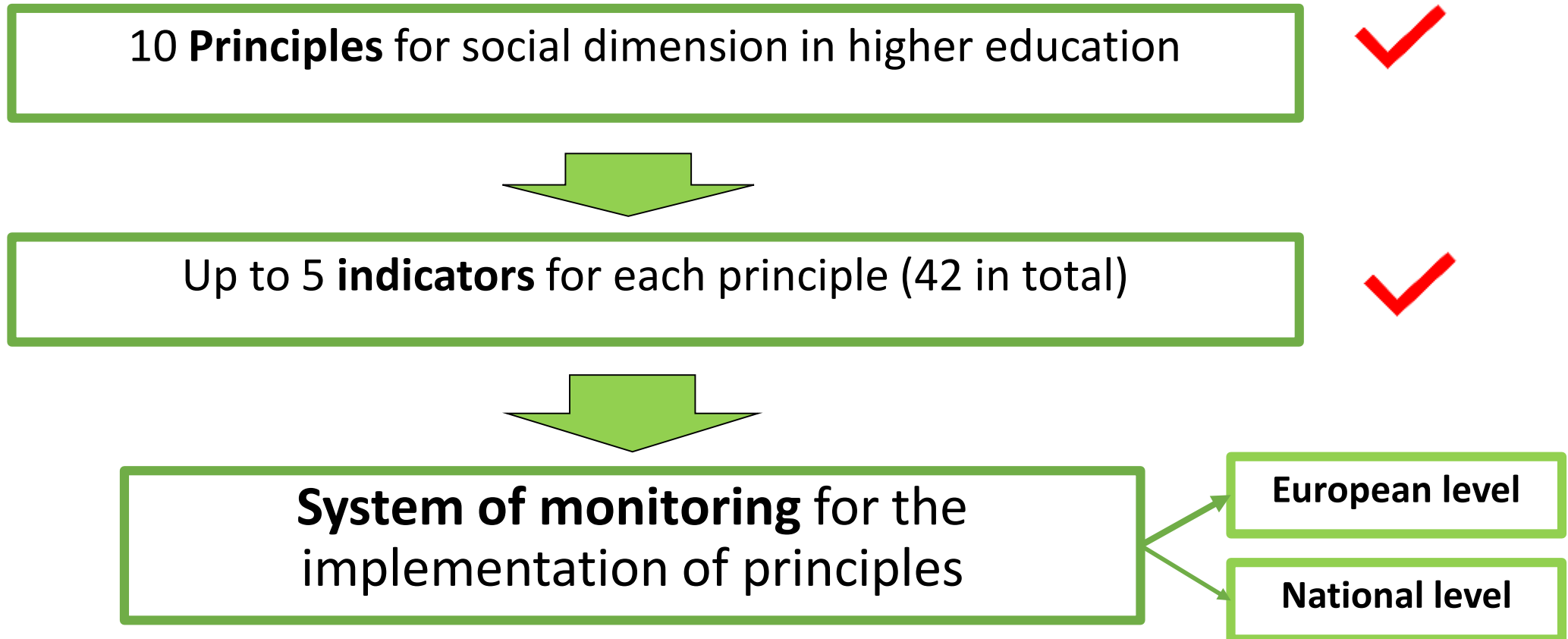
Proposal of indicators for Principles and Guidelines

- The WG on Social Dimension and Eurydice have agreed that the WG on Social Dimension will adopt most of the indicators created by Eurydice.
- The specific contribution of the BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension is that it has created additional **explanatory descriptors for each indicator that provide more information on how an indicator could be implemented.**
- New indicators will help creating national and institutional (university level) **action plans for social dimension** in HE.
- **November 2022 – November 2023:** we are looking for a feedback from the BFUG members and from the BFUG structures > please send your comments via BFUG Secretariat (secretariat@ehea.info)

IV. Conclusion

BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

The BFUG WG on Social Dimension is developing a **European policy framework for social dimension in HE** for public authorities



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