

# **BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024**

## **Overview of progress in 2021-2022 and next steps**

Horia Onița, Co-Chair, ESU

07-08 February 2023, Ghent, Belgium

**BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension Meeting, hosted by the SIHO/Belgium Flemish  
Community**

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

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

**New:**  
fosters  
diversity

- **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!

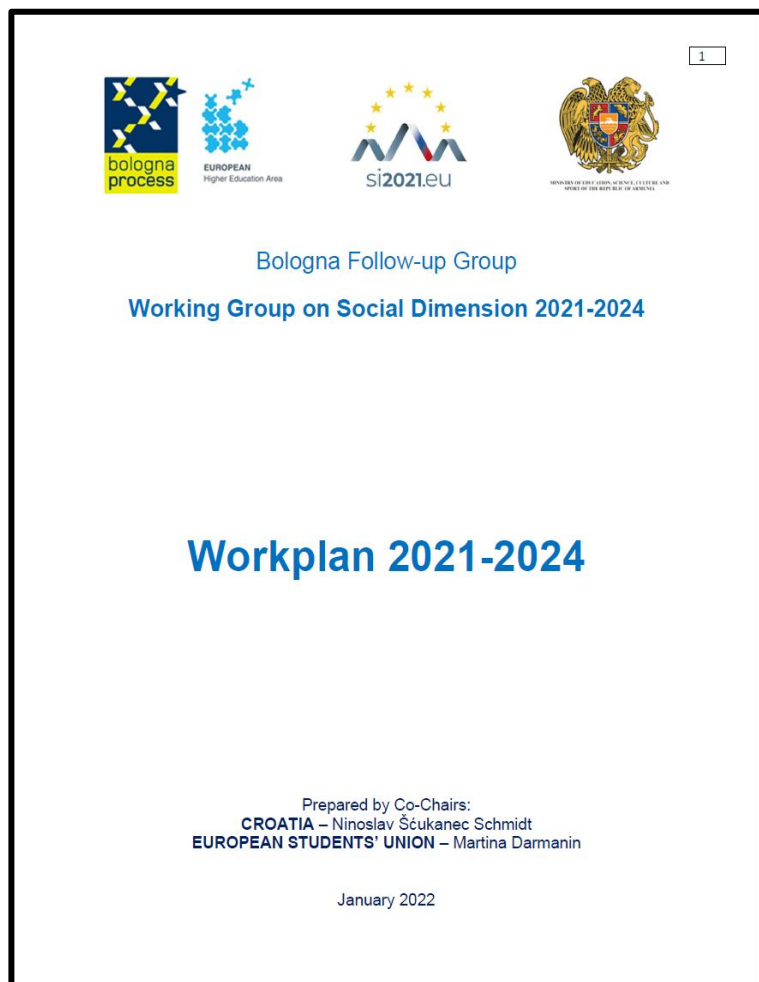
## Specific objectives for our BFUG WG on SD 2021-24:

- 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: **29-30 September 2022** > hosted by the EUA
  - ✓ 8th meeting in November 2022: **14 Nov 2022** ≥ on-line
- **Web site for the WG on SD** at the [www.ehea.info](http://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



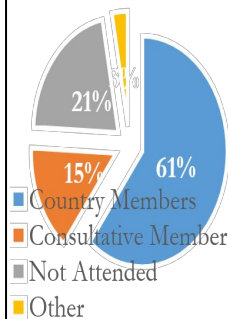
## Membership

31 Entities  
 26 Country Members  
 5 Consultative Members  
 36 Participants

## Upcoming Events

Sixth meeting, June

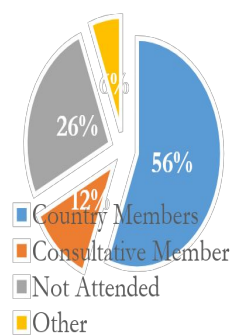
### First Meeting



#### Attendance Rate

78%

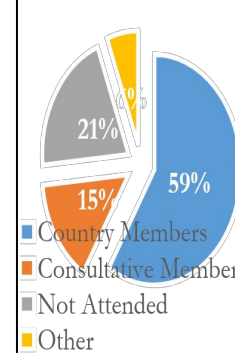
### Second Meeting



#### Attendance Rate

71%

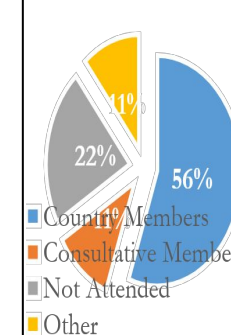
### Third Meeting



#### Attendance Rate

78%

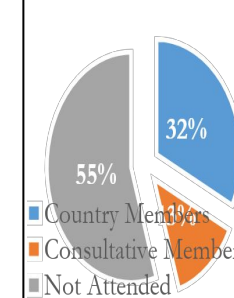
### Fourth Meeting



#### Attendance Rate

75%

### Fifth Meeting



#### 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)



WG on Social  
Dimension



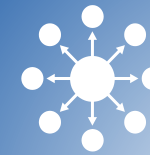
Thematic Peer  
Group B on the  
Lisbon Recognition  
Convention  
(TPG B on LRC)



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 > Co-chairs guests at the dinner 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

## ✓ Peer-learning activities (PLA) in 2021 and in 2022

- Last meeting: Autonomy Scorecard (EUA), Bologna with Student Eyes (ESU), Monitoring system (Eurydice)

## ✓ 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

# 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: October-December 2022

# 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
    - WG SD list of indicators is more comprehensive than the Eurydice's list, but encompasses almost all Eurydice-indicators

# 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 create explanation/toolbox/'preambula' 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 Hague meeting

- **New Erasmus+ project:**

- present the project at the meeting in Brussels and inform WG members on the main activities of the project

- **Establish cooperation with ENQA and EQAR:**

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

- **Organize one more round of internal WG SD consultation on indicators and create a new version of indicators for social dimension principles:**

- A new version of the indicators should be confirmed in Brussels, prior to being submitted to the WG on Monitoring for the 2024 Bologna Implementation Report



# Conclusions of the Brussels meeting

- **Draft list of indicators finalised, sent to BFUG**
- The indicators will be used by the WG on Monitoring for BPIR
- Proposal to annex the list of indicators to the Tirana Communique
- The nature and name of the 'subindicators' to be determined
- Discussion on the type of qualitative/quantitative indicators

# **Update on BFUG Meetings and meetings on indicators**

- ✓ BFUG Board Meeting hosted by Kazakhstan: 5 October 2022**
- ✓ BFUG Meeting hosted by Czech Republic: 7-8 November 2022**
- ✓ 2 meetings between the co-chairs and ENQA, December 2022**

# Future meetings

- WG on Social Dimension-meetings in 2023:
- ✓ 9th meeting in February 2023: **07 Feb 2022** > hosted by SIHO/Belgium Flemish Community
- ✓ 10th meeting in April 2023: **24-25 Apr 2022** > TBD
- ✓ 11th meeting in June 2023: **12-13 June 2023** > hosted by the Croatia
- ✓ 12th meeting in October 2023: **25-26 October 2023** > TBD
- ✓ 13th meeting in December 2023: **7 December 2023** > TBD

## Next BFUG meetings:

- BFUG Board – 31<sup>st</sup> of March, Sarajevo
- BFUG – 11-12<sup>th</sup> of May, Stockholm

# Thank you very much for your attention!

- Co-Chair – CROATIA:

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