

BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024



Overview of progress and proposals for the future

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BFUG Board, Vatican

I. Background

BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024



Bologna Follow-up Group

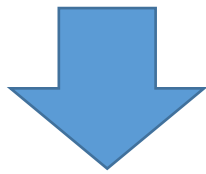
Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

Terms of Reference 2021-2024

Workplan 2021-2024

2021

- In 2020, the EHEA members expressed a **need for additional help** in ‘materializing’ the principles for social dimension in the particular policies



- Adoption of the **Terms of Reference** for the Working Group on Social Dimension in 2021.



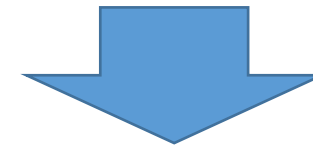
- Main objective: Defining **indicators** for the Principles for social dimension.

II. Key achievements

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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.

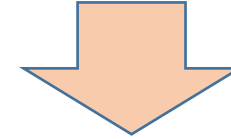


Key achievements

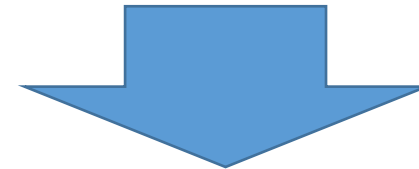
Indicators and descriptors

for Principles and Guidelines

- **Indicators** = tools for measuring progress in implementing the principles of the social dimension in higher education.



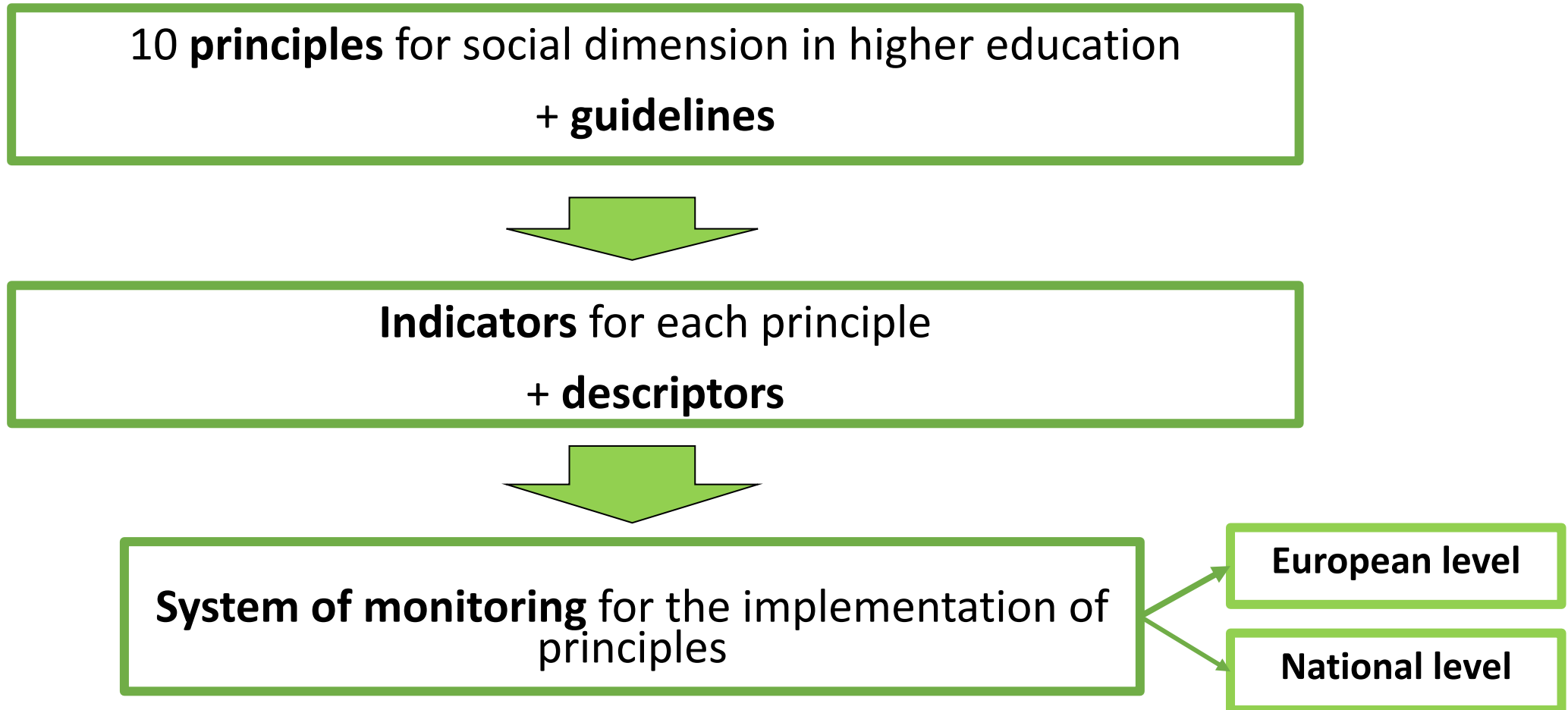
- **Descriptors** = each indicator has its descriptor, which outlines the attributes, features, and characteristics of the indicators in more detail providing a better understanding of the indicators and how they can be implemented.



- **not prescriptive – toolbox approach!** > 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:



III.
WG on SD – report for 2020-2024 cycle

BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

Report of the 2020-2024 cycle

- **Indicators and descriptors adopted by the BFUG in Brussels** – edited for publication by the Co-chairs, **what next?**
- Draft report prepared, includes:
 - Introduction
 - Summary
 - Mandate
 - Overview of meetings (including peer-learning activities, cooperation with third parties, cooperation with PLAR-U-PAGs project and other projects)
 - Key achievements
 - Presentation of the EHEA framework for Social Dimension
- **To be added:** annexes (ToRs, Work Plan, Indicators and Descriptors, list of members etc), **future proposals**
- **Final meeting:** 15th meeting, Vienna, 4-5 April: adoption of the report, work on future priorities + presentation of the work at the Ministerial Conference, final feedback for the Communique if the case

IV.

Proposal of the ToR for the future Working Group on Social Dimension 2024-2027

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Objective of the future WG on social dimension

- **Proposal:** creation of the **WORKING GROUP on social dimension** for the period 2024-2027
- **Objectives:**
 - 1) Create recommendations on how to develop a **national action plan for the implementation** of the social dimension principles
 - Put the focus on helping countries creating national systems of monitoring the implementation of the social dimension principles
 - 2) Develop **policy recommendations** on establishing linkages between social dimension and other policy areas in education

Activities of the future WG on social dimension

'Inclusive' EHEA is one of the three Is. In order to **keep momentum**, we also need to keep focus.

Social dimension is **cross-cutting topic** that can be **linked with other policy areas** in education. The WG could produce **POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS** on linkages with other policy areas:

- Supporting UN SDGs
- Lifelong learning (it also includes the role of the RPL for the advancement of the social dimension)
- Transition from secondary to tertiary education (how the pretertiary education system could enhance social dimension in education)
- Contributing to the development of democratic citizenship

Activities of the future WG on social dimension

Social dimension is **cross-cutting topic** that can be **linked with other policy areas** in education. WG could produce **POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS** on linkages with other policy areas:

- Financing of higher education
- Quality assurance in higher education
- Governance and management in higher education that supports implementation of the social dimension principles of the social dimension
- Community engagement in higher education

Glossary of key terms for the social dimension:

- Improve the current glossary with definitions of the social dimension terms > put special attention on definitions related to the staff in higher education.

Activities of the future WG on social dimension

Alternatively, in order to promote more synergy, the WG could encompass:

- a) WG on Social dimension and engagement with society**
- b) WG on Social dimension and lifelong learning**

Thank you very much for your attention!

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