

WG ON FUNDAMENTAL VALUES

Report for the BFUG Meeting, 11-12 April 2022



PURPOSE OF THE WG

To develop a comprehensive framework to further the monitoring and implementation of the fundamental values of the EHEA in the higher education systems of its members. The system should foster self-reflection, constructive dialogue and peer-learning, while also making it possible to assess the degree to which these fundamental values are honoured and implemented in the EHEA.

Three main areas of work will be developed:

- ❖ agreeing on how the values are defined (or ensuring that some existing definitions are formally agreed); the definition of academic freedom has already been agreed in the Rome Communiqué;
- ❖ developing indicators that can distinguish the level of implementation of particular values;
- ❖ identifying and agreeing on a reliable and objective evidence base to feed the indicators, including the system and organisations responsible for collecting and reporting this information.

MEETINGS OF THE WG

- ❖ First Meeting of the Working Group on Fundamental Values, online, 18 June 2021
- ❖ Second Meeting of the Working Group on Fundamental Values, online, 29 October 2021
- ❖ Expert Hearing on conceptual frameworks for Fundamental Values, 7 – 8 February 2022

EXPERT HEARING

- ❖ WG on FV agreed on the need to consult on the conceptual frameworks/definitions for the fundamental values with academic researchers and organisations with relevant professional experience and expertise
- ❖ Experts were invited to provide their views on how the fundamental values can be defined and understood in the EHEA
- ❖ Hearing took place online on 7 and 8 February 2022
- ❖ Output of the discussion recorded in written form, as background for the drafting of the conceptual frameworks

EXPERT PANEL

[Thomas Estermann](#), Director Governance, Funding and Public Policy Development at European University Association (EUA)

[Terence Karran](#), Professor in Higher Education, University of Lincoln

[Katrin Kinzelbach](#), Professor of Human Rights, FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg

[Manja Klemenčič](#), Lecturer on Sociology and Lecturer in General Education, Harvard University

[David J. Lock](#), Secretary-General of the Magna Charta Observatory

[Peter Maassen](#), Professor in Higher Education Studies at the Faculty of Education, University of Oslo

[Liviu Mattei](#), Provost, Central European University

[Isabel Menezes](#), Professor at the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences, University of Porto

[Christine Musselin](#), Educational Researcher at the Center for the Sociology of Organisations, Sciences Po Paris

[Robert Quinn](#), Executive Director Scholars at Risk Network, New York

[Hillegje van't Land](#), Secretary General, International Association of Universities (IAU)

[Martina Vukasović](#), Associate Professor at the Department of Administration and Organization Theory, University of Bergen

Approved for funding by European Commission

SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE WG

Erasmus application (ERASMUS-EDU-2021-EHEA-IBA) - New building blocks of the Bologna Process: fundamental values

❖ Project objectives:

- Develop a technical policy framework to measure and assess fundamental values
- Pilot the technical framework for assessing fundamental values in four countries

❖ project will be coordinated by the Co-chairs

❖ project start July 2022

CONSORTIUM

The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)

Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research

Associated partners:

- European University Association (EUA)
- European Students' Union (ESU)
- German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Advisory Board: the link between the technical approach and the political/representation role (BFUG FV WG)

NEXT STEPS (1)

- ❖ With the help of experts, a draft definition for each of the following values will be developed:
 - ❖ Institutional autonomy
 - ❖ Participation of students and staff in higher education governance
 - ❖ Public responsibility for higher education
 - ❖ Public responsibility of higher education
 - ❖ To be added later: academic integrity
 - ❖ Academic freedom already adopted in Rome
- ❖ build on existing definitions and the output of the expert hearing

NEXT STEPS (2)

- ❖ work on developing indicators will start in parallel through the Erasmus+ project
- ❖ Third meeting will be organized in June/July in Malta, to discuss the draft conceptual frameworks



Thank you!