

# BFUG Working Group on Social Dimension 2021-2024

## **Overview of progress in 2021-2022**

Ninoslav S. Schmidt, Co-Chair, CROATIA

9 February 2022

**BFUG Board on-line meeting LXXIX, hosted by Azerbaijan**

# 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!

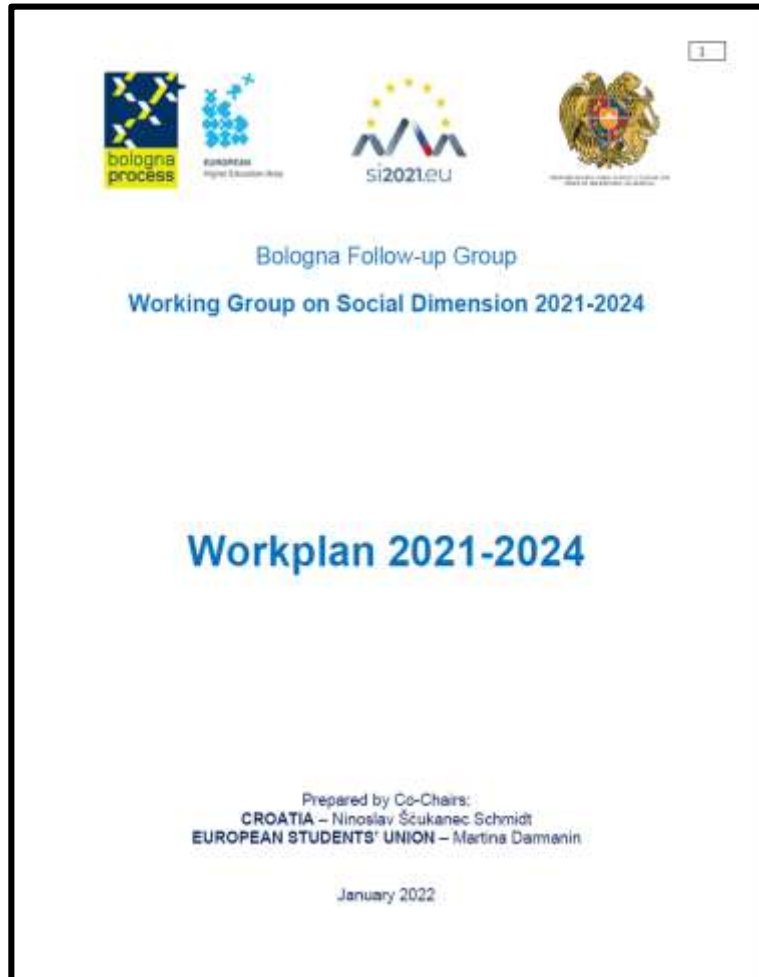
## Specific objectives for our BFUG WG on SD 2021-24:

- 1) Organizing **peer support activities** for social dimension to support the implementation of the Principles among the EHEA members
- 2) Developing **tools for the implementation of the Principles** for the social dimension
- 3) Defining **indicators and benchmarks** for the Principles
- 4) 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**
  - ✓ 7th meeting in October 2022: **4 Oct 2022**
  - ✓ 8th meeting in November 2022: **15 Nov 2022**
- **NEW** Three (3) subgroups > each subgroup works on producing indicators for 3 principles for social dimension
- **NEW Web site for the WG on SD at the [www.ehea.info](http://www.ehea.info):**
- Key documents related to the work of the WG on Social Dimension
- Documents related to the WG-meetings
- Useful resources: literature, policy briefs, information on useful projects etc.



# WG on SD in 2021

## Working Group on Social Dimension

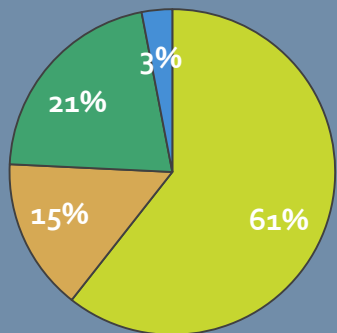
### 1 *First Meeting*

Hosted by Croatia,  
July 8, 2021

#### Attendance

*Attendance Rate*

**78%**



- Country Members
- Consultative Members
- Not Attended
- Other

### Membership

Albania; Austria; Belgium Flemish Community; Belgium French Community; Council of Europe; Croatia; Cyprus; Denmark; EI – ETUCE; Estonia; ESU - European Students' Union; EUA - European University Association; European Commission; EUROSTUDENT; France; Georgia; Germany; Italy; Kazakhstan; Lithuania; Malta; Moldova; The Netherlands; Poland; Romania; Russia; Slovak Republic; Slovenia; Spain; Turkey; United Kingdom; United Kingdom (Scotland).

#### 32 Entities

- ⇒ 27 Country Members
- ⇒ 5 Consultative Members
- ⇒ 37 Participants

### 3 *Third Meeting*

Hosted by Croatia,  
November 16, 2021

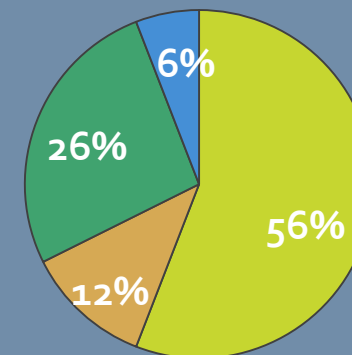
### 2 *Second Meeting*

Hosted by ESU,  
October 6, 2021

#### Attendance

*Attendance Rate*

**72%**



- Country Members
- Consultative Members
- Not attended
- Other



For further information:  
[secretariat@ehea.info](mailto:secretariat@ehea.info)  
[www.ehea.info](http://www.ehea.info)

**BFUG**  
**Secretariat**

# 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



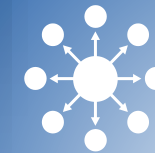
Thematic Peer  
Group B on the  
Lisbon  
Recognition  
Convention  
(TPG B on LRC)



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



# Achievements 2021-2022

- ✓ **5 Peer-learning activities (PLA) in 2021 + 3 PLAs in 2022 = 8 PLAs**
  - In the past 3 meetings in 2021 + in the upcoming meeting in February 2022
- ✓ **Erasmus+ project proposal successfully applied on the KA3 call in October 2021:**
  - 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

# Peer-learning activities (PLA) in 2021

PLA for **developing system of monitoring** the implementation of Principles and Guidelines (PAGs) – **July-October 2021:**

- **European Commission/ Eurydice: Questionnaire on Fostering Equity and Inclusion** in Higher Education
  - The questionnaire asks questions that will allow Eurydice to assess the state of national policy action to implement the PAGs

# Peer-learning activities (PLA) in 2021

PLAs related to the Principle No.4 in the PAGs **on collecting reliable data** for social dimension – **October 2021**:

*(“Reliable data is a necessary precondition for an evidence-based improvement of the social dimension of higher education. Higher education systems should **define the purpose and goals of collecting certain types of data**, taking into account the particularities of the national legal frameworks”)*

- **Eurostudent**

- Key findings from the Eurostudent VII Synopsis of Indicators report. Could the Eurostudent surveys help in the implementation of the principle No.4 of the PAGs?

- **U-Multirank, Center for Higher Education Policy Studies (CHEPS), University of Twente, NL**

- Key findings from the U-Multirank concept paper on **new indicator development on social inclusion (2020)** and the proposal for New Indicators in U-Multirank (2021).

# Peer-learning activities (PLA) in 2021

## PLAs related to the Principle No.8 in the PAGs on inclusive international mobility programs – November 2021:

*("International mobility programs in higher education should be structured and implemented in a way that foster diversity, equity and inclusion and should particularly foster participation of students and staff from vulnerable, disadvantaged or underrepresented backgrounds")*

- **Support Centre for Inclusive Higher Education (SIHO), Belgium/Flanders**
  - Presentation of the **'The InclusiveMobility.eu', which is the European platform about inclusion** and support services offered by higher education institutions, national agencies, and ministries for education to international students
  - Could the InclusiveMobility Platform, particularly with its framework, Self-Assessment Tool and the Toolbox help in the implementation of the principle No.8 of the PAGs?
- **European Commission, DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture**
  - Key information on the **'Inclusiveness in the new Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027'**. Could the new Erasmus+ priorities related to inclusion and diversity help in the implementation of the principle No.8 of the PAGs?

# Peer-learning activities (PLA) in 2022 - **upcoming**

PLAs related to the Principle No.9 in the PAGs on **importance of community engagement** for social dimension – **February 2022:**

*("Higher education institutions should ensure that **community engagement** in higher education **promotes diversity, equity and inclusion**")*

- **Council of Europe**
  - Presentation of the CoE's **Platform on the local democratic mission of higher education**
- **Institute for the Development of Education, Croatia**
  - Presentation of the key outputs of 2 Erasmus+ projects: (1) "**TEFCE Toolbox: An Institutional Self-Reflection Framework for Community Engagement** in Higher Education"; (2) European on-line portal and network for community engagement in higher education
- **EURASHE: European Association of Institutions in Higher Education**
  - Presentation of the the **self-assessment tool for regional engagement** of universities of applied sciences
- **European Commission, DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture**
  - Presentation of the **European strategy for universities** and its relevance for social dimension

Successful in  
on-line  
environment,  
but the  
transition to in-  
person  
meetings is in  
progress

In **April 2022** the WG SD meeting will be held **in Malta** – thank you Malta for hosting the WG SD!

The WG SD received invitations to held the upcoming meetings in 2022 from the following hosts:

- United Kingdom
- The Netherlands



# Thank you very much for your attention!

- **Co-Chair – CROATIA:**

**Ninoslav S. Schmidt**

Institute for the Development of Education  
in Zagreb

[nscukanec@iro.hr](mailto:nscukanec@iro.hr)

- **Co-Chair – ESU:**

**Martina Darmanin**

European Students Union

[martina.darmanin@esu-online.org](mailto:martina.darmanin@esu-online.org)