

Draft Proposal Terms of Reference of the Advisory Group on the Social Dimension (AG1) for the working period 2021-2024

Name of the Advisory Group Advisory Group on the Social Dimension
Contact persons (proposed Co-Chairs) The group should be co-chaired by members of the Bologna Follow Up Group with different statuses within BFUG. Ideally this would include one Full Member and one Consultative Member.
Composition An open call will be issued to the members of the BFUG. The composition of the group should not necessarily reflect the countries that will voluntarily participate in the thematic country reviews.
Overarching Aim The overarching aim is to support the EHEA members in developing social dimension policies that will create inclusive environment in higher education that fosters equity, diversity, and is responsive to the needs of local communities. The Advisory Group will follow up and will further develop the main outcomes of the work of the AG1 on Social Dimension 2018-2020: " <i>Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA</i> ", which is annexed to the Rome Communiqué.
Objectives <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Developing a system of monitoring the implementation of the <i>Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA</i>. It will enable measuring the impact of the broadened definition of the social dimension in the Principles and Guidelines on the work of different higher education institutions.2) Defining indicators and benchmarks for the principles included in the <i>Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA</i>.3) Organizing peer support activities for social dimension to support the implementation of the Principles and Guidelines among the EHEA members. The Advisory Group should consider establishing partnerships for implementing Thematic Country Reviews for Social Dimension to systematically collect country needs for peer support.4) Organizing a seminar on the social dimension at the end of the cycle in 2024 to discuss the progress made in developing social dimension policies in the EHEA members.
Reference to the Rome Communiqué <i>{The text below is subject to change}</i> <i>We adopt the "Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA" and commit to implementing them in our systems. We endorse the broadened definition of social dimension, and will engage in wide-ranging policy dialogue on how to implement the principles and guidelines fully at national level. We will support our higher education institutions in integrating them into their institutional culture and core higher education missions: learning and teaching, research and</i>

innovation, knowledge circulation and outreach, institutional governance and management. We will report in 2024 on the concrete steps taken and the related monitoring measures to assure an evidence-based follow-up.

Reporting

Minutes of working group meetings and key documents developed by the Advisory group will be made available on the EHEA website www.ehea.info. The Bologna Secretariat will provide administrative support for the work of the Advisory Group.

The BFUG should also receive regular reports and updates from the group. To ensure good communication and consultations with the BFUG as a whole, progress reports should be submitted at least two weeks before each BFUG meeting.

Draft meeting schedule:

The content and timeline of the meetings will be discussed amongst the co-chairs and the members of this Advisory Group; however, the following can be seen as a draft schedule:

Year 2021 – 1st quarter:

- Defining the Workplan for the mandate of the AG with the methods of work

Year 2021 – 2024:

- Organizing peer support activities for social dimension

Year 2021 – 2022 (1st quarter)

- Defining indicators and benchmarks for the principles included in the *Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA*.

Year 2022 (1st quarter) – 2024 (1st quarter)

- Defining a system of monitoring the implementation of the Principles and Guidelines

Year 2024 (in the framework of the ministerial conference)

- Organizing a seminar on the social dimension