



BIPR 2024: Identifying indicators on Fundamental Values... the art of the possible

FV working group Malta

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A reminder...

The 2024 report should cover all policy areas/issues highlighted in the Rome Communiqué

With regard to Fundamental Values, this means following up:

We commit to upholding institutional autonomy, academic freedom and integrity, participation of students and staff in higher education governance, and public responsibility for and of higher education

2024 report: staging post for framework on values

- FV working group responsible for developing framework:
 - We ask the BFUG to develop a framework for the enhancement of the fundamental values of the EHEA that will foster self-reflection, constructive dialogue and peer-learning across national authorities, higher education institutions and organisations, while also making it possible to assess the degree to which these are honoured and implemented in our systems
- Erasmus+ Project (led by co chairs) developing indicators – but results will not be ready in time for 2024 report
- 2024 implementation report will be aligned with these processes, but is not the final destination...

Some preliminary observations

- While the BPIR is indicator driven, a system of values depends upon the relationship between concepts – and hence between indicators
- Identifying indicators for each of the fundamental values is necessary, but the text should highlight the links between the indicators
- -> to some extent the chapter should be seen as part of a European/BFUG pedagogical exercise
- -> we should also keep in mind that the chapter should be (max) 30 pages, with about 10 - 15 indicators

Potential indicators: Academic freedom

- Framework statement adopted in Rome
- Existing indicators: **Academic Freedom Index (AFI) (Five indicators)**
 - International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
 - Campuses free from politically motivated surveillance or security infringements
 - Constitutional provisions to protect academic freedom
 - Scholars and university students able to publicly criticize government policies
 - Universities exercise institutional autonomy in practice

Information from BFUG: legal protection of academic freedom; requirements of external quality assurance

Possible indicators: Institutional autonomy

- Framework statement for institutional autonomy under preparation
- Existing indicators:
- **Academic Freedom Index (AFI)** (*To what extent do universities exercise institutional autonomy in practice?*)
- **EUA's autonomy scorecard** (last edition 2017; 29 countries;)

Information from BFUG: legal issues related to institutional autonomy

- eg legislation (constitution/HE legislation protecting autonomy); powers & composition of governing bodies; power to appoint and dismiss higher education executive heads; QA requirements etc

Academic integrity

- No framework statement yet defining/outlining academic integrity ...
- **No existing indicators** outside Bologna to adopt
- **Information from BFUG:**
 - Provision of guidance (to HEIs) and training for staff and students on plagiarism, contract cheating, fraud
 - External QA requirements to assess robustness of HEI measures to ensure academic integrity

Participation of students and staff in higher education governance

- Framework statement under preparation

No existing indicators outside Bologna to adopt

Information from BFUG:

- Requirements for student and staff representatives to be involved in governing bodies
 - Full involvement in decision-making & decision-taking
- Requirements for students and staff to be involved in QA governance structures
- Requirements to consult stakeholders (incl. students and staff) when opening new higher education programmes

Public responsibility for and of higher education

- Framework statement under preparation

No existing indicators outside Bologna to adopt

Information from BFUG:

- Clear legal framework to regulate higher education and research, including equal opportunities/inclusion policies for staff and students
- Involvement of stakeholders in developing legal framework
- Legal framework reflects all main purposes of higher education
- Public financing
- Quality assurance system in line with ESG

Public responsibility of higher education

- Framework statement under preparation

No existing indicators outside Bologna to adopt

Information from BFUG:

- Involvement of stakeholders in design and implementation of policy and legal framework
- Policy and legal framework reflects all main purposes of higher education
- Community engagement
- Quality assurance system in line with ESG

Conclusions

- All ideas are welcome, and indicators can evolve as framework statements develop...
- For 2024 report, where indicators already exist, it may be wise to make use of them rather than to leave gaps or preempt indicator development outcomes
- Better to focus on gathering information for a smaller number of indicators, rather than trying to collect a lot of material *just in case* (from BFUG)