

Terms of Reference Working Group on Fundamental Values 2021-2024

<p>Name of the Working Group</p> <p><i>Working Group on Fundamental Values</i></p>
<p>Contact persons/Co-chairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frank Petrikowski (until October 2021) / Marit Metternich (since October 2021) / David Akrami Flores (since October 2022) • Rose Anne Cuschieri • Mihai Cezar Hâj • Tone Flood Strøm
<p>Composition</p> <p>Austria; Council of Europe; Croatia; EI – ETUCE; ENQA; ESU - European Students' Union; EUA - European University Association; European Commission; European Commission/ Eurydice; Finland; France; Germany; Holy See; Iceland; Italy; Kazakhstan; Malta; The Netherlands; North Macedonia; Norway; Poland; Romania; Russia; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; United Kingdom (Scotland); United Kingdom.</p> <p>A representative of the working group on Monitoring should be a member of the working group, preferably one of the co-chairs of WG1, to establish a link between the work done in the two groups.</p>
<p>Purpose and/or outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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.
<p>Reference to the Rome Communiqué</p> <p><i>“We reaffirm our commitment to promoting and protecting our shared fundamental values in the entire EHEA through intensified political dialogue and cooperation as the necessary basis for quality learning, teaching and research as well as for democratic societies. We commit to</i></p>

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

*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. We adopt the **definition of academic freedom** as freedom of academic staff and students to engage in research, teaching, learning and communication in and with society without interference nor fear of reprisal”*

Specific tasks

- To develop indicators on *de jure* and *de facto* implementation of academic freedom and integrity based on the definition of academic freedom adopted by the ministers in the Rome Communiqué;
- On the basis of consultation with academic experts and relevant stakeholder organisations, to consider how the additional fundamental values defined in the Paris and Rome Communiqués - institutional autonomy, participation of students and staff in higher education governance, and public responsibility for and of higher education - can be defined, understood and implemented in the EHEA;
- To continue to develop and trial a comprehensive, effective and evidence-based monitoring framework for future reporting on the implementation of the fundamental values in the EHEA through the Bologna Process Implementation Report, a system that takes into account both the *de jure* and the *de facto* aspects of the fundamental values of the EHEA;
- To liaise with the working group on Monitoring to ensure that the collection of data related to *de jure* monitoring of the fundamental values takes place, and that this data is reported in time for the 2024 Bologna Process Implementation Report;
- To develop options for the *de facto* monitoring of fundamental values, including different options for types of data to be explored and methods for collecting and combining data;
- To recommend indicators of fundamental values, as well as the evidence required to fill them, and the source for such evidence;
- In cooperation with the BFUG, take the initiative to a policy dialogue and peer learning activities in the areas concerned, with all relevant higher education policy makers, institutions and stakeholders.

Reporting

Regular progress report will be given to the BFUG. A final report with recommendations will be

presented to the BFUG and to the ministerial meeting in 2024.
Minutes of working group meetings will be made available by the Bologna Secretariat.

Meeting schedule

Dates will be decided upon by the working group at a later stage.

Liaison with other WGs' activities

- WG on Monitoring