

WP2 – Assessing and measuring fundamental values in the EHEA

2.2. 5 Peer learning activities

Project: NEW BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE BOLOGNA
PROCESS: FUNDAMENTAL VALUES (NEWFAV)

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Introduction - 2.2. 5 Peer learning activities

The main purpose of the Peer Learning Activities is to accelerate the policy dialogue on fundamental values, peer-to-peer learning and knowledge transfer between Romania, Norway and other countries with the involvement of experts from the BFUG Fundamental Values Working Group.

This document comprises five Peer Learning Activity (PLA) reports that have been developed to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaborative learning. All reports were prepared by Cristina Ramona Fit.

1. Peer Learning Activity – Institutional autonomy, Bucharest, Romania

On December 5, 2022, the Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI) organized the event "Fundamental values in Higher Education: Institutional autonomy". The Peer Learning Activity was organized in Bucharest, Romania at University of Bucharest under the WP 2- Assessing and measuring fundamental values in the EHEA, T2.2 Peer learning activities of the project.

The event aimed to bring together decision-makers, representatives from universities and various central and local structures with attributions in promoting fundamental values in higher education, to debate the topic of the autonomy of higher education institutions - status quo, best practices, challenges and opportunities. The PLA had as participants, decision makers, policy makers and high level experts from Romania such as Ministry of Education representatives, EUA, ESU and ESU local members, national stakeholders, public authorities and universities representatives. In the PLA participated as well, Cezar Haj as one of the Advisory Board Member, content experts involved in the project. The list of participants can be seen in 1.2 Participants.

During the welcome session Marian Preda, Rector of the University of Bucharest, Ligia Deca, Minister of Education and Adrian Curaj, General Director of UEFISCDI shared their thoughts on institutional autonomy in Romania and its importance. Cezar Haj, NEWFAV project manager made the project presentation and shared information about the PLA objectives. The PLA agenda can be seen in 1.1. Agenda.

Session 1, "Institutional autonomy: from status-quo to practices", was dedicated to the legislative framework, vision and practices regarding institutional autonomy in Romania, and Ligia Deca, Minister of Education presented the Educated Romania project, as well as the legislative framework. Moreover, Monika Steinel from EUA, presented the EUA Autonomy Scorecard results on institutional autonomy in Romania. Both presentations highlighted the main challenges: the relationship between the education system and each institution.

Session 2, "Institutional autonomy: National perspectives" was dedicated to presenting practices from several countries, respectively the case studies of Romania and France. This session led to fruitful debates and discussions among participants. Participants concluded that if one of the outcomes of autonomy is quality, then more about how the framework for autonomy influences quality should be said. As well, recent reforms in HE show that the increase in autonomy has been balanced with public responsibility therefore, the role of public responsibility should be defined. Participants confirmed that the PLA is very useful for themselves as practitioners but also for the Fundamental Values Working Group meetings.



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Session 3, “Institutional autonomy: challenges and opportunities. How to move forward?” provided a future perspective on institutional autonomy and academic integrity. The challenges and opportunities in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) were addressed by Sjur Bergan, Council of Europe, and both the universities' and the students' vision in order to monitor the fundamental values were presented by Matteo Vespa from European Students' Union (ESU). Discussions revealed the importance of involving students more in discussion regarding QA and fundamental values together with the fact that institutions that foster critical skills are very important to society.

Session 4, “From institutional autonomy to academic integrity and academic freedom. Challenges and opportunities” was dedicated to offering details on: how to monitor fundamental values, work that was done within the NEWFAV project and it was presented by Liviu Matei, perspectives on how to move forward presented by Cezar Haj as co-chair of the FV WG and academic integrity challenges in Romania presented by Marius Deaconu, General Secretary, Council for Ethics and University Management (CEMU).

The lessons learned during this PLA will serve as support for the co-chairs of FV WG/ AB members, help the content experts develop the deliverables of the project and help the national experts in promoting and implementing Bologna reforms correlated with fundamental values through knowledge transfer.



1.1. Agenda

Fundamental values in Higher Education: Institutional autonomy

5th of December 2022,

University of Bucharest, Romania

Participants: members of the Fundamental Values Working Group, experts on FV from NewFAV project, national and international experts, Ministry of Education representatives, ESU members, public authorities and universities representatives

09.00 – 09.30	<u>Registration & welcome coffee</u>
09.30 – 10.00	<u>Welcome session</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marian Preda, Rector - University of Bucharest • Ligia Deca, Minister of Education, Romania • Adrian Curaj, Director General - Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)
10.00 – 10.15	<u>NewFAV project presentation & setting the scene</u> Speaker: Cezar Haj – Fundamental Values WG Co-chair and project coordinator
10.15 – 10.50	<u>Session 1 – Institutional autonomy: from status-quo to practices</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educated Romania. Vision, legislation framework and practices on institutional autonomy Speaker: Deca Ligia, Minister of Education, Romania • EUA Autonomy Scorecard results during the session on institutional autonomy in Romania Speaker: Monika Steinel, Deputy Secretary General, European University Association (EUA)
10.50 – 11.05	Coffee break
11.05 – 13.00	<u>Session 2 – Institutional autonomy: National perspectives</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case study 1 - Institutional autonomy in France. Status quo to Practices. Speaker: Sara Thornton, Scientific Advisor, French Ministry of Higher education and Research • Case study 2 - Institutional autonomy in Romania. Status quo to Practices. Speaker: Sorin Costreie, Vice-Rector for Public Relations and University Networks - University of Bucharest; State Advisor to the Prime Minister for Education and Research. • Group discussions
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch



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14.00 – 15.00	<p><u>Session 3 – Institutional autonomy: challenges and opportunities. How to move forward?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Institutional autonomy – challenges and opportunities in EHEA Speaker: Sjur Bergan, Former Head of the Education Department, Council of Europe● Institutional autonomy and academic integrity – student’s view Speaker: Matteo Vespa, President, European Students Union
15.00 – 15.15	Coffee break
15.15 – 16.15	<p><u>Session 3 (continued) – Institutional autonomy: challenges and opportunities. How to move forward?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Group discussions
16.15 – 17.00	<p><u>Session 4 – From institutional autonomy to academic integrity and academic freedom. Challenges and opportunities.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Institutional autonomy. How to monitor fundamental values? Speaker (on-line): Liviu Matei, King’s College London● Institutional autonomy. How to move forward? Speaker: Cezar Haj, Co-chair FVWG, UEFISCDI● Academic integrity – challenges in Romania Speaker: Marius Deaconu, General Secretary, Council for Ethics and University Management (CEMU)
17.00 – 17.30	<p><u>Session 5 – Conclusions and lessons to learn</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Conclusions, lessons learned
19.00	Dinner

1.2. Participants

Institution
The National Alliance of Student Organizations in Romania (ANOSR)
Council of Europe
ARACIS, Romania
University of Bucharest, Romania
ETUCE
Romanian Government representatives
Ministry of Education, Romania
Eurydice
The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)
Malta Further and Higher Education Authority, Malta
Council for Ethics and University Management (CEMU), Romania
Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Netherlands
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany
European Commission - DG EAC
Ministry of Education – DGIS, Romania
Ministry of Education, Finland
John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland
University of Zadar, Croatia
King's College London, UK
The Ministry of Education and Research, Sweden
Global Observatory on Academic Freedom, Central European University, Austria
State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI, Switzerland
Dicastery for Culture and Education, Holy See
The European University Association (EUA), Belgium
Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Iceland
Ministry of Education and Research, Norway
French Ministry of Higher education and Research, France
European Students' Union
BFUG Working Group Fundamental Values representatives

1.3. Communication

The PLA was promoted on social media on the official accounts of UEFISCDI. Please see below.

- **UEFISCDI LinkedIn** - https://www.linkedin.com/posts/executive-agency-for-higher-education-research-development-and-innovation-funding_uefiscdi-newfav-institutional-activity-7005487463045476352-16N2?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop
- **UEFISCDI Facebook page**- <https://www.facebook.com/uefiscdi/posts/pfbid0jQG8J2ChgoApeEmtrj53XrPrRa13roCypZERp3dMqFhMX1ZK8znNTHYbWoJGS4ftl>

Details about the PLA were integrated in the NewFAV project's webpage (<https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/new-building-blocks-of-the-bologna-process-fundamental-values>).

2. Peer Learning Activity – Academic Freedom and integrity, Berlin, Germany

On March 15th 2023 the DAAD and the Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI) organized the event "Fundamental values in Higher Education: Academic freedom". The Peer Learning Activity was organized in Berlin, Germany under the WP 2- Assessing and measuring fundamental values in the EHEA, T2.2 Peer learning activities of the project.

The event brought together decision-makers, representatives from universities and various central and local structures with attributions in promoting fundamental values in higher education, to debate the topic of the academic freedom and integrity in higher education institutions - status quo, best practices, challenges and opportunities. The event aimed to explore various aspects of academic freedom and its evolving meaning in different contexts. The main subjects discussed were related to "Measuring academic freedom: Perks and hazards of different data sources", "Speaking Up at Work: Narrative Analysis of Academic Freedom in Russia" and "Changing Understandings of Academic Freedom in the World at a Time of Pandemic". As well, during the PLA there were discussions on academic freedom and integrity, challenges and opportunities in EHEA together with the staff perspective.

The PLA had as participants, decision makers, policy makers and high-level experts from EUA, ESU and ESU local members, and other stakeholders, and universities representatives. In the PLA participated as well, the project manager as one of the AB Member, and the content experts involved in the project. The list of participants can be seen in 2.2 section.

During the welcome session David Akrami from DAAD, briefly set the objectives of the day and Cezar Haj, NEWFAV project manager presented the NewFAV project and provided an update on its current status together with a few words about the PLA objectives. The project's objectives and progress were discussed, fostering engagement and interest among the participants. The PLA agenda can be seen in 2.1 section.

Session 1, "Measuring Academic Freedom: Perks and Hazards of Different Data Sources," featured an enlightening presentation by Janika Spannagel. She emphasized the importance of accurate data sources in measuring academic freedom and highlighted the challenges associated with obtaining reliable data.

The subsequent Q&A session allowed participants to share their experiences and insights into data sources related to academic freedom, sparking meaningful discussions and knowledge exchange. It was concluded that each type of data has advantages and drawbacks, and comparability always requires some simplification. To further improve monitoring, finding synergies with existing data sources and focus on added value were highlighted. To collect more subtle data related to fundamental values, experts' assessment could be of help.

Session 2, Elizaveta Potapova, from the Public Policy and Management Institute in Lithuania, delivered a thought-provoking presentation on "Speaking Up at Work: Narrative Analysis of Academic Freedom in Russia." Her research shed light on the complexities of academic freedom in politically challenging environments.

The Q&A session following Elizaveta Potapova's presentation saw engaging discussions on the meaning of academic freedom in different socio-political contexts, promoting a deeper understanding

of the topic. Participants confirmed that the PLA is very useful for themselves as practitioners but also for the Fundamental Values Working Group meetings.

Session 3, Milica Popovic from Central European University in Austria had a presentation on "Changing Understandings of Academic Freedom in the World at a Time of Pandemic." The ongoing global pandemic's impact on academic freedom and its evolving nature were discussed in detail.

Participants actively participated in the subsequent Q&A session, exchanging their observations and experiences regarding the developments in the understanding of academic freedom amid the pandemic.

Session 4, The final session delved into academic freedom and integrity in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). Liviu Matei from King's College London explored the challenges and opportunities associated with academic freedom in this context. This session was dedicated to offering details about how to monitor fundamental values, work that was done within the NEWFAV project. The second presentation aimed to share the staff perspective on academic freedom and integrity. Florian Kohstall, representing Freie Universität Berlin, offered a staff perspective, sharing valuable insights and sparking a dialogue on this crucial issue.

As the conference drew to a close, the organizers summarized the key takeaways and lessons learned from the day's discussions. The event proved to be a valuable platform for academics, researchers, and professionals to engage in fruitful conversations and gain fresh perspectives on the multifaceted concept of academic freedom and integrity. The organizers expressed their gratitude to all the speakers and participants for their active involvement, which made the event a resounding success.

The lessons learned during this PLA and the one's will come, will serve as support for the co-chairs of FV WG and the Advisory Board members, help the content experts develop the deliverables of the project and help the national experts in promoting and implementing Bologna reforms correlated with fundamental values through knowledge transfer.



2.1. Agenda

Fundamental values in the European Higher Education Area

Peer learning activity: Academic freedom and integrity

15 March 2023

Mercure Hotel MOA Berlin, Germany

15th of March 2023

09.30 – 10.00	Registration & welcome coffee
10.00 – 10.15	Welcome and introduction
10.15 – 10.30	NewFAV project: Presentation (update, current status)
10.30 – 11.00	Input 1 – “Measuring academic freedom: Perks and hazards of different data sources” Janika Spannagel, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
11.00 – 11.30	Q&A Session and exchange on data sources on academic freedom
11.30 – 11.45	Coffee break
11.45 – 12.15	Input 2 – “Speaking Up at Work: Narrative Analysis of Academic Freedom in Russia” Elizaveta Potapova, Public Policy and Management Institute, Lithuania
12.15 – 12.45	Q&A Session and exchange on meaning of academic freedom in politically challenging contexts
12.45 – 14.00	Break
14.00 – 14.30	Input 3 – “Changing Understandings of Academic Freedom in the World at a Time of Pandemic” Milica Popović, Central European University, Austria
14.30 – 15.00	Q&A Session and exchange on developments in the understanding of academic freedom
15.00 – 15.15	Coffee break
15.15 – 16.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Academic freedom and integrity – challenges and opportunities in the EHEA Speaker: Liviu Matei, King’s College London, Great Britain ● Academic freedom and integrity – from a staff perspective Speaker: Florian Kohstall, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
16.00 – 16.15	Conclusions and lessons learned

2.2. Participants

Institution
AEG Budapest
Berlin Center for Global Engagement
Bielefeld University
Charkiwer Nationale Karazin-Universität
Council of Europe
Dicastery for Culture and Education
European Commission (DG EAC)
European Students' Union
European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE)
European University Association (EUA)
Freie Universität Berlin
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
Global Observatory on Academic Freedom, Central European University
Hochschule für Schauspielkunst Ernst Busch
John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin
King's College London
Ministry of Education and Research
Public Policy and Management Institute
Ruhr University Bochum
State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)
Technische Universität Dresden
The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)
The National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement
Trakia University
Uschhoroder Lyzeum

2.3. Communication

The PLA was promoted on The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI) website (<https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/news-peer-learning-activity-academic-freedom-and-integrity>), integrated also in the project's webpage (<https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/new-building-blocks-of-the-bologna-process-fundamental-values>).

As well, DAAD promoted the event on the DAAD website:

<https://eu.daad.de/service/veranstaltungen/2023/de/84577-peer-learning-activity-academic-freedom-and-integrity/>.

The PLA was also promoted on social media on the official accounts of UEFISCDI and DAAD. Please see below.

- **UEFISCDI Facebook -**
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=521545393489230&set=a.189015673408872>



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- **Link DAAD twitter:**
https://twitter.com/Erasmus_DAAD/status/1635987633024258051/photo/1
- **Twitter – registration:** https://twitter.com/Erasmus_DAAD/status/1621144082364993536

3. Peer Learning Activity – Participation of students and staff in Higher Education Governance, Bucharest, Romania

On November 6, 2023, the Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI) organized the event "Fundamental values in Higher Education: Participation of students and staff in Higher Education Governance". The Peer Learning Activity was organized in Bucharest, Romania at National University of Political Studies and Public Administration under the WP 2- Assessing and measuring fundamental values in the EHEA, T2.2 Peer learning activities of the project.

The event brought together decision makers, policy makers and high level experts from Romania such as Ministry of Education representatives, EUA, ESU and ESU local members, national stakeholders, public authorities and representatives from universities and various central and local structures with attributions in promoting fundamental values in higher education that joined the event to debate the topic of participation of students and staff in Higher Education Governance - status quo, best practices, challenges and opportunities. In the PLA participated as well, Cezar Haj as one of the AB Members, members of the BFUG FV WG and content experts involved in the project. The list of participants can be seen in section 3.2.

During the welcome session Remus Pricopie, Rector of the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Ligia Deca, Minister of Education and Adrian Curaj, General Director of UEFISCDI shared their thoughts on participation of students and staff in Higher Education Governance in EHEA and Romania. The NEWFAV project manager shared information about the PLA objectives and about the project. The PLA agenda can be seen in section 3.1.

Session 1, "Participation of students and staff in Higher Education Governance in EHEA (perspective on the future statement and monitoring system) was dedicated to a short introduction into the status quo, definition of the principle, framework and different important elements presented by Milica Popovic, Representative of the Republic of Austria in the BFUG Working Group on Fundamental Values. During the session, there were also highlighted a few recommendations for the first draft of the Technical Monitoring Framework of Indicators to measure and assess Fundamental Values.

Session 2, "Participation of students and staff in Higher Education Governance from the students' perspective" included an overview from Iris Kimizoglu, Vice President, European Students' Union and co-chair of the Working Group on Social Dimension on students' perspective. The presentation revisited the Bologna commitments and the status quo according to the Bologna Implementation Report. The presentation also tackled subjects such as how should these values be monitored, challenges and connections with the monitoring system for the Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA.

Session 3, "Participation of students and staff in Higher Education Governance – practices, challenges and opportunities" provided insights from the European University Association. Data from the EUA autonomy scorecard, conceptions of university governance, models of university governance, key principles for university governance in European HE and trends (based on the latest trends survey from EUA) were addressed by Monika Steinell, Deputy Secretary General, EUA. Discussions revealed the importance of looking as well at the European alliances and see how they approached participation of students and staff in Governance.

Session 4, "Participation of students in Romanian Higher Education" was dedicated to present the case study of Romania. Oana-Alexandra Tintar, President, National Alliance of Student Organizations from



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Romania (ANOSR) presented what did the new law on Higher Education bring and how has impacted in terms of participation of students in HE Governance. During the presentation details related to the involvement of students in the decision-making process in the Romanian higher education system were mentioned together with challenges, opportunities and some good-practice examples.

Session 5 “How to measure participation of students and staff in higher education governance” aimed to present details on how to monitor and measure fundamental values, specifically participation of students and staff. This work was done within the NEWFAV project and it was presented by Elizaveta Potapova, Public Policy Management Institute (PPMI). The session showed existing methods and tools, lessons learnt, a proposal of measurement developed within the NewFAV project, suggestions and future steps.

Participants mentioned that the PLA was very useful for themselves as practitioners but also for the Fundamental Values Working Group meetings. The lessons learned during this PLA will serve as support for the co-chairs of FV WG, AB members, help the content experts develop the deliverables of the project and help the national experts in promoting and implementing Bologna reforms correlated with fundamental values through knowledge transfer.



3.1. Agenda

Fundamental values in Higher Education: Participation of students and staff in Higher Education Governance

6 November 2023, Bucharest, Romania

(Address: National University of Political Studies and Public Administration – SNSPA,
Bucharest, Romania)

Peer learning activity

6th of November 2023

09.00 – 09.30	Registration & welcome coffee
09.30 – 10.00	<p>Welcome session</p> <p>Remus Pricopie, Rector of National University of Political Studies and Public Administration</p> <p>Ligia Deca, Minister of Education</p> <p>Adrian Curaj, General Director, UEFISCDI</p> <p>Cezar Haj, co-chair of the Fundamental Values Working Group</p>
10.00 – 10.15	<p>NewFAV project presentation & setting the scene</p> <p>Cezar Haj</p>
10.15 – 10.45	<p>Input 1 – <i>Participation of students and staff in Higher Education Governance in EHEA</i> (perspective on the future statement and monitoring system)</p> <p>Speaker: Milica Popovic, Jacques Delors Institute and Sciences Po CERI and representative of the Republic of Austria in the BFUG WG on Fundamental Values</p>
10.45 – 11.00	Q&A
11.00 – 11.15	Coffee break
11.15– 11.45	<p>Input 2 – <i>Participation of students and staff in Higher Education Governance from the students’ perspective</i> (<i>how should these values be monitored, challenges and connection with the monitoring system for the Principles and Guidelines to Strengthen the Social Dimension of Higher Education in the EHEA</i>)</p> <p>Speaker: Iris Kimizoglu, Vice President, European Students’ Union and co-chair of the Working Group on Social Dimension</p>
11.45 – 12.00	Q&A
12.00– 12.45	<p>Input 3 – <i>Participation of students and staff in Higher Education Governance – practices, challenges and opportunities</i></p> <p>Speaker: Monika Steinel, Deputy Secretary General, EUA</p>



12.45 – 13.00	Q&A
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00– 14.30	Input 4 - <i>Participation of students in Romanian Higher Education</i> Speaker: <i>Oana-Alexandra Tintar</i> , President, National Alliance of Student Organizations from Romania (ANOSR)
14.30– 14.45	Q&A
15.00– 15.15	Coffee break
15.15 – 16.00	Input 5 – How to measure participation of students and staff in higher education governance (<i>a technical policy framework of indicators to measure and assess Fundamental Values</i>) Speaker: Elizaveta Potapova , Public Policy Management Institute (PPMI)
16.00 – 16.30	Conclusions and lessons to learn
19.00	Dinner

3.2. Participants

Institution
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany
Council of Europe
University of Bucharest, Romania
BFUG Secretariat, Albania
Ministry of Education, Romania
Center for Higher Education Policy Studies, Twente, The Netherlands
The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI), Romania
ARACIS, Romania
European Commission - DG EAC
Ministry of Education and Culture, Finland
European Students' Union (ESU)
John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland
King's College London, UK
The Ministry of Education and Research, Sweden
National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA), Romania
BFUG representative, Austria
Public Policy Management Institute (PPMI), Lithuania
National Alliance of Student Organizations from Romania (ANOSR), Romania
The European University Association (EUA), Belgium
Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Iceland



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3.3 Communication

The PLA was promoted on The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI) website (<https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/news-peer-learning-activity-participation-of-students-and-staff-in-higher-education-governance>), integrated also in the project's webpage (<https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/new-building-blocks-of-the-bologna-process-fundamental-values>).

The PLA was also promoted on social media on the official accounts of UEFISCDI. Please see below.

- **UEFISCDI LinkedIn** - https://www.linkedin.com/posts/executive-agency-for-higher-education-research-development-and-innovation-funding_higher-education-uefiscdi-activity-7127225401692618752-Addh?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop
- **UEFISCDI Facebook page**-
<https://www.facebook.com/uefiscdi/posts/pfbid022ZCJp9o4Ki3YhS38TaUTHXxGbVmit7Lo2ev3b8B28YQPtXQHMM1RvjmX4D6Pcrql>



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4. Peer Learning Activity – Fundamental values in Higher Education: intra-relations between fundamental values, Brussels, Belgium

On January 23rd, 2024, the Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI) in collaboration with European Students' Union (ESU) organized the event "Fundamental values in Higher Education: intra-relations between fundamental values". The Peer Learning Activity was organized in Brussels, Belgium under the WP 2- Assessing and measuring fundamental values in the EHEA, T2.2 Peer learning activities of the project.

The PLA brought together decision makers, policy makers and high-level experts from the BFUG Working Group on Fundamental Values, EC- DG EAC, Council of Europe, Eurydice, representatives from ESU and ESU local members, representatives from universities, European University alliances, AB Members, representatives of the BFUG WG on Fundamental Values together with content experts involved in the NewFAV project and various central and local structures with attributions in promoting fundamental values in higher education. The list of participants can be seen in 4.2 section.

During the welcome session Cezar Haj, co-chair of the Fundamental Values Working Group and Iris Kimizoglu, Vice-President of European Students' Union and ESU representative within the FV WG shared their thoughts on the relations between fundamental values in Higher Education Governance. Cezar Haj, as NEWFAV project manager made a brief presentation of the project and shared the aims of the PLA objectives. The PLA agenda can be seen in 4.1 section.

Session 1, "An overview of the Statements and Intra-relations between fundamental values in Higher Education Governance in EHEA" the focus was on providing a brief introduction to the current state of quo, as well as the definitions and statements related to fundamental values that had been developed by the BFUG Working Group on Fundamental Values. Cezar Haj, who represents Romania in the BFUG Working Group on Fundamental Values, emphasized the interplay between the presented values, highlighting both their synergies and tensions. Throughout the session, participants shared their perspectives on these synergies and tensions.

Session 2, titled "Challenges and intra-relations between fundamental values within the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)" there was an overview provided by Sjur Bergan of the Council of Europe on European and Global initiatives pertaining to fundamental values. This session addressed challenges and raised questions for debate. During the debates, participants explored topics such as resolving inconsistencies between national legislation and international commitments, specific education legislation versus other forms of legislation, and different frameworks. Additionally, participants explored ways to prevent or minimize overlap between various initiatives, acknowledging the value of the BFUG Working Group on Fundamental Values' efforts to initiate dialogues with other stakeholders involved in fundamental values initiatives as a commendable step towards achieving synergies.

During session 3, "Challenges in monitoring FV Values, the 2020-2024 exercise" David Crosier from EURYDICE presented insights related to the 2020-2024 Bologna implementation report. This session brought to light several challenges, including issues with transition, reporting constraints, comparing countries, and understanding the interrelations of values. It also underscored various recommendations. Through discussions, the significance of adopting statements and developing indicators, as well as achieving consensus on the nature of values, was highlighted. Furthermore, it



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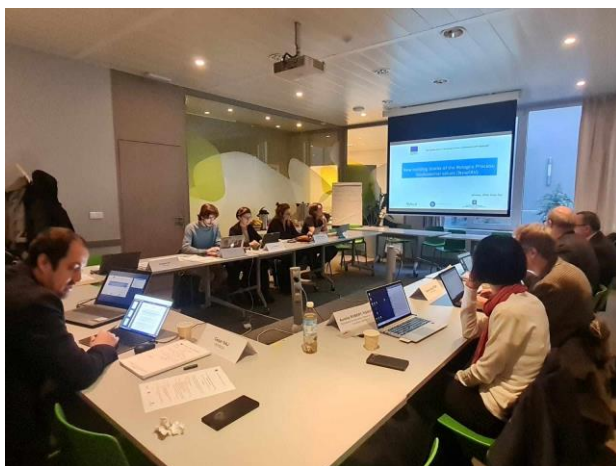
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was emphasized that promoting and discussing values may hold equal importance alongside monitoring their implementation.

In session 4, titled “European Strategy for Universities: toward guiding principles on protecting fundamental academic values” the focus was on presenting the EC-DG EAC initiative concerning fundamental values. Svein Hullstein from EC-DG EAC and Sjur Bergan from the Council of Europe disclosed that the initiative by EC-DG EAC aims to formulate guiding principles for safeguarding fundamental academic values. During the session, details regarding the key issues that these Guiding Principles should emphasize were unveiled. This included discussions on how leaders can prioritize fundamental values, the significance of creating spaces for debates, the importance of safeguarding members of the academic community, and the relationship between higher education institutions and public authorities. These topics were identified as areas the Guiding Principles will address. Additionally, participants were invited to provide recommendations regarding other issues that the draft Guiding Principles should highlight.

Session 5 “A Technical Policy Framework of Indicators to Measure and Assess Fundamental Values. How do we address the intra-relations between fundamental values?” was dedicated to providing insights into the monitoring and measurement of fundamental values, as well as the examination of the interconnections among these values. Daniela Craciun, an expert from the Center for Higher Education Policy Studies at Twente within the NewFAV project, elucidated how the proposed monitoring framework developed within the NewFAV project tackles the interrelations between values. This is achieved by considering distinctions such as de jure vs. de facto, rights and freedoms vs. duties and obligations, infringements vs. fulfillment, and the current situation vs. future outlook.

Participants expressed that the PLA process proved highly beneficial both for their own roles as practitioners and for the Fundamental Values Working Group meetings. The insights gained during this PLA will offer valuable support to the co-chairs of the FV WG and the AB members, aid content experts in crafting project deliverables, and assist national experts in advancing and implementing Bologna reforms that are aligned with fundamental values through the transfer of knowledge.



4.1. Agenda

Fundamental values in Higher Education: intra-relations between fundamental values''

23rd January 2024, Brussels, Belgium

(Address: Mundo Trône (Mundo-j) building, Rue de l'Industrie 10, 1000 Bruxelles)

Peer learning activity

23rd of January 2024

09.00 – 09.30	Registration & welcome coffee
09.30 – 10.00	<p>Welcome session</p> <p>Cezar Haj, co-chair of the Fundamental Values Working Group</p> <p>Iris Kimizoglu, Vice-President of European Students' Union and ESU representative within the FV WG (host)</p>
10.00 – 10.15	<p>NewFAV project presentation & setting the scene</p> <p>Cezar Haj, Project Manager New FAV</p>
10.15 – 11.00	<p>Input 1 – An overview of the Statements and Intra-relations between fundamental values in Higher Education Governance in EHEA (presentation of the fundamental values statements)</p> <p>Speaker: Cezar Haj, co-chair of the Fundamental Values Working Group</p> <p>Q&A</p>
11.00 – 11.15	Coffee break
11.15 – 12.00	<p>Input 2 – Challenges and intra-relations between fundamental values within the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).</p> <p>Speaker: Sjur Bergan, Council of Europe</p> <p>Q&A</p>
12.00 – 12.45	<p>Input 3 – Challenges in monitoring FV Values, the 2020-2024 exercise.</p> <p>Speaker: David Crosier, EURYDICE</p> <p>Q&A</p>
12.45 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 14.45	<p>Input 4 – European Strategy for Universities: toward guiding principles on protecting fundamental academic values</p> <p>Speaker: Svein Hullstein, EC - DG EAC, Sjur Bergan, Council of Europe</p>

	Q&A
14.45 – 15.00	Coffee break
15.00 – 16.00	Input 5 – A Technical Policy Framework of Indicators to Measure and Assess Fundamental Values. How do we address the intra-relations between fundamental values? Speaker: Daniela Craciun , Center for Higher Education Policy Studies, Twente Q&A
16.00 – 16.30	Conclusions and lessons to learn

4.2. Participants

Institution
Council of Europe
Center for Higher Education Policy Studies, Twente, The Netherlands
Eurydice
European Commission (DG EAC)
European Students' Union
EUTOPIA alliance, Belgium
Federation des Etudiants Franchophones, Belgium
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Belgium
BFUG Working Group Fundamental Values, Romania
The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI), Romania
King's College London, United Kingdom
Public Policy Management Institute (PPMI), Lithuania
State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI, Switzerland
BFUG Secretariat
ICF, Belgium

4.3. Communication

The PLA was promoted on The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI) website (<https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/news-peer-learning-activity-intra-relations-between-fundamental-values>), integrated also in the project's webpage (<https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/new-building-blocks-of-the-bologna-process-fundamental-values>).

The PLA was also promoted on social media on the official accounts of UEFISCDI. Please see below.

- **UEFISCDI LinkedIn** - <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7155562180791132161/>
- **UEFISCDI Facebook page**- <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=691571763153258&set=pcb.691581469818954>
- **UEFISCDI X/ Twitter page** - <https://twitter.com/uefiscdi/status/1749797789532631233>

5. Peer Learning Activity – Fundamental values in Higher Education: European Higher Education Area and European Education Area - public responsibility for and of higher education online

On April 4th 2024, the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research in collaboration with the Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI) organized the event "Fundamental values in Higher Education: European Higher Education Area and European Education Area – public responsibility for and of higher education". The Peer Learning Activity was organized in an online format under the WP 2- Assessing and measuring fundamental values in the EHEA, T2.2 Peer learning activities of the project.

The event brought together decision-makers, representatives from various international, national and local structures with attributions in promoting fundamental values in higher education, to debate the topic of public responsibility for and of higher education in EHEA. The PLA had as participants high-level experts from the BFUG Working Group on Fundamental Values, EC- DG EAC, representatives from ESU and ESU national members, AB Members and co-chairs of the BFUG WG on Fundamental Values together and the content experts involved in the project. The list of participants can be seen in 5.2 section.

During the welcome session Tone Strom, co-chair of the Fundamental Values Working Group and Director in the Ministry of Education and Research, Norway and Cezar Haj, co-chair of the Fundamental Values Working Group WG shared their thoughts on the aim of the PLA and made a short introduction on public responsibility for and of higher education. Cezar Haj, as the NEWFAV project manager made a brief presentation of the project, and shared new updates. The PLA agenda can be seen in 5.1 section.

Session 1, " An overview of the definitions within public responsibility for and of higher education in EHEA" the focus was on providing a brief introduction to the current state of quo, as well as the definitions and statements related to public responsibility for and of higher education that will be adopted in the next Ministerial Conference. Liviu Matei, Head of the King's School of Education, Communication & Society and the lead expert in NewFAV project, made a presentation on the specific characteristics of the public responsibility for and of HE, mentioning that this value is different when it comes to the monitoring process, since it includes a set of duties, responsibilities for the education sector and society as a whole. As well, compared to academic freedom which is defined as a set of rights in research, teaching and learning and governance, for Public Responsibility there are ten dimensions that has to be taken into account.

During this session it was mentioned that the European Commission has developed guiding principles for safeguarding fundamental academic values which takes into account the work done within the Fundamental Values Working Group and the NewFAV project.

Session 2, titled "A Technical Policy Framework of Indicators to Measure and Assess Fundamental Values. How do we address public responsibility for and of higher education?" there was an in-depth presentation addressing the monitoring framework of indicators to measure and assess public responsibility for and of HE. It was mentioned that this value is defined as a set of duties and obligations compared to other values that are defined as a set of rights and freedoms. This session addressed all dimensions that have to be integrated under de jure and de facto when monitoring public responsibility. During the debates, Mr. Liviu Matei mentioned that the ministers made commitments to safeguard fundamental values which leads to the objective of monitoring



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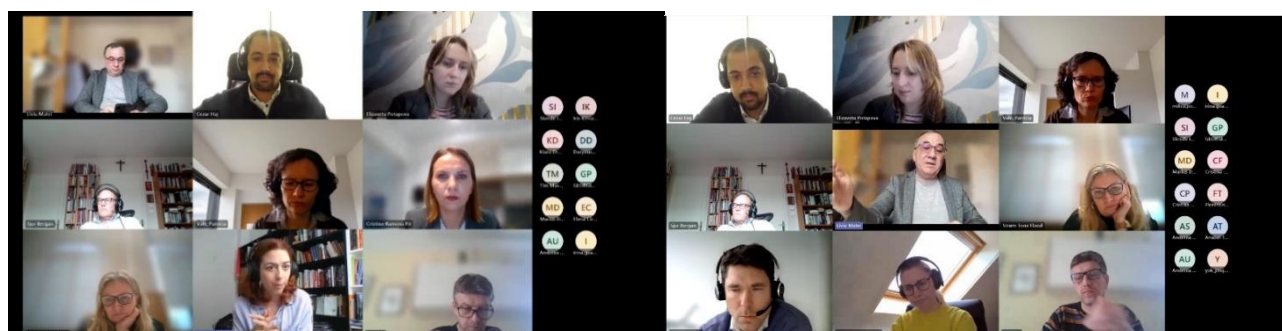
New building blocks of the Bologna Process: fundamental values (NewFAV)

commitments to protect and promote these values. It was concluded that it is impossible to monitor or measure values, therefore the monitoring exercise proposal should look if commitments are implemented or not, in de jure part see if there is legal regulation and if these are compatible with the EHEA statements. The purpose shouldn't be about monitoring but rather about the implementation. Additionally, it was mentioned that the piloting exercise doesn't make policy evaluation.

During session 3, "Challenges in monitoring FV Values: lessons learned from the piloting exercise within NewFAV project" Aleš Vlk, a national operator part of the NewFAV project presented his experience in the piloting exercise that is done as part of the project. This session brought to light several things that can impact the way a country reflects and relates with the safeguard of these values, such as context and history. One of the lessons learned is that it's important to explore how to find a balance between an ability of a state to steer HE education – responsibility of a state towards taxpayers and a sufficient autonomy of HE institutions to achieve their main missions efficiently and effectively. Furthermore, it was emphasized that system details and context depend from country to country and a topic for further reflection could be faculty autonomy and see where in EHEA are they in an independent and less independent position. Speakers also concluded that this piloting exercise is not a collection of opinions but a collection of answers based on proofs and documents.

In session 4, titled "DG EAC's initiative towards Guiding principles on protecting fundamental academic values" the focus was on presenting the EC-DG EAC initiative concerning fundamental values. Speakers disclosed that the initiative by EC-DG EAC aims to formulate guiding principles for safeguarding fundamental academic values. During the session, details regarding the key issues that these Guiding Principles should emphasize were unveiled. It was stated that many of the recommendations are directed to different stakeholders such as the European Commission, National Public Authorities, Higher Education Institutions, stakeholders that work in quality assurance. One of the highlighted recommendations was the need to protect the academic community who are subject to attacks or under pressure because of their academic work. Speakers emphasized that this initiative is a recommendation from the EU to put fundamental values on the agenda, it is a way to support the BFUG Fundamental Values working group with the work done so far and a message to the EU members on how these guidelines would be of help to implement in their systems. Additionally, it was concluded that the EC initiative and the NewFAV project support the Fundamental Values Working Group in their work.

Participants reported that the PLA process was valuable, enriching their roles as practitioners and enhancing the effectiveness of the Fundamental Values Working Group meetings.





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0:02:55 2:15 PM

NewFAV

- **T2.4 - Developing a technical policy framework of indicators to measure and assess Fundamental Values – June 2024**
- **Main result – Ministerial communique 2024**

42 We adopt the statements on the fundamental values annexed to this Communique. While each value is
 43 essential, all six of them need to be implemented as a coherent whole. As a reliable monitoring of their
 44 implementation within all our education systems is required, we welcome the work on creating a technical
 45 monitoring framework, and we ask the BFUG to report back to us at our 2027 Ministerial Conference.

Next slide

NewFAV

T2.2 Five Peer learning activities –

Institutional autonomy – Romania – December 2022

- Discussions on legislative framework in Romania, values and practices regarding institutional autonomy
- Review higher education law which includes details about micro-credentials, fundamental values and defines joint/double/multiple diploma.

Academic Freedom and Integrity – Germany – March 2023

- Discussions on – last research articles on AI and challenges to measure academic freedom

Participation of students and staff in Higher Education Governance – Romania – November 2023

- Discussion on - how to monitor and measure fundamental values, specifically participation of students and staff

No Notes.

Fundamental values of higher education in the EHEA

VALUES
Rights/Freedoms
-Academic Freedom -Institutional Autonomy -Participation of students & staff in governance
VALUES
Duties/Obligations
- Academic integrity - Responsibility for HE - Responsibility of HE

2

5.1. Agenda

Fundamental values in Higher Education: European Higher Education Area and European Education Area - public responsibility for and of higher education

4th of April 2024, online, CET 13:00 - 17:30

Peer learning activity

4th of April 2024

<p>13.00 – 13.15</p>	<p>Welcome session</p> <p>Tone Strom, co-chair of the Fundamental Values Working Group and Director, Ministry of Education and Research, Norway (host)</p> <p>Cezar Haj & Cuschieri Rose Anne, co-chairs of the Fundamental Values Working Group</p> <p>Liviu Matei, Head of Head of the King's School of Education, Communication & Society (ECS)</p>
<p>13.15 – 13.30</p>	<p>NewFAV project presentation & setting the scene</p> <p>Cezar Haj, Project Manager New FAV</p>
<p>13.30 – 14.15</p>	<p>Input 1 – An overview of the definitions within public responsibility for and of higher education in EHEA</p> <p>Speaker: Liviu Matei Head of the King's School of Education, Communication & Society (ECS)</p> <p>Moderator: Cezar Haj, co-chair of the Fundamental Values Working Group</p> <p>Q&A</p>
<p>14.15 – 14.30</p>	<p>Health break</p>
<p>14.30 – 15.15</p>	<p>Input 2 – A Technical Policy Framework of Indicators to Measure and Assess Fundamental Values. How do we address public responsibility for and of higher education?</p> <p>Speaker: Elizaveta Potapova, Public Policy Management Institute (PPMI)</p> <p>Moderator: Tone Strom, co-chair of the Fundamental Values Working Group and Director, Ministry of Education and Research, Norway</p> <p>Q&A</p>
<p>15.15 – 16.00</p>	<p>Input 3 – Challenges in monitoring FV Values: lessons learned from the piloting exercise within NewFAV project</p> <p>Speaker: Aleš Vlk, Czech Republic</p> <p>Moderator: Cuschieri Rose Anne, co-chair of the Fundamental Values Working Group, Malta (TBC)</p>



	Q&A
16.00 – 17.00	<p>Input 4 – DG EAC’s initiative towards Guiding principles on protecting fundamental academic values</p> <p>Speaker: HULLSTEIN Svein, DG EAC and Sjur Bergan, independent expert</p> <p>Moderator: Cezar Haj, co-chair of the Fundamental Values Working Group</p> <p>Q&A</p>
17.00 – 17.30	Conclusions and lessons to learn

5.2. Participants

Institution
ANOSR - The National Alliance of Student Organization in Romania
Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, Republic of Moldova
Babes-Bolyai University, Romania
Charles University, Faculty of Physical Education and Sport, Czech Republic
European Commission (DG EAC)
European Students' Union
"Ilie Murgulescu" Institute of Physical Chemistry, Romania
The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany
Norwegian Ministry of Education, Norway
BFUG Working Group Fundamental Values representatives
The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI), Romania
The Free Association of Student Associations (FZS), Germany
King's College London, United Kingdom
Public Policy Management Institute (PPMI), Lithuania
State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation SERI, Switzerland
ICF SA, Belgium
Sciences Po CERI, France
Študentska organizacija Slovenija (ŠOS), Slovenia
University Students' Union (UDU), Italy

5.3. Communication

The PLA was promoted on The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI) website (<https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/news-peer-learning-activity-fundamental-values-in-higher-education-european-higher-education-area-and-european-education-area>), integrated also in the project’s webpage (<https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/new-building-blocks-of-the-bologna-process-fundamental-values>).



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The PLA was also promoted on social media on the official accounts of UEFISCDI. Please see below.

- **UEFISCDI LinkedIn** -
<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7177944419382247424>
- **UEFISCDI X/ Twitter page** -
<https://twitter.com/uefiscdi/status/1772179694219108811/photo/1>
- **UEFISCDI Facebook page**-
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=726114089699025&set=a.189015673408872>