

Programme

Conference:
Fundamental Academic Values in the EHEA
Strengthening Cooperation through Fundamental Academic Values?

28 October 2021

Virtual Event (Registration)

Conference Language: English

FUNDAMENTAL ACADEMIC VALUES IN THE EHEA

Strengthening Cooperation through Fundamental Academic Values?

Fundamental Academic Values such as academic freedom, university autonomy and teacher and student participation in the governance of higher education institutions (HEI) have accompanied the Bologna Process since the very beginning and are currently increasingly coming to the fore in higher education policy debates. Hence, the Rome Ministerial Communiqué puts particular emphasis on the protection of “fundamental values of higher education and democracy and the rule of law” and commits 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. Therefore, the BFUG Working Group on Fundamental Values was asked to develop a coherent framework for measuring and monitoring the degree of academic freedom and violations. The reference to fundamental values is also in line with the European Commission’s strong commitment on this topic and supported by the new Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027. In addition, the role of universities for democratic societies and the education of critical thinking is more strongly addressed.

The conference within the framework of the DAAD project **bologna hub** will focus on the increasing importance of Fundamental Academic Values in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), the need for action and the potential contribution to these values by the BFUG and HEI. The conference aims at enriching the ongoing discussion on Fundamental Academic Values, bringing together professionals from the policy level as well as experts and HEI administrators, sensitising all actors to the topic and building a peer support network.

In addition, also the framework to further the monitoring and implementation of the Fundamental Academic Values of the EHEA in the higher education systems of its members, which will be developed by the BFUG Working Group on Fundamental Values, shall be discussed. The system should foster self-reflection, constructive dialogue and learning across national authorities, HEI and organisations, while also making it possible to assess the degree to which these Fundamental Academic Values are honoured and implemented in the EHEA.

Furthermore, an exchange on the role of Fundamental Academic Values in international cooperation and international mobility, experiences with previous activities, obstacles, potential for the future, the impact of the Corona crisis and new opportunities for cooperation from the perspective of HEI shall be enabled.

Key Questions

- What are the latest developments regarding Fundamental Academic Values in the EHEA?
- Should Fundamental Academic Values serve as a basic prerequisite for international cooperation?
- How to deal with experiences of restrictions on Fundamental Academic Values in international cooperation or mobility?
- What should the framework of the BFUG Working Group on Fundamental Values on implementing and monitoring these values look like?

Thursday, **28 OCTOBER 2021**

10.00	Opening of Online Platform
10.30	Welcome and Introduction Stephan Geifes, Director Erasmus+ National Agency Higher Education, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
10.40	Keynote: Fundamental Academic Values in the EHEA – State of Play Sjur Bergan, Head of Education Department, Council of Europe
11.00	Policy Dialogue: Panel Discussion Fundamental Academic Values as Precondition for International Cooperation? Kinga Szuly, Head of Sector Higher Education Policy at DG-EAC, European Commission Peter Greisler, Head of Directorate Higher Education, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) Michael Gaebel, Director for Higher Education Policy, European University Association (EUA) Martina Darmanin, President, European Students' Union (ESU) Cezar Mihai Hâj, Co-Chair, BFUG Working Group on Fundamental Values Facilitator: Irina Ferencz, Director, Academic Cooperation Association (ACA)
12.30	Lunch Break
13.30	Input: Empirical Research on Academic Freedom – Indicators and Recent Developments in the EHEA Katrin Kinzelbach, Professor for International Politics of Human Rights, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg
13.45	Peer Learning Activity: Parallel Roundtable Sessions Session A: BFUG Working Group on Fundamental Values: Framework for the Enhancement of Fundamental Academic Values Facilitator: Tone Flood Strøm, Co-Chair, BFUG Working Group on Fundamental Values Input: - Indicators in the Bologna Process Implementation Report David Crosier, Higher Education Policy Analyst, Eurydice

	<p>Session B: Fundamental Academic Values: Activities, Challenges and Opportunities – From Different Countries Perspectives Facilitator: Liviu Matei, Provost, Central European University</p> <p>Input:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internationalization and Academic Freedom - Freie Universität’s Principles of International Cooperation Florian Kohstall, Head of Academics in Solidarity, Center for International Cooperation, Free University of Berlin - Academic Freedom in Ireland Elizaveta Potapova, Researcher, Public Policy and Management Institute (PPMI) - Academic Freedom in Russia Katarzyna Kaczmarek, Lecturer in Politics and International Relations, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh
15.00	Health Break
15.15	Harvesting from the Roundtable Sessions
15.30	<p>Statement: Recommendations for Future Action Rose Anne Cuschieri, Co-Chair, BFUG Working Group on Fundamental Values</p>
15.45	<p>Wrap-up and Conclusion David Akrami Flores, Head of Section Erasmus+ KA3: Policy Support, DAAD</p>
15.50	End

Facilitator:
David Akrami Flores, Head of Section Erasmus+ KA3: Policy Support, DAAD

Contact

Hans Leifgen

Telefon: +49(0)228 / 882 5643

E-Mail: bologna@daad.de

National Agency for Higher Education

German Academic Exchange Service

Kennedyallee 50

53175 Bonn

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