

THE FUNDAMENTAL VALUES OF THE EHEA

- Institutional autonomy,
- Academic freedom and integrity,
- Participation of students and staff in higher education governance,
- Public responsibility *for* and *of* higher education

(Source: Rome Communiqué)

ISSUES

- Definition
- Data
- Implementation

(Inspired by Robert Quinn, Scholars at Risk)



DEFINITION/UNDERSTANDING

- Fundamental values understood to
 - Further democracy
 - Improve quality
- High profile and low profile aspects
 - Political repression of academic freedom and institutional autonomy
 - What is the right relationship between public authorities and institutions?

SOME TEXTS

- Magna Charta Universitatum (1988)
- Magna Charta Universitatum 2020 (presented in June 2021)
- EHEA Communiqués
 - Definition of academic freedom November 2020
- CoE Recommendation CM/Rec(2012)7 on the responsibility of public authorities for academic freedom and institutional autonomy
- Declaration adopted by the CoE/IC Forum on Academic Freedom, Institutional Autonomy, and the Future of Democracy, June 21, 2019



DATA

- Implementation report
- Data provided by whom?
 - Official data by the countries concerned
 - Stakeholders (e.g. HEIs, student unions)
 - Specialized bodies (e.g. Scholars at Risk, Independent Bologna Committee Belarus)
- How reliable are the data?
- Who decides which data we use if data conflict?

2018 IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

- Values and governance, pp. 40 - 45
- Focus on
 - Yerevan Communiqué (2015)
 - Academic freedom and institutional autonomy: legal protection and other measures
 - Legal basis for academic freedom
 - Composition of governing bodies
 - Appointment and dismissal of higher education executive heads
 - Decision -making responsibility for new study programs
 - Consultation on top level action to implement higher education reforms
- Explicit criticism of Turkey, Russia, Hungary



IMPLEMENTATION

- Fundamental values intimately linked to political system
- Backsliding of democracy
- Role of
 - Public authorities
 - Civil society (including HE community)
- How do we encourage the implementation of our fundamental values?
- How do we deal with cases of blatant violations?
 - November 2020 statement on Belarus