

*Programme Draft*

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

**28 October 2021**

**Virtual Event**

# 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	<b>Opening of Online Platform</b>
10.30	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> German Academic Exchange Service
10.40	<b>Keynote: Fundamental Academic Values in the EHEA – State of Play</b> Sjur Bergan, Council of Europe
11.00	<b>Policy Dialogue: Panel Discussion</b> <b>Fundamental Academic Values as Precondition for International Cooperation?</b>  Kinga Szuly, European Commission Peter Greisler, Federal Ministry of Education and Research European University Association (tbc) Martina Darmanin, European Students' Union Cezar Mihai Hâj, BFUG Working Group on Fundamental Values
12.30	<b>Lunch Break</b>
13.30	<b>Input: Empirical Research on Academic Freedom – Indicators and Recent Developments in the EHEA</b> Katrin Kinzelbach, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg
13.45	<b>Peer Learning Activity: Parallel Roundtable Sessions</b> <b>Session A:</b> <b>BFUG Working Group on Fundamental Values: Framework for the Enhancement of Fundamental Academic Values</b> Facilitator: Tone Flood Strøm, BFUG Working Group on Fundamental Values  <b>Session B:</b> <b>Fundamental Academic Values: Activities, Challenges and Opportunities – From Different Countries Perspectives</b> Facilitator: tbc
15.00	<b>Health Break</b>
15.15	<b>Harvesting from the Roundtable Sessions</b>
15.30	<b>Statement: Recommendations for Future Action</b> Rose Anne Cuschieri, BFUG Working Group on Fundamental Values
16.00	<b>Taking it forward: Wrap-up and Conclusion</b> David Akrami Flores, German Academic Exchange Service
16.15	<b>End</b>

Facilitator: tbc

Conference Language: English

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