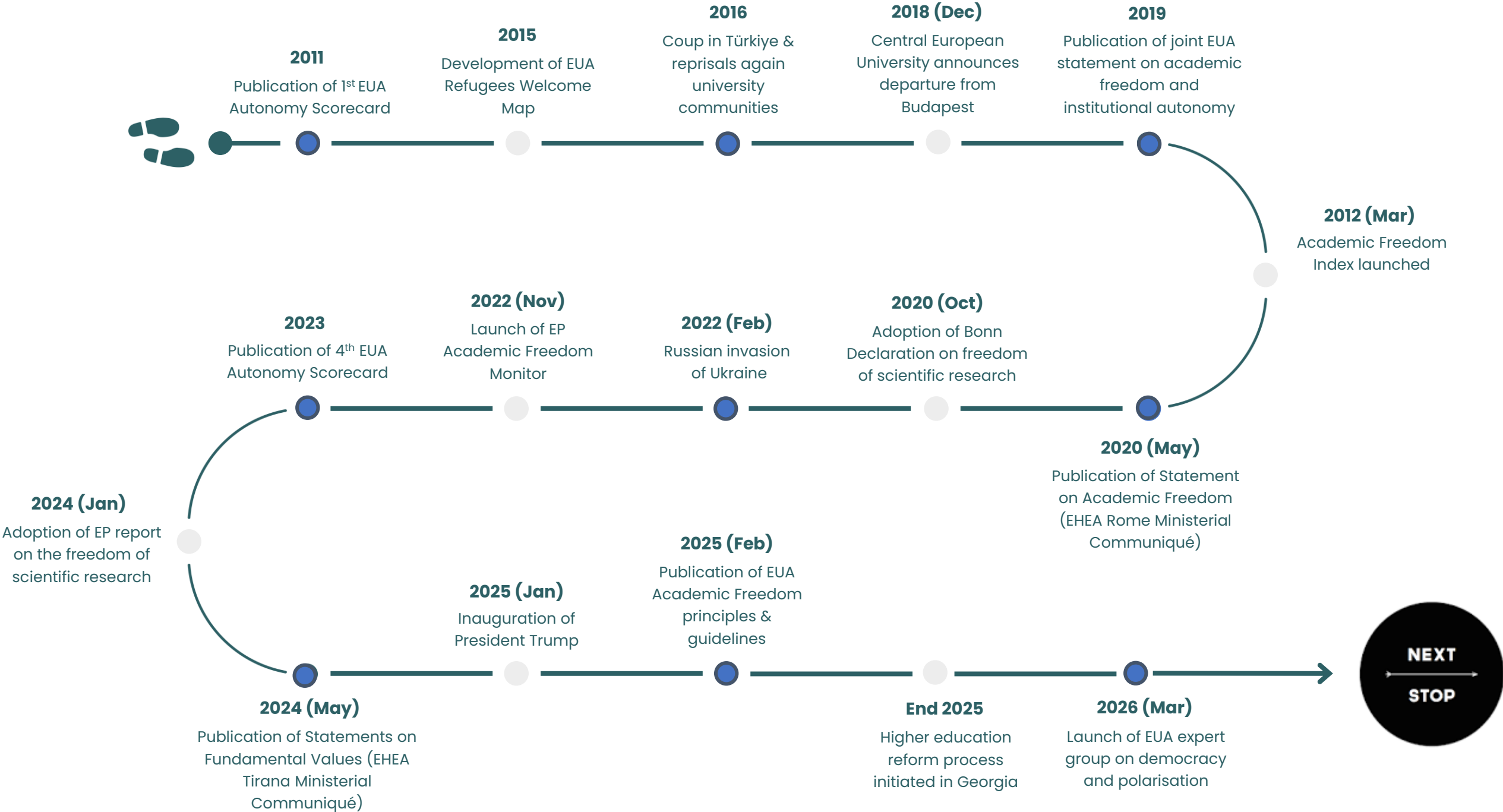


EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION

Universities' Academic Freedom: Principles & Guidelines

Monika Steinel, Deputy Secretary General, EUA

Some key events



Current Challenges

Global Risks
Increasing threats worldwide

Funding Pressures
Limited funding & top-down
instruments



Polarisation

Extreme societal and political
division

Regulation

Excessive interference and control

What is academic freedom?

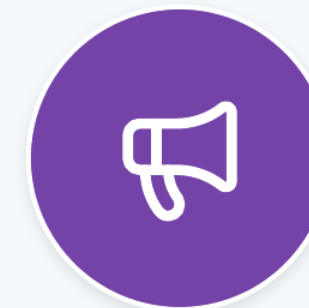
The freedom to learn and teach,
to conduct and valorise research,
and to communicate the results of
scientific work.



Learn and teach



Research



Communicate



Knowledge + Education + Society

The six principles



A core value

Enables university missions



A foundation for quality

Protects meaningful research and teaching



A contribution to society

Supports debate and democratic culture



Applies to the academic community

Academics, researchers and students



A right and a responsibility

Freedom requires responsible practice



Guided by standards

Scientific, ethical, professional and quality standards

Guidelines for University Leadership



Foster a Shared Understanding of Academic Freedom

Develop institutional guidelines and policies



Ensure Collegial Structures

Sustain academic self-governance as key to academic freedom



Shield from External Pressure & Seek Dialogue

Protect community from interference and intimidation



Secure Diverse Funding

Avoid overdependence on financial sources



Guidelines for University Communities

Uphold Fundamental Values

Adhere to integrity, quality and responsibility standards

Raise Awareness

Encourage open and rigorous debate on complex topics

Make Public Case

Explain that academic freedom underpins universities' public mandate

Creating a culture of Academic Freedom

Codes of Conduct

Referenced in employment contracts and job descriptions

Dedicated Focal Points

Establish body or designated leadership member

Regular Training

Mandatory sessions on academic freedom for staff and students

Curriculum Integration

Incorporate academic freedom in teaching programmes

Regular Opportunities for Discussion

Academic freedom events for university communities and external partners

Reflections/practical conundrums for university leadership

Academic freedom & funding

Influence of public/private funders on research & teaching?

Academic freedom vs. free speech

Can universities accommodate both?

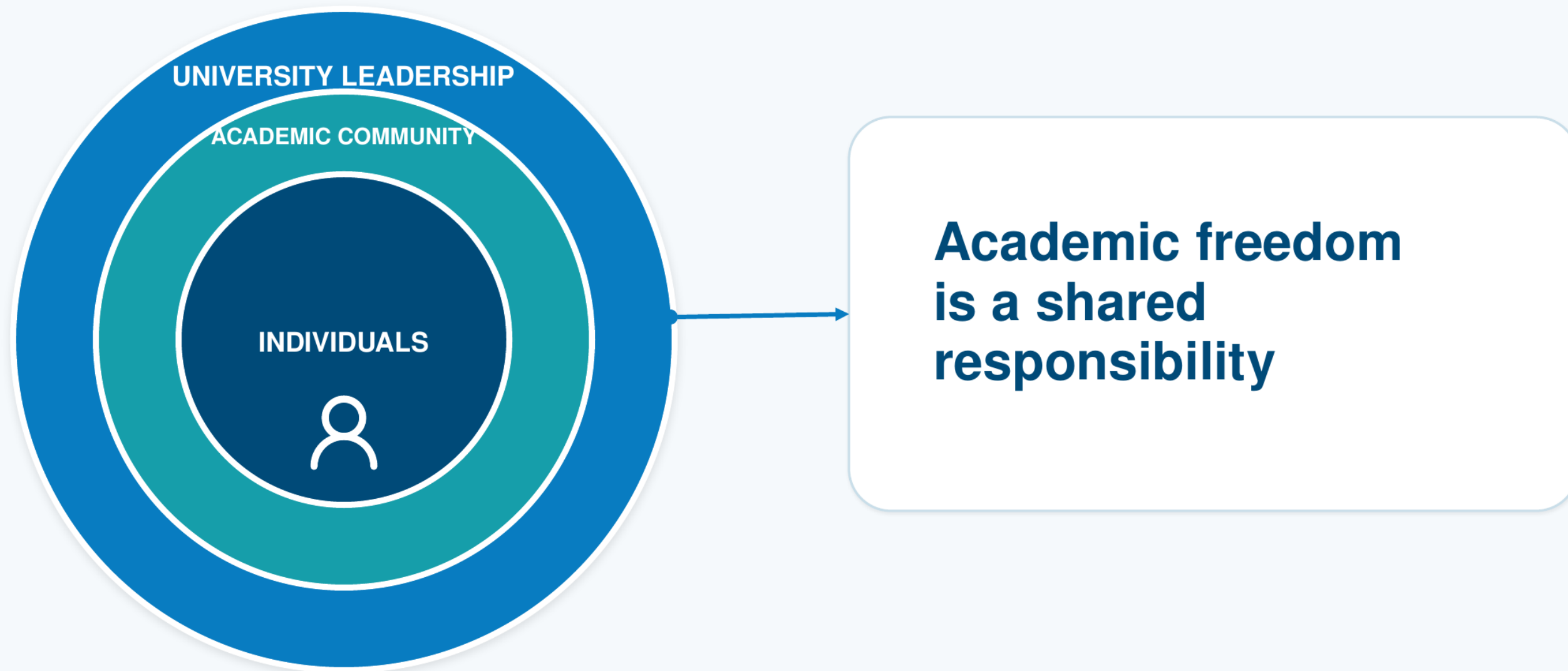
Intra-institutional pressures

Managing intra-institutional conflicts & assessing one's own role

Impact of geopolitics

Academic freedom vs. openness of science & knowledge security

Who protects academic freedom?



Thank you for your attention

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