

Updates from ESU March -June 2020

Organisational updates

The 78th Board Meeting of ESU scheduled to take place in person in April was called off. Instead, the Board of ESU had a virtual meeting to take the most important decisions for that moment. The mandate of the 2019-2020 Executive Committee was extended until the end of 2020 year. More information is available [here](#). The Executive Committee was also mandated to work on the impact of COVID19.

Policy updates

- ESU has issued several statements addressing the different aspects of how COVID19 has impacted students and Europe in general. Below is the full list:
 - [COVID-19: ESU's reaction about the implications for students](#)
 - [COVID-19 Position Paper: A multidimensional crisis that affects us all](#)
 - [Call for Belarus to implement national Stay-at-Home measures](#)
 - [European Students' Union review of Human Rights Violations during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

- Right after the pandemic was announced ESU has focused on the issues of **Erasmus students**, we have organised a Q&A webinar with the colleagues from European Commission and Erasmus offices to address all the questions and problems students have faced. Full information and the recording of the webinar can be found [here](#).

- By the end of March, ESU had organised a webinar about student engagement in **European Universities**. The webinar aimed to help the students and staff of the alliances to understand the importance of student engagement, find good ways and structures for it and develop the cooperation of students within university alliances. ESU's perspective on how to organize student engagement in European Universities was presented. More information is available [here](#).
Connected to the European Universities, in June ESU also co-organised with DG EAC and ESN a **student meeting** for student representatives from **European Universities**. It turned into a fruitful platform for students to exchange information and learn more about European Universities. ESU's most recent resolution on the topic can be found [here](#).

- ESU has organised a series of webinars on **e-learning** that emerged with the impact of COVID19. Issues such as the recognition, quality assurance, assessment and quality of e-learning were addressed in these webinar series.

All the recordings and more information about these webinars is available [here](#).

- Together with EUA, ESU co-organised a webinar about the **changing policies of student assessment** due to COVID19. We reflected on how to make sure through institutional policies that continuity in the education offer is assured, and assessment and examination are fair and meaningful in the student experience. We also reflected on how the student representatives are and should be involved in the development of such policies. Recording and presentations from the webinar are available [here](#).
- Focusing some discussions on the future of education, ESU has co-organized with UNESCO an **e-conference** for ESU membership about the **Futures of Education** initiative. As a brief takeaway from the webinar: it was highlighted that today and in the future, we need to make sure the learning is knowledge-based and applicable in practice. Our world is interconnected and education needs to make sure learners see this. For the future, participants also underlined the need for more participatory education combined with democratic governance mechanisms. Participation, especially when it concerns the students and young people, shouldn't be seen as a privilege but a right to exercise. One of the discussions suggested that for restructuring the world of education and painting the future through it, we need to see it as a priority on many levels, including on political one. More information about the initiative and the e-conference can be accessed [here](#).
- We have co-organized with OBESSU a webinar on assessments and exams, in particular **school graduation and university entrance exams**, through this we improved our understanding of the different approaches taken by European states in this regard and provided a space for discussion, learning and sharing of best practices. More information is available [here](#) and the recording of the event is [here](#).
- Together with colleagues from ESN and EUF, ESU has been putting together and driving the [#Erasmus500](#) campaign, aimed at the implementation of a **new grant allocation** scheme within the programme in relation to student mobility. A [webinar](#) was held to further discuss in detail with the membership of ESU and ESN.
- We have co-created the [1 in 5 - Justice for every child](#) campaign together with our regional counterparts in Africa, the Commonwealth, the European school students union and the 100 Million campaign dealing with the **implications of Covid-19 on the most marginalised** and demanding justice when it comes to the fair distribution of crisis compensation payments by



the world community in the light of COVID-19. In the scope of this initiative we also hosted a [webinar](#) with nobel peace prize laureate Kailash Satyarthi.

- The continued work on the Global Student Forum will lead to the formal establishment of the organisation in July 2020. Together with the All African Students Union, OBESSU, the Commonwealth students association, the Latin American regional students representation OCLAE and a caucus of national unions of students that are not represented by the aforementioned regional platforms we strive to create a legitimate global students voice that enables decisive and coordinated political action, solidarity and mutual learning on a transcontinental level.
- Together with the Institute for Development of Education (IDE) and an independent group of researchers from the University of zadar, and with the support of the Ministry of Education & Science of Croatia, we carried out a survey on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the students' life. The survey collected over 17,000 responses and the main outcomes have been passed on to the BFUG. A detailed report will be compiled under the coordination of Dr Karen Doolan, and will be shared with the BFUG at a later stage.