

# Update from ESU to the Bologna Follow-Up Group Meeting in Kyiv, March 2020

*Highlights since the last BFUG meeting in Helsinki 12th-13th of November 2019*

## **New Policy Paper on Social Dimension**

ESU's board adopted a new Policy Paper on Social Dimension which can be found on ESU's website here <https://www.esu-online.org/?policy=2019-social-dimension-policy-paper>. The Paper defines the European Students' Union (ESU) opinions on Social Dimension of Higher Education for the next 4 years. The Policy Paper outlines the main position about inclusion, equality and accessibility to Higher Education. This Policy Paper was adopted at the European Students' Union Board Meeting 77 in Malta, in December 2019.

## **New Human Rights and Solidarity Strategy**

The strategy is available online on ESU's website here <https://www.esu-online.org/?policy=2019-human-rights-and-solidarity-strategy>. The strategy outlines our strategic priorities within the broader area perpetuating human rights. It is important to understand that all the priorities should be viewed as equal. With this strategy, we hope to consolidate our current work that has been centred around the Students' Rights Charter. Much of this work has been realised through solidarity statements and partnerships with European institutions such as the Council of Europe and the European Union. Some priorities are directly action-orientated, while others are more closely related to our way of conducting work. This Policy Paper was adopted at the European Students' Union Board Meeting 77 in Malta, in December 2019.

## **Statement on the future of Bologna**

This statement was also adopted at the European Students' Union Board Meeting 77 in Malta, in December 2019, and can be found [here](#). The statement aims to give ESU's position about the next working period of the BFUG as well as the upcoming decade in general. We are currently also working on a statement which will highlight our position for the upcoming Ministerial Conference in Rome, and this will be made available by the BFUG Meeting in Split.

## **Bologna with Student's Eyes 2020**

Until the mid February our members have provided us with the data that will lay ground for the Bologna with Student Eyes 2020 edition. Currently the Executive Committee of ESU is analyzing the data received to prepare the chapters of the publication. The publication will

provide a student perception of the implementation of Bologna reforms and follow up the previous editions. Main outcomes for the Bologna with Student Eyes 2020 will be ready by the BFUG meeting in Split on 4-5 May 2020 and the final publication will be provided during the Ministerial conference in Rome.

### **14th EQAF 2019 in Berlin**

In November ESU organised a pre-forum student meeting for around 35 students attending the EQAF conference. The meeting brought the students together to enhance their knowledge about the global trends of the External Quality Assurance and look into the differences of QA systems in European and other continents. Interesting were the findings that stakeholder/student engagement is a particular feature for the European higher education area and not commonly practiced in other continents.

### **European Universities Initiative**

European Students' Union (ESU) is thoroughly following the developments of the European Universities Initiative by regularly being involved in possible discussions and meetings that address the topic.

In November ESU organised the 1st student meeting for the student representatives from the European Universities to facilitate exchange of information and experiences among them.

At the European Students' Union Board Meeting 77 in Malta, in December 2019 the board of ESU adopted this [resolution](#) to express its position about the current stage of the initiative. In March 27th there will be a [webinar](#) about student participation where we will host colleagues from European Commission and different university alliances who will speak about the importance of student participation.

### **Peer Learning activity on Qualifications Framework**

In November 2019 ESU hosted a Peer Learning Activity about the multiple use of Qualifications Framework. The activity was carried forward within the project for the Thematic Peer Group on Qualifications Framework and hosted the members of the group during the PLA.

### **Sustainability Statement**

During the 77th Board Meeting of the European Students Union in Malta, taking place in December 2019, ESU adopted its statement on sustainability in higher education. The document tackles multiple dimensions of sustainability and introduces recommendations as well as policy demands directed towards governments, cooperations, media, educational institutions and student unions. The statement can be found [here](#).

### **Global Students Forum**

Together with student organisations and movements from around the world, we have been discussing how to cooperate in a more structured and strategic way on a global scale. A voluntary consortium has emerged, comprised of regional federations of national unions, including the All-Africa Students Union, Commonwealth Students' Association,

the Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions and the European Students Union, which together cover 143 student unions in 95 countries, as well as national unions, organisations and movements from countries including Chile, Bangladesh, Burundi, Chad, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Zimbabwe and South Africa.

In April 2019, we started to explore ways to work together. In June, we met in Accra, Ghana to discuss our shared aspirations. In October, we toured Europe and the United States speaking to partners, donors and critical friends, refining the idea of a facility to serve and strengthen our work. In December, we met in Geneva, Switzerland for a meeting on the sidelines of the UNHCR summit and in December again in Rabat, Morocco on the sidelines of an All Africa Students Union congress to discuss the work further and expand the network of organisations that are involved.

At this point we are only months away from creating the first independent, democratic and representative global student organization since the dissolution of the International Union of Students in 1969. We will establish a legal entity and operationalize the structures of the Global Students Forum by the end of 2020 and are looking forward to providing the BFUG with more detailed information once the initiative is launched publicly.

#### **Erasmus+ and reaction MFF with ESN**

The President of the European Council Charles Michel unveiled his draft European Council conclusions for the multiannual budget of the EU for 2021-2027. ESUs and ESNs reaction addresses the financial outlook envisioned by the Council for the next multiannual financial framework, including the budget for the successor Erasmus+ Programme. In this reaction, ESN and ESU present their view on the initial budgetary proposal put forward by the European Council with regards to the proposed funding for Erasmus+, with a particular focus on the higher education and youth sectors. You can find the reaction [here](#).

#### **European Students Convention 39**

Between the 15th and the 18th of February, the 39th European Students Convention of the European Students Union took place in Nicosia, Cyprus. More than 100 delegates from nearly 40 countries came together to discuss ESUs stance on the latest developments within the EHEA and in order to coordinate their advocacy efforts in the light of the upcoming 2020 ministerial conference 2020 in Rome.