



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND RESEARCH



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UPDATE FROM THE EUROPEAN STUDENTS' UNION (ESU)

ESU member events

During the 72nd Board Meeting (BM72) of ESU, the bi-annual statutory meeting, that took place in Malta, May 2017 a new Executive Committee of ESU was elected. The team started work at 1st of July 2017 and the mandate will last until the 30th of June 2018. You can introduce yourself with the elected representatives [here](#). During BM72 ESU policy paper on Quality of Higher Education was revised, outlining ESU's policy on quality assurance, teaching and learning and students qualifications.

Between the 11th - 13th of October the 34th European Students Convention (ESC 34) was held in Cardiff, Wales. The theme of the Convention was "Securing our future" with sessions dedicated to discuss HE collaborations post Brexit, SDGs and the future of minority languages. Space dedicated to discuss the outline and need of the Bologna With Student Eyes publication (implementation of Bologna reforms from a student perspective) were held with the conclusion that there will be a publication ready for the Ministerial in 2018.

ESUs next Board Meeting (BM73) and Board Meeting Seminary will be held in Jerusalem, from 28th of November to 2nd of December, where the member unions of ESU will adopt a new three year strategic priority document of ESU. On the agenda is also the Plan of Work for 2018, as well as the budget for the next year. The seminary will be dedicated to topic "Academia 2.0: Innovation, Entrepreneurship and linking networks".

Policy and campaigns' highlights

In the last six months we have been participating in consultations of the Skills Agenda actions as the EQF revision and the review of the Key Competencies Framework. Since now a renewed EU agenda for higher education seems to be the most important issue all institutions seems to be focused on, ESU is also going to participate in particular actions. We emphasise a need for increased social inclusion, gaining competencies beyond employability, focus on lifelong learning, and that active citizenship to be prioritised.

Our board meeting in Israel marks the end of a strategic cycle, and a new three year strategic priorities documents will be adopted. As ESU has a very active membership that will take part in shaping the document until the moment of adoption, the executive committee cannot yet present the content of our new strategy. Some of the proposals are to further engage with the Open Educational Resources, and develop a students' approach to the possibilities provided by OER. Also, more focus on the learning outcomes of internships might move ESU into a field that has not been a main priority the last years. No indications have been given that ESU will make major revisions in our approach towards the Bologna process.

New partnerships

This semester ESU has joined in a collaboration with the Asia Europe Foundation (ASEF). This implies that ESU is being recognised as the formal and legitimate representative of European students. From now on we will be invited to all events related to higher education to make sure students are also involved in Asian-European cooperation. Our hope is to have a similar involvement of the Asian student movement in the near future.

ESU participated at the Students Forum of the Asian Rectors Conference. Students recommendations to the Asian European education ministers meeting was in part facilitated by ESU and we will also present the results at the meeting in Korea.

Project highlights

Together, Moving Forward small grants programme

ESU small grants programme in cooperation with Open Society Foundation, shall help students and young people to contribute to securing the refugees' fundamental human rights and stimulate a sense of belonging to the national and European community. The main theme of all applications for action is promoting positive refugee-host interactions. The topics to be called are not pre-defined, however, all proposed actions shall directly relate to the achievement of the objectives of the proposed programme. In 2017 there have been planned three calls for projects in total, 13 proposals received the grant.

ESPAQ

The project aims in engaging many stakeholders to support the development of the knowledge and expertise of students in Armenia in order to actively involve them in QA. We are in a very final stage of the project, currently preparing a handbook on students' participation in QA, guidebook for students' learning experience, finishing the series of students' exchanges in EU states in order to get competencies allowing the enhancement of Armenian students' participation in HE governance. The final conference will be held in Yerevan on November 14th.

SciShops

Scishops conducts an extensive analysis of already existing science shops in Europe and beyond with the help of research organisations and by developing a Knowledge Exchange roadmap. ESU's role is to disseminate the results and if needed make use of our network and contacts in the student movement. The Kickoff meeting was held in Vienna in the beginning of September.

BizMOOC

BizMOOC tackles the European challenge of enabling businesses, labour force and HEIs to increase their activities and exploitation (economies of scale) of the MOOC potential. ESU is part of MOOC Production team which aims to prepare a comprehensive MOOC available as OER. ESU has further contributed through undertaking interviews with HEI's and business leaders about their use of MOOCs as well as contacting experts on digital OER in order to receive feedback on the completed MOOC.

EXTRASup

The project EXTRASup aims at building a comprehensive framework of reflection for the recognition of prior learning and skills acquired by students in "voluntary, salaried and entrepreneurial work" through ECTS. The basic work of the project takes place in France. ESU is part of the advisory board of the project and prepared a research study comparing validation of prior learning in six different countries in Europe. The publication is to be published in early 2018.

You can find more information about other projects ESU is involved in [here](#).

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