



European Students' Union (ESU)

Fighting for students' rights since 1982

www.esu-online.org

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Update from the European Students' Union (ESU)

New leadership:

The new Presidency of ESU started their mandate on 1 July for the period 2018/2019. Adam Gajek (Poland) is ESU's new president and Katrina Koppel (Estonia) and Robert Napier (Malta) are the Vice Presidents. Along with Presidency, the new members of the Executive Committee and Coordinators for Human Rights and Solidarity, Membership and Equality will work together to represent and fight for the interests and rights of almost 20 million students all over Europe. Discover more about them [here](#).

ESU events:

The 36th European Students' Convention by European Students' Union (ESU) took place from 23 to 26 September 2018 in Vienna, Austria. The Convention focused on Public responsibility of higher education.

The ESU's Board Meeting 75 and Seminar on Combating challenges in higher education will take place from the 26th to the 30th of November 2018 in Budva, Montenegro.

Training for the ESU's QA Students Experts Pool, 4 to 6 of October in Riga, Latvia. Annual QA pool training of the

The training will be hosted by the Student Council of the University of Latvia in cooperation with the Student Union of Latvia and the Quality Agency for Higher Education/Academic Information Centre. The meeting will be attended by 30 selected QA pool members the training will be joined also by student experts from Latvia who all will have a chance to enhance their knowledge about the Quality Assurance developments at the European level and will master their skills to further apply them at the national and international reviews.

Policy and campaigns' highlights

ESU will work on mobilising students across Europe to make a well informed decision next May during the EU Parliament elections. ESU's statement regarding our priorities for the upcoming elections as well as the corresponding project will be launched in December 2018.

Bologna With Student Eyes 2018 has been completed and published ahead of the Ministerial meeting in Paris. The publication is freely available online and can found here:

<https://www.esu-online.org/publications/bologna-student-eyes-2018-2/>

ESU has worked exhaustively on improving the proposed and upcoming Erasmus regulation. As you will know, the Parliament procedures regarding passing the regulations are ongoing, ESU is looking to increase accessibility of the program, as well as several other political goals. ESU's position on the upcoming Erasmus programme and regulation, as well as the pillar of social rights can be seen here:

<https://www.esu-online.org/?policy=bm74-erasmus-pillar-social-rights>

Project highlights:

[Together, Moving Forward small grants programme](#)

'Together, Moving Forward' is a small grants programme run by ESU aiming at building positive refugee-host interactions across Europe.

We kicked off this programme in the winter of 2016. Since then, we supported several valuable projects, shared views with resourceful activists and creative change-makers. We are also still confronted with little or uneven progress made by European governments and education systems, and perhaps an even more polarized public discourse regarding refugees and migrants.

The European Students' Union and Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions are running respectively Together, Moving Forward and Seeds for Integration, two small-grants programmes focusing on refugee and migrant education. In 2018 and 2019, we are cooperating and joining forces and have launched a Joint Call for initiatives developed jointly by the school and university students.

Work Plan Project

A mapping activity was carried out to see what topics are currently crucial for the student movement. It was decided that ESU will hold three seminars on democratisation, migration and mental health respectively. Each seminar will see between 15 and 20 participants coming from different countries across Europe.

Political statements:

[ESU condemns the Suspension of Education Programmes for Refugees and Gender Studies in Hungary](#)

Over the past month, the Hungarian government passed a new legislation attacking some higher education programmes. One of the bills condemns the field of Gender Studies and encourages a ban of the course in Hungarian Universities; the other bill aims to suspend any education programme for refugees and asylum-seekers in the country, among other dispositions penalising any support to immigration.

The European Students' Union (ESU) condemns both of these measures as they are attacking, in a very straightforward manner, academic freedom in the country, as well as many human rights conventions. As the government step by step deconstructs academic freedom, ESU also expressed its concern about the current state of democracy in Hungary and the consequences it has and will have on higher education.

[ESU calls for better protocols and protection after sexual violence casts a shadow over EUSA games](#)

The European Students' Union condemns sexual harassment of any kind, and stands for the rights of each individual to be free of infringements upon their person. We call for protection of rights for those who have suffered serious sexual violence at the EUSA games.

The University Games are organized every two years by the European University Sports Association (EUSA). These games gather thousands of student athletes from all around Europe. At the games currently being held in Coimbra (Portugal), female athletes have been victims of numerous acts of violence, from sexual harassment to an attempted rape. Others have also been the target of verbal and physical assault. The perpetrators, according to a Press Release issued by the Finnish Student Sports Federation (Opiskelijoiden Liikuntaliitto ry- OLL) on July 24th are identified as being male athletes, as well as an older male coach.