



## **Update of the European Students' Union (ESU) for the Bologna Follow-Up Group meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2010 in Madrid, Spain**

### **Introduction**

This is an update of the European Students' Union activities produced for the Bologna Follow-Up Group held in Madrid, Spain on the 18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2010. This overview covers the main activities developed by ESU since the BFUG in Stockholm on 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2009. For any further clarification, please contact [ligia@esu-online.org](mailto:ligia@esu-online.org) or [andrea@esu-online.org](mailto:andrea@esu-online.org).

### **Events organized by ESU**

*1 – 18<sup>th</sup> European Students' Convention on "Social Dimension – the lost Dimension" on 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> of October in Stockholm, Sweden*

The European Students' Convention in Stockholm was jointly organized by ESU and SFS, the Swedish national union of students and it addressed the **social dimension**, with a special attention to student support services and strategies for widening participation in higher education. The event benefited from the support of the Swedish presidency and took place in the frame of the Lifelong Learning programme supported project "Equity in Higher Education – StudEq". The conference also explored the topic of student financing and the effects of the economic crisis on the student population, thus presenting the outcomes of our survey amongst our member unions about their perception on the effects of the crisis.

More information on the event can be found at: <http://www.sfs.se/esc/>

*2 – 17<sup>th</sup> of November – 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International day of Students*

On November 17, the International Students' Day, the European Students' Union (ESU) and the Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU) marked the 70th anniversary of the Nazi storming of the University of Prague. During a three-day conference in Brussels, speakers from

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the student movements in Europe, Latin America and Asia spoke about the challenges in their regions, and expressed their wish for continued global student cooperation.

More information about the event can be found at:

<http://www.esu-online.org/index.php/News/news-archive/616-international-students-day> and  
<http://s2.webstarts.com/17thofNovember-InternationalDayofStudents/index.html>

*3 – Board Meeting Seminar on the third cycle and the link between higher education and research on 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> of November and Board Meeting 57 on 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> of November in Krakow, Poland*

ESU held its 57<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting and Board Meeting Seminar in Krakow, Poland in November 2009. The event was co-organised by PSRP, the Students' Parliament of the Republic of Poland and was funded with the help of the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Commission.

The seminar addressed the topic of the **"The link between Higher Education and Research, Equity and Doctoral Students"**. Within this framework, ESU members discussed the link between higher education and research and with this between the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area with experts from the side of Education International, European University Association, and Eurodoc.

The event put forward for discussion the impact of the Bologna Process on the third cycle and how curricula competences can be defined in a balanced manner between the goal of employable third cycle graduates and a rewarding first step into a research career. Furthermore, the status of doctoral students in European HEIs was explored, while discussing how equity in access and success can be reached for the third cycle and what meaningful financing schemes for doctoral studies are. A report of the seminar will be available soon on the ESU website.

In the consecutive 57<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting the European Students' Union's members debated and voted the ESU 2010 plan of work and the corresponding budget for the upcoming year.

With the same occasion, ESU welcomed the Luxembourg University Students (LUS) as a full member.

As new associate members, ESU welcomes the International Students of History Association (ISHA) and the Association of Nordic and Pol-Balt Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Student Organizations (ANSO).

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At ESU's 57th Board Meeting in Krakow, there were also elections to four of ESU's committees. The newly elected ESU representatives are the following: Academic Affairs Committee: Christian Bjerke (Norway), Committee for Internal Development: Anna Sigridur Hafliðadóttir (Iceland) and Oron Dov (Israel) Social Affairs Committee: Emma Di Iorio (United Kingdom), Petri Rytkönen (Finland), Melinda Szabó (Romania), Itzik Yushuvaev (Israel), Student Union Development Committee: Rhianna Humphrey (United Kingdom) and Sölvi Karlsson (Iceland).

#### 4 – Global Student Meeting

Student organisations from across the world initially met in January 2009 to debate higher education and students rights before last year's UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education (WCHE). On January 13-15, 2010, regional European, Asian, African, Arab, North American and Australian student umbrella organisations, as well as sectorial organisation met for the third time in one year to debate more concrete steps forward for global student cooperation. The meeting was supported by UNESCO and Education International and also aimed at building a strategy for student involvement in the follow-up of the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education (July 2009).

You can read the Global Students Declaration issued with this occasion at: [http://www.esu-online.org/documents/declarations/100115\\_Global\\_Student\\_Declaration.pdf](http://www.esu-online.org/documents/declarations/100115_Global_Student_Declaration.pdf)

#### Upcoming activities

##### 1 – European Student Summit (ESS 2010) in Vienna, Austria on 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> of March 2010

*Titled „Bologna and Lisbon: mutually exclusive or two sides of the same coin?“, the event will mark the 10 year anniversary of the Bologna Process, while gathering approximately 150 participants. We are at a crossroad which leads us to logically question the very nature of the 2 main European reform processes and the state of their coexistence. As Bologna heads towards 2020 and the Lisbon Agenda is reinstated in EU2020 strategy, it is crucial to have a students' view on them. To sum up, the event will aim to:*

- gather European student representatives from all over Europe from both ESU member and associate member association as well as from other European umbrella organizations of students to discuss concrete student objectives for the Bologna Process and the Lisbon Agenda in the next decade.

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- launch the ESU 2010 publication 'Bologna at the Finish Line' to the student audience and to the Ministerial Conference.
- launch the ESU documentary 'Faces of Bologna', which is aiming at giving the Bologna Process a human face from the student perspective, to the student audience and to the Ministerial Conference.

The event enjoys the support of the Austrian Ministry of Science and Research and of the European Commission funds through the ESCBI project. The ESS2010 venue is the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna and more information on the agenda can be found at: <http://ess2010.org/>

*2 – 58<sup>th</sup> ESU Board Meeting and Board Meeting seminar on the topic of financing and the social dimension, 2-9<sup>th</sup> of May, Madrid, Spain*

Our next Board Meeting will be jointly organized by ESU and CREUP, the Spanish national union of students and will address **financing and its effects on the social dimension**. In a time of severe budget cuts in the higher education sector and increasing protests, students from all across Europe will meet and discuss the current effects, the financing trends and the solutions in the eyes of national unions of students to sustain the educational sector, as one of the solutions to the crisis and the only guarantee of personal and societal development. The event is financially supported by the Spanish Presidency and an invitation will be sent to the Bologna Follow-Up group members.

*3 – "Time for a New Paradigm in Education: Student Centered Learning" (T4SCL)*

The aim of the project is to increase the understanding of student centered learning tools and elements among the policy makers and student representatives at both the national and the European level, while opening the debate to stakeholders through sharing good practices and research. The project will produce a student centred learning toolkit aimed at increasing the European awareness and understanding on changing the learning paradigm from teacher centred to student centred. The good practice examples and the innovative approaches will create a better European approach on student centred learning as a fundamental pre-condition to an European area for lifelong learning.

Also the project will empower students and staff representatives to be active partners in changing the learning paradigm from teacher to student centred, by organising trainers for a better understanding of the student centred learning tools, methods and mechanisms.

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The project will run between November 2009 and October 2010 and Education International is ESU's partners in this project. The aim of ESU is to include the results of the project as possible in the work of the Bologna Follow-up Group on matters related to student centred learning.

Upcoming project events:

20<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2010 – Bucharest, Romania – **T4SCL launching conference** – presentation of the Desk research and Survey project reports and sharing experiences related to the institutional implementation of student centered learning strategies. Its results to feed into the BFUG work and the event is open to all BFUG delegates.

17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2010 – Malta – **Training of trainers** – for both ESU and EI representatives.

### **Other information**

A significant number of European countries are starting a process of reform of their higher education system.

In this regard, we note the positive involvement of the ESU representatives in the national reform consultations, in addition to the national unions of students, ESU's members. In the case of CAMPUS EXCELLENCE (Spain) and the International Advisory Board of the Higher Education Strategic Projects (Romania), ESU delegates were invited to convey the European level student experience and we hope that student involvement, at all levels, will be an irreplaceable value for any reform process taking place in the European Higher Education Area landscape.

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