

ESU written report for the XCIII Bologna Follow-Up Group meeting

Budapest, September 2024

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1. Latest ESU activities

○ ESU's new Executive Committee

Since July ESU's new Executive Committee has been in office. During the summer months, we underwent an extensive handover process and they have picked up representative functions in various spaces. The new team follows closely the developments of the reshuffling in the EU as well as the EHEA, as well as the Council of Europe.

○ 48th European Student Convention

The 48th ESC of ESU took place in Warsaw, Poland in September. It was dedicated to the topic of **AI and digitalisation** in higher education. We discussed both challenges (anti-discrimination, privacy rights, infringements through proctoring, intellectual property rights, digital divide etc.) and opportunities (individualised learning, internationalisation, new forms of learning and teaching, student support services, etc.).



○ ESU Quality Assurance Student Experts Pool Training

In 2009, ESU established a pool of committed and well-prepared students who aim to improve higher education provision in Europe through quality assurance procedures.

The establishment of this pool is how ESU promotes and develops student participation in quality

assurance all over Europe. ESU organises study sessions, workshops and other events for pool members where they are trained. Students' role in the quality assurance system was held in Warsaw in hybrid form.



2. Bologna With Student Eyes

ESU's 2024 edition of [Bologna With Student Eyes](#) is out – our anniversary publication, 25 years after the first ever BWSE! It offers insights from the perspectives of 37 national unions of students from across Europe about the implementation of Bologna commitments across Europe and we are confident our publication will serve as a relevant source of inspiration for decision-makers on how Bologna should move forward.



Topical wise the publication expanded through new chapters given the new commitments of recent years and covers the **topics** of: a) **Student Participation**, b) **Fundamental Values**, c) **Social Dimension**, d) **Quality Assurance**, e) **Key Commitments**, f) **Learning and Teaching**, g) **Internationalisation and Mobility**, and h) **Higher Education in Emergencies**.

3. Latest policy and publications

- [ESU's Contribution to the Digital Education Action Plan](#)
- [Briefing: Belarusian Students in Exile & EUA Spotlight on Belarus: Students risk exclusion from European higher education](#)
- [Booklet of recommendations on students' well-being](#)
- [Assessing the Housing Challenges of International Students](#)
- [ESU's opinion on the mid-term review of the European Education Area](#)

4. ESU Plan of Work

With the start of ESU's 2024/25 mandate the annual [Plan of Work](#) has come into effect. On a broader level ESU will focus on the co-creation in regard to the new Bologna cycle; follow-up after the European Elections regarding the new political leaderships and MFF; and focus within the Council of Europe frame on the development of a Student Rights Charter.

The policy work will revolve around the following topics:

- **Social Dimension** (disabled students, PAGs, student health, inclusivity framework EEA, student support services, gender-based violence, LGBTIQ(A+), traineeships)
- **European Education Area** (ESU body of student bodies in the alliances, legal statute, investment pathways, community of practice, higher

education observatory, governance of EEA with focus on democratic representative student participation framework)

- **Quality of Education** (Digitalisation and AI, Interoperability, QA Pool of ESU, Recognition of Prior Learning, ECTS users guide, microcredentials, VET, ESGs, Commission's HE package, automatic recognition, learning and teaching, QA in transnational education)
- **Fundamental Values and Solidarity** (Revision of ESU policy, sustainability, refugee and at-risk students, active citizenship education, EU macroeconomic governance and investment tools, human rights and global engagement and solidarity)
- **International Mobility** (Europe on the move, financing of mobility, European Student Card Initiative, Accessibility to Erasmus+ for Region 14 countries)

5. ESU at the Ministerial Conference

ESU attended the 2024 EHEA Ministerial Conference in Tirana. To this end we held a student summit a day prior, inviting all student representatives of the attending delegations to discuss the Communiqué and priorities from a student perspective. We promoted the PAGs, Fundamental Values and Key Commitments, emphasising the importance of the newest developments. Ligia Deca (Minister, Romania) and Una Strand Viðarsdóttir (Iceland/WG on Fundamental Values) joined for dedicated sessions on the Communiqué and the work on Fundamental Values respectively, while the work on PAGs was promoted by ESU as Co-Chair of the group.

6. ESU upcoming events

Upcoming events	Topic	When/Where
Erasmus4All Project Final Conference	Mobility funding for inclusive grant calculations	October 2024, Brussels

Study Session	Capacity building for youth on youth policy, co-management and involvement in CoE Youth Department	October 2024, Budapest
AWP Activity "YOU(TH) ACT FOR FUTURE"	Sustainable Development Goals, focus on sustainability	October 2024, Chania
2nd Conference of the Student Bodies of the Alliances	Second event at European level dedicated to the student representatives within the European University Alliances.	End of October, beginning of November 2024, Timișoara
EQAF 2024 - Students' Pre-Conference	Fostering discussions on enhancing education, research, and society through student-led initiatives. Connect with like-minded individuals, share insights, and shape the future of quality assurance in academia.	November 2024, Twente
ESU 88th Board Meeting	General Assembly, focus on Fundamental Values	November 2024, Oslo
ESC Academy Pro final conference	European Student Card	25th of November, Brussels

7. Upcoming projects

Upcoming projects	Topic	Start
AUREA	Automatic Recognition Assessment	December 2024
IncluDE	Inclusion in VET	January 2025
EngageAll	Providing opportunities for PHE students to take part in student engagement & civic participation activities to develop skills for citizenship and enhance	January 2025

	employability	
MindEd Pathways	Integrating Wellness into Higher Education	January 2025
YODEC	Engaging youth and students in the consultations around the European funding schemes in the Danube region	January 2025
AWP2025	Capacity building for youth on engagement with youth policies, institutions (esp. CoE) and active participation	January 2025