

European Students' Union (ESU)

Fighting for students' rights since 1982

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Annex II to the Membership Strategy: ESU's Membership Questionnaire

Introduction

The European Students' Union (ESU) is an umbrella organisation of 45 National Unions of Students (NUS) from 40 countries (November 2021). We work to bring together, resource, train and inform national student representatives on policy developments in higher education at the European level.

This membership questionnaire is designed for ESU applicants to provide for ESU members information about their structures, histories, activities, policies, capacity building needs and practices etc. and on higher education systems in their countries.

The questionnaire is divided into five sections:

- **Section A** - Contact details of the candidate member organization (CMO)
- **Section B** - Country and Higher Education information
- **Section C** - General information on candidate member organization (CMO) and its institutional capacity
- **Section D** - Information on capacity building processes within CMO and expectations towards ESU
- **Section E** - Funding and organisation of Study Visit

-> Section A and B are completely public. Please answer questions as clearly as possible. If some of the information requested here is not available at the time of reply kindly give the reasons why this is so.

-> Section C and D are for internal use of the Student Union Development Committee and the Board of ESU.

-> Section D will provide us with information about your views and needs regarding the capacity building process of your union.

If you have any questions about the questionnaire or procedures connected with membership issues do not hesitate to contact the Membership coordinator or Secretariat secretariat@esu-online.org.

Thank you in advance for your time and efforts and best luck!

Section A: Contact Details

- Name of the organization / NUS:
- Native language:
- English:
- Acronym:
- Address:
- Tel:
- E-mail:
- Web Site:
- Social media accounts:

Name and contact details of current responsible(s) of your organization:

- Legal responsible (chairperson, president etc.):
- International affairs responsible:
- Secretary-general (optional):
- Academic Affairs Officer:
- Officer responsible for Gender Equality or Discrimination (optional):
- Officer responsible for Social Affairs:
- Other:

In the box below please provide brief information about your organization **to update the members' section on ESU website** (not less than 15 lines):

Section B: Country and Higher Education information

The European Students' Union (ESU) is the umbrella organisation of 45 National Unions of Students (NUS) from 40 countries. The aim of ESU is to represent and promote the interests of students at the European level towards all relevant bodies and in particular the European Union, Bologna Follow Up Group, Council of Europe and UNESCO.

I The structure of higher education system

- What is the total number of Higher Education Institutions (HEI's) in your country? How many of them are:
 - Universities:
 - Polytechnics (sometimes called universities of applied sciences):
 - Private institutions:
 - Transnational institutions:
- Is there a specific legislation regulating higher education? *Please explain briefly.*
- Is there any specific legislation on student rights? For example a special statute for students or a charter of student rights?
- Who are the key stakeholders in HE in your country? Please give names and Contact information for relevant stakeholders and explain briefly their role (governmental, international, NGO's etc.)?
- Is the system in your country unified or binary, i.e. is there a clear division between the university and the polytechnics sector? If there is, what is the division?
- What qualifications/academic degrees are awarded on completion of a degree programme?

II Student numbers

- What is the total number of students in your country? Kindly indicate the date and the source providing this information
- What is the percentage of the student population that is 18-25 years old? Do you have any data connected to the number of adult learners?
- How many students attend:
 - Universities:
 - Polytechnics (sometimes called universities of applied sciences):
 - Private institutions:
 - Transnational institutions:
- Is the total number of students increasing or decreasing?
- Do you have any data on students from international students/students from minority groups / LGBT¹ ?

III Study access

¹ Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender students

- What qualifications are requested to enter university?
- Is access to HE free? Please explain who and how could access HE in your country.
- Are there tuition fees? If yes, please explain the system.
- If the access is not free please give the number of students who have applied for HE and number of those who were accepted?
- Are there entrance exams or numerus clausus ²? If yes, please explain.
- Are there any additional criteria for specific study areas?

IV Higher education funding

- What percentage of the state budget goes to education? What percentage of the state budget for education goes to HE? If this varies from year to year, kindly provide the data for the last 5 years
- Are there other sources, apart from state funding, of funding for HEIs? If yes, please explain, especially for the public/ state HEI's.
- Are there scholarships / grants / loans available for students? If yes, please explain the system.
 - o From the state
 - o From other sources

V Institutional administrative structures and student representation

- How is the governance of HE? Please provide information for all levels and all types of institutions you find important and explain (national, regional, university, faculty, department and universities / polytechnics / private / TNE). Give information on bodies relevant for HEI governance, their composition and competencies.
- By which document is this regulated (legislation, statutes or constitution of the HEI's (etc.) etc.)?
- Are there student representatives in bodies of the HEIs or at the national/regional level? If yes, please outline the procedure for election/selection of these representatives, their number etc. If not, please explain why.

VI Student welfare system

- Is there a developed student welfare system (housing, food, health care, student reductions, student card etc.)?

² **Numerus clausus** means that there is a limited number of students that is accepted to a HEI, i.e. the acceptance is competitive – not all those who apply actually get in.

- Please provide information on the availability of dormitories, food and student reductions.
- How is the student welfare system funded and who is responsible for managing this system (government, HEIs, some other structure)?

VII Relevant recent changes

- Have there been important recent changes or are changes coming up in the HE system?

Section C: General information on candidate member organization (CMO) and its institutional capacity

I Legal status

- Please provide information on the legal status of your organization. Is there special legislation regulating student representation (is there mentioning of this in primary legislation, i.e. Higher Education Law or Act; is there a separate bylaw on student union/organization? If yes, please briefly outline the regulations foreseen in the

legislation and mention if they will be on a national or institutional level; also explore them with regard to the students' representation³.

- Does recognition of credits for students' representation take place? Yes/ No (*please underline*)
- Is there any other organization, representing students' rights on a national level in your country? If yes, please elaborate.

II History

- Please provide a short history of your organization and the student movement of your country (year established, historical background for establishment):

III Aims and objectives

- Please provide a short summary of your organization's aims and objectives:

IV Areas of Work

- Please provide a summary of priorities and main tasks for the upcoming and current year (mandate):

V Structures

- Please outline the structure of your NUS, from the individual student to the national level. Provide information on all relevant structures and bodies and their competencies and relationships (e.g. executive committees, boards, general assemblies etc.). *You can also attach a file or give a reference to a website(s), where this information can be found.*

VI Membership

- How do:
 - a) Students** – *for individual membership*
 - b) Local unions** – *for local union membership*

become members of your NUS? Please describe in detail the procedure including the time frames:

- How many members does your NUS have?

³ If possible, please give exact references to primary/secondary legislation regulating student representation within higher education system: student participation in governance of HEI AND purpose/organization/activities/etc. of student unions.

- Please indicate the number of students in your country:
- What is the percentage of students represented by your NUS? How did you calculate this?
- Are there any students not represented by your NUS? If so, who and why not?
- Is membership automatic, compulsory or on a voluntary basis?
- Do the members have to pay a membership fee? If yes, could you please give the approximate amount:

VII Election procedures

- What are the election procedures in your NUS? Please provide information for both the local and national levels. Please elaborate on how an individual student can get elected to both levels.
- Who calls and observes the election procedures? Please provide information for both the local and national levels.
- Could you please provide an overview on tendencies related to the election procedures in your NUS:
 - a) Do national campaigns on the elections take place? Please elaborate.
 - b) Are the elected representative positions normally contested (more candidates running than positions available), and how has this competition fluctuated over the past three years?

VIII Funding

- Is the funding of NUS regulated in national primary legislation and if yes what does it stipulate.
- What are the sources of funding for your organization? Please include the approximate share of every source in the total income for the current year:
- Could you please give the approximate numbers of the annual budget (current year) of your NUS (in Euro)?
 - a) As a whole:
 - b) The total disposable income (TDI):
 - c) Please elaborate on the expense share:

IX National office

- Does your NUS run an office?

- How many people are involved in a daily office jobs (both employed and volunteers)? Do they work full time or part-time? How many of them have students' status?

X National cooperation

- Please briefly provide information and contacts of the partners you have in your country (governmental structures, rector conferences, other organizations, teachers' status, national youth council, etc.). Please explain the nature of cooperation with each of them.

XI International cooperation

- Is your NUS a member of any other international network? Please elaborate:
- Are there any other relevant organizations you cooperate with, and if so, how?

Section D: Information on capacity building processes within CMO and expectations towards ESU

- Do you provide any training/capacity building activities for your members: Yes/ No (*please underline*)
- How do you identify the training/capacity building needs for your members? Please elaborate if you have developed a training policy to address your members' needs, giving a brief summary of it (aims, objectives, who does it target, how is it implemented, how is it evaluated/adjusted, etc)
- What are the main priorities (topics) for your training/capacity-building activities for the current/upcoming year (mandate) (if possible, please attach the training plan):

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- What kind of obstacles does your NUS meet when launching the capacity development process of its members?
- How could ESU help your union to improve the process of capacity building? Please elaborate:
- Please specify, if
 - a) You need support on quality enhancement for your organization (focus on organizational management, training of trainers) (Yes/ No)
 - b) You need thematic training for your members (e.g. SCL, students' participation in QA processes, etc.) (Yes/ No)

If yes, please indicate the topic(s):

- What kind of methodological support/resources do you need to improve the quality of your capacity building events (E.g. ESU pool of trainers, a toolkit on thematic topics, such as project management, quality assessment, etc.):
- How do you feel about mainstreaming ESU policy in the work of your union? What kind of obstacles would you meet?

Section E: Funding and organisation of Study Visit

- Is the union in a position to fund the study visit (generally 4 representatives visit the union in its country and would require flights, accommodation etc)
- Do you have a team of students/staff ready to take care of the organisation of the study visit?