

Minutes: Board Meeting

Place: Brussels - Mollina

Date: 05-08 September 2018

Chair: Sara Finnbogadottir

Minute-taker: Rob O'Donnell

Present: Sara Finnbogadottir, Rob O'Donnell, Giuseppe Lipari, Edvardas Vabuolas (Board Members), Giuseppina Tucci (Interim Secretary General)

Excused: Ela Jakubek (on maternity leave)

AGENDA

1. Meeting partners
2. Fears and expectations
3. Internal regulations of the Board
4. Financial update
5. Staff Meeting
6. Development strategy
7. Policy session
8. Implementation plan
9. Meeting with the MC
10. Portfolio division
11. Membership discussion
12. Affiliateship discussion
13. Seeds for Integration update
14. Migrant Empowerment Toolkit
15. Communication strategy
16. Working group updates
17. Council of Members
18. Pool of Trainers updates and future plans
19. Events update
20. External representations
21. Project updates

----- The Chair opened the meeting -----

Point of the Agenda 1: Meeting partners

Lifelong learning platform

The Board met with Brikena Xhomaqi, Director of the Lifelong Learning Platform. Brikena explained the Lifelong Learning Platform and the activities of the organisation. The Board shared the priorities of the implementation plan for 2019, to find synergies and possible common action points. OBESSU is particularly interested in the experience and expertise that the LLLP has on digitalisation.

European Students Unions

The Board met with Adam, Katrina and Robert from the ESU Presidency. Together, we will work on finding common points towards the 17 November – International Students day. The Board also discussed having a more structured cooperation in the field of advocacy and policy reaction. OBESSU and ESU also discussed the Pillar 3 applications of the Seeds for Integration programme, which is run in co-management and sees the cooperation of school and university students in the educational inclusion of migrant and refugee students.

Decision:

- The LLLP will put us in contact with different Member Organisations that can contribute to OBESSU's work.
- The OBESSU Board and ESU Presidency will work together to see if there are the possibilities for a joint campaign towards the 17 November.

Point of the Agenda 2: Fears and expectations

The Board discussed their fears and expectations for the upcoming mandate. They agreed on an ethical code of conduct in order to avoid that their fears become reality.

Point of the Agenda 3: Internal regulations of the Board

The Board discussed and update the Internal Regulations of the Board – to be integrated with the Portfolios decided the following day. A particular focus was given to communication, recapping the different communication channels, their modality of use and the different deadlines for replying to emails and communications. The internal regulations will be presented at the Council of Members in Autumn 2018 and will be available online.

Point of the Agenda 4: Financial update

The Secretary General presented the current status of the expenses. Currently, the situation is fair and healthy. The projection of expenses is quite high due to the extra expenses of the self-organised Policy Convention on Mental Health, but the Board values the events and both the Secretary General and the External Financial Manager do not have strong oppositions to the project.

Decision: The Secretary General will update the Board regularly and will advice in case the projected expenses get to high. The Board and the SG will follow up on AFCs.

Comments: The office is still understaffed when it comes to administration, the Board will need to keep this in mind for future decisions.

Point of the Agenda 5: Staff Meeting

The Board and the Secretariat met to introduce themselves and their work. The Board shared expectations from the Secretariat and the Staff Members shared their ideas on how to work efficiently together.

Decision:

- The Staff Board-Member will run Staff Reviews including learning objectives, learning needs and work environment. These will be scheduled in October.
- The Staff will work independently with the Board Member in charge of their portfolios and will update the Secretary General.

Point of the Agenda 6: Development strategy

The Board analysed the Development Strategy of OBESSU. The DevStra ends in 2019, therefore the Board decided to kick off the process of evaluation and creation of a new strategy. The Board will work on evaluation indicators and will cooperate with the Monitoring Committee in the process. The kick off will be during the Council of Members in Autumn 2019. The Membership will be involved.

Decision: The Board will deliver a presentation at the COMEM.

Comments: It is not easy to go back to data from 2015 onwards. There has been a lack in evaluation of the DevStra, therefore the process will be very intense.

Point of the Agenda 7: Policy session

The Board met with Andrew Todd from the Lifelong Learning Platform and with Judit from the Secretariat for a training on the current more relevant policy process in the EU. Mainly, the Board focused on mapping relevant stakeholders and partners and later received information on the European Education Area and the future of the Erasmus programme.

Point of the Agenda 8: Implementation plan

The Board discussed on the progress of the current implementation plan. The progress is very good and the Board is happy to have achieved the big majority of targeted actions so far. The only activity which has not been run is the online campaign on Hate Speech: in fact, after a thorough discussion, the Board discussed to not replicate the NoHateSpeech Movement campaign, but rather focus on the other aspects of the follow up to the Study Session.

The Board also discussed the means of implementation for the workplan 2019. The topics on the agenda will be: Sex and Gender, Digitalisation, Minorities rights, Quality of Assessment, Quality of Teachers and Peer Education.

After an extensive conversation on the policy priorities at the EU level, the possible funding opportunities, the needs expressed by the Members and the capacity of the organisation the Board drafted a set of activities for 2019.

Decision: The Board will present a draft implementation plan at the Council of Members.

Point of the Agenda 9: Meeting with the MC

The Board met with the Monitoring Committee to discuss their internal communication and the reporting duties to the OBESSU constituency. The MC will be regularly reporting and the Board will be proving the MC with all the necessary support and information.

Point of the Agenda 10: Portfolio division

The Board reviewed portfolios from the previous year and looked at the work to be completed under the 2018 and 2019 Implementation Plans. A number of portfolios were renamed and merged, with new portfolios being introduced. They also discussed the main features of the portfolio and their objectives. Here's the division:

	Edvardas	Giuseppe	Rob	Sara
Thematic portfolios	Digitalisation	VET	Quality of education (with Edvardas)	School Student Welfare
	Quality of education (with Rob)	Sex education and Gender (with Sara)	Minorities rights	Sex education and Gender (with Giuseppe)
		Peer education	Global Citizenship education	
			Migrant and Refugee Education	
Internal portfolios	Structured Dialogue	Membership services	Membership development	Staff
	Knowledge Management	Pool of Trainers	European Apprentices Network (EAN)	
	Relations to the Monitoring Committee			
	Internal finances			
Projects and processes	LLL-P Working Group on Digitalisation	EP Elections		EP Elections
	European Education			Seeds for Integration

Point of the Agenda 11: Membership discussion

The Board mapped the Member, Candidate and Affiliate organisations. They discussed different strategies for raising ownership of the organisation and divided the contacts of MOs, COs and AOs. Here is the division:

Edvardas	Giuseppe	Rob	Sara
CNE	CANAE	BSSU	AKS
CSU	EEO	CEF	ASUBiH
ESCU	FSS	DOS	DGS
KYC	MAKOSZ	ISSU	LMS
LH	RSM	NSoA	SIF
SLL	SAKKI	UEM	SVB
SUS	UNEL	UNL	UDS
USO		UNSS	VSK

Decision:

The Board will also work on the “termination of membership” amendment to the Statutes that was voted upon at the General Assembly 2018 in Bucharest.

Concerning Membership Development the Board will work on contacting all the contact organisations in Poland, Portugal, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Turkey in cooperation with Samira, Communication and Membership officer.

The Secretariat will update mailing list and Basecamp group with the new relevant comments.

The Secretariat will also work on a new Basecamp corner for Staff Members, to also offer mutual support to staff members of our member, candidate and affiliate organisations.

Point of the Agenda 12: Affiliateship discussion

The Board looked into the results from the discussion corner happened at the General Assembly 2018 in Bucharest. The Board understand concerns from Affiliate Organisations but is also willing to preserve the well-being of the platform and it school student orientation.

Decision: The discussion will be continued in different statutory and non-statutory moments.

Point of the Agenda 13: Seeds for Integration update

Milos, Programme Coordinator, gave an overview of the current programme progress to the Board. Concerning Pillar 2 projects, he and the Board will be in charge of monitoring 3 main projects, particularly one in Iceland by SIF, in Kosovo by KYC and in Switzerland by USO. We received 11 applications for Pillar 3 projects: Milos is working jointly with the ESU Secretariat and the evaluators to complete the evaluation process by October. Pillar 1 is always open.

Decision:

There will be a new call for evaluators in the selection committee panel.

Milos and Samira from the Secretariat will work on a targeted communication strategy.

Point of the Agenda 14: Migrant Empowerment Toolkit

The process of the MET is still undergoing. The content of the Toolkit is under revision as its structure has been changed.

Decision:

The Secretariat and the Board will revise the *Migrant Empowerment Toolkit* and will proceed to publication by October.

Point of the Agenda 15: Communication strategy

The Board worked on the Communication Strategy proposed by Samira – Communication and Membership officer.

Decision:

The Board will put more efforts into the communication of the daily activities of the organisation and their impact.

The Board will call for articles from Members to use the multiplying effect of OBESSU's communication channels.

Point of the Agenda 16: Working group updates

Global Citizenship Education WG

The group works great together and has planned ahead activities until the end of the year. They are creating an educational initiative with the support of our Pool of Trainers to be carried out during the Global Education Week. A survey for views on the national GCE curricula will be sent to members.

Mental Health WG

The WG welcomed 2 new members and started to work on the 17NOW Campaign. The results of the survey will be published and will be a basis for the work of the prep team of the Policy Convention.

VET WG

Giacomo left the WG as he entered the MC. The Research collection will be completed during the month of October.

Point of the Agenda 17: Council of Members and Ex-GA

The Board discussed the upcoming COMEM and Ex-GA happening in Rome on 17-18 November. The event will be co-organised with UDS and RSM and the logistics is so far going very good. The Board discussed the proposal of chair, the possible amendments to present and the internal deadlines.

Comments:

The Board encourages interested applicants to take into account the possibility of joining the Board as a call for one more Board Member will be launched.

Point of the Agenda 18: Pool of Trainers updates and future plans

The Board discussed the Pool of Trainers and their progress. In the last months the PoT has been very active but OBESSU lacked proper communication on their engagement and on the possibility of the PoT to support events and activities in Member, Candidate and Affiliate organisations also online.

In 2018 the mandate of the PoT ends, therefore Giuseppe from the Board and Judit from the Secretariat will carry out an evaluation and will take into consideration when opening the new call for Members.

Decision:

Giuseppe and Judit will carry out the evaluation

A new call for members will be sent out in November with a deadline to the 7th December.

Point of the Agenda 19: Events update

Mental Health Convention

As it was in the implementation plan and the Board feels this is a very relevant topic for OBESSU Policy, we will carry out a self-funded event in Rome right after the COMEM. The Board wishes to thank CEF in the efforts in fundraising for the Convention. Participation will be restricted to 1 person per organisation. Travel will be reimbursed only if the person has been also a participant in the COMEM. This is due to funding constraints.

Evaluation meeting of the EYF Work Plan

All is on track with the organisation of the event. Judit is taking care of it from the Secretariat side with the support of Yasmin from USO.

Study Session on Sex and Gender

The study session will happen in April 2019 in Budapest. Sara will be the Board Member in charge. A call for prep-team will be sent out including 1 PoT member and 2 MOs. The call will be out in October.

Prep-team regulations and safeguarding policy

The Board will work on prep-team code of conduct in cooperation with Judit and the PoT. This will go along the Safeguarding policy that OBESSU will propose during GA 2019.

Point of the Agenda 20: External representation

The Board divided the duties for the external representations. Among other in the next two months the Board will be engaged with different partners, from the European Alliance for Apprentices, the European Apprentices Network, the CDPPE of the Council of Europe, the European Youth Forum's COMEM and much more. The updates on the External Representations can be followed on social media and on the Monthly OBESSU Overview (MOO).

Decision: The Board will share their schedule in the MOO.

Point of the Agenda 21: Project updates

Currently the Secretariat is working to different project proposals on different donors and calls targeting the Implementation plan 2019 and the topics of the implementation plan 2020. The Board values the efforts and the efforts ahead, as this gives further sustainability to the platform.

The Secretariat and the Board are also working jointly with Member Organisations on other projects that can be written and implemented jointly in the different countries.

----- The Chair closed the meeting -----