

OBESSU Implementation plan 2022

Adopted at the Council and Members 2021 - 27-28 November 2021, Brussels

As stated in the [OBESSU Work Plan for 2021-2023](#), OBESSU commits to working mainly in three areas: Education reforms and funding, learning for 21st century and sustainable development. On each of these topics, OBESSU wishes to reach a certain number of objectives. Moreover, this Implementation Plan reflects on other documents that are relevant to the strategic development of the organisation, such as the Development Strategy, the Advocacy Strategy, the Political Platform and the needs that arise on education and societal matters as time develops.

With this document we highlight the activities and topics OBESSU will work on and summarise which objectives will be achieved. A summary of the activity over the year is annexed at the end of this document.

Introductory words

Over the last few years the word "education" became some sort of buzz word. You hear of education as the root-cause of all problems in society, but at the same time, policy-makers can't seem to stop talking about education as a one-size-fits-all solution for any problem that arises. Education systems and the people who keep them alive, however, are left alone on a daily basis. Covid-19 disrupted educational systems worldwide, but rather than creating new issues, it highlighted the incredible amount of flaws that our education and welfare systems have had for the past decades. Throughout the Covid-19 crisis, school students kept on playing a key role in creating community, collecting feedback and bringing school students' voices closer to policy makers, but, not differently than other times, the lack of real participation mechanism in policy making throughout Europe prevented us from contributing with our first-hand experience and expertise to building back stronger and better.

In 2021, OBESSU conducted research on the [impact of Covid-19 on school students](#), depicting an upsetting picture on the future of education systems and society. Young people have little hope left, the few participation stages offered seem to be tokenistic means to tick boxes of democracy. We have a different idea in mind. This is why, as we have always done, we will continue to engage critically and meaningfully in processes like the Conference on the Future of Europe and the monitoring of the National Recovery and Resilience Plans. We also commit to celebrating the announced European Year of Youth through bottom-up participation, engagement, co-designing and through disseminating, among others, our Declaration of School Student Rights - a tool that should be widely spread throughout Europe and is, unfortunately, still not a practice.

We commit to continue defending and advancing school students' rights, as we do every day since 1975. Nothing about us without us.

Thematic cluster: Education reforms and funding

Working group on education funding and reforms

Building on the work of the Working Group on Education Funding during 2020 and 2021, the working group will continue exploring the landscape of funding in and for education on national and European level, and will expand on their work to further investigate and monitor education reforms happening on the national level. The Working Group will define their mandate in cooperation with the Board.

Work plan objectives tackled:

- Explore the current realities of educational reforms and funding in Europe and more globally through our partnerships;
- Foster a space for cooperation among OBESSU members in order to create impactful policies to be addressed at policy makers at national and transnational level;
- Understand the impact of education funding on wider education policies, including school evaluation, professional development for teachers and investments in VET and general education.

Monitoring and capacity building on the National Recovery and Resilience Plans

In the frame of the EU long-term budget for 2021-27, *Next Generation EU* is the largest investment in the history of the Union. As highlighted in a research of a task force led by Civil Society Europe, the lack of transparency in designing the NRRPs is a reason for alarm for the student-led CSOs around Europe. For this reason we will collaborate with the initiatives of the transnational coalitions we are part to monitor the practices of involvement in the implementation process of single missions and investments of the National Plans. We will continue an advocacy action carried out with joint declarations with our European partners (particularly European Youth Forum and Lifelong Learning Platform). Furthermore, we will use the study of the common trends in investments in Education in NRRPs with the aim of providing our MOs with Country reports useful (1) to compare the education funding policies before and after pandemic and (2) to adopt the advocacy tools more consistent with each national context. At the same time, the results of this constant monitoring will be available for the preparation of lobbying activities towards the EU institutions, in particular towards the Commission (as guardian in evaluating the national implementation of NRRPs) and towards Parliament, the only EU institution that asked to devote at least 10% of the Recovery and Resilience Facilities to Education.

Work plan objectives tackled:

- Put school students at the core of any discussion on long-lasting sustainable educational reform;
- Build the capacities of the OBESSU Membership for them to have a stronger advocacy on these matters;
- Explore the current realities of educational reforms and funding in Europe and more globally through our partnerships.

School Students' Rights Reloaded - European Youth Foundation Work-Plan 2022

The Declaration of School Student Rights ([DSSR](#)) is one of the key strategic and advocacy related documents of OBESSU, developed 15 years ago. It is a document aimed to “empower school students all over Europe to stand up against mistreatment and to engage in the everyday life in school, and it outlines a common standard that education systems should guarantee. 15 years later, and in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is time for OBESSU and its membership to refocus this declaration review it, update it and work to keep it relevant.

The main aim of this work plan is to **ensure access to quality education, rights and opportunities for participation in civic life and policy-making for all young people in matters that concern them the most.**

The specific objectives of the work plan are:

- To review the Declaration of School Student Rights, and ensure its applicability and relevance in the context of post-Covid19 educational systems;
- To develop competences in school student unions to use the Declaration of School Student Rights, and advocate for the rights of school students;
- To provide space for exchange of practices, discussions and dialogue between different school student unions on restructuring the approaches they have in the post-covid era;
- To outreach to disadvantaged young people and ensure their participation within the shaping of their educational environment.

We will achieve these objectives through a series of activities, and thanks to the support of a dedicated Coordination Group that will work on the work plan. The activities are as follows:

- **A coordination team meeting and training of trainers** happening in parallel will serve to:
 - Plan the whole work plan and give ownership of the process to member organisations from the beginning, as the coordination team will be formed by representatives of OBESSU Member, Candidate and Affiliate organisations, as well as by a Board member of OBESSU and a Secretariat member. The coordination team meeting in parallel of the training of trainers will allow for a joint planning and design on the participatory process of the discussions that will take place at different levels and gather input for the adaptation and update of the DSSR.
 - Train facilitators on participatory and inclusive facilitation of processes as well as in training on advocacy. From this training, trainers will produce several session outlines and approaches that will be implemented and tested during the second phase - local and national activities: on the one hand, a session on participatory discussion on access to rights, and on the other hand capacity building on how to advocate for those rights.

- **The Righ(s) Caravan - local and national activities:** Members are encouraged to organise an activity where school students from their constituency will discuss access to education and student rights having DSSR as a starting point, what needs to be changed or emphasized in the post-Covid era and how to use this tool for advocacy purposes in their contexts.
- **Summer School "Nothing About Us Without Us":** In this event, the recommendations produced at local and national level will be further discussed and elaborated, with a focus on the advocacy potential of the Declaration and the tools needed by young people to advocate for their rights
- **Editorial meeting:** After the Summer School, the coordination team will make a draft of the updated DSSR which will be then shared with OBESSU membership for a last round of feedback.

Work plan objectives tackled:

- Foster a space for cooperation among OBESSU members in order to create impactful policies to be addressed at policy makers at national and transnational level;
- Research and better understand student mobilisations and campaigning, in order for members to be able to learn mutually and share change-making practices;
- Work to guarantee that education remains a safe, cultural and social space for the individual and the collectivity, and not only a tool for labour-specific skills development.

Thematic cluster: Learning for the 21st century

Study session "Pluriverse - Peaceful societies with an oppression-free education" (bridging with sustainable development)

This activity was part of OBESSU's Implementation Plan for the year 2021. However, due to its cancellation and as we consider the need for this activity to take place physically and involving participants not only from Europe but also from the global South, OBESSU re-applied to have it for the year 2022.

This activity corresponds with OBESSU's mission of striving for the end of all discrimination and injustice within the educational systems; promoting active citizenship in all forms; and promoting solidarity and understanding between young people.

The main aim of this activity is to provide participants with the necessary competences (i.e. knowledge, skills and attitudes) to critically analyse educational contents from an intercultural perspective, including decolonisation, privileges and oppressions.

The objectives of the Study Session are the following:

- To provide participants with knowledge on privileges, oppressions, intercultural dialogue/learning and cooperation with other world regions.
- To provide participants with the skill of critically reviewing their school content and enable them to make recommendations, fostering active participation of young people and access to rights for all.
- To create peaceful and equal societies and opportunities for all, by deconstructing the school curricula, content and how young people learn.

- To develop a toolkit/guide for school student unions and school student activists on the topic to build capacities among school student unions and student activists.
- To draft follow up actions to take place at local and national level, applying the competences learned as well as the tools from the toolkit

Work plan objectives tackled:

- Ensure that school students have a say in defining what needs to be taught, and in what way;
- Work to guarantee that education remains a safe, cultural and social space for the individual and the collectivity, and not only a tool for labour-specific skills development;
- Work with fellow students and organisations globally to make sure that global solidarity is a real practice and that our voices are jointly heard;

Training Course for International Officers

The Training Course for International Officers will be held in 2022 and it will focus on the importance and challenges of student representation, on reaching out to and mobilising students especially in a post-covid world.

Moreover, this training course, which will be held in person, will tackle the issue of knowledge and turnover management. To ensure the continuity of the work and cooperation among different organisations we will revise the International office guidelines in order to make them an up to date and comprehensive tool for new members.

Work plan objectives tackled:

- Build the capacities of the OBESSU Membership for them to have a stronger advocacy on these matters
- Research and better understand student mobilisations and campaigning, in order for members to be able to learn mutually and share change-making practices.
- Work to ensure that all our membership has the awareness and the capacity to advocate for their seat at the table and for sustainable development in their countries and regions

Policy paper on Learning for the 21st Century

In 2022, we will kick-off a participative process for the development of a policy paper on learning for the 21st century. The idea is to start a conversation about the future of our education systems and more specifically the values and competencies that schools should convey through their curricula. In particular, we will explore topics such as global citizenship education, environmental education, decolonisation of school curricula and digital skills as well as start a reflection on teaching methodologies and their implications for learners. We aim at gathering the views of our Member, Candidate and Affiliate organisations and learn from each other's perspectives.

This policy paper will feed our advocacy actions towards the European institutions, the OECD, the Council of Europe and national ministries and bodies. We will highlight the importance of involving school students in decision-making related to their curricula, at all levels. At the European level, we will also emphasise the need for harmonising schools' curricula across EU member states.

Additionally, we will actively engage in discussions with our fellow school student representatives outside of the EU, through our participation in the Global Youth Forum activities. We expect fruitful exchanges of practices. We believe that the future of education, in terms of subjects being taught in school and learning methodologies should be addressed at the global level to ensure that all school students have access to a quality education.

The development of this Policy Paper will be carried out by a **Working Group** that will be recruited through an open call. The WG will work as of January 2022 online and will meet once in person to further work on this paper. The Membership will be consulted via email and in discussions such as online membership gatherings and statutory meetings.

Work plan objectives tackled:

- Ensure that school students have a say in defining what needs to be taught, and in what way;
- Advocate actors at all levels to raise awareness on the transversal and interconnected nature of key competences;
- Lobby the European and national level for direct means of funding towards these themes;
- Ensure that a rights-based approach is kept in key competences education and that all forms of education are considered relevant and valuable.

Thematic cluster: Sustainable development

Generation D-Liberation and work on the Conference on the Future of Europe

The Conference on the Future of Europe is a series of consultations with citizens that are taking place all over Europe to shape the future of the EU. OBESSU and its membership are participating in this process through the Generation D-Liberation project together with European Alternatives, Alliance for Europe, European House, UDS and SVB. This project is developing a methodology to provide school students with a framework to discuss political topics that matter to them the most (such as climate change, (mental) health, the right to quality education, etc.) in student assemblies, producing policy recommendations towards different stakeholders.

Generation d-Liberation aims at carrying out around 60 school student assemblies in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Poland and Hungary. The recommendations of all these assemblies will be disseminated and commented online and then brought together and further discussed at 3 online international meetings

where students will directly discuss with policy makers the future of Europe, with a final Conference in France in May 2022.

Work plan objectives tackled:

- Promote school student voices at the tables where decisions are made, in order to realise the goals set and create, and maintain a sustainable direction in national and international policy making;
- Work to ensure that all our membership has the awareness and the capacity to advocate for their seat at the table and for sustainable development in their countries and regions.

Access to education and Early School Leaving

One of the core missions of OBESSU is to advocate for quality accessible free education for all. In this view, our commitment to and work on access to education is not bound to time or to a certain implementation plan. However, considering the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals and, having in mind the hard repercussions of Covid-19 on social exclusion and access to education for many, in 2022 we want to place an emphasis on Early School Leaving and Access to Education. We will do so contributing to European policy agendas such as the Pathways to School Success initiative, as well as by further working on internal elaboration regarding our own inclusivity and accessibility and by creating synergies with other organisations to extend our reach and capacity.

Work plan objectives tackled:

- Engage in the promotion of SDGs, specifically SDG4 on quality education, but with the wider understanding that this cannot be realised without intensive work on other SDGs striving for gender equality, eradication of poverty, decent work, reduced inequality and so on;
- Advocate for the mainstreaming of Sustainable Development Goals into European and national policy-making;
- Monitor the implementation of SDGs from the school student perspective and in cooperation with our constituency and our partners.

Working with GCE

Climate action comes on a broad level, and is influenced by broad coalitions backed up by facts and democratic organising. During 2022, OBESSU will focus its climate advocacy through active engagement with organised youth and climate activists in a coalition Generation Climate Europe. OBESSU will strengthen the cooperation with GCE by actively taking part in GCE leadership and activities, influencing the advocacy work from a school student point of view and co-create statements and activities.

Work plan objectives tackled:

- Continue working tirelessly in supporting environmental justice movements and student organising for the future of our planet, also through engagement around SDGs on the topic
- Promote school student voices at the tables where decisions are made, in order to realise the goals set and create, and maintain a sustainable direction in national and international policy making

Global Students Forum

GSF formalised in 2020, and OBESSU nominated one member to their Steering Committee. In 2021, OBESSU will engage in the different activities proposed by GSF and will strive to involve its membership in the different structures (working groups and standing committees) and its activities (trainings, seminars and more). The nominated SC member will also report back to OBESSU and its governance bodies where appropriate.

GSF's work will also be crucial in coordinating the first International Students' Day since its establishment. OBESSU commits to working with GSF on developing and implementing such actions for the 17th November and will explore its declination in the European continent.

Throughout 2021 the GSF in collaboration with OBESSU has organised two School Students Convention in order to integrate and enhance the cooperation of school students worldwide. These two Conventions have been the first step to strengthen the visibility of school students in our global platform. OBESSU will continue to cooperate with GSF in this area.

Moreover, the GSF has been developing work on many other important areas such as Climate Change, Gender Justice, Capacity Building, Vaccine Justice among others, many of these topics are also linked to the work of OBESSU therefore OBESSU will strive to include the perspective of school students to these areas of work at the global level.

Finally, the GSF has started to join and collaborate with different partners, civil society organisations and institutions, trying to advocate for a truly democratic and independent representation of students in order to put an end to tokenistic dynamics. OBESSU will reinforce and support initiatives to ensure the participation of students in all forums.

Work plan objectives tackled:

- Explore the current realities of educational reforms and funding in Europe and more globally through our partnerships
- Foster a space for cooperation among OBESSU members in order to create impactful policies to be addressed at policy makers at national and transnational level
- Research and better understand student mobilisations and campaigning, in order for members to be able to learn mutually and share change-making practices
- Work with fellow students and organisations globally to make sure that global solidarity is a real practice and that our voices are jointly heard in global fora like the UN, the ECOSOC and SDG fora

- Engage in the promotion of SDGs, specifically SDG4 on quality education, but with the wider understanding that this cannot be realised without intensive work on other SDGs striving for gender equality, eradication of poverty, decent work, reduced inequality and so on
- Monitor the implementation of SDGs from the school student perspective and in cooperation with our constituency and our partners.

Overarching: Achieving the goals of the Development strategy through organisational capacity and governance

Topics and activities explored under this heading also reference objectives outlined in the Development Strategy of OBESSU, not solely on the Work-Plan. The following are activities and structures supporting the achievement of wider organisational goals. As such, they encompass several of the thematic clusters above explored and go beyond the topics into organising sustainable organisations and structures, both with regards to OBESSU and its membership.

Support to Membership engagement and development

Building up on our tailor-made programme "Stronger School Students Unions" that aimed at fostering the capacity of Member Organisations, OBESSU will keep supporting the Membership engagement and development especially in this post-covid time and on creating a space for stronger cooperation among school students unions in Europe and outside Europe.

OBESSU objectives for 2022 are as it follows:

- To keep providing continuous support to our membership;
- To provide more opportunities for OBESSU membership and other school student movements in Europe for sharing and learning from each other;
- To support students union in reaching out to their membership;
- To create a space for cooperation among school students' unions;
- To continue cooperation with the already established Alumni network.

Through the different activities we aim at:

- Enabling in person sharing and learning of organisations in regions with similar issues;
- Giving concrete benefits to the constituency and enlarge the reach out OBESSU currently has;
- Developing ideas for further student organising development and cooperation strengthening;
- Fostering cooperation with emerging school student unions not involved with OBESSU yet and strengthen such movements

Overall the support to the Membership will include:

- **Regional exchanges**, that will allow members and school students union not involved in OBESSU yet, to meet and analyse the common priorities and needs in order to cooperate and make a bigger impact in their region;
- **Field visits**, through which we will visit existing or potential members at their request to assess their needs, support them or deliver specific capacity building sessions and trainings with the involvement of the OBESS Staff, Board, Pool of Trainers or Alumni network;
- **Grants for organisational support**, thanks to which we will continue supporting organisations in their development and structural organising with a similar experience as in 2021.

Development Strategy objectives tackled:

- Provide the national school student unions with assistance and support and to cooperate for the development of school student representative structures;
- Encourage and enable the exchange of experience and good practice among the national school students unions;
- OBESSU is owned by well-functioning school student unions

International Students' Day and other short campaigns

As part of our Communication and Advocacy Strategies, OBESSU will continue to engage in campaigns that reflect our and our members' organisational priorities and share our core messages with a wider audience. In particular:

- We will celebrate the International Students' Day through a global campaign that involve students from every part of the globe thanks to the cooperation with the Global Students' Forum;
- We will carry out shorter social media campaigns in occasion of international days that are relevant for the organisation such as International Women Day and International Youth Day in order to raise awareness on specific topics;
- We will take part in relevant campaigns of our membership and partners to magnify our impact.

Development Strategy objectives tackled:

- Promote equal access to education and to strive for the end of all discrimination and injustice within the educational systems;
- Promote solidarity and understanding between young people.

Governance

As part of general governance, four types of statutory meetings will be organised throughout the year, namely:

- The General Assembly (GA)
- The Council of Members (COMEM)
- Board Meetings (BM)
- Monitoring Committee Meetings (MCM)

Both the GA and the COMEM will be organised as face to face assemblies. The BMs and the MCMs, apart from face to face forms, will also be complemented by video conferences, when necessary. The Board Meetings will, to the extent possible, include a visit to one of OBESSU Member / Candidate / Affiliate organisations or a prospective contact organisation.

Development Strategy objectives tackled:

- OBESSU is owned by well-functioning school student unions
- OBESSU has a strong and stable organisation

Pool of trainers

OBESSU will continue investing in the Pool of Trainers and aim in 2022 to further guarantee quality standards in OBESSU events. The Pool of Trainers will be engaged in Stronger School Student Unions and other processes. Their role will be clarified thanks to the development of the Events 101 document for OBESSU events and the Code of Conduct.

Besides, the PoT 2022 will have the chance to meet and get trained on facilitating participatory and political processes in February 2022 in the framework of the WP2022 - School Students Rights Reloaded.

European Apprentices Network and work on VET

OBESSU will continue co-sponsoring the European Apprentices Network and being an engaged partner of the European Commission on the work concerning Vocational Education and Training. In this field, OBESSU shall support the EAN in fundraising for a project manager to further work for the creation of an independent EAN.

Projects in which OBESSU is involved

OBESSU is currently involved in several projects, either as a lead applicant or a partner. Some of them include members, candidates and associates directly, others simply foresee a consultation and a free usage of tools. At the time of writing this Implementation Plan, OBESSU is still waiting for a number of results from different

applications, however, information on the projects that the OBESSU Secretariat is managing in cooperation with the Board are available here: <https://obessu.org/what-we-do/projects/>

Among already approved projects, in 2022 OBESSU will be engaged in:

- Generation D-Liberation as a lead partner
- European Solidarity Corps "Empower Us! Empowerment Unites Students"
- Europe@Home: European Civic Education through the mobile as a partner of JEF Europe
- CITIZED as a partner of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL)
- EuCare (European Cohorts of Patients and Schools to Advance Response to Epidemics) as a partner of EuResist Network
- Digital Gamification E-Teams and E-Tutors for Co-careering as a partner of the University of Camerino

These projects cover topics like the Conference on the Future of Europe, participation of disadvantaged people in communities and civic and active citizenship education, innovation in education and the impact of Covid-19 on schools and students.

Covid-19 and residential events

In 2022, OBESSU has planned mostly residential activities, however hybrid events will still be considered for implementation in case of travel restrictions throughout Europe, to allow for wide participation.

Activities might have restricted participation (e.g. only accessible to vaccinated participants) and are subject to change depending on the developments of the Covid-19 pandemic.

OBESSU commits to safety, personal and collective, and to make every effort possible to make events accessible to everyone.

Appendix 1 - Provisional calendar of activities

In **BLACK** are all process of OBESSU as an organisation

In **GREEN** are events involving all membership

In **BLUE** are the events in which part of the membership (e.g. selected members through call or partners in projects) are involved

In **RED** are consultations processes.

	Education reforms and funding	Learning for the 21st century	Sustainable development	Organisational Capacity and governance	Covid-19 contingency plan
Long-term processes/on-going processes	Covid-19 research	Advocacy on the mutual recognition of study-abroad diploma	Global student forum and cooperation with 100 million campaign	Stronger School Student Unions (field visits, regional visits and webinars)	
	Capacity building and monitoring of NRRPs	Policy paper on Learning for the 21st Century Working Group on Learning for the 21st Century	Cooperation and active participation in Generation Climate Europe	Work on Mental Health and recovery in the post Covid-19 scenario	
	Campaigns related to the European Year of Youth	Position paper on Validation of Non-Formal and Informal learning	Work on Early School Leaving		
January					
February	SSSR Coordination Team meeting and Meeting of the Pool of Trainers				
March					
April					

May	The Rights' Caravan	Study session: Pluriverse - oppression-free curricula in schools (17-22/05/2021)			
June			Final conference of the Generation D-Liberation project		Travel restriction permitting
July				Training Course for International Officers and General Assembly	Travel restriction permitting
August					
September	Summer School "Nothing About us Without Us"				
October					
November	Editorial Meeting of the Declaration of School Students Rights			17th November campaign Council of Members (tbc - around last 2 weeks November, 1 week December)	
December					