

OBESSU Council of Members 2021

27th - 28th November 2021 - Brussels/Online

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1. Opening of the COMEM at 10:30am CST

Caridad from the Board welcomes everyone to the Council of Members and officially opens the COMEM 2021, the first hybrid statutory event in OBESSU.

Caridad reminds everyone that the urgent motions and resolutions are open until 23.59 of today, 27th November.

Roll Call: AKS, ASuBih (online), BSK, CANAE, CEF, CNE, CSU, DGS (online), DOS, EEO, ESCU, FSS, ISSU (not present), KYC (not present), LH, LMS (not present), MAKOSZ, MNL, NSoA, OSKU, RSM, SAKKI, SIF(not present), SLL, SSUNI, SUS (not present), SVB, TOS (not present), UDS (not present), UEM (not present), UNEL, UNL (not present), UNSS, USO.

There are 23 Organisations present in person and 2 present online.

2. Election of the Chairperson

Caridad from the Board presents the Chairpersons. We have 2 proposals for chairpersons: on day 1 the COMEM will be chaired by **Oona Heiska**, former OBESSU Board Member, while on day 2 the COMEM will be chaired by **Dasa Koribanicova**, former OBESSU Secretariat and Board Member.

Caridad from the Board asks the Membership to vote on the chair by acclamation.

UNEL takes the floor and asks whether it will be possible for the online chair to keep track of the speaking list.

Dragana from the Secretariat explains how the speaking list will work.

Oona and **Dasa** are elected Chairs of the COMEM 2021 by acclamation.

3. Election of the minute-takers

The **Board** proposes Eleonora and Gilda from the Secretariat to be the minute takers.

The **Chair** opens the floor for active opposition.

There is no active opposition.

Eleonora and **Gilda** are elected minute-takers of the COMEM.

4. Election of the Ballot Committee

The **Chair** explains that the Ballot Committee is the body appointed to count the votes during COMEM and that the BC will be composed of 3 people and encourages Extra Delegates to be part of the BC, as they don't have to participate in voting.

The **Chair** opens the floor for candidates to the Ballot Committee.

UNEL, SSUNI and **SVB** volunteer to be part of the ballot committee.

LH asks whether it is practical for SSUNI to be counting the votes of their own elections.

Giuseppina from the Secretariat clarifies that this is a good question and explains that there will be a member of the Monitoring Committee (Catalin) also present during the vote count to provide an added layer of accountability.

UNEL, SSUNI and **SVB** are elected as Ballot Committee members by acclamation.

5. Adoption of the internal regulations

The **Chair** presents the internal regulations. It is important to stress the following matters:

- Every Member Organisation has the right to one vote, expressed through their Official Delegate. Extra Delegates cannot vote. Should the OD need to give the right to vote to their ED they need to write this in the chat.
- Candidates and Members automatically have the right to speak. Affiliate Organisations need to receive the right to speak by a vote.

DISCUSSIONS

- Discussions are launched by the Chair. The Chair can set a speaking time. You can ask for the word by raising your name tag. If you are online, you can raise your hand using the raise-hand button and Dragana will add you to the speaking list.
- Explain what a direct reply is. Direct reply can be given only in case of false information and should be requested by making a V sign with your hands.
- If the Chair feels like the point for discussion has been covered extensively, they or anyone in the room can ask for the speaking list to be closed. When someone asks for the SL to be closed, the chair asks if there's any active opposition before asking organisations that want to speak to still be put on the SL.
- You can ask for a break by making a T sign with your hands.

VOTING

- Voting can be done by active opposition, by raising your voting card or by secret ballot. If anyone wishes for a vote to be a closed one you can do so by requesting this to the Chair before the voting procedure begins. Member organisations with the right to vote will receive a yellow voting card. You need to return your voting card to Secretariat before you leave the room for a break, lunch or to go to the toilet. Cards are handed back every time there is a roll call.

- If one organisation demands a re-counting this can be done only by challenging the ballot committee or the voting procedure for all closed ballots.
- Majority for all voting except for the statutes is 50%+1. When counting simple majority, abstentions are not counted into the quorum. E.g. if there's 30 votes casted out of which 10 abstentions, the valid votes will be 20 and therefore the quorum will be 11.
- For the majority to be valid, at least half of the MOs need to be for or against.
- If there's an amendment to a proposal, this will be voted before the proposal itself.
- Once a proposal has been accepted or rejected, the discussion will not be reopened.

The **Chair** opens the floor for questions.

There are no questions.

The **Chair** asks whether there is any active opposition.

There is no active opposition.

The internal regulations of OBESSU COMEM 2021 are adopted.

Eleonora from the Secretariat presents OBESSU policy on consent: in OBESSU we value the educational approach, but a zero tolerance policy towards violence and harassment will be applied. Eleonora reminds the definition of consent and peer pressure (do not pressure or feel pressured into doing anything that you don't want to do, whether that be a drinking game, a late night out, etc.)

The Board and Secretariat Members will act upon the mentioned behaviors.

The **Chair** thanks Eleonora and invites Secretariat Members in charge of the online space to let her know if additional breaks apart from the ones in the agenda are needed.

6. Legality of the General Assembly and adoption of the agenda

The **Chair** presents the agenda and explains that no major changes can be made to the agenda because of the nature of this COMEM.

The **Chair** introduces the deadlines of the COMEM:

- 28th September: invitation to the COMEM. Call for proposals;
- 23rd October: deadline for amendments and no amendments were sent out;
- 28th October: documents are sent out to Members, Candidate and Affiliate Organisations;

- 17th November: deadline for amendments to the amendments;
- 22nd November: last email sent out;
- 27th of November: first day of the COMEM;

All deadlines have been respected therefore the COMEM is considered legal.

The **Chair** explains the agenda of the COMEM for day 1 and day 2.

The **Chair** asks whether there is any question, comment, or active opposition to the agenda of the COMEM.

Giuseppina from the Secretariat takes the floor to ask the extra delegate from DGS if they feel comfortable facilitating the members-led workshop proposed by DGS since the official delegate of DGS could not attend the COMEM. DGS replies they are not feeling comfortable since the content was proposed by another delegate.

Giuseppina suggests discussing how to re-organise it during lunch.

There is no active opposition.

The agenda of the COMEM is adopted.

7. Voting on speaking rights of Affiliate Organisations and guests

The **Chair** explains that Affiliate Organisations need to receive the right to speak from the Members because it is not automatic. The AOs present are **SVB** - Germany. The chair asks them to quickly present themselves and explain why they want the right to speak.

SVB introduces themselves and explains that they are part of the BC and it would be good to receive the right to speak. SVB leaves the room.

The chair opens the floor for Q&A. There are no questions from the Membership.
The vote to grant the right to speak to affiliates is done through **voting cards**.

There are 18 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

SVB has been granted the right to speak.

The Chair then proceeds to introduce guests to give them the right to speak.

- Sebastian Berger from the Global Student Forum
- Viola Bianchetti, European Youth Forum and 25percent project
- Elisa Gambardella, Solidar and Steering Committee member of the Civil Society Convention for the Conference on the Future of Europe
- Agata Maysner from Generation Climate Europe
- Adam Lambe, Member of the Pool of Trainers
- WG - Propok Valek from the WG on Education Funding and Reforms

The vote to grant the right to speak to guests is done by **acclamation**.

The guests have been granted the right to speak.

8. Voting Right for Member Organisations failing to pay the Annual Financial Contribution

The Member Organisations failing to pay the Annual Financial Contribution are: **CSU and UNSS**.

The **Chair** gives the floor to each organisation to explain the situation, then invites the organisations to leave the room and opens the floor for questions and comments.

CSU takes the floor and explains that there have been some discrepancies in the finances of 2016/2018. They have contacted the previous financial responsible and they did not receive any answer. They will do what is in their capacity to find the information required by OBESSU.

UNSS takes the floor and explains that in the past years they did not have any projects and therefore not financial income.

LH asks for clarification about not having any projects.

UNSS clarifies that the organisation did not receive any money this year because they did not receive funds for projects.

The **MC** takes the floor to ask whether UNSS has reported the situation to the Secretariat or the Board of OBESSU.

UNSS clarifies that they are not in position to answer as they are not the International Officer of the organisation and therefore this kind of information is not clear.

There are no more questions.

UNSS and CSU leave the room.

UNEL asks if it is possible to close the windows so that the organisations do not actually hear the questions. UNEL asks the Secretariat if there is more information about the situation of UNSS.

Giuseppina from the Secretariat answers that there have been issues getting in touch with the UNSS Secretariat. OBESSU Secretariat did not receive any turnover declaration therefore they will not be able to pay.

LH takes the floor to ask clarifications about the procedure in progress.

The **Chair** clarifies that the Membership will now vote to grant the voting right to the organisations that failed to pay the AFC.

FSS takes the floor to ask whether UNSS contacted the OBESSU Secretariat at all.

Giuseppina from the Secretariat takes the floor to clarify that the OBESSU Secretariat is aware of the financial situation of UNSS, and we are in touch with them, but we did not hear specifically about the AFC.

Alex from the Board reminds the Council of Members to state the name of the organisation before taking the floor, so that the people online can follow better.

The vote will happen by voting cards.

UNEL asks for clarifications on their role as Ballot Committee.

The **Board** confirms that it is indeed their time to count votes.

Catalin from the Monitoring Committee kindly reminds the delegates to be sure and not hesitate before raising or keeping the voting card low to not compromise the voting count.

The quorum is 10.

CSU: there are 18 votes in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions. **CSU** has been granted the right to vote

UNSS: there are 11 votes in favour, 3 against, 4 abstentions. **UNSS** has been granted the right to vote.

CSU and UNSS return to the room and they are given their voting cards.

Roll Call: AKS, ASUBIH (online), BSK, CANAE, CEF, CNE, CSU, DGS (online), DOS, EEO, ESCU, FSS, ISSU (not present), KYC (not present), LH, LMS (not present), MAKOSZ, MNL, NSOA, OSKU, RSM, SAKKI, SIF (not present), SLL, SSUNI, SUS (not present), SVB, TOS (not present), UDS (not present), UEM (not present), UNEL, UNL (not present), UNSS, USO.

There are 23 organisations present and 2 organisations online. 20 organisations have voting rights. The quorum is 11.

9. Presentation of the report of the General Assembly 2021

The **Chair** introduces **Rares** from the Board to report what happened during the General Assembly 2021.

The minutes of the GA 2021 are uploaded on the website.

- Membership application: we have accepted BSK and OSKU as full members of OBESSU after one year of Candidacy.
- Secretariat report: we have received updates about new staff members, new projects, and the financial report of the organisation.
- All OBESSU bodies, including the Board, the Monitoring Committee, the Working Group in Education Funding and Reforms and the Pool of Trainers
- During the GA 2021 we also voted on the five following expiring policy papers:
 - Policy Paper on Innovation in Education
 - Policy Paper on Mental Health in Schools
 - Policy Paper on the Concept of Consent
 - School Student Guidelines on Global Citizenship Education
 - Refugee and Migrant Rights in Education: A school Student perspective

All the policy papers were renewed.

- The Membership voted to renew the trust to the Secretary General for the next two years.
- The Membership voted for a new Board: Alexandra Seybal, nominated by AKS, Austria, Caridad Alarcon Sanchez, nominated by CANAE, Spain, Rares Voicu, nominated by CNE, Romania, Petr Franc, nominated by CSU, Czech Republic and Nadine Toye, nominated by ISSU, Ireland were elected as Board Members.
- The Membership voted for a new Monitoring Committee: Cătălin Ilieș, nominated by CNE, Romania, Gearoid O'Donovan, nominated by ISSU, Ireland, Emmi Jantti, nominated by FSS, Finland and Adrian Barbaros, former Board Member were elected as the new Monitoring Committee.

The **Chair** opens the floor for questions. There are no questions from the Membership.

10. Adoption of minutes from the General Assembly 2021

The **Chair** invites the organisations to approve the minutes from the GA by means of voting cards.

The **Chair** opens the floor for questions and answers. There are no questions.

There are 20 votes in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

The minutes of the General Assembly 2021 are adopted.

11. Election of the Rapporteur of the COMEM

The **Chair** asks if there is any volunteer for the position of the COMEM Rapporteur at the General Assembly. The GA will be held in June 2021. The task of the Rapporteur consists in giving a summary of the main points discussed and outcomes of the COMEM.

SAKKI asks if they can volunteer but they are not sure if they will be present.

Rares from the Board and previous Rapporteur explains that another person might be appointed if SAKKI cannot be physically present.

The Membership will vote by active opposition. There is no active opposition, therefore **Uliana** from SAKKI will be the COMEM Rapporteur during the next General Assembly.

Roll call: AKS, ASUBIH (online), BSK, CANAE, CEF, CNE, CSU, DGS (online), DOS, EEO, ESCU, FSS, ISSU (online), KYC (not present), LH, LMS (not present), MAKOSZ, MNL, NSOA, OSKU, RSM, SAKKI, SIF (not present), SLL, SSUNI, SUS (not present), SVB, TOS (not present), UDS (not present), UEM (not present), UNEL, UNL (not present), UNSS, USO.

There 23 organisations present and 3 organisations online.

12. Board report

Roll Call: AKS, ASUBIH (online), BSK, CANAE, CEF, CNE, CSU, DGS (online), DOS, EEO, ESCU, FSS, ISSU (not present), KYC (not present), LH, LMS (not present), MAKOSZ, MNL, NSOA, OSKU, RSM, SAKKI, SIF (not present), SLL, SSUNI, SUS (not present), SVB, TOS (not present), UDS (not present), UEM (not present), UNEL, UNL (not present), UNSS, USO.

There are 23 organisations present and 2 online.

The **Chair** gives the floor to the Board for the presentation of the Board Report.

Petr presents the OBESSU goals: 1) OBESSU influences change in Europe and the world; 2) OBESSU is owned by well-functioning school student unions; 3) OBESSU it is considered a relevant stakeholder; 4) OBESSU is a strong and stable organisation.

The rest of the Board comments on OBESSU progress on each of the goals above, detailing the activities relevant to each point, including: Global Student Forum, Education International, ECMA, Fundamental Rights Forum, study and field visits, Microgrants, Working Groups and Monitoring Committee, OBESSU participation to European Commission Working Groups as well as GENE. To notice particularly is OBESSU's engagement with partners, to which MOs contribute to a great extent. **Rares** encourages delegates to engage more actively with OBESSU activities as OBESSU needs the national perspective and input to conduct solid advocacy work. **Caridad** highlights the current membership expansion and encourages MOs to reach out to the Secretariat for support. Caridad presents the Pool of Trainers.

Caridad gives an overview of the internal regulations of the Board. These include membership and portfolio divisions. **Nadine** comments on the portfolio division of the Board which is based on both interest and expertise. Some portfolios have more than one Board Member assigned to it.

The **Chair** opens the floors to questions. The Chair clarifies there are no voting procedures but only comments and questions.

UNEL takes the floor to thank the Board for their commitment. UNEL mentions they are willing to work more closely with the Board and OBESSU, but do not always have the resources. UNEL asks if there are any internal mechanisms to check on the performance and the feelings involved in working so closely as a team.

Caridad from the Board answers that the Board Members are still getting to know each other and understanding how they work as individuals and then within the team.

Nadine from the Board agrees with what has been said.

Rares from the Board takes the floor to thank UNEL for their question and mentions that the disengagement of the membership is a reason for frustration within the Board. He invites delegates to speak to the Board over lunch more informally to discuss how to address the issue of disengagement together. He acknowledges the challenges of Covid-19, but encourages honest conversations between Board and delegates.

Petr from the Board takes the floor to thank UNEL for their question. He clarifies that the Board is not a hive mind and that there is sometimes conflict between the opinions and resolutions amongst

Board Members. He deems this healthy and the Board overall to be friendly. He is positive that the Board is functioning well.

UNEL agrees that this is the moment to show interest in the work of the Board. UNEL asks about the workload of the Board especially in the context of the pandemic and wonders if they assess the workload to be sufficient and appropriate.

Alex from the Board takes the floor and mentions that the workload is appropriate and the Board receives enough support from the Secretariat. She does not think that the workload changed in terms of quantity but quality. She is very happy to see all the delegates together and definitely considers the workload worth it seeing everyone in person at COMEM.

NSoA takes the floor and asks what the Board would like to see from the Membership so that they know how to improve.

Rares from the Board explains that the expectations of the Board were to see MOs actively engaging with the opportunities we offer; MOs being proactive in taking up space within OBESSU and proposing activities, topics, policy perspectives, raising global issues, etc.

Alex from the Board takes the floor and clarifies that the Board has seen MOs engagement during the pandemic and they would like to meet the needs of Member Organisations. As we preach "Nothing about us without us", the Board has to be mindful and put extra care into not carrying out actions without the approval of the Membership, for this reason MOs engagement is fundamental.

UNEL takes the floor and asks whether it is appropriate now to discuss the Conference on the Future of Europe. The **Board** replies that there will be space to discuss this more in depth during the rest of COMEM.

The **Chair** thanks everyone for their contribution and introduces the next point on the agenda.

Dragana from the Secretariat explains the logistics of lunch and dinner for Sunday evening as well as the rules around nominations letters and parental consent forms, which will need to be handed in to Ettore from the Secretariat during the lunch break.

13. Parallel discussion corners:

The **Chair** gives the floor to Caridad from the Board to introduce the discussion corners.

There are 4 parallel discussions corners. See the reports below.

1. Curriculum for the XXI Century (online) report:

- Students are not really involved in shaping the school curricula

- Students would like a curriculum that includes more practical skills, environmental education, and more gender representation in the literature
- Students should be the center of the learning experience. The learning experience should be shaped based on the student and not be universal

2. Curriculum for the XXI Century (offline) - NSoA reports:

- More inclusive curricula that can represent the diversity within the student body.
- Critical thinking in relation to politics (national vis à the global environment) and the economy.
- Practical education and apprenticeships: students are not aware of the fact that university is not the only option out there, and this knowledge should be available for them.
- Colonialism, decolonisation and indigenous people: teaching history, for example, the viewpoint is always that of the coloniser and students need to be taught about the experiences and cultures of the colonised.

3. Returning into schools in the Post Covid 19 scenario - SAKKI reports:

- Online encounters are not necessarily bad, but they cannot replace in-person education. We need to find a balance.
- What can OBESSU do to support students? More experience and knowledge sharing between members, spreading information about what has already been done.
- Training for representatives to spread information within and across member organisations.
- OBESSU could organise public online events and put together dissemination toolkits for members to publicise the event without additional effort.
- Feelings of coming back to school, frustration at teachers, expectations of the students varying across formats.

4. Returning into schools in the Post Covid 19 scenario - CANAE reports:

- Mental health and education: the research report of OBESSU really resonated with the experiences of the discussion group.

- Effect of closures on different organisations. Students had a lack of interest in participating in student activism during the lockdown. Second lockdown was harder than the first and that caused everyone's mental health to deteriorate across national contexts.

Roll Call: AKS, ASUBIH (online), BSK, CANAE, CEF, CNE, CSU, DGS (online), DOS, EEO, ESCU, FSS, ISSU (online), KYC (not present), LH, LMS (not present), MAKOSZ, MNL, NSOA, OSKU, RSM, SAKKI, SIF (not present), SLL, SSUNI, SUS (not present), SVB, TOS (not present), UDS (not present), UEM (not present), UNEL, UNL (not present), UNSS, USO.

There are 23 organisations present and 3 organisations online.

14. The Global Student Forum: presentation by Sebastian Berger, Executive Director

Sebastian Berger, Executive Director of the Global Student Forum introduces himself and presents the Global Student Forum and students' participation from a global perspective. Sebastian is from Austria and he comes from a student organisation that is part of the GSF.

The Global Student Forum is composed of 5 regional platforms: AASU, CSA, ESU, OBESSU, OCLAE. There are now more contacts with student organisations from Asia which are democratic organisations, but they are not full members yet. The Australian and New Zealand's organisations are now part of the GSF.

OBESSU is the only platform representing secondary school students' unions. It is not easy to establish contacts with secondary school students' representatives.

GSF has partnerships and work in collaboration with other influential organisations such as International association of Universities, Education International and Trade Unions.

In 2019 the team of the GSF started to explore new ways to work together and gather students from all over the world. There were a few international meetings organised by OBESSU and other organisations.

The Global Student Forum is trying to find new pathways to represent students and push students participation in International Organisations such as UNESCO and OECD.

Sebastian gives an overview of the upcoming opportunities:

- UNESCO World Higher Education Conference
- UNESCO SDG4Youth and Student Network
- ActionyouthClimate Justice and cop27
- Global perspective magazine
- Working Group for School Student Representation
- Suheg and GSF academy
- Students rights Watch

The **Chair** thanks Sebastian for the presentation and opens the floor for questions.

The **MC** takes the floor and asks what are the main issues faced by GSF. Sebastian answers that there is resistance in recognising that students and young people are two different groups which sometimes overlap but are by no means the same and they should not be seen as such.

UNEL takes the floor and asks how they keep the balance within GSF because there are many different organisations and different education systems.

Sebastian answers that the core values and main beliefs on education are shared by all the organisations, but the issues of students around the world are different.

Alex from the Board takes the floor to thank Sebastian and all the GSF team and encourages all the MOs to participate in GSF events.

15. Report of the Monitoring Committee

The **Chair** gives the floor to the Monitoring Committee for the presentation of the MC Report.

Catalin from the MC takes the floor to present the report of the Monitoring Committee:

The role of the MC:

- Monitor that OBESSU is well functioning
- They collect data through questionnaires and interviews
- The MC interviewed the Board, the SG, the staff and the Member Organisations

Findings from the Secretariat questionnaire:

- The communication between the Board and Secretariat is crucial and it has improved since last year.
- Meetings between the Board and Secretariat are fundamental.

Findings from the Board report:

- The Board is very committed.
- The relationship with the Secretariat is a key factor for the success of the Board.
- Following the return of in person events the engagement of the Board has grown significantly.
- Satisfaction with the handover process
- The Board would like to get to know each other better

The **Chair** thanks the MC for their work and opens the floor for questions.

Caridad from the Board thanks the MC for their work.

There are no more comments from the Membership.

16. Report from the Pool of Trainers

The **Chair** gives the floor to **Adam** from the Pool of Trainers.

Adam from the Pool of Trainers takes the floor (online) to present the report of the Pool of Trainers.

One of the obstacles of the PoT was the decreasing engagement of MOs in online activities after being online for so long, and the PoT did not find suitable solutions to tackle this problem. The PoT therefore decreased the number of activities.

This year the PoT is still trying to focus on the structure of the PoT. The Senior and Junior trainers system will be revised. Overall the experience of having a senior trainer helped a lot.

The PoT is currently trying to understand how to organise the upcoming online and offline events and they will organise a shared calendar and shared agenda for the year.

The lack of engagement is a problem both within the PoT and outside. There is a lack of engagement from the MOs. They are trying to develop the training modules, but unfortunately they have been postponed both because of lack of interest and because of a lack of coordination and communication within the team. The PoT members never met in person and, therefore it was very difficult to build the team.

There will be a capacity building event at the beginning of next year. Since the last GA Adam has been working mostly externally.

The term of the PoT is about to end.

The **Chair** thanks Adam and opens the floor for questions.

There are no questions for the Pool of Trainers.

17. Vote on received candidacy applications

Roll Call: AKS, ASUBIH (online), BSK, CANAE, CEF, CNE, CSU, DGS (online), DOS, EEO, ESCU, FSS, ISSU (online), KYC (not present), LH, LMS (not present), MAKOSZ, MNL, NSOA, OSKU, RSM, SAKKI, SIF (not present), SLL, SSUNI, SUS (not present), SVB, TOS (not present), UDS (not present), UEM (not present), UNEL, UNL (not present), UNSS, USO.

There are 23 organisations present and 3 organisations online. 20 organisations have voting rights.

The **Chair** explains that there are 2 Organisations that submitted the application to become Candidate Organisations of OBESSU: **MNL** from France and **SSUNI** from Northern Ireland.

Nadine from the Board takes the floor to explain that according to OBESSU statutes, the Board can approve the candidacy applications. After the approval of the Board there is no need for a vote unless the Membership requests it specifically.

The **Chair** gives the floor to MNL and SSUNI to present their Organisations and opens the floor for Q&A.

MNL takes the floor to present the organisation: since its creation, MNL has worked tirelessly to represent students' rights. They found it hard to work on this alone and this is why there is a strong need to cooperate, nationally and internationally, and this is also why they are applying as a Candidate Organisation in OBESSU. MNL has branches in every school and VET institute in France and they are active in many different deliberative bodies. Students refer to MNL when they need support and help. MNL is also an activism-based organisation and they often mobilise students in the streets to express their opinions. MNL is very motivated to engage with OBESSU activities, events, strikes and campaigns and collaborate with other student unions in the OBESSU network.

The **Chair** thanks MNL and opens the floor for questions.

There are no further questions.

The Chair gives the floor to SSUNI for their presentation.

SSUNI takes the floor to present the organisation: SSUNI is the secondary school student union of Northern Ireland. Its structure is slightly different from other student unions. SSUNI has a Board of past presidents and famous alumni, academics, educational experts, who are able to give their honest and expert opinion on our activities and positions. Students sign up freely to be part of the union. SSUNI has a student-led Executive body, with members having different portfolios such as mental health, environmental issues, anti-racism, etc.

SSUNI was born during the Covid-19 when they rallied against what students thought were unfair methods of evaluations and assessments. One of their most important and influential achievements is a Mental Health report - which ended up affecting the former legislation and the Student Education Booklet. SSUNI would like to be part of OBESSU because they are enthusiastic about working with other student unions and building a more broad perspective together.

The **Chair** thanks SSUNI for their presentation.

There are no further questions.

The **Chair** explains the process of voting. Candidate Organisations will leave the room while the Membership discusses the candidacy application. The Board will also explain their reasons for accepting the organisations' candidacy.

UNEL takes the floor to request hearing from the Board why they think MNL and SSUNI should be part of OBESSU.

Giuseppina from the Secretariat takes the floor to clarify that the Candidates need to be in the room while the Board explains the reasons why they should become candidates of OBESSU.

UNEL comments that if the Board wants to comment on their decisions they should be able to do so in a closed session.

The **Chair** clarifies that this space is more for the Membership to decide if there is the need for a vote or not.

Nadine from the Board takes the floor to clarify that they will give reasons for their choice once the candidates' representatives will be back in the room.

NSoA comments on SSUNI's candidature. NSoA is favourable to their proposal. Northern Ireland has a different educational policy from the rest of the UK and it would be valuable to have their experience and perspective at the table.

UNEL comments that it is very unfortunate that UNL is not present because it would be insightful to hear their perspective about MNL, how they represent students and why there was a split between UNL and MNL.

Alex from the Board replies that there are many different student organisations in France and MNL might not necessarily have been born because of a split of UNL. Students' organisations in France might not always be close allies but they are used to working together towards common goals.

The Membership agrees that there is no need for a vote, therefore the Chair welcomes MNL and SSUNI back in the room (also online).

Alex from the Board takes the floor to explain why the Board accepted the application of MNL. Alex has been to an event organised by MNL and that was a very interesting experience. MNL represents students with a critical voice.

Nadine from the Board takes the floor to explain why the Board accepted the application of SSUNI. OBESSU has been in touch with SSUNI since last year and they have been waiting for their application since the last statutory event.

Alex from the Board invites MNL and SSUNI to come in front of the screen to take a picture and celebrate.

The **Chair** announces a small break before the vote on the Code of Conduct.

The session is back with a small energizer.

18. Vote on the Code of Conduct

The **Chair** gives the floor to Alex from the Board.

Alex presents the Board proposal to introduce an [OBESSU Code of Conduct](#). The mentioned has the goal of making the organisation and its events a safer space, acknowledging that we need to be aware of the inequalities among students.

The Code of Conduct tackles the core values of OBESSU and the educational approach that we support. Nevertheless there are certain behaviours that are not accepted within OBESSU and a zero tolerance policy will be enforced.

The core points of the Code of Conduct are:

- Education and zero tolerance
- The concept of Consent
- Democracy, participation and representation
- Empowerment, equality and non discrimination
- International solidarity
- Health
- Sustainability
- Intergenerational dialogue
- Child protection

There are clear measures to make sure that the Code of Conduct is respected. The Membership showed the need and asked more than once if there are any guidelines on conduct within the organisation and this is why the Board decided to submit the proposal.

The **Chair** explains that this is a voting proposal and we will need a simple majority to accept the CoC.

The **Chair** opens the floor for questions.

UNEL takes the floor to thank the Board as this is a fundamental document for OBESSU. The Code of Conduct is not only about the life in the organisation but also about everyday life. It makes less experienced and young participants feel more safe.

EEO takes the floor to comment that this is a great way to know all the rules and ways to behave. It is also safer to send delegates when there are clear guidelines.

Alex from the Board thanks the delegates for their kind words.

The **Chair** closes the speaking list.

Roll Call: AKS, ASUBIH (online), BSK, CANAE, CEF, CNE, CSU, DGS (online), DOS, EEO, ESCU, FSS, ISSU (not present), KYC (not present), LH, LMS (not present), MAKOSZ, MNL, NSoA, OSKU, RSM, SAKKI, SIF (not present), SLL, SUS (not present), SSUNI, SVB, TOS (not present), UDS (not present), UEM (not present), UNEL, UNL (not present), UNSS, USO.

There are 23 organisations present and 2 organisations online. There are 20 organisations with voting rights.

The vote is done through voting cards.

There are 20 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

The Code of Conduct is adopted.

19. Report of the Secretary General

The **Chair** gives the floor to the Secretary General for the report of the Secretariat.

The **Secretary General** presents the members of the Secretariat and their roles. The core activities of the Secretariat are:

1. **support,**
2. **operations,**
3. **network.**

The Secretariat makes sure that the decisions taken by the Board and Members turn into reality. The Secretariat also manages the network composed by the Members and our partners. The Secretariat's three main areas are: **governance and finances, policy** and **projects and programmes**. The former deals with administration, HR and network management. The policy team works on supporting the Board in their advocacy work and in drafting briefs to keep the Membership up to date with the European policy's developments. The project team manages projects and programmes.

The Secretary General outlines a number of activities undertaken by the Secretariat since the last GA, including project applications, regional exchanges, staff training, ECMA national events and final conferences, and planning for the upcoming year. One of the biggest accomplishments was publishing the [research report](#) on Covid-19 that all of the Member organisations contributed to.

The Secretary General gives an overview of the way forward, including a well-being strategy, an advocacy strategy, and encourages the Membership to really engage with OBESSU activities going forward.

The Secretary General proceeds with a quick overview of the financial projections for 2022. The cost-categories look similar, but the budget looks decreased at the moment as OBESSU has still not heard back from several projects it has applied for. OBESSU has an operating grant from the European Commission and will receive a fund from the Belgian government. OBESSU also has a structural grant from the Council of Europe, together with the Membership financial contributions.

While Giuseppina points out the deficit projection for next year, she highlights that many projects are still pending approval, thus this is not a particularly problematic issue.

The **Chair** opens the floor to questions.

Rares from the Board takes the floor to express gratitude to Giuseppina and the rest of the Secretariat for their work in keeping OBESSU up and running.

The **Chair** closes the floor for questions and introduces the next item on the agenda.

20. Parallel discussion corners:

The **Chair** invites Dragana from the Secretariat to take the floor and explain the logistics of the discussion corners.

The **Chair** calls everyone back to the main room for reports on their discussion corners.

1. European Year of Youth: how can we really be at the centre? (online)- DGS reports:

- Creation of a united front of youth organisations
- Putting students in the media, instead of delegating representation to non-students, having students in the spotlight, advocates for student-led decision-making.
- Promotion of positive actions on a local level to be expanded and multiplied across contexts. OBESSU can be a place for MOs to exchange knowledge and create a legitimate front.

2. European Year of Youth: how can we really be at the centre? (online)- FSS reports:

- Mental health and Inclusion should be a priority.
- Condemning tokenism in youth policy and really taking the lead on decisions. What can OBESSU do? Have big conferences to amplify the voices within the Membership.
- Reach out to decision makers and target partner organisations to support and elevate the voices of young people.

3. Early School Leaving (offline), DOS reports:

- Causes: lack of counselling (no guidance or support on what to do, and societal pressure to be someone), financial reasons - education is a luxury in many countries, also family tradition plays a role (for example in the case of a family businesses), lack of infrastructure, strict criteria for admission to higher education, curricula lacking representation, lack of flexibility in educational paths, very determining from day one.
- What should OBESSU do about it? Financial incentive - money should not be a barrier when applying for university or when going to school.
- Better counseling. Alternative schools, flexible study paths and different programs so everyone can get the knowledge required to achieve their dreams.

4. Vocational Education and Training (offline)- SAKKI reports:

- Barriers of VET: lack of interoperability with other forms of education, lack of quality internships caused by the Covid-19 crisis, disproportionate expectations of employers expecting interns to be already trained, bad reputation of VET as a second class school path, lack of funding for materials and tools, which are expected to be acquired by students

themselves. Impossibility to access higher education or limited access. Sexism in VET, gendered conceptions of jobs such as builder or plumber.

- What can OBESSU do? There should be more national appreciation by the media to promote success stories from VET. Combined events would also be nice, reuniting general and vocational education, to promote the idea that VET is a valid alternative to general education.
- More research on the experience of VET students.

The **Chair** asks if there are any questions related to any of the discussion corners.

There are no further questions.

The Chair thanks everyone for attending the event and says it has been a pleasure to be chairing although it was not planned.

The **Chair** gives the floor to Caridad from the Board who requested to speak.

Caridad thanks the Chair for their work and effort and for jumping in at the last minute to chair the COMEM.

Giuseppina from the Secretariat takes the floor to give the last logistical information to offline participants, focusing on a practical guide on how to do reimbursements with the reimbursement form up on the screen.

The **MC** takes the floor to ask about the Covid-19 test and whether that requires a different form.

Giuseppina from the Secretariat answers that it does not and gives a practical demonstration on how to fill the reimbursement form.

UNEL takes the floor to ask whether reimbursement forms can be done entirely digitally.

Giuseppina from the Secretariat takes the floor to reply that unfortunately, while the reimbursement itself can be sent digitally within the three weeks, the original will have to come in eventually by post. OBESSU still does not have a policy on accepting digitally sent reimbursements.

LH takes the floor to ask whether they can submit the reimbursement forms in Brussels while they are in COMEM.

Giuseppina from the Secretariat replies that the reimbursement form and the boarding passes must arrive together and that to have the reimbursement for flights back from COMEM it will be necessary to send in the boarding cards, which are normally available after flying.

NSoA asks which one of the boarding passes for arrival to Brussels OBESSU requires, since NSoA missed their original flight to COMEM.

Giuseppina from the Secretariat replies that the boarding pass needed from NSoA is the one of the planes they boarded to arrive in Brussels.

UNEL takes the floor and asks whether the three weeks deadline applies to the date on the stamp. **Giuseppina** from the Secretariat replies that OBESSU will take into consideration the date on the stamp.

21. Announcements preceding day 2 and closing of day 1

Arrangements for dinner are made so that everyone needs to be on time. Participants can notify Carmen, Dragana and Gilda from the Secretariat on their preferred method of arriving at the venue.

The **MC** takes the voting cards to be stored ahead of day 2. Personal affairs can be left in the room although it is not recommended to leave any valuables.

Carmen from the Secretariat announces that on day 2 of COMEM there will be time dedicated to choreography and everyone should come back with a dance step to integrate.

Day 2, 28th of November 2021

22. Official opening of day 2, roll call and quorum confirmation

Roll Call: AKS, ASUBIH (not present), BSK, CANAE, CEF, CNE, CSU, DGS (not present), DOS, EEO, ESCU (not present), FSS, ISSU (online), KYC (not present), LH, LMS (not present), MAKOSZ, MNL, NSoA, OSKU, RSM, SAKKI, SIF (not present), SLL, SSUNI, SUS (not present), SVB, TOS (not present), UDS (not present), UEM (not present), UNEL, UNL (not present), UNSS, USO.

There are 22 organisations present. 19 organisations have with voting rights present.

Dasa is the Chair of the second day of COMEM.

23. Self-organised workshops by Members

Dragana from the Secretariat introduces the self-organised workshops.

1. Mental Health in schools (CANAE and EEO) ** Engaging online participants
2. Equality and intersectionality (FSS and NSoA)

3. Assessment (ISSU) **Engaging online participants
4. Inclusion in student organisations (LH)
5. Mobilising students: taking the streets (MNL)

Delegates can attend the workshop they prefer in each round.

24. Vote on Implementation Plan 2022

The **Chair** gives the floor to Caridad from the Board to present the Board proposal for the Implementation Plan 2022.

The key topics of the Implementation Plan 2022 will be: **Education reforms and funding, Learning for 21st century** and **Sustainable development**.

The decision to carry on with the Working Group on Education Funding and Reforms is due to the importance of this topic in the current climate and historical moment: monitoring and building the capacity of OBESSU and its MOs on the National Recovery and Resilience Plans is fundamental, as these will greatly influence the education systems everywhere in Europe in the years to come. We might not be politicians but we do politics and we need to have a dialogue with the people who take decisions at European level.

Next year is the European Year of Youth and OBESSU is going to engage extensively with it, bringing the perspective of school students and their rights, as well as by organising activities such as the Summer School, Caravan events, to be held at national level, the PoT training and more.

Caridad from the Board encourages all the MOs to look at the Implementation Plan themselves, as it contains in more detail OBESSU's vision and goals going forward, including a table with all the activities foreseen in the next year and how and when they will take place.

Caridad from the Board invites the MOs to comment and ask questions about the Implementation Plan.

The **Chair** opens the floor for discussion.

The **MC** welcomes the in-person events which will allow OBESSU to learn more about the current situation in different national educational systems. The MC also raises the issue of internal engagement, stressing that in the post Covid-19 scenario, is more important than ever to find better

ways to engage with students and organisations, with the view of influencing policy on education in the different national contexts.

The **Chair** closes the floor for discussion and announces the roll call to vote on the Implementation Plan.

Roll Call: AKS, ASUBIH (not present), BSK (not present), CANAE, CEF, CNE, CSU, DGS (not present), DOS, EEO, ESCU (not present), FSS, ISSU (online), KYC (not present), LH, LMS (not present), MAKOSZ, MNL, NSoA, OSKU, RSM, SAKKI, SIF (not present), SLL, SSUNI, SUS (not present), SVB, TOS (not present), UDS (not present), UEM (not present), UNEL, UNL (not present), UNSS, USO.

There are 22 organisations present and 1 organisation online. 18 organisations have voting rights.

There are 18 votes in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

The Implementation Plan 2022 has been approved.

25. Report on Projects and Policy updates and developments

The **Chair** gives the floor to Dragana and Gilda from the Secretariat to present OBESSU Projects and Policy updates.

Dragana from the Secretariat briefly illustrates the funding mechanisms of OBESSU which the Secretariat has attempted to diversify in the last year. These are the main donors for the year ahead:

- European Youth Foundation from the Council of Europe (#EcoFighters)
- Open Society Foundation (Stronger School Students Union)
- Erasmus+ Programme
- Horizon 2020
- European Parliament grants

Currently OBESSU is involved in 9 projects, plus 2 operating and structural grants. The last two are crucial for OBESSU as they fund the statutory meetings, and they support OBESSU's day-to-day functioning.

Our projects:

- Stronger School Student Unions is a tailor made programme to support the Membership in terms of finances, capacity building and exchanges. Places to join the training are still available. In the next year, the project will continue in a different format, but regional exchanges and microgrants are going to carry on as usual.
- Brave New You is an Erasmus+ project, whose goal is to reach out to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds and boost youth participation. OBESSU collaborates on the policy aspect of the project.
- ECMA is also an Erasmus+ project, which is now coming to an end after two years. The goal of the project is to empower young people to develop changes in their own community. Together with the other project partners, OBESSU developed a methodology to guide and support changemakers in the development of their projects. The methodology includes a MOOC - Massive Online Open Course. A few days prior to COMEM, the Final Conference of the project took place in Brussels and the outcomes were disseminated.
- The EUCare project focuses on medical research on Covid-19. The partnership is made up mostly of researchers and universities, its goal is to explore the impact of Covid19 transmissions in classrooms and schools. The role of OBESSU in the project is to make sure that the rights of students are respected and upheld at the different stages of research.
- The Europe@home project focuses on citizenship education. OBESSU developed a manual and two training sessions for facilitators.
- The CITIZED project too focuses on citizenship education and its goals is to make sure that the
- Generation Deliberation is a project connected to the participation of school students to the Conference on the Future of Europe. OBESSU developed a methodology to organise student assemblies where student can discuss important topics and develop policy recommendations to bring at the decision-making table of the Conference on the Future of Europe.
- E-teams is a an Erasmus+ project that focuses on e-guidance and co-careering, with a stress on the role of teachers in supporting students.
- The SIRIUS project focuses on migrant education. OBESSU has a dissemination role as part of the ongoing OBESSU engagement on this topic within the SIRIUS policy network.
- The School Students Rights Reloaded constitutes the Work Plan for next year.
- The Ecofighters project came to an end this summer. Its main outcomes are the MOOC on environmental awareness; the policy recommendations on Environmental Education as well as small microgrants for MOs implementing environmental projects at the national level.

Gilda from the Secretariat gives a quick overview of the policy work of the past months:

- OBESSU has organised two events at the European Youth Event about ECMA and Generation D-Liberation projects;
- OBESSU co-wrote an open letter to the Commission about the lack of inclusion of CSOs in decision making and consultation of the NRRPs;

- Dissemination of the Research on Covid-19 amongst policy makers: Fundamental Rights Forum, ICSEI Conference on Well-Being, OECD events;
- OBESSU organised two events within the framework of the LLL Week 2021;
- OBESSU participated in several consultations on the topic of Early School Leaving in the framework of Pathways to School Success;
- OBESSU created an advocacy toolkit for MOs
- OBESSU contributed to the Open Public Consultation on Environmental Sustainability;
- OBESSU carried on the work on Education Funding with the Working Group;
- Nadine from the Board applied and successfully became Member of the Commission Expert Group;
- Rares from the Board applied and successfully became a member of the Gene Committee;
- The OBESSU research on Covid-19 will become part of the Youth Knowledge Book by the Council of Europe, which is going to be published next year;
- OBESSU met with the European Commission to discuss the recognition of learning outcomes during studies abroad;
- Ettore from the Secretariat is carrying out a research on the impact of Covid-19 on students organisations' finances;
- OBESSU started two new Working Groups, on Education Funding and Learning for the 21st Century respectively;
- OBESSU will organise a Study Session on the topic of Decolonising Education.

The **Chair** opens the floor for questions and comments.

UNEL takes the floor and asks how the OBESSU Secretariat is planning to do all the mentioned activities.

Dragana from the Secretariat takes the floor to answer that working with such an active team makes the work easier.

The **Chair** thanks the Secretariat and closes the floor.

26. Report of the WG on Education Funding and Reforms

The **Chair** gives the floor to Prokop Valek from the WG on Education Funding and Reforms.

Prokop gives an overview of the background and tasks of the Working Group:

- The Working Group started in 2021 and it was connected to the previous working group on Education Funding. The purpose of the Working Group was to create an advocacy toolkit to support MOs in reaching out to stakeholders and showcase the different educational reforms implemented across Europe in the last years.
- The Working Group members did not engage and failed to finalise the outputs foreseen as part of the WG, therefore the work plan was reshaped and new members joined in August

2021. Adam remained in the WG and three new members joined: Andrea from CANAE, Emilis from LMS and Propkop from CSU.

- The first meeting was held in September, where the Members got to know each other. The first real in person meeting happened in October in Strasbourg during the European Youth Event, where the WG discussed the plan for the upcoming months and found the motivation to work as a team. The WG decided to meet online more often to avoid the mistakes of the previous WG.
- The Working Group is now working mostly on the advocacy toolkit and not focusing on the reforms anymore. Since advocacy is a very broad topic, the WG decided to focus only on specific fields such as Introduction to advocacy, Strategy and Planning, Communication with stakeholders, communication with the broader audience and with the media.
- The members divided the roles internally. Each member is tasked with the development of a specific topic and all members input on each others' work, which is carried out on a shared document. The next meeting of the Working Group will be held in December to revise the work done so far by all the members. The original plan was to finalise the toolkit by February, but it was decided to postpone the deadline to Spring 2021.
- The WG needs some inputs from OBESSU MOs. WG members contacted all the IOs in order to consult them on their national approaches to advocacy on students rights.
- Andrea from the WG has already reached out to IOs. Prokop encourages the Membership to share their ideas and best practices with Andrea.

The **Chair** opens the floor for questions.

Petr from the Board takes the floor to thank the whole Working Group as well as the Secretariat for supporting their work. Petr reminds the Membership to give their inputs to the WG.

NSoA takes the floor and asks what kind of best practices are sought and if it will be possible to receive more information about the inputs needed from the Membership.

Prokop clarifies that any kind of resources from the Membership might be helpful.

The **Chair** thanks the WG and closes the speaking list.

27. Roll call and quorum recall

Roll Call: AKS, ASUBIH (not present), BSK (not present), CANAE, CEF, CNE, CSU, DGS, DOS, EEO, ESCU (not present), FSS, ISSU (online), KYC (not present), LH, LMS, MAKOSZ, MNL, NSoA, OSKU, RSM, SAKKI, SIF (not present), SLL, SSUNI, SUS (not present), SVB, TOS (not present), UDS (not present), UEM (not present), UNEL, UNL(not present), UNSS, USO.

There are 23 organisations present. 18 organisations have voting rights.

28. Voting on expiring Policy Papers

The **Chair** explains that every 4 statutory meetings OBESSU needs to look back at policy papers and decide whether to renew them, re-discuss them, update them or not.

There are 2 policy papers expiring at this COMEM:

1. Every Child Community Charter
2. Guiding principles for OBESSU Code of Conduct

As per our Statutes, policy papers need to be renewed at the 4th Statutory meeting after their approval, and this is the case.

The **Chair** gives the floor to Nadine from the Board to make a recommendation on whether the papers should be kept or not.

Nadine explains that the Every Child Community Charter focuses on the rights of children to live free of violence and exploitation. The Guiding principles for OBESSU Code of Conduct is in the opinion of the Board redundant as the Plenary voted yesterday to approve the Code of Conduct.

The **Chair** opens the floor for questions

.

There are no further questions.

The Chair opens the voting session, starting with the (1) expiring policy papers.

1) Every Child Community Charter: there are 18 votes in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

The Every Child Community Charter has been renewed.

2) Guiding principles for OBESSU Code of Conduct: there are 0 votes in favour, 16 against, 2 abstentions.

The Guiding principles for OBESSU Code of Conduct have not been renewed.

The **Chair** announces the upcoming point on the agenda and gives the floor to Maria from the Secretariat who is going to moderate the discussion.

29. The Future of education in Europe: panel discussion and deliberative assembly

Maria from the Secretariat introduces the Future of Education in Europe panel discussion. She asks if anyone knows what the CoFoE is.

UNEL asks for the floor and explains that CoFoE is a platform created by the European Commission to gather inputs by citizens and civil society groups to shape the Future of Europe in regards to a few key topics.

Maria from the Secretariat thanks UNEL and explains the outline of the session. A panel with Viola Bianchetti and Elisa Gambardella from EYF and Solidar respectively will introduce the assembly based on the methodology of Gen D-Lib. She also makes the Plenary aware that there is a reporter (Valeria) to take photos and after the session, interview the Membership.

Maria introduces the speakers, Viola Bianchetti, EYF Secretariat, Project Officer in charge of the 25percent project, dedicated to the CoFoE; Elisa Gambardella, Solidar representative and Steering Committee member of the Civil Society Convention for the Conference on the Future of Europe, working on the CoFoe also.

Maria asks the panelists about their work on the CoFoE, both individual and collective. She also makes the Membership aware that they can join the panel at any time providing their opinion by moving to the chair at the front of the Plenary room.

Maria addresses the room and asks if there are any questions.

NSoA takes the floor and asks about the opportunities for organisations coming from the UK and its potential involvement in the CoFoE

Viola answers that the consultation is reserved officially to EU member states and their citizens but she highlights that both OBESSU and the EYF are more than happy to receive input from organisations coming from the UK.

CANAE asks if there is a reason why only 5 countries are part of the 25percent project.

Viola answers that seeing the width of the Union, a number of countries was selected which can represent to an extent the variety within the EU. Viola also mentions that the EYF is working specifically with international organisations working with underrepresented groups such as rural youth and people with disabilities.

FSS takes the floor to ask why there is no Northern European country, which has important indigenous minorities.

Viola replies that while it is important to involve indigenous minorities and Northern European countries, when selecting countries difficult choices have to be made. She encourages FSS to provide suggestions about what stakeholders to engage in NE countries.

Elisa replies that it is always important to question one's work, however, that there are important considerations to be taken into account in terms of institutional limits of both governments and organisations. Governments tend to count on CSOs to provide them with "minority" quotas while they should lead by example.

Alex from the Board takes the floor and asks about EYF and Solidar's expectations about the outcomes of the CoFoE. **Rares** from the Board adds that the conference has given very high expectations and asks what would be the responses if expectations fall short.

Elisa answers that she herself had to lower her expectations. Especially the time frame (short term) does not allow to effectively engage minorities and underrepresented groups in the deliberative and consultative process of the CoFoE. It is however fundamental to remain engaged to the process, keeping critical but positive, because it does provide opportunities to come together, like today. Different weighting should be applied between individual citizens' contributions and organisations'.

Viola adds that it can be a struggle to work on CoFoE as there are many critical points and limits to its approach. However, it is a very unique opportunity, the first large-scale exercise for participatory democracy with the view of the decisions taken actually having a weight on the direction the EU is taking. It is a good opportunity to remind people that they have the right to have a political opinion and express it. As the first, it will not be perfect, and it can be our role to improve it.

Maria asks to the speakers how they evaluate the structures put in place for youth participation, and what would they recommend for future CoFoEs, if they are going to take place.

Viola mentions that the youth participation was very positive, a commitment that became a reality as the threshold of 30% of young people was reached. The President of the Youth Forum was also present in high-level fora of discussion. There could be a separate assembly specifically for young people and more efforts could be made to include young people beyond the representatives who were part of the deliberative mechanisms of CoFoE. There could also be better follow up, as this is not yet clear.

Elisa agrees and adds that in processes like these, involvement and the enabling factors are fundamental and that youth organisations both on the European and national level were able to do that for the conference, bringing top conversations to the grassroots. In terms of improvement, the CoFoE could acknowledge more the contributions that we as CSOs bring to the table..

Maria explains the OBESSU contribution to the CoFoE: Generation D-Liberation. She explains that the project is aimed at creating, testing, and reporting the ideas borne out of a precise assembly

methodology. She explains that the methodology will be tested today and will also be available on the OBESSU website to be used by the Membership if they so wish.

SVB briefly takes the floor to explain their contribution to the Gen D-Lib project.

Maria breaks out the group for the Gen D-Lib assembly, guided by the questions:

- What participation structures are there in your context/country for young people to engage decision-makers?
- What good participation structures would look like in the EU for young people to engage in decision-making?

Each group should come up with two to three suggestions/ideas at the end of the 20 minute group discussion. The Board is free to join any group.

Following discussion, every group will present their main ideas or outcomes. **Maria** writes them all down on a flip chart and then everyone will be asked to vote for the best overall propositions coming out of deliberation.

Below the demands by group:

Pink group:

- 1. Simpler international participation procedure.
- 2. More accessible resources, including information, where to find them, etc.

Yellow group:

- 3. Make student councils mandatory at all levels (local, regional, national).
- 4. To be heard by decision-makers.

Green group:

- 5. Whenever there is a decision on Education in the EU parliament, students should be allowed a place at the decision making table.
- 6. If there is a debate on education in the EP it is mandatory to have student representatives present.
- 7. European Youth Events should be organised by young people.

Orange group:

- 8. Creating more unions and organisations for young people. Many countries are underrepresented.
- 9. The cost of participating in youth events is a barrier and should be removed to ensure equal access in decision making.

Online group:

- 10. Feedback system (local to European) to bring the grassroots to the supranational level.
- 11. United front for the youth.
- 12. EU Youth Parliament deliberating on demands and sending them to politicians.

Maria explains the voting procedures and reminds the Membership to engage with the reporter who has come for photos and interviews as part of the Gen D-Lib project.

The **Chair** calls the coffee break.

After the coffee break, the **Chair** gives the floor to Maria who illustrates the ideas who won the majority of votes from the Membership. Numbers 3, 5, 10 and 11 are the most voted proposals.

The **Chair** thanks Maria and introduces the next item on the agenda.

30. Generation Climate Europe – presentation

Generation Climate Europe representative **Agata** is not able to join in person so she recorded a video that is played in the Plenary room.

The presentation introduces the Generation Climate Europe coalition and its guiding principles, mission and vision; its membership; structure; main activities - network engagement, advocacy and capacity building; as well as opportunities to be involved in GCE activities.

The **Chair** opens the floor for questions.

There are no further questions.

Caridad from the Board takes the floor to explain that she is the focal point for OBESSU within GCE, and she invites the membership to engage with GCE.

The **Chair** gives the floor to Eleonora from the Secretariat to introduce the next point of the agenda.

31. Membership strategy session

Eleonora from the Secretariat invites the Membership to access Mentimeter for the interactive activities opening the sessions. These will feed into the Membership Strategy that will be elaborated together by the Board and the Secretariat. The first activity is to comment on a number of statements.

LH takes the floor. LH thinks the 1st question is too vague for members to give an opinion on it.

Eleonora clarifies that she does not want to apply any bias and this is why the question is vague. She nonetheless gives examples of how an organisation can change.

The fourth question regards a yearly report to be submitted by organisations with their main activities. The Membership is strongly in favour.

Giuseppina from the Secretariat takes the floor to ask what would be the implications of not submitting a yearly report in case this part of the consultation is adopted.

CANAE takes the floor to suggest a different format of reporting, such as a slide presentation, to make it easier on both sides to compile and understand the information.

Rares takes the floor and says that most organisations already have an annual report. He also raises the issue of the review process and asks how the membership wants to proceed on that front.

SVB suggests that the review should not be mandatory so as not to create a bureaucratic nightmare, but it should be prompted by either OBESSU or the Member Organisation involved.

The **Chairs** intervenes to say that this is an open discussion but MOs should nonetheless wait until Eleonora has finished with a point to ask their questions.

Eleonora from the Secretariat thanks both and encourages questions and discussions at the end of the consultation.

FSS takes the floor to propose that reviews are done as a collective exercise so that MOs can learn from each others' projects and activities.

SAKKI takes the floor to comment on the consultation point on the informal report to the Board. SAKKI thinks that this might suffice most of the time but in some relevant matters and dramatic changes, such as organisational restructuring, OBESSU should be informed in a more formal way.

NSoA takes the floor to comment on the same about and seconds SAKKI's views.

FSS takes the floor to comment on the consultation point on giving the Board the power to change the membership status of the organisation without consulting the membership. FSS thinks that if organisations are inactive the Board should take up the matter with the Membership during Statutory Meetings.

UNSS takes the floor to comment on the same point saying that different organisations have different capacities and to penalise some for having reduced capacity in terms of reporting and engaging with OBESSU would be a mistake.

LH takes the floor to ask clarification about the point of the consultation on the revision not weighing in on the membership status of an organisation. LH wonders how this is possible and what are alternative outcomes.

Carmen and Eleonora provide clarifications mentioning other solutions such as increasing support and funding.

NSoA takes the floor to comment on the consultation point on mandatory statutory meeting attendance at least once a year. NSoA comments that it would be really important for member organisations to attend Statutory Meetings so that they can also get to know other delegates and network.

SAKKI takes the floor to comment on the consultation point on AUDIT of the organisation. SAKKI believes that OBESSU should be interested in budgeting of the organisation only if it threatens the reception of AFC.

Giuseppina from the Secretariat takes the floor to remark that there seem to be very broad fluctuations in the self-declared budgets of organisations and that it would be interesting to investigate this in the next Statutory Meeting.

FSS takes the floor to comment on the same. FSS thinks that OBESSU could play the role of external auditor and therefore see issues that organisation insiders might not see, such as incorrect or faulty bookkeeping, corruption, financial meddling, etc.

The **Chair** closes the floor and introduces the next point on the Agenda.

32. What's next? Presentation of opportunities and soon to be opened calls

The **Chair** gives the floor to the Secretary General for her presentation on future opportunities and upcoming calls of OBESSU.

- Lifelong Learning Week: organised by the LLLP on the topic of Lifelong Learning. Several organisations working on education and training come together and organise events, which will be hybrid this year, taking place both online and in Brussels. OBESSU has organised an event on the 30th November at 12:00 with Gilda for which registrations are open. There is also going to be an event on recognition of learning periods abroad. The full programme is available on the LLLP website.
- Questionnaire about the research on the impact of Covid-19 in student organising: the deadline for contributions is on the 3rd of December. The questionnaire focuses on MOs' finances, to understand how MOs have been impacted by the pandemic. Ettore is the person of reference for this research project.
- Call for PoT members is still open until the 5th of December. Maria is the person of reference for this.
- Call for Second Board Member of GCE is also open. Caridad from the Board is the person of reference on this. The application process entails replying to 3 questions. The GCE network operates in English and meetings take place mainly in the afternoon and evening. It is a great opportunity for MOs representatives who are interested in learning more about

climate policy, biodiversity, etc. and have a basic understanding of EU policies. However the latter is not mandatory as OBESSU is able to provide training on the topic.

- Upcoming call for members for the Learning for the 21st Century WG. The WG will produce a policy paper on the topic of curricula development to be approved at the next COMEM. Rares and Nadine from the Board are the reference points for the Working Group.
- School Student Rights Reloaded will aim at revising the Declaration of School Students' Rights to add lessons learned and advocacy points coming out of the pandemic. A call for a coordination team gathering 4 representatives from MOs will be launched soon. The project lasts 1 year and foresees a meeting in Brussels at the end of February together with the PoT.
- Career guidance focus groups for the E-Teams project will take place throughout the first trimester of 2022 with education stakeholders on career guidance. MOs are invited to reach out if they are interested in hosting or organising a focus group.

The **Chair** gives the floor to LH.

LH asks whether OBESSU is going to send reminders for these opportunities.

Eleonora from the Secretariat answers affirmatively.

Giuseppina from the Secretariat explains that all mails are sent to the mailing list for IOs as well as Basecamp and the Whatsapp group.

The **Chair** reminds that everything will be sent out.

33. Urgent Motions and resolutions

No urgent motions and resolutions were received prior to the deadline, therefore the Chair calls the next point of the agenda.

34. Any other business

Giuseppina from the Secretariat reminds MOs to go to the airport well in advance because there can be extra checks, especially for non-EU flights.

If MOs are flying very early in the morning, OBESSU can approve a taxi for airport transfer.

MOs are invited to check the latest rules in their respective countries to make sure they fully comply with the rules.

Check out of the accommodation is set at 11am or 12pm, MOs are invited to check with the reception. Reception usually allows guests to leave luggage there after checkout.

Giuseppina reminds MOs that any issues with accommodation can be sent to the Board (Nadine and Caridad) and the Secretariat will notify the hotel.

Giuseppina mentions the evaluation form of COMEM and makes further logistical announcements about dinner.

35. Closing of the GA

The **Chair** thanks everyone and closes the GA.

The **Board** thanks everyone for attending.