

OBESSU General Assembly *25th and 26th of June 2022 - Vienna*

- [1. Opening of the General Assembly 2022 at 10:00 am CEST](#)
- [2. Election of the Chairperson](#)
- [3. Election of the minute-takers](#)
- [4. Election of the Ballot Committee](#)
- [5. Adoption of the internal regulations of General Assembly](#)
- [6. Legality of the General Assembly and adoption of the agenda and vote on the acceptance of the received proposals](#)
- [7. Voting on speaking rights of Affiliate Organisations and guests](#)
- [8. Voting right for Member Organisations failing to pay the Annual Financial Contribution](#)
- [9. Presentation from COMEM 2021](#)
- [10. Adoption of minutes from the COMEM 2021](#)
- [11. Election of the Rapporteur of the General Assembly](#)
- [12. Board report](#)
- [13. Report of the Working Group on Education Funding and Reforms](#)
- [14. GA meets Generation D-Liberation](#)
- [15. Discussion corners. 1. Early School Leaving. 2. Celebrating pride in schools. 3. Decolonising school curricula](#)
- [16. Report of the Monitoring Committee](#)
- [17. Presentation of received Candidacy Applications](#)
- [18. Vote on termination of Candidacy for UEM, Moldova](#)
- [19. Report of the Secretary General](#)
- [20. Presentation and vote on the 2021 Financial Report and the 2022 Forecast budget](#)
- [21. Vote on Annual Financial Contribution 2023](#)
- [22. Announcements preceding day 2 and closing of day 1](#)
- [23. Official opening of day 2, roll call and quorum confirmation](#)
- [24. Report from the Global Student Forum](#)
- [25. Vote on expiring policy papers: Policy Paper on Quality VET](#)
- [26. Bridging from school to university activism: a perspective from the European Student Union](#)
- [27. School Students Rights Reloaded: where are we and where are we going?](#)
- [28. Discussion corners: Work Plan 2023-2025 and solidarity fund](#)
- [29. Vote on the received proposal for a Policy Paper on Early School Leaving](#)
- [30. Report of the Working Group on Learning for the 21st century](#)
- [31. Report from the Pool of Trainers](#)
- [32. Policy discussion corners: 1\) Digital education 2\) Mobility 3\) Citizenship education 4\) Environmental education](#)
- [33. Elections of the Monitoring Committee](#)
- [34. Elections of the Board](#)
- [35. Urgent motions and resolutions](#)
- [36. Any Other Business](#)
- [37. Closing of the General Assembly](#)

1. Opening of the GA 2022 at 10.00 AM CEST

Alex from the Board (She/Her) welcomes everyone and officially opens the General Assembly (hereinafter, GA) in Vienna. **Alex** offers some initial remarks about this time of general and individual crisis for school student activists, considering in particular the mental health issues.

She recommends being careful with each other, being radical with regards to school student voices and with solidarity, as OBESSU supports each other in the struggles.

Being careful with each other means wanting to create a safe space for each other: considering that, she recalls the code of conduct presented the day before, adding a reminder: if anyone is feeling uncomfortable, please consider contacting **Carmen** from the Secretariat and **Rares** from the Board as safe people. Being in a time of pandemic, she recalls that **Giuseppina** from the Secretariat is the COVID safety person.

Alex emphasises some points from the [Code of conduct](#) as a set of guidelines to keep people at ease, having the possibility to go back home safely. She recalls the importance of consent before hugs, kisses, etc., avoiding any pressure for smoking, drinking, etc. Democracy, participation, representation, no racism, no classism, no discrimination: these are the values on which the Code is based. She also recalls the important claims on which OBESSU is putting its actions: international solidarity, mental and physical health, sustainability, inclusion. After having recalled that the full team, the Board and the Secretariat are always available for help, **Alex** declared the GA officially open.

Alex reminds everyone that the urgent motions and resolutions can be submitted until 23.59 of this same day - 25th June. Then, she proceeds to the first roll call.

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

There are 25 Organisations present, of which 20 with voting rights.

2. Election of the Chairperson

Alex presents the proposed Chairperson for the GA on behalf of the whole Board: Meral Nur. **Meral** (She/Her) started 8/9 years ago, during her period as an international activist, studying law at the University of Wien. She is still a member of the ESU committee, even if her mandate ends soon. Now, Meral is working in an International NGO fighting against the traffic of human beings.

Alex asks the Membership to vote on the proposal for the Chair by acclamation.

The proposal is approved, and Meral will be the chairperson of the General Assembly: she will be responsible for technicalities and facilitating the discussions, outlining the main formalities - starting from the minute takers to be elected.

3. Election of the minute-takers

The **Board** proposes **Dragana** (She/They), **Ettore** (He/Him) and **Riccardo** (He/Him) from the Secretariat to be the minute takers.

The **Chair** opens the floor for active opposition. Having no opposition, the minute takers are elected by acclamation.

4. Election of the Ballot Committee

The **Chair** explains how speaking cards work, raising the card with the name of their organisation to ask for the floor. If the delegates have questions, they are free to raise their hands.

The **Chair** explains the role of the Ballot Committee (hereinafter, BC), as the body appointed to count the votes during the GA. The **Chair** adds that there will be votes on elections, reports and documents.

The **Chair** explains that the BC will be composed of 3 people and encourages Extra Delegates to be part of it, as they don't have to participate in voting.

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

Johannes from **SVB**, **Mohammed** from **DGS**, **Malthe** from **LH** volunteer. The **Chair** opens the floor for active opposition.

Having no opposition, the proposal for BC is approved.

5. Adoption of the internal regulations

The **Chair** presents the internal regulations, pointing out the importance of stressing the following matters:

RIGHT TO VOTE

- Every Member Organisation (hereinafter, MO) has the right to one vote, expressed through their Official Delegate (hereinafter, OD). Extra Delegates (hereinafter, ED) cannot vote. Should the OD need to give the right to vote to their ED, they need to write this in the GA chat.

RIGHT TO SPEAK

- Candidates and Members automatically have the right to speak. Affiliate Organisations (hereinafter, AOs) need to receive the right to speak by a vote.
If the GA is low on time, the Chair will decide for and set a speaking time. There is a possibility to balance out the Speakers List (hereinafter, SL): gender balance, order of raising speaking cards and other factors will be taken into consideration. It's possible to step into the debate by using a "V" sign: this - as a 'Direct Reply' - will give the chance to instantly reply to something that was said. This appeal may only be used with the intent of correcting a statement that was wrong or misinformed.
If the Chair feels like a discussion is going in circles she may choose to stop the discussion or to go ahead with the speaking list. A "T" sign may be used to request a break in case of exhaustion or urgent needs.

UNEL asks if the “V” sign is for incorrect info or to make a point. The **Chair** explains that it may only be used to point out incorrect information: if a delegate wants to make a point, they will be put on the speaking list.

DISCUSSIONS

- Discussions are launched by the Chair. The Chair can set a speaking time. Delegates can ask for the word by raising the name tag. If they are online, they can raise your hand using the raise-hand button and the Secretariat will add them to the speaking list.
- 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 Delegates that want to speak to still be put on the SL.

VOTING

- Voting can be done *by active opposition, by raising the voting card or by secret ballot*. If anyone wishes for a vote to be a closed one, it can be done by requesting it to the Chair before the voting procedure begins. MOs with the right to vote will receive a yellow voting card. Delegates need to return the voting card to the Secretariat before they 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 MO demands a re-counting this can be done only by challenging the BC 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. When there is a discussion and a planned vote, after the vote the discussion will not be reopened.

The **Chair** opens the floor for questions. There are no questions from the Membership. Having no opposition, the proposal for Internal Regulation is approved.

6. Legality of the General Assembly and adoption of the agenda and vote on the acceptance of the received proposals.

The **Chair** introduces the deadlines of the GA, thanks to the slides presented by **Giuseppina** (She/Her) from the Secretariat:

- 27th April: invitation to the GA and call for proposals;
- 21st May: deadline for amendments;
- 25th May: documents are sent out to Members, Candidate and Affiliate Organisations;
- 4th June: deadline for applying as a new Board Member;

- 15th June: deadline for amendments to the amendments;
- 20th June: last email sent out;
- 24th June: deadline for applying as new Monitoring Committee members
- 25th June: first day of the GA;
- 25th June, at midnight: deadline for motions and resolutions.

The deadline for amendments has not been fully respected: being not foreseen in the OBESSU Statutes or Internal regulations, the **Chair** launches the debate.

Giuseppina explains the slides, pointing out that there has been a delay, and that the proposal from the Board for the annual financial contribution has been sent one day after.

The **Chair** gives the floor to **Nadine** from the Board (She/Her). She says there have been some mix ups, and it is important to discuss the deadlines and be clear throughout the various discussions.

The **Chair** opens the floor to discussion. The Delegates request a few minutes to discuss the dates between each other.

The **Chair** gives 2 minutes to discuss the dates with the neighbours, to get to know each other or for general discussions between members.

The **Chair** puts an end to the discussions after 2 minutes, reopening the floor for discussions. There are no questions from the Membership.

The **Chair** asks if the proposals are ok to be dealt with by voting with show of hands. Having no opposition, votes are counted.

There are 16 votes in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention.

The **Chair** goes ahead, opening the vote for the legality of the GA. Votes are counted by show of hands.

There are 17 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstention.

The GA is formally declared as legal.

The **Chair** goes through the agenda and what must be voted on. All points of the agenda are mentioned and briefly explained by her.

The agenda is approved by acclamation.

7. Voting on speaking rights of Affiliate Organisations and guests

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

Having nobody objected, the speaking right is confirmed by acclamation.

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

- **Matteo Vespa**, President of the European Student Union.

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

Having nobody objected, the speaking right for guests is confirmed by acclamation. The guest has been granted the right to speak.

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

The **Chair** noted that MOs failing to pay the Annual Financial Contribution are: **AKS, DOS, LMS, USO**

The **Chair** gives the floor to each organisation to explain the situation, inviting them to leave the room when the floor will be open for questions and comments. The **Chair** recalls that the 4 MOs will be asked to leave the room and discuss themselves, and that voting will be through a *secret ballot*.

AKS says they have not paid yet because of miscommunication. Their secretary is struggling with mental health issues and the death of a relative. They found out on Tuesday and they couldn't reach the secretary because of personal reasons. Since the secretary is not in the office they will be paying the fee by next week. **AKS** states that this is an unfortunate situation but assures that the fee will be paid. The **Chair** thanks and asks for questions.

There are no questions from the Membership.

The **Chair** invites DOS to take the floor.

DOS communicates that they saw they had not paid only recently and that the payment was sent yesterday. The person in charge was in an exchange abroad and this person lost control of things. Making their apologies, **DOS** assures that the AFC will be paid as soon as possible and asks for the right to vote anyway.

UNEL asks if they managed to send the payment.

DOS replies that they did send the invoice to pay but it hasn't been sent yet.

UNEL asks if they know when they will be able to pay it.

DOS replies that they'll hopefully have paid it by next Monday.

LMS reports that there was no specific reason for the missed payment: they thought that everything was taken care of. The accounting officer probably has just missed the invoice: **LMS** apologises and states that it's the first time they've missed a payment.

There are no questions from the Membership.

USO apologises for not paying in time. In their understanding, the payment was processed long ago and they will try to pay it as soon as possible.

LH states that this is a general trend and that many organisations have this problem. Invoices are being paid by secretariats and elected people can't always know when things have or have not been paid. Elected people don't have the time to take care of it since they are only told with a short notice.

Giuseppina from the Secretariat takes the floor and says that the payment request was sent months ago and it was sent to secretariat contacts, and that sometimes these contacts change. The email stated that they had to be sure that the correct person received the invoices. Next time, Members should let Pina know the correct secretariat contact for financial matters.

AKS, DOS, LMS, and USO are asked to leave the room.

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

The **Chair** asks for comments and questions. **UNEL, EEO, and ISSU** raise their cards.

UNEL asks if these organisations paid on time last year. **Giuseppina** replies that most of these organisations paid on time in the past years, and that the only one who didn't is **USO**. They've had issues with their secretariat but states that now OBESSU is in touch with the correct person. Furthermore, a lot of organisations that aren't present at the GA have not paid their contribution yet and that a lot of organisations only paid a few weeks ago.

EEO notes that this sounds like miscommunication. It's hard to pay an invoice on short notice. The secretariats are not communicating with their members so the missed payments should not be blamed on them.

ISSU considers, from what they've heard, that these organisations have the intention to pay: the failure to pay so far is due to unfortunate circumstances. The organisations stated that they do want to pay so Membership should give them the right to vote.

SLL asks if OBESSU has confirmation that they are going forward with the payments: it would not be right to give them the right to vote if there is no certainty that they are going to pay.

Alex from the Board takes the floor to say that the organisations are growing again: complications with their secretariats should be excused, because what the members said is true and they should be trusted to pay.

There are no further questions, so the MOs that failed to pay AFC are asked to come back in.

The vote will be discussed, it will be done by secret ballot.

The Official Delegates get a blank piece of paper. The roll call is announced and the BC will give the ballots: if the Membership want the non paying organisations to vote they should write the name of those on the paper.

Voting starts with the roll call.

Roll Call: AKS (no right to vote), ASuBih, BSK (not present), CANAE, CEF, CNE, CSU, DGS, DOS (no right to vote), EEO, ESCU (not present), FSS, ISSU, KYC (not present), LH, LMS (no right to vote), MAKOSZ, MNL, NSoA(not present), OSKU, RNCE, RSM, SAKKI, SIF, SLL, SSUNI (not present), SUS (not present), SVB, TOS (not present), UDS (not present), UEM (not present), UNEL, UNL (not present), UNSS (not present), UNSHM, USO (no right to vote).

The BC counts the votes.

AKS: 16 in favour. DOS: 17 in favour. LMS: 17 in favour. USO: 16 in favour.

All organisations have been granted voting rights.

Having 21 full members in the GA, the quorum is now 11.

9. Presentation of the report of the COMEM 2021

The **Chair** introduces **Uliana** from SAKKI to report what happened during the COMEM 2021.

Uliana stands and presents the minutes of the COMEM 2021.

COMEM 2021 was chaired by the OBESSU Board together with Oona and Dasa. 23 organisations were present, plus 3 online. UNEL SUNNI and (?) volunteered to be part of the committee. All deadlines were met. Agenda was sent on time. COMEM had 1 representative of affiliate organisations, SVB, who has been granted the right to speak. 2 organisations didn't pay a financial contribution, but both were granted voting rights. Report from GA 2021 was done by Rares from the Board. Board report was carried out starting from current changes in the EU and the world, considering the role of OBESSU as a relevant stakeholder.

Catalin from the Monitoring Committee (hereinafter, MC) presented the MC report. The events and engagement has grown, the Board wants to know eachother better after COVID. He reports on offline/online events and the impact of the pandemic. Also, he added the proposal for new members: MNL from France, SSUNI from Northern ireland. **Uliana** also reports the session on the Code of Conduct, the workshops with Members devoted to mental health, equality, inclusion in student organising, the discussion about the Implementation plan 2022 and the expiring policy papers. During the COMEM, Generation Climate Europe was presented, as well as the set of partnerships carried out by OBESSU.

The **Chair** opens the floor to discuss COMEM. No one takes the floor.

The minutes of the COMEM will be uploaded on the website.

10. Adoption of minutes from the COMEM 2021

The **Chair** invites the Members to approve the minutes from the COMEM 2021 by means of voting cards.

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

No one opposes the adoption of the minutes of the COMEM.

Having no opposition, the minutes of the COMEM 2021 are adopted.

11. Election of the Rapporteur of the General Assembly

The **Chair** asks if there is any volunteer for the position of the GA Rapporteur at the COMEM 2022. The **Chair** explains the role of the rapporteur.

Laura from UNEL volunteers as a rapporteur.

Having no opposition, **Laura** from UNEL is nominated GA rapporteur by acclamation.

The **Chair** reminds the online survey for the Erasmus in Schools project and encourages delegates to fill in. **Ettore** from the Secretariat is at disposal for providing any further input and suggestion on the questionnaire.

12. Board report

The **Chair** briefly gives the floor to **Alex** from the Board for providing the Membership with some information on the location of the building and on the ethical purposes and the education-related and pedagogical-related activities of the Civil Society Organisation managing the overall structure.

The **Chair** proceeds with the roll call.

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

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

Nadine presents the structure of the presentation proposed by the Board, in which they outline the main strategies, and the implemented activities. **Alex** offers an overview on the main OBESSU activities in Europe and the world, starting from the partnership with platforms like the the Global Student Forum (e.g. in the case of the Transforming Education Summit), the Generation Climate Europe platform, the European Commission Working Groups (VET, Pathway to School Success), and the Student and Youth Caucus managed by the Global Campaign for Education. **Rares** (He/Him) highlights that OBESSU is composed of functioning democratic European Student National Unions (hereinafter, SNUs), and he emphasises the participation in projects, information sessions, thanks to the International Officers. **Petr** (He/Him) from the Board notes the importance of being considered a relevant representative stakeholder in advocating for human and social rights in Education. He notes the crucial importance of efforts at the global level, for confrontations with the Global South and with worldwide topics like migration and climate change. He adds the interactions with the Presidencies of the EU, especially for the French and

the upcoming one, the Czech Semester. **Nadine** adds the strength and stability of OBESSU as a European network: a growing number of MOs, a secretariat composed of highly skilled people, 13 professionally trained members of the Pool of Trainers, and constant uptakes of new projects and initiatives providing new funding opportunities. She recalls the revision and update of the Declaration of School Student Rights as a strategic step for the next year.

UNEL asks if our voice is effectively heard or not according to people in networks like UNESCO, for instance. **Rares** answers that in the case of UNESCO it is important to understand the peculiarity of this international fora.

SVB asks for some further information on the SDG4Youth High Level Committee issues. **Petr** reports the problem concerning the mixed Youth and Students Constituency set up by UNESCO in a wrong and tokenistic way. OBESSU, as a regional platform of the Global Student Forum, advocated for a specific students caucus. Even as part of the Youth Network for some months, OBESSU noted a top-down approach that gives a bad image on the effective representativeness of the network.

UNEL asks for a further follow up of the issues on SDG4Youth. **Petr** reports on the UNESCO secretariat issues and constituencies that tried to de-unionise the presence of student representatives. After these interventions, the **Chair** announces a break.

The **Chair** announces that **Giuseppina** has something to communicate. **Giuseppina** communicates that there are some covid-19 positive cases and we have to activate our protocol for carrying out the GA without any possible problem. In the frame of the announcement, **Giuseppina** points out that in case people are interested in getting tested, it is possible. From now on, all people have to wear masks. The agenda and the overall programme will be changed to carry on the GA. The members are asked to feel free to express themselves if they feel uncomfortable. **Rares** and **Nadine** from the Board, tested positive, have to leave the room.

The **Chair** proposes to have lunch break for one hour after another agenda item, continuing with a revised agenda in the aftermath. The new lunch protocol is indicated by **Giuseppina**, who asks to maintain 'bubbles' of contacts between the participants.

Having no opposition, the proposal is adopted.

After the lunch, the **Chair** opens the session proposing some changes in agenda:

- To anticipate the discussion on WG education funding and reforms report,
- To anticipate the discussion on Generation D-Liberation,
- To anticipate the policy discussion corners.

Having no opposition, the proposal is adopted.

13. Report of the Working Group on Education Funding and Reforms

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

Recalling the goals and purposes of the Working Group, he outlines the research to be carried out concerning specific countries and educational reforms. After a long journey, the Working Group decided

to work on an [advocacy toolkit](#) useful for our Membership. The different backgrounds of the Working Group members is mentioned as the main common denominator: having experienced awareness on very specific things can help the student unionism. The advocacy toolkit is proposed as a set of useful tips for our activities, with a stakeholders map for setting/gaining goals, with templates for amendments, with tips for reaching out the press through a consistent communication strategy. The document is

based on the personal experience of our WG members with the help of the secretariat. The toolkit will be released through our channels, the website and the newsletters, helping the membership in our activities.

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

14. GA meets Generation D-Liberation

The **Chair** gives the floor to **Giuseppina** to present the project [Generation D-Liberation](#). She outlines the main axes of the project: the context of the Conference of the Future of Europe, as a participatory project launched by the EU institutions. OBESSU noted the limited participation of young people: through this project, we tried to present the voices of youth and students from the EU. On our website a basic toolkit is published, following up the final steps of the project. Deliberative initiatives, tools for participatory approaches: these are the goals of the delivered kit. Thanks to several partners, OBESSU developed a participatory methodology, proposing assemblies in schools, discussion topics to address the future of Europe.

Then, the **Chair** gives the (online) floor to **Maria** (She/Her) from the Secretariat, connected from Lyon, where the final conference of Generation D-Liberation is taking place at the same time, to present the policy recommendations of the Generation D-Liberation project. Together with **Adam** from the Pool of Trainers, they presented a methodology: initial elimination process, focusing on the quality of each recommendation (highlighted with different colours); in Lyon, now, there is work on recommendations that could be improved.

Some policy claims came out from the project such as more investment on eco-sustainable products, access to education for all, increased basic minimum wages, increased quality of jobs, continuous training on mental health, improved cooperation in the post-pandemic future.

SVB adds that the German translation of the toolkit will be ready soon, to disseminate the policy recommendations as soon as we can. **Giuseppina** notes the possible interactions with policy topics to be discussed in the next agenda items: more of them are in contact with the recommendations related to the project.

15. Discussion corners. 1. Early School Leaving. 2. Celebrating pride in schools. 3. Decolonising school curricula

The **Chair** gives the floor to the Board to introduce the discussion corners of 30 minutes each, that the delegates can join.

The discussion corners and the facilitators are the following:

1. Early School Leaving (Ettore)

2. Celebrating Pride in School (**Alex**)

3. Decolonising School Curricula (**Petr**)

After the discussions, each group nominates a rapporteur that presents the 3 main outcomes of the small group discussions in the plenary, in 1 minute.

Early school leaving discussion corner:

The discussion was mainly around the situation in the MOs participating in the group, to gather inputs for the European level and for the next steps of the OBESSU policy and advocacy work. For instance, the Commission should open a consultation towards the Council Recommendations on Pathways to School Success. Starting from case studies outlined in the group (Denmark, France, Romania) and from situations in which our colleagues did not find relevant evidence for having concerns on Early School Leaving (Finland), having as a purpose both the release of the policy paper and the advocacy strategy for the next years, the discussion outlined as points to be addressed:

- the lack of counselling, orientation and guidance from the formal educational structures to support students to stay in school or to choose between different institutions (e.g., high school and/or VET);
- the need to invest in teachers pedagogical training, to build the capacities of educators to support the students;
- the impact of the socio-economic background of each pupil, struggling against social disadvantages - to be radically changed, for instance providing meals in the Educational institutions or supporting families in state of poverty;
- the impact of the local communities in assuring the continuity of the learning process, supporting properly the schools;
- the social segregation of students with disabilities, minorities, Roma young people;
- a good transition to be provided between educations levels;
- the monitoring role of students and their unions/organisations;
- the crucial importance of anxiety, mental health and wellbeing issues, particularly in the aftermaths of the pandemic, in assuring a stable and secure path for each student.

Celebrating Pride in School discussion corner:

The group pointed out the need for sexual education in school that is more overarching, ensuring the creation of a more inclusive education.

There is a need for Code of Conduct in every school to avoid bullying in schools, campaigns on the topic, working group demands for making schools more inclusive and better for everyone in regards to gender inclusiveness.

Decolonising School Curricula discussion corner:

During the discussion, the study session Pluriverse and the work of OBESSU on the topic was mentioned, as well the need for recognition and taking the responsibility that the countries in Europe have in colonisation. There is a need to discuss and recognise the European countries that have been the oppressors, but also the recognition that there are also countries in Europe that have been oppressed in

different contexts - especially in regards to ethnic minorities oppression. OBESSU will create a toolkit that the MOs can use, and will advocate and raise awareness to reflect on the Europe-centric views and history, as well the need to create a support system when advocating for a change in the educational system.

16. Report of the Monitoring Committee

The **Chair** gives the floor to **Catalin** from the MC to present the MC report. The report has not been finished due to personal and professional constraints of the Monitoring Committee. Once finished the report will be shared with the membership.

In the meanwhile the MC had the opportunity to meet in person and focus on the work and discussions with the Secretariat, but also had the opportunity to do a financial audit. The MC is satisfied with the state of the financial documentation and the administrative work of OBESSU.

UNEL takes the floor and asks how the pandemic affected the workload of the Secretariat.

Catalin answers that the Secretariat, Board and the MC is a safe space for discussion and raising several issues, and no issues were raised by the secretariat concerning this.

There are no more questions from the Membership.

17. Presentation of the received Candidacy applications

The **Chair** explains that there are 2 Organisations that submitted the application to become Candidate Organisations of OBESSU: **RNCE** from Moldova and **UNSHM** from North Macedonia.

The **Chair** explains that the board has reviewed and approved the applications.

The **Board** takes the floor to explain that according to OBESSU statutes, the Board can approve the candidacy applications. During the first statutory meeting after the approval there is no obligation for the Membership to vote upon it, unless specifically requested.

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

Viviana from **RNCE** presents the organisation: they are a national network representing the students in Moldova, and are the only democratic, independent and led by students for students representative body. They were funded in April 2021, and bring together 97 student councils from the country - representing 24 out of 34 districts in the country. Every board member is a student, who is independent.

The main body is the national assembly where every student council has the right to vote. The main executive body is the board, which is elected twice a year with a mandate of 1 year which ensures the sustainability of the organisation. They strive to establish a connection between students and the ministries and government, spread awareness that students must be heard and listened to, and that democracy is for all.

ASUBIH asks a question about the mandate and if they find it challenging that the board has half a year of their mandate to dedicate to knowledge transfer.

RNCE responds that there are 2 elections a year but the mandate is 1 year. They have overlapping mandates that ensure the sustainability of the organisation.

EEO asks if the schools that RNCE represents are all of the same size, and have they thought how to address the issue with 2 representatives from a school regardless of the size.

RNCE responds that they are now looking into this.

UNEL asks how did RNCE establish contact with 94 schools and student councils.

RNCE explains that they have a database and have reached out to the administration and the president of the student councils in order to explain the network and the possibilities for working together.

There are no more questions for RNCE.

Jana from **UNHSM** takes the floor to present the organisation and explains that they are the only student movement that works on a national level that is non-governmental and nonprofit, and they have 79 representatives. They were funded in 2017 and on national level they work with city branches and youth ambassadors representing their schools. They represent high school students and are students representing students. They are currently working on demands for greater school democracy and ensuring free public transport for all students. They also have a monitoring committee and they welcome questions to be addressed.

UNEL asks how the youth ambassadors are chosen and voted on.

UNSHM responds that they are chosen through an open call and UNHSM reviews the applications and conducts interviews for the youth ambassadors.

DGS asks how many members do they have, and how the membership is regulated.

UNSHM explains that they currently are not working with the school councils, but work on a national level with activists, youth ambassadors and students.

EEO asks how they will ensure to have a stable way to have enough funds to pay the Annual financial contribution.

UNSHM responds that they do not have a sustainable way, but would do it through donations and sponsorship.

UNEL asks what language they are using, as they explained that they use both Macedonian and Albanian.

UNSHM explains that they most often use Macedonian, as the Albanian members usually speak Macedonian, but on statutory meetings and discussions they use English in order to ensure everyone feels comfortable to use the language.

After this the questions have been exhausted, and with no opposition to the decision of the board, the membership agrees with admitting the 2 Candidate Organisations of OBESSU.

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

18. Vote on termination of Candidacy for UEM, Moldova

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

Nadine explains that UEM have been a Candidate Organisation of OBESSU throughout the years and have been active within OBESSU, but unfortunately they are currently legally dissolving as an organisation and no longer exist. The recommendation from the board is to not have non-existing organisations within the membership of OBESSU.

UNEL asks when the last time was the board had contact or any discussion with them.

Nadine responds that for at least a year there has not been any communication officially, but the last known contact has reached out and announced that the UEM was dissolving. They were offered to come to the GA and present their situation, but they have not responded to the invitation.

The **Chair** explains that we need $\frac{2}{3}$ majority in order to terminate the Membership of UEM, or 14 votes out of the 21. They propose that this is done by show of hands unless there is disagreement.

With 21 votes for, the Candidacy of UEM is terminated.

19. Report of the Secretary General

The **Chair** gives the floor to Giuseppina, the Secretary General.

Giuseppina gives an overview of the people currently in the secretariat of OBESSU and what they are doing. The biggest part of the work in the upcoming period is development of 2 big strategies - the Advocacy strategy and the Membership strategy, for which the Secretariat would need to outreach to the Membership. When it comes to what is new, OBESSU Secretariat currently has new colleagues, new projects but also has increased the capacity in research. There is a proposal for cooperation with the secretariats of the members so we may learn and cooperate better with each other.

The **Chair** opens the floor for questions towards the Secretary General.

Alex takes the floor and gives thanks to Giuseppina and the rest of the Secretariat for the great work that they are doing.

20. Presentation and vote on the 2021 Financial Report and the 2022 Forecast budget

The **Chair** gives the floor to Giuseppina, the Secretary General to present the 2021 Financial report.

Before Giuseppina takes the floor **EEO** asks if the Excel sheets can be shared with the delegates in order to be able to see better. **Giuseppina** shares the Excel document with the delegates.

Giuseppina takes the floor and gives an overview of the different sources of funding, both financed by the European Commission, the Belgian government, the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe, the Open Society Foundation and the Membership and Participation fees.

In 2021 the overall income was 614.779,68 EUR. When it comes to the expenditures the main expenses were on overheads and subcontracting, but also travel and conferences of the board and staff for different representation events. Part of the expenses are also for Membership fees in networks that OBESSU is part of, depreciation as well remunerations of staff. The overall expenditure of OBESSU for 2021 was 610.205,73 EUR and we ended the year with a positive 4.573,95 EUR.

The total reserves are currently 45.330,30 EUR (at the date of 31/12/2021).

LH shares that it would be nice to have the financial report in advance, as they didn't have time to review the document and prepare questions.

SLL agrees with LH. Having the financial report in advance can be helpful.

Giuseppina apologises, and explains that usually the report is sent earlier. In May she was writing her dissertation for graduation and also had Covid19, which caused delays but next time they will have it in advance.

LH adds that the situation is especially unfortunate, as there is a suggestion to increase the annual financial contribution, but they can't see how the money was spent so they can't know where the more money would go.

Giuseppina responds that the budget is 33000 euros. The fees are a small percentage. What happened is that the current membership fees were decided a long time ago, back in 2010 when the same was worth more. The decision was to increase the membership fees by 5% to keep up with inflation and this year it will also be increased by 5%. It's only a slight increase in amount. The members have a right to see how the money is spent, but the increase is merely to keep activities going.

SLL understands the situation of delays with the sending of the budget tables, but would like to understand how the different sheets and tables overlap, as the numbers are different.

Giuseppina explains that there is a mistake in the formula of the 2021 overview sheet, that causes the numbers not to be the same and not add up. The part that has the correct information is the 2021 details

sheet. The Balance sheet, the Ledger and the Detailed budget is sent every year to the auditor and this is what they review and check.

The **Chair** checks if the Membership would like to take the vote now, or would prefer to move this item in the agenda to some other time, after the Secretary General re-adapts the tables and shares the final version of the same with the Membership. The **General Assembly** agrees to take the vote now.

The vote is done by show of hands on who is in favour of adopting the 2021 Financial report takes place.

There are 17 votes in favour, 0 against and 4 abstentions.

The **Secretary General** takes the floor and presents the 2022 Forecast budget. This budget is possible to change as there are still some application results that need to come in. They go through the different projects and the funding for each, explaining how the budgeting and funding of the projects works, and if co-financing is needed or if they are fully funded by the donors. The **Secretary General** explains that during covid, funding was lower than usual.

A potential challenge that OBESSU is facing is that there are now more projects that OBESSU is working on, and a growing team that is working on the projects - therefore the expenditures for the staff remunerations and travel budget are higher.

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

LH asks who decides what project OBESSU should join.

The **Secretary General** responds that for partnerships OBESSU would join it is always decided from the Board in consultation with the Secretariat. When it comes to projects that we apply or core activities the Secretariat and the Board usually have a longer process of consultation and assessment of the needs within the network, to better understand and develop the projects.

The voting of the forecast of the budget of 2022 is adopted by acclamation.

21. Vote on Annual Financial Contribution 2023

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

The **Chair** introduces the point. Then, the **Chair** gives the floor to the Board.

Alex takes the floor and explains that the proposal is with a 5% increase from the current fees and that they are open to questions.

The **Chair** gives the floor to SLL and FSS to present the amendment.

SLL and **FSS** explain that the current fees no longer reflect the reality of the organisations and the proposal is to try to make a more equal system for fees, considering the different budgets both for the lower income and members with higher income. They explain that their proposal is that there should be

more brackets for the higher income organisations, ensuring that all organisations pay an equal percentage of their annual budget as a membership fee to OBESSU.

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

SVB has a question about what to do with this table, and that both tables do not speak of membership fees of the Affiliate Organisations.

Giuseppina answers in the OBESSU statutes is stated that the fee for Affiliate Organisations are 50% of the fees for Member Organisations.

SVB then asks if there has been a reason why there is an increase of the fees when some of the organisations do not have a budget that is operative, but is project based, and in the turnover declaration we count also the project turnover. This leads to a situation where the fee would increase with the increase of the projects but the operating funding is not increased (or existent).

Giuseppina explains that OBESSU has consulted with senior organisations on how they count and calculate the fees, and have found that all calculations entail also the projects. Having said that we would not take out the project budgets because in this case all the annual turnovers would be almost 0.

Alex adds that from a political standpoint, OBESSU gives back a lot so a lot of projects will not go through.

CEF takes the floor and says that the AFC is high for them and if the fees continue to increase they would consider leaving OBESSU, as they would not be able to afford to stay in the organisation.

AKS asks, since in 2010 the budget was half of what it is now, whether the plan is to raise the fees more so that they are again 10% of the overall budget, as they were in 2010.

Giuseppina says that this is not a question that she can respond to. In such cases OBESSU would rely too much on organisations that have higher budgets. OBESSU doesn't want to rely too much on the other organisations as the last 3 years have been hard for organisations, funding wise.

LH adds that in terms of justice, the amendment is more fair. LH is also struggling with funding. If they increase their member contribution, schools will leave their own membership. Even though it's a small increase in fee it still affects their organisation. For them the school student members are more important than the membership to OBESSU.

ASUBiH says that they had the same question of how much is the AFC going to be increased further. They understand that OBESSU is growing, but the MOs may not be growing, and it is important to know at which point we would stop increasing the fees.

SLL takes the floor and reminds the General Assembly that we are discussing the amendment, but that we are worried of the amount of fee increasing yearly.

Alex wants to clarify that the proposal of the Board is in the rate of increase of 5 EUR on 200 EUR, but the Board hears what the concerns of the Members are. The Board is here for the Members and is elected by the members, therefore they do not want to go against the membership interests.

USO has a question for the Board on why the Board wants to increase the fees if it does not make a big difference for the OBESSU budget.

Alex says that the difference is not nothing, it is a small percentage that still matters.

USO asks if it really makes a big difference again.

Alex replies that the fee is a symbol of trust to the organisation and that a small increase in fee should be acceptable.

SLL speaks on behalf of their amendment that it helps the organisations and in case of a decrease of the budgets they would pay less.

AKS asks if anyone has calculated the difference between the proposal from the Board and the SLL.

Giuseppina responds that the difference is little, and goes through the document of the fees showcasing the difference.

AKS asks the Board and the Secretariat who have overview of the budget if it is their goal to reach 10% of the total budget to be from the membership fees.

Alex responds that this is not the goal.

SLL knows that the 2 amendments are not so different, but they want to say that many of the organisations are new and are growing. The proposal they have is to have a system that grows linearly in order to ensure equality between the organisations. They believe that this amendment would also encourage organisations to grow and increase their overall budget.

UNEL appreciates the amendment and states that it is technically correct, and more fair. They would propose that it is accepted as a proposal and taken into consideration for this GA and that we would re-evaluate next year if this is a good practice.

The **Chair** closes the speaking list.

Once the discussion is over, the **Chair** moves to the vote on the amendment proposed by SLL.

There are 14 votes in favour, 3 against, 4 abstentions.

The amendment has passed.

The **Chair** then proceeds to the main amendment from the Board with the adaptations from the SLL amendment. 1 minute discussion time given to the organisations before the vote takes place.

CSU takes the floor and wants to remind the Membership of the great work of OBESSU and all the opportunities that OBESSU provides. CSU would like to ask that everyone keep in mind that this doesn't change much in the overall budget and that everyone should consider this when voting.

SLL asks to be clear on what we are voting for before we vote. They were confused earlier on what they were voting on.

EEO explains that many organisations are reliant on student councils, and they need to defend their increase in budget, if they can't see the effect of the fee increase it's going to be hard to justify the increase in budget to them.

LH takes the floor and explains that they are growing in activities, but not in funding. They are also depending a lot on volunteers. Any increase in funding towards OBESSU will affect them, and it is important to remember that everyone is in a different situation and should be considered.

The **Chair** goes ahead to explain the voting and that they would be voting on the version that the board proposed with the amended version from the SLL amendment.

If the vote is NO there will not be a decision made about the AFC and a new proposal has to come before the COMEM, and this would need to be voted on at the upcoming COMEM.

SLL then asks for a secret voting.

The **Chair** proceeds to a secret ballot voting.

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

There are 9 votes against, 4 abstentions and 8 in favour.

The Annual Financial Contribution proposal from the Board, amended by FSS and SLL did not pass.

Giuseppina asks to be approached before tomorrow to discuss the AFC individually leading up to COMEM in order to collect ideas how the AFC should be established (working groups, approached by secretariats or IOs, etc).

The **Chair** should open multiple discussion corners on the Work Plan, that will last for 40 minutes. Nonetheless, the **Chair** gives the floor to **Alex**, who proposes to move the agenda item to the second day. The assembly approves by consensus.

22. Announcements preceding day 2 and closing of day 1

The **Chair** gives the floor to **Giuseppina**. She informs the Members on some important logistical points:

- Importance of cleaning the venue,
- Possibility to keep the cards/badges,
- To empty the water jars in the kitchen,
- To close windows at the end of the day,
- If interested, to participate in the tour of the city with Alex,
- To have lunch on the tables outside the meeting room,
- To leave the hotel at 9h15 tomorrow with no possibility of late beginning,
- To leave windows in the rooms open avoiding to be close in the common spaces,
- To change the masks - necessary even if not eco-friendly circumstances.

The **Chair** recalls the deadline for receiving resolutions, tonight. Having no one asked to take the floor, the Day 1 of the GA is closed.

26th June 2022

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

The **Chair** opens the day with a small energiser and the roll call.

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

NSoA joined the General Assembly. There are now 25 Organisations present and 22 Member Organisations with voting rights.

24. Report from the Global Student Forum

The **Chair** gives the floor to **Alex**. She takes the floor and presents the [Global Student Forum](#), explaining that the organisation is relatively new and that OBESSU has been part of it since the beginning. Then she gives an overview of the Members and the other Regional Platforms of the GSF. OBESSU tries to bring in the student voice there and to collaborate with the rest of the SNU's. So far, the former OBESSU Board member Giuseppe Lipari was part of the Steering Committee. From July, Alex will replace him.

UNEL asks what recent discussions she has had in the GSF.

Alex reports the debates on moving forward with regards to global secondary student movements, but also the need for us to be louder and critical.

MNL asks how a Student National Union can be active in the GSF. **Alex** answers emphasising the many events that are happening throughout the year and that she will share, in order for the Membership to participate in them.

After this point has been fully debated, the **Chair** closes this agenda item.

UNEL asks how the agenda will look like for today. The **Chair** explains that we would review the agenda and see how to best fit this in.

25. Vote on expiring policy papers: Policy Paper on Quality VET

The **Chair** explains that according to the OBESSU Statutes, after 2 years, Policy Papers expire and the Membership needs to agree to have them renewed or not. In this case it's the Policy Paper (hereinafter, PP) on Quality VET that is expiring: the **Chair** gives the floor to **Nadine** to present the PP quickly. After having presented the main contents of the PP, she notes that a serious issue is the lack of a VET representation in the board: it is important to have a document that OBESSU can refer at, to have a clear guidance of the direction that should be taken when it comes to improvements or various changes in VET education. It will be crucial to keep working on the topic.

LH asks if not having sent the PP before the GA is a normal procedure of the secretariat, but **Pina** reports that it has been sent with the first email and it has been linked to the agenda.

The **Chair** calls the vote by show of hands.

The PP's renewal was unanimously adopted, with 22 votes in favour.

26. Bridging from school to university activism: a perspective from the European Student Union

The **Chair** gives the floor to **Matteo Vespa**, president of the European Students' Union (hereinafter, ESU).

Matteo takes the floor and presents the work of the ESU and the partners that they work with. Through an online live survey, he highlights the importance of the joint activist experiences between university and school students, specifying the issues of the ongoing collaboration:

- Admission to higher education and transition from school to university,
- Orientation and counselling,
- Solidarity campaigns,
- Financing education.

DGS as well as **UNEL** notes the common ground between the university and the school campaigns, nonetheless it is important to address the missing opportunities in terms of partnerships between school and university students. For this reason, through an online live survey, **Matteo** inquires about the reasons for the lack of collaboration between university and school student unions. **SLL** contributes in

the discussion emphasising the role of possible joint work in the framework of the entrance exams at the University.

Matteo provided some examples of ESU-OBESSU ongoing collaboration:

- A common vision on SDGs in Education in Europe,
- A joint action for projects on migrant and refugee education,
- Co-founding of the Global Student Forum,
- A common vision for investment in Education in the frame of Next Generation EU,
- A joint struggle to free CEU student Ahmed Samir.

At the end, **Matteo** asks some questions to the Members:

- How do you see the perspective of the possible ESU-OBESSU collaboration?
- Would you consider joining a Higher Education student union? If not, why?
- On which topics can we work together?
- What should the topics of future possible collaboration between OBESSU and ESU be?

LH, concerning the first question, highlights the same perspectives in collaboration, even with some issues on the capacity of having more political attention and different ideas on financing tools. They note that their membership is more interested in VET. **Matteo** asks to further elaborate this, adding that, for instance, taxation in Higher Education and Schools could be a topic of common interest.

LH notes that transition is a better topic, also in terms of addressing mental health, of approaching things that could be understandable for our membership. **DGS** backs the perspective of working on transition between secondary and tertiary education. **SAKKI** notes the importance of gathering more information in the vocational school, and collecting more sources. **ASUBiH** talks about an initiative they started for a joint partnership with university students, trying to reach out to students in the Academy to help them. Having the support and communication channel of ESU would be beneficial to them.

Having no other requests to speak, **Matteo** thanks the assembly.

Alex thanks Matteo and reiterates the importance of working together.

27. School Students Rights Reloaded: where are we and where are we going?

The **Chair** gives the floor to **Nadine** to present the [School Students Rights Reloaded](#) project and the *Declaration of School Student Unions*. Nadine notes that it is an exciting project that is part of the Work Plan, starting from the old version of the Declaration. Then, she highlights the activities already carried out:

1. Completed in March, in Brussels, gathering the Coordination team along with the Secretariat; revision of the Declaration;
2. National events in the Countries interested in hosting these initiatives, reading the Declaration and trying to understand what could be added/edited.

The Declaration has been released by OBESSU, focusing on the right to association and unionism for students, on participation in activities, on fight against discrimination, on full free access to education, on cultural identity, on gender equality, on having a proper student environment.

After the presentation the **Chair** gives the floor to **Dragana** from the Secretariat for the interactive part. She gives the instructions for the exercise: to reflect on 3 different questions, related to the Declaration and to the process of renewing and updating the proposals.

1. *What are the opportunities for the improvement of education coming from COVID?*
2. *Which rights were you denied during COVID in regards to education?*
3. *Which challenges are still present in the post-COVID era?*

In 10 minutes, the participants are asked to focus on individual and collective priorities. Here below, the outcomes of the discussion.

Rights denied. **DGS** enlists: less privileged people who had to work part-time for the lack of digital devices; difficult access to mental health and to health services in general; social life in school that has been denied.

Challenges. **CANAE** notes: the continuous presence of mental health, that transforms the access to the specific aid in a challenge; access to school during the pandemic; digital poverty to be tackled in terms of accessing devices; decision-makers; impact of having been isolated; online education as a totally new challenge.

Opportunities. **CEF** notes: including mental health in school programs as important, since COVID highlighted a stronger need for wellbeing care in schools; digital learning as a possibility of having classes everywhere and as an idea of personalised education even through online classes, to be improved using hybrid education, in order to reach more freedom in choices.

Dragana concludes saying that the proposals will be sent to the team involved in the renewing of the Declaration. **Nadine**, following up Dragana's request, presents the next steps:

- Upcoming event on 11-12-13 September in Molina (Spain), having the chance to take an entire week of workshops for our MOs, reviving the Declaration, going through any single chapter. She asks people to join the summer school, applying as soon as possible, also pointing out what each participant could receive as inputs. Information will be sent via Basecamp and/or the Whatsapp group.
- In December the process of renewing the Declaration should be over, with another meeting with the people involved in the process.

Dragana asks for any further info.

UNEL asks how many people can be sent to the summer school and **Dragana** replies that there's space for at most 20 people.

SLL requests some details around the application process and the possibility to participate. **Dragana** replies announcing that a call will open in the upcoming week, as an event in the frame of the University of Youth and Development. This could allow OBESSU members to work with NGOs and CSOs involved in different projects in Youth, Inclusion, Education and Training around the world.

UNEL asks for more details about that and **Dragana** adds that the overall University is organised by the Council of Europe, with the contribution of many CSOs. Then, she concludes relaunching the possibility to participate in the application process.

NSoA asks when and where the call will be sent and where the Summer School will be, and **Dragana** answers that the OBESSU Secretariat will use Basecamp, the IOs Mailing List, the Newsletter, in order to reach out to all MOs, also pointing out that the event will take place in Mollina, near Malaga (Spain).

28. Discussion corners: Work Plan 2023-2025 and solidarity fund

The **Chair** gives the floor to **Giuseppina** to present the 10 final outcomes outlined by the corners. **Giuseppina** recalls the reasons for having the Work Plan with this time frame, providing information about the link with the Operating Grant delivered by the Commission. The framework has changed due to COVID. In 2021 the Commission told us that the grant will become a 3-years plan. The purpose of the day is: receiving inputs to discuss a Work Plan proposal with the Board.

Alex launches an energiser to split people in 3 groups: a fictional 'travel to the future', to make people aware of opportunities, challenges and possibilities of school students until 2024.

Outcomes reported back from the group discussion:

DGS: mental health, minority inclusion, improving digital learning, adapting curricula, how the school will adapt to the climate crisis, teaching climate justice; improving participation in decision making; transition in education as equal; stop financial and social pressure towards students' choices.

EEO: virtual learning is becoming more prominent; digital divide to be addressed (poor access to tools); updating school curricula; lack of welfare support, especially in housing and transport; decentralisation of school system; lack of support for acceptance in Higher Education - especially in cases of exams/tests and national competitions; lack of mental health resources; climate-friendly food; lack of funding.

SAKKI: completely free public education, access to resources (learning materials); resources for mental health; accessible well-being; creating code of conducts; holistic approach to mental health; breaking the stigma against mental health; stronger advocacy and engagement possibilities; student counseling, sex education, students' rights; sustainable NSUs, maintaining stable platforms; safe spaces for students in each school; more international solidarity; mainstreaming international perspective in international work; focus on democracy.

The **Chair** gives the floor to **Alex** to present the concept of the solidarity fund.

Alex notes that the proposal has been subject to consultation. Then, she offers an effective meaning for the solidarity fund: 12 MOs are struggling to send members to international events. How can OBESSU support them? The amount of money to be sent to the Fund must be discussed. Three guiding questions are posed to the Membership:

1. *Do you see the need for this fund?*
2. *How should the fund work?*
3. *Which organisation should the fund support?*

UNEL considers it as a good idea, but they ask who is gonna decide how a MO can request money and how much. The process to take money should be a safe process that doesn't expose an organisation too much.

CANAE asks how the Board imagines setting up the organisational rules and regulations of the fund.

NSOA asks if the contribution will be the same for each organisation and how it should work.

Alex recalls that this is more a consultation: amount and structure of the fund are not fixed, for avoiding any possible problem. The Board is interested in collecting the Members' concerns on the topic, using the consultative process as a preliminary step.

EEO considers it important to define reasons for asking money and inappropriate any mandatory payment to create the fund. They prefer the voluntary contribution.

USO, seconding EEO's intervention, asks about practical rules of proceedings of this fund: should it be paid on a yearly basis or would it be more like as soon as someone requests money they are paid.

Alex, again, notes that there is no regulation so she asks again to provide inputs.

DGS considers it as a good idea, even if it would be weird to do it annually, even on a voluntary basis: some organisations might donate more than others in the long run.

UNEL emphasises the opportunity to be engaged in solidarity for supporting student activism, because we wouldn't be here if we did not have this support. They ask for anonymity of donations and requests: the MOs asking for money should not be named.

EEO comes back to the importance of the voluntary basis and to the possible individual contribution.

USO disagrees on that: the principle should be that, on a voluntary basis, each MO should support the fund. The access to it should be granted to the MOs providing this contribution.

SLL supports the orientation on the voluntary basis, underlining that they cannot afford a greater payment to OBESSU.

The **Chair** announces the closure of the speaking list after **NSoA**, pointing out that the idea according to which people giving money can take it in case of crisis is not coherent with the principle of solidarity.

This declaration is supported by **ASUBiH**, which adds that having a fund that can help struggling organisations is not something ultimately useless.

CANAE supports the **DGS**'s intervention on the idea of solidarity - that is about people that need it most - but they understand what it means for the organisations that will pay the fund towards the SNUs that could use it.

USO recalls that if some organisations are struggling for a long time and they continuously and repeatedly need money, a solidarity fund is not a good idea because it should be used only for emergencies: it would be more like an insurance that a pool of money to be activated in case of difficulties.

Alex thanks the Membership for the fruitful arguments and insights, noting that it is really cool that people are working on it. She contributes by specifying that the Fund should be activated for emergencies, for sure, but it should also be an ordinary tool to address the long-term perspective.

The **Chair** closes the agenda item and she launches the lunch break.

29. Vote on the received proposal for a Policy Paper on Early School Leaving

The **Chair** gives the floor to **Nadine** from the Board to present the proposal.

Nadine starts the presentation. The policy paper goes into the different kinds of early school leaving and it links to the topic of the quality of education. It ties in with the hope of a more educated Europe.

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

DGS takes the floor and says they like the proposal and want to work towards it. Access to education should be for everyone.

EEO agrees it is a very good policy proposal, especially since it focuses on VET as well as relating to people who cannot attend upper secondary education.

Nadine then adds that the Policy Paper goes through the reasons why education might not be accessible to someone: no transport to school, school is never entirely free (hidden costs), etc. By tackling the topic of access to education they mean to remove these costs and strive for a truly free education.

There are no more questions from the Membership.

The **Chair** calls on the vote.

The Policy Paper on Early School Leaving is adopted with 22 votes in favor, 0 against, 0 abstain.

30. Report of the Working Group on Learning for the 21st century

The **Chair** gives the floor to **Rares** to present the work of the Working Group.

Rares presents the different aspects of the working group.

The working group is on the topic of Curricula for the 21st century. The working group is composed of 5 members, of which 3 are in the room right now, Adela from CSU, Anna from DGS and Naira from Asubih. The other members are Patricia from CANAE and Veikka from SLL.

The Working Group has already had some meetings and outlined the general topics of their work. The WG is now having the planning phase, after this the members will be researching the different areas of the curricula that students would like to tackle. Focus groups will be held with students and finally a report will be published.

There are no questions from the Membership.

31. Report from the Pool of Trainers

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

Rares talks about the progress made in regards to the Pool of Trainers. They selected a Pool of Trainers at the end of last year and have gone through development with the team.

The PoT is a group of trainers and facilitators who are coming mainly from OBESSU membership. When selected we try to make sure they are very involved with student right movements and are familiar with the topics that relate to them.

The Board and Secretariat try to stimulate the Pool of Trainers to be involved with the members in events. Most of the trainers are not from the same country as a member country so the events should ideally be held in English.

The PoT not only can help and facilitate events, but can help with many different skills and are available for different types of trainings.

The PoT is involved in the process of revising the Declaration of School Student Rights as they will facilitate multiple events. During Covid-19 the PoT could not meet so many members dropped out so it is important to prevent this by making sure they are engaged with each other with live events. Some PoT members facilitated the Study Session in May 2022, while others will be facilitating the Summer School in September. The PoT is equipped to deal with the pedagogical side of large events like the study session in the Council of Europe.

The plan for the upcoming year is to try to find ways for the PoT members to be more connected and involved during their mandate. The PoT is trying to develop trainings that can be used and can be useful for the Membership. These trainings will be delivered in November/ October. In December there will be the selection of the next PoT members.

Rares links a survey asking participants what kind of training they would like to see run.

Rares thanks for the attention. There are no questions from the Membership.

32. Policy discussion corners: 1. Digital education. 2 . Mobility. 3. Citizenship education. 4. Environmental education

Alex explains the importance of the policy work of OBESSU, the Board has to stick to the guidelines set by the policy agenda. The Policy corners will be on the topics of:

1. *Digital Education (Albert, EEO)*
2. *Mobility (Ettore)*
3. *Citizenship Education (Petr)*
4. *Environmental Education (Alex)*

The Policy corners will last 40 minutes each and will be reported shortly in the plenary.

Digital education discussion:

Digital Education is a positive aspect of education but comes with problems, such as ecology and some people's inaccessibility to the necessary material. We need more equality between schools and it is not sustainable to use school material to which some students do not have access to. Another point raised tackles the issue of school teachers not being trained to properly use digital material. There should be a plan that is regularly updated to train teachers on how to use the digital tools.

Citizenship education discussion:

Most of the Citizenship Education that is taught is theoretical. Students learn definitions without application. The teachers are sometimes not qualified or skilled in the subjects they are asked to teach. Topics related to Citizenship should start to be taught early, for example from 11 year old, when students have a long way to go before becoming participants in society and need time to grow correctly and be taught the correct topics in ways that cater to their age.

Education is underfunded and lacks in certain areas (for example climate), some topics are taught at a surface level and a lot of things are swept under the rug. Students don't get the whole picture of how their country works. More funding is a solution, for more skilled teachers, more adaptable curriculum based on age. Using different platforms and resources, schools need to offer ways for students to understand how they can act in affecting the political and social sphere of their country .

Mobility discussion:

The issues identified are the students' fear of mobility, the lack of financial support during and before the mobility action , as well as a lack of support for families. Students living near borders are struggling, a lack of information for students and teachers for different funding problems.

Possible solutions are to solve transport issues for people living at the border, support in languages that young people require (including minority languages or schools in the language of the other).

Environmental education discussion:

A need to identify the main issues in our education - teachers are missing knowledge, tools and skills, which causes the topic of the environment to be neglected. The resources that students need to

understand environmental issues are missing. SDGs are not tackled enough. The teachers and headmasters do not support the movements. Climate anxiety is also caused by the climate crisis.

The solutions proposed are: improving the quality of teacher training to build their knowledge and work with students to raise awareness on these issues. Inviting external speakers to share knowledge. It shouldn't be seen as an individual approach but as a societal approach.

Having school student representation in all levels of decision making by encouraging students to raise their voice, but also making student councils obligatory. Funding for the purpose of climate education that would make schools work on this topic. End the stigma that students are lazy, and give them the space and support. Engaging with students in public debates, so that education for the environment and sustainability is accepted as a standard that everyone can take part in.

The Chair closes this part of the agenda.

For fairness there will be no Q&A to the candidates for the Monitoring Committee since not all are present in the room.

33. Elections of the Monitoring Committee

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

The **Chair** introduces the point:

1. From this moment onwards no one can leave or enter the room.
2. Roll call with 22 votes in the room.
3. The **Chair** explains the procedure from the Internal Regulations.
4. The **Chair** reads out loud the names of the candidates:
 1. Catalin Ilies - CNE
 2. Michael Ostry - CSU
 3. Tara Toye - ISSU
 4. Ismar Ajkunic - ASUBiH
 5. Giuseppe Lipari - former Board ember
2. Each candidate has 3 minute to present themselves, some of them have a video presentation.
3. Because most of the people are not there, there is going to be no Q&A.
4. The **Chair** calls on the vote. People can vote up to 4 people on their ballot. They can abstain by selecting none. The 5 people with the most votes and anyway with more than 50%+1 votes are elected.

USO asks what happens if the person is in the top 4 but did not get enough votes.

The **Chair** explains that in such case they would not be elected as they do not have enough votes. If needed a repeat of the vote will be done.

5. The Ballot committee gives the information to the **Chair** who does not read out loud the number of votes but only the names of the people elected. Number of votes can be requested to the SG and is still public in the minutes.
6. The outgoing and remaining board should not speak or interfere during this agenda point.

Catalin Ilies (He/Him) takes the floor. He mentions that he is currently part of the MC and starts off his presentation by telling that he has been an activist for his entire life and has had the chance of being vice-president of CNE. Then he continued studying sociology in university, and he is currently part of an NGO working with Roma empowerment. He explains that OBESSU had a big role within his shaping as an activist and that his journey in OBESSU is not over yet. He mentions that he learnt a lot from the previous mandate and would like to implement it in the next one, and would also like to bring his experience, knowledge in social sciences but most importantly his love of OBESSU.

Michael Ostry (He/Him) sent a video. He is from Prague and he is recording the video as he would like to tell about himself and why he is presenting his candidacy for the MC. He has been a member of the OBESSU PoT for the last 4 years, but he expects not to have much time to attend events in the next years, but he still wants to do something for OBESSU and help with Organisation develop, so he believes the position at the MC is the place where he can do it and he can use his skills of knowing about student activism, and about NGOs and especially about OBESSU. He believes he can help OBESSU from the position of Monitoring Committee. He thanks everyone and wishes everyone to have fun in Vienna.

Tara Toye (She/Her) sent a video. She is an 18 year old student from Ireland and she wants to be a Member of the MC. Her activism started in 2018 when she was elected as a Regional Officer of ISSU. Since then, she has had several roles in ISSU, including being a Member of the National Board. Through ISSU she got the chance to become involved in OBESSU. She has been part of projects such as Inclusive Schools and ECMA. Through this, she also had the chance to travel to Strasbourg for the EYE and facilitate a workshop, which was an amazing experience. She has also been involved in many different organisations both in her area and international organisations. She is currently the mayor of her city youth council, she is also a youth advocate for an organisation which works to promote mental health resources for people in her area. She has been involved in organisations such as the Assembly of the European Regions and the Assembly of Solidarity Action Day Movement in Europe. She believes she has the dedication and the drive to be on this MC. She has the knowledge of the Organisation from being involved with many projects, and had the opportunity to see how the Organisation works. She has the passion for youth voices and making youth voices heard by decision makers and decision makers who can help make the voices of students heard and achieve the changes students need. She had the experience of working with many regional, national and international organisations to ensure OBESSU works to the benefit of students in Europe. She hopes she has shown, from her experience and her passion, that she deserves a vote today.

Ismar Ajkunic (He/Him) sent a video which is a TikTok showing aspects about him that make him a great candidate for the MC of OBESSU. He wants to dedicate his life to fighting for youth rights, especially school student rights. He is an enthusiast of education and trying to improve the education system. He is communicative and not afraid to speak out. He loves to give his time to organisational development, as he does in ASuBiH. He loves to read documents, reports, laws and everything like that that everyone considers boring. He loves teamwork and working with motivated and enthusiastic people. Big hello to everyone in Vienna, don't be quiet and let's fight for school student rights together!

Giuseppe Lipari (He/Him) sent a video. He has been working with Organisation in the last years as Board Member and Steering Committee member at the Global Student Forum, knowing that OBESSU means family, a political house and also history of student activism. OBESSU has done many things in Europe and across the planet, and what is making it possible is the balance between the Member Organisations, the Board, the Secretariat and the rules we decide together. For this reason, after these years, he would like to be a Member of the Monitoring Committee, to support the work that is done to maintain the Organisation and to support the Board, the Members and the Secretariat to keep this balance, and so that the Organisation can continue its great work and expansion. The function we have in the defence of student rights and the expansion of student agency is extremely important, and what we are doing in these decades is meaning a lot to students, and we can do even more with transnational cooperation and a sense of solidarity. He would be honoured to be a Member of the Monitoring Committee for this.

After the counting of the votes, the Chair announces the people that were elected.

The people elected for the MC are:

- Catalin Ilies - 20 votes
- Michael Ostry - 13 votes
- Tara Toye - 17 votes
- Giuseppe Lipari - 18 votes

Ismar Ajkunic has received 11 votes and there has been 1 invalid vote.

34. Election of the Board

The chair introduces the point:

1. From this moment onwards no one can leave or enter the room.
2. The **Chair** explains the procedure from the Internal Regulations
3. The **Chair** reads out loud the names of the candidates:
Anna Weirich, DGS
1. Each candidate has 3 minute to present themselves.
2. At the end of the Q&A, the **Chair** calls on the vote through the election runner after having explained the procedure. People can vote up to 5 people on their ballot. They can abstain by selecting none. The 5 people with the most votes and anyway with more than 50%+1 votes are elected.
3. The Ballot committee gives the information to the **Chair** who does not read out loud the number of votes but only the names of the people elected. Number of votes can be requested to the Secretary General and is still public in the minutes.
4. The outgoing and remaining board should not speak or interfere during this agenda point.
5. The MC needs to be with the BC in the breakout room.

Alex takes the floor and explains why she is withdrawing from OBESSU - she feels like it is time to move on and give the space to young activists who are motivated to continue being activists. She is continuing in the Global Students Forum, but she would still be collaborating with OBESSU.

The reason why there is only 1 spot open is because there is currently no overlapping mandate and with her resignation there is 1 free spot.

The **Chair** asks if there are any comments or questions.

As there are no more comments or questions, the **Chair** gives the floor to Anna from DGS.

Anna says that she is now the IO for DGS and her mandate is finishing in a few days. The student movement is having a lot of challenges in this period. There are adults that are not taking students seriously, but students are here and want to fight together side by side.

She is excited to stand with student activists from all over the world and she is happy to be running for the Board, and hopes for everyone's trust and support.

CANAE has a question about her motivation.

Anna responds that she started in 3rd grade and got it granted that they can use the phone in school time. Anna joined DGS a few years ago, first as a normal member and then responsible for economics and then became the person responsible for international activities. She is very motivated by the idea that students should have the right to representation.

SLL asks what is their best memory from DGS and are they expecting if elected as a Board Member of OBESSU.

Anna responds that the best feelings are when they stand together and the way they all feel afterwards. After the first event she had a lot of inspiration, motivation and wanting to change things. She expects a lot from this year, a lot of hands-on work with the members. Try to find a way that international work can be something that doesn't take away from the national work.

LH asks what skills Anna thinks she would bring to the board in terms of skills, given the fact that the board is made up of diverse backgrounds.

Anna responds that she thinks she will bring a lot of organisational work, as well the boring things like the administrative work. She was also attending a lot of the national events and she hopes to bring the national perspective into OBESSU.

The **Chair** asks for any last questions. There are no more questions from the Membership and the GA proceeds with voting.

The Chair announces that Anna was elected as the member of the Board of OBESSU, with 21 votes.

35. Urgent motions and resolutions

The **Chair** states that no urgent motions and/or resolutions were submitted by the deadline. The **Chair** closes this point of the agenda.

36. Any other business

The **Chair** gives the floor to **Giuseppina** for the reimbursement presentation.

The **Chair** asks if there is AOB, and **Giuseppina** takes the floor. She thanks the Chair for having been such an amazing facilitator of the debates, as well as **Alex** for her amazing work on the Board. Then, **Giuseppina** and the Secretariat proceed in the 'gifts time'!

Alex thanks everyone from the Board and Secretariat for the amazing work carried out these days.

37. Closing of the GA

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

Alex thanks everyone for attending the meeting. She mentions that it has been amazing to see everyone's faces for the second in-person statutory event after the COMEM, especially for her, as a

Board member for 2 years but with a fully online first year. She thanks everyone for all the work, the current and the previous board, and declares that Anna will be amazing in the Board.

"As we said a lot of times we live in times of crisis and we are not responsible for that, but we are responsible to fight and change that. Thank you all for being here!"