

**OBESSU Council of Members 2022**  
*3rd-4th December 2022 - Dworp (Belgium)*

- 1. Opening of the COMEM 2022 at 09:50 am CET**
- 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 COMEM and adoption of the agenda**
- 7. Voting on speaking rights of Affiliate Organisations and guests**
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- 9. Presentation from GA 2022**
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- 11. Election of the Rapporteur of the COMEM**
- 12. Board report and presentation of Internal Regulations of the Board**
- 13. Parallel discussion corners**
- 14. Report of the work of the Global Student Forum**
- 15. Report of the Monitoring Committee**
- 16. Decolonising School Curricula 101: toolkit presentation**
- 17. Presentation of received Candidacy applications**
- 18. Presentation on received Membership applications**

**19. Vote on the termination of Membership for UNL - France**

**20. Report of the Secretary General**

**21. Vote on the proposal for a Work Plan 2023-2025**

**22. Vote on the proposal for Implementation Plan 2023**

**23. Self organised Workshops**

**24. Closing of day 1**

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

**26. Vote on the proposal for Annual Financial Contribution 2023**

**27. Vote on the proposal for a Policy Paper on Curricula for the 21st Century**

**28. Vote on the proposal for a Policy Paper on Education Funding and Student Welfare**

**29. Vote on expiring policy papers**

**30. Vote on amendments to the Code of Conduct**

**31. Membership Survey**

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

**33. Discussion corners**

**34. Self organised workshops on student engagement**

**35. Urgent motions and resolutions**

**36. Any Other Business**

**37. Closing of the COMEM 2022**

## 1. Opening of the COMEM 2022 at 09:50 CET

**Caridad from the Board** (She/Her) welcomes everyone and officially opens the Council of Members (hereinafter, COMEM) in Dworp, Belgium. **Caridad** offers some initial remarks about this time of general and individual crisis for school student activists, considering in particular the mental health issues.

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

## 2. Election of the Chairperson

**Caridad** introduces the proposed Chairpersons for the COMEM on behalf of the whole Board: **Lucija Karnelutti (She/Her)** and **Rob O'Donnel (He/ Him)**, both previously active in their student unions and former Board Members of OBESSU.

**Lucija** introduces herself and talks about her experience within OBESSU and her local student union DOS. Rob also introduces himself and his experience within OBESSU and ISSU.

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

The proposal is approved and **Rob O'Donnel** and **Lucija Karnelutti** will be the chairpersons of the COMEM: they 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 **Eleonora, Carmen** and **Riccardo** 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 the organisation to ask for the floor. If the members 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 and that it will be composed of 3 people and encourages Extra Delegates to be part of it, as they don't have to participate in voting.

**Nathan** from MNL, **Mikko** from SLL, **Viola** from DGS, **Jana** from UNSHM, **Angelo** from UNEL and the MC.

#### **5. Adoption of Internal Regulations of the General Assembly and Code of Conduct**

Then 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.

## 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. Nobody asks questions.  
Having no opposition, *the proposal for Internal Regulation is approved*.

The **Chair** explains urgent motions and when they should be asked for.

**Rares** from the Board (He/Him) and **Raquel** from the Secretariat (She/Her) present the Code of Conduct and present themselves as safe persons. They proceed to explain the different concepts of the code of conduct by running a game "times up". Participants are asked to define and explain to the group some of the most important concepts, to then explain to the rest of the group.

## 6. The legality of the COMEM and Adoption of the Agenda

The **Chair** introduces the deadlines of the COMEM and all of them have been respected.

The **Chair** presents the agenda of the COMEM and stresses the importance of the voting for candidacies, and other voting processes.

**Giuseppina** from the Secretariat (She/Her) reminds everyone about the Membership fair happening on day 2, giving an overview of what it means as well as explaining the concept of the self-organised workshops. The Chair opens the floor for questions.

There are no questions and the agenda is adopted by acclamation.

## **7. Voting on speaking rights of Affiliate Organisations and guests**

The **Chair** reminds that Affiliate Organisations need to receive the right to speak from the Members because it is not automatic. There are no AOs present and there are no guests, therefore there is no need for a vote.

## **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.

**Roll call:** AKS, ASUBiH, BSK (not present), CANAE, CEF, CNE, CSU, DGS, DOS, EEO, ESCU, FSS, ISSU, KYC (not present), LH (not present), LMS, MAKOSZ, MNL, NSoA(not present), OSKU (not present), RNCE, RSM (not present), SAKKI (not present), SIF (not present), SLL, SSUNI (not present), SUS (not present), SVB (not present), TOS, UDS, UNEL, UNL (not present), UNSS (not present), UNSCG, UNSHM, 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 Members will be asked to leave the room and discuss themselves, and that voting will be through a *secret ballot*.

**ESCU** takes the floor and explains that the AFC was paid a week ago but it has not yet been processed.

**AKS** takes the floor and says that their secretary had burnout last year so they are

behind on finances and are trying to figure it out. They informed the Secretariat about the situation and they are trying to pay it now.

**CSU** takes the floor and says they had troubles with funding as well as communication issues within their Secretariat but now they are in touch with Giuseppina and they are working it out.

**ESCU** says there has been some miscommunication with the OBESSU Secretariat, a few weeks ago they got the invoice to pay late and then paid it.

**USO** takes the floor and says that their secretary general said they paid it but apparently they didn't.

**DGS** asks if they are voting individually for each organisation.

The **Chair** replies affirmatively.

The **Chair** asks the Ballot Committee to stand and prepare to take votes and recall the organisations that are under the vote.

The results of the votes are:

CSU: 13 For – 0 Against - 1 Abstain

USO: 10 For – 0 Against - Abstain

ESCU: 14 For - 0 Against - 0 Abstain

AKS: 13 For – 0 Against - 1 Abstain

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

## 9. Presentation of the report of the GA 2022

The **Chair** introduces **Laura from UNEL** to report what happened during the GA 2022.

**Laura** summarises what happened during the GA in Vienna: 22 organisations were present, the GA welcomed 2 new candidate organisations - RNCE from Moldova

and UNSHM from North Macedonia. The candidacy of UEM from Moldova was terminated. Following the presentation of the financial report and forecast budget, the GA did not find a common ground for the proposal of the AFC 2023, so the proposal did not pass. The GA voted on the expiring policy papers and we had a presentation of ESU about what they are doing and how to link their work and how to cooperate. We had a presentation about SSRR and the declaration. We had a discussion on the solidarity fund and different policy discussion corners, including citizenship education. We had the election of MC and one Board Member where Anna Weinrich nominated by DGS got elected.

## **10. Adoption of minutes from the GA 2022**

The **Chair** invites the Members to approve the minutes from the General Assembly 2022 by acclamation.

The **Chair** opens the floor for questions and answers and asks the membership to approve the minutes by acclamation.

The minutes of the General Assembly 2022 are adopted by acclamation.

## **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 2023. The **Chair** explains the role of the rapporteur and Giuseppina announces the preliminary dates of the GA that will be on either the last weekend of June or the first of July.

**DGS** asks for further clarifications on the role.

**Sara** from ASUBiH (She/Her) nominates herself and she is approved by acclamation.

## **12. Board report and presentation of Internal Regulations of the Board**

The **Chair** briefly gives the floor to **Caridad** from the Board. Each Board member will present a part of the report.

**Caridad** presents a recap of what the Board is working on, how they are working internally and some of the upcoming plans.



**Petr** from the Board (He/Him) gives an overview of some events that OBESSU attended: the UN Education Summit in New York, the preparatory meeting for COP27 in Ghana, the first annual forum for history education organised by the Council of Europe, the European Education Summit organised by the European Commission. OBESSU was involved in drafting the Declaration of Global Education in Europe and also had a role in the drafting process of the Youth declaration of the UN which inspired a lot of ideas. He also gives an overview of the exchange seminar of [Innovation Station](#), a project led by OBESSU about digitalisation.

**Anna** from the Board gives updates on the OBESSU membership: there are new applications every year, half of the organisations are involved in OBESSU bodies, such as the Board, MC, Pool of trainers and are involved in events.

**Nadine** from the Board (She/Her) gives an overview of the network and the partnerships of OBESSU at the European level and global level, such as [LLLLP](#), [GSF](#), [EAN](#), [SIRIUS](#) and [YFG](#). OBESSU is represented in the European Commission Working Group on VET and green transition. OBESSU is currently updating the Declaration on School Students rights as an advocacy tool.

Finally the Board announces that due to the election of Rares as Board Member of the European Youth Forum he will be leaving the Board of OBESSU.

**Rares** takes the floor to give the last updates from the Board report. OBESSU has 5 Board Members who focus on specific topics and lead politically. OBESSU has 35 member organisations, and has had 6 events in the framework of the School Student Rights Reloaded. Right now OBESSU has 13 members in the Pool of Trainers, a body made up of young professionals that can support with quality sessions and training during OBESSU events as well as Member Organisations' events.

**Caridad** presents the Board's internal regulations: the Board had to adjust the internal regulations when Alex left and Anna joined, because they all work in different areas. Caridad clarifies that members can always approach the Board, ask how they work and what they do, and she encourages members to do it.

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

**ESCU** asks whether the war in Ukraine and high energy prices affected OBESSU and some activities that were planned.

**Rares** answers that there were things they had in mind and did not work out but the issue is not about education strictly. Rares passes the word to Giuseppina to clarify the financial aspect.

**Giuseppina** says that they are foreseeing and taking care of finances as well as they can despite the rise of prices. Next year there will be more expensive flights, accommodation and food. Staff costs in 2022 were not too bad but next year will be more challenging.

**CNE** asks how the portfolios and the internal regulations have changed.

**Nadine** replies that after the GA in Vienna the Board looked at everything OBESSU works on and divided the work among Board Members based on their skills and interest. The division is not based on goals but more on their specific skills, they adjust the goals based on their skills.

**LMS** raises a question about the Ukrainian war and asks what are the actions that OBESSU took for the future of education in Ukraine.

**Rares** replies that the first days were complicated for members. OBESSU sent someone to the Luxembourg emergency conference in February. Most countries offered education to refugees. In a policy sense, they only have recommendations to push onto ministries to have a more practical impact.

**Petr** adds that OBESSU has been in contact with SIRIUS, the organisation that works on education for migrants and refugees. Ukrainian students would be allowed in class, but with no interpretation, they would be expected to know the country's language. SIRIUS shared toolkits and practices with teachers to help in this regard.

**AKS** asks if OBESSU is working on making the Board more accessible to poorer and disadvantaged people as for example paying for flights in advance is a barrier.

**Caridad** replies that they try to be as accessible as possible. Accessibility will be tackled in the discussion corners along with inclusivity where all inputs and solutions proposed by the members are welcome. Anna adds that OBESSU has a cancellation policy for flights, to allow people to ask OBESSU to book in advance. Moreover, in the previous GA, the conversation about a solidarity fund was open.

### 13. Parallel discussion corners

The **Chairs** announce that there will be two parallel discussion corners: one on **Vocational Education and Training** and one on **Peace Education**.

The delegates are able to attend the one that they prefer and report the main outcomes of the discussions.

1. **Vocational Education and Training:** the group discussed VET rights in Europe. The social partners should be consulted. Students must be informed about their activities and different options at the beginning of the school year early in advance. Students should have a tutor for their future studies. The students should be paid at least a minimum wage when they are working in companies.
2. **Peace Education:** colonisation still affects education. Not a lot of countries have a good system that helps migrant students to be included in the education system. OBESSU can contribute to change the situation: projects about languages, study sessions, working together with other organisations, events with teachers and training for teachers on how to change the curricula.

### 14. Global Student Forum Report

**Petr** from the Board provides a report of the work within the Global Student forum in the last semester.

The Global Student Forum is an umbrella organisation of platforms that represent students, both secondary and university students, across the world.

OBESSU and GSF have been represented at the Transforming Education Summit in New York. Representatives of students and youth gathered in New York. With the European Year of Youth, the agenda of the SG acknowledges that education is in crisis, 1 in 3 children are able to understand a simple story. Even if people have direct access to education, the education is not of good enough equality. The youth declaration gathers the demands of students and youth around the world. There is an article written by OBESSU that you can find on the website of the UN.

COP27 was also in cooperation with GSF, a declaration has been written by students: policy and political actions are the most important actions to combat environmental issues: we should stop the individual responsibilities, but unified organised actions need to be taken. Policy makers need to act on the climate crisis and they need to support the students that are in the upfront.

The Global Education Monitoring Youth report is about the non-state actors in education, the notion of literacy that UNESCO uses is the same as the World Bank ( International laws as well), while there are other possible ways to highlight the 4 main goals.

## **15. Report of the Monitoring Committee**

The Chair gives the floor to **Catalin from the MC** (He/Him) to present their report 2022.

**Catalin** presents the 4 members of the MC: Tara, Giuseppe, Michal and himself. They monitor the activities of the different OBESSU bodies and they report back to the Member Organisations.

The report is carried out through two types of interviews - individual interview of Board Members and Secretariat and collective questionnaire for members. This allows them to gather more feedback. Only 23% of the organisations responded. There are different categories: communication and engagement and projects, campaigns and events. MOs participate in 70% of the activities. Events have proven to be a great success.

The relationship between MOs and Board. The satisfaction is 70%, they think their work is in line with the work of their home organisations.

The Pool of Trainers has shown that they gained new skills during the year in OBESSU.

The Secretariat is working in a healthy work environment and they are working on a well-being policy. The Board and the Secretariat have a good relationship.

The relationship between the Board Members is good: they support each other and communicate efficiently. The workload is evenly spread among the members. They have gathered more experience and technical knowledge, and they are happy

with their portfolios since they reshaped their priorities. The Board is happy with the engagement of members during in-person events.

The Secretary General is happy with the work of the organisation, the communication is transparent with the different bodies of the organisation. There are some small issues in the internal communication and in differing views, but there is always a common ground. The financial aspect is good, and the audit results are going to be out soon. The financial situation keeps the same trend of growth. The annual financial audit of the MC will take place in the General Assembly 2023.

The recommendations of the MC for OBESSU are: focus on the political actions, international solidarity among student unions, more in person events, communication should increase regardless of the limitations of a transnational setting.

**LMS** takes the floor and asks why, in their opinion, only 23 percent (8 organisations) answered the questionnaire and how can we improve the situation.

The **MC** answers that the MC should work on raising awareness on the importance of these kinds of surveys, because the survey itself does not take a lot of time to be filled in. The bodies can share more information in order to grow the interest in these surveys and to gather more results. For a future report the MC will try to send more emails or reminders, especially to international officers.

The **Chair** announces that as part of the statutes the COMEM needs to adopt the internal regulations of the MC that have been sent to the members.

The MC gives an overview of the Internal Regulations:

- They are focusing on having more efficient communication and more consistency within the team.
- If something needs to be addressed urgently, the team should be efficient.
- They are working on creating a bridge between different MCs, because the mandate is only one year and it is very hard to create an archive of the MC and to transfer the knowledge to the new members by the end of the mandate. It is important to define a good handover process procedure.

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

The **Chair** proposes to vote on the MC regulations by acclamations.

## 16. Decolonising school curricula 101: toolkit presentation

**Petr** from the Board presents the toolkit called [\*Decolonising school curricula 101\*](#) that has been written during the Study Session Pluriverse held in May 2022 in Strasbourg.

The toolkit tackles not only decolonisation in the sense of reviving the natural heritage of colonised nations, but also on the needs of curricula to reflect the controversy of the past. This also refers to the power dynamics between teachers and students and oppression. The toolkit helps member organisations to advocate for changes in their curricula, to remember what ancestors did and change the approach it is taught in the classroom. It highlights the skills, knowledge and attitude to be able to advocate for this kind of change. It reflects not only the academic sources but also what the student constituency in Strasbourg experiences in education in their countries. You can find this toolkit on our website and you can use it to know more about the topic and to organise activities in your own organisation.

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

**CNE** asks if they took into consideration the differences between teachers and students such as the way classrooms are organised, the setting of the classroom and how it influences the dynamics in the classroom.

**Petr** answers that those aspects were taken into account as a signifier, the power dynamics and the way teachers talk and this reflects in the toolkit.

There are no more questions.

## 17. Presentation of received candidacy applications

**Roll Call:** AKS, ASUBiH, BSK (not present), CANAE, CEF, CNE, CSU, DGS, DOS, EEO, ESCU, FSS, ISSU, KYC (not present), LH (not present), LMS, MAKOSZ, MNL, NSoA(not present), OSKU (not present), RNCE, RSM (not present), SAKKI (not present), SIF (not present), SLL, SSUNI (not present), SUS (not present), SVB (not

present), TOS, UDS, UNEL, UNL (not present), UNSS (not present), UNSCG, UNSHM, USO.

The Chair presents the first received application for candidacy from **UNSCG: High school Students Unions of Montenegro**.

**UNSCG** takes the floor to present the organisation: they were established in 2015, they have 100 members and 60 delegates from high schools from Montenegro. Vladimir Perazic is the acting Secretary General and future member of the supervisory board.

The structure of UNSCG: the highest body is the assembly composed by the delegates, representatives of all high schools in Montenegro, the Board of directors, 4 Board Members, General Secretariat and the supervisory Board with 3 members.

The mission and the vision of UNSCG is the creation of a unique secure environment for students, a students' parliament that ensures the participation of students in their education, inclusion in activism and national cooperation.

One of their main projects is "Action days" during which high school students do not go to school because they attend workshops with their classmates in specific companies based on their chosen school curricula. They are part of SAME which is the organisation that organises action days. They are also part of CY, which is a consortium made up of organisations from the Balkans, including Montenegro, where there was no youth representation.

In the past years UNSCG they did not have the opportunity to apply to become a candidate of OBESSU because of financial reasons, but now they are ready to cooperate.

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

**UNEL** asks about the fundraising activities that UNSCG is doing at the moment.

**UNSCG** replies that the main donor is the SHL foundation that provides support to organise Action Days and the General Assembly. During the AD every volunteer gets 10 euros that go to a special fund that supports the Parliament of the organisation. They apply for national open calls.

**ESCU** asks about their relationship with the government and how they represent students in the decision making.



**UNSCG** replies that the government is not included in their decision making process. They cooperate with the minister of education, especially during the pandemic when they were asked to provide inputs from school students. They have representatives from all the high schools and they have good cooperation with ministers of education and sport, so the voices are heard by the decision makers.

**CNE** asks how often they hold their General Assembly.

**UNSCG** replies that they hold it once per year. They communicate with their members through *Viber* and when they meet in person they also have online meetings. In the future they will have two events at the same time when they discuss different topics with all the delegates.

**ESCU** asks how they see the organisation developing in the next 5 years.

**UNSCG** replies that they will write more projects to get fundings and be able to organise more activities, they will continue the cooperation with SHL and other international partners to involve more high school students in their work. They want to go to more high schools to disseminate their activities.

**Petr** from the Board gives the recommendation of the Board on UNSCG candidacy application. They sent all the documentation needed, they revised their statutes and their democratic structures, and the topics they work on are relevant for OBESSU, such civic participation and activism. They fulfil all the criteria for candidacy.

**UNEL** asks the reason behind the 2 years mandate of the Board as many organisations have a mandate of 1 year.

**UNSCG** replies that since the beginning they decided to have 2 years because one is not enough to fulfil all the tasks. The supervisory board supports the knowledge transfer.

There are no more questions and no objections to the candidacy application of UNSCG.

A vote from the Membership is not required, therefore UNSCG is officially accepted as a candidate organisation of OBESSU.



## 18. Presentation of received Membership applications

The **Chair** presents the 2 Membership applications from MNL from France and TOS from Türkiye and explains the procedure: the two organisations can be asked to leave the room and allow the membership to have a discussion before the voting.

**MNL** takes the floor to present their application. MNL defends school student rights in France, they are the first student union in France and they are present in 84 federations out of 100, in the past months they had a lot of federations joining. They have 3500 members and affiliates that attend the events. The organisation is fully independent and not affiliated to political parties but they have a strong political line. Their values are: ecology, feminism, LGBTQ, antifascism, anticapitalism, internationalism, democracy. They discuss these topics among the federation and they organise protests and cooperate with other organisations. Some of the actions include protests against government actions with other student organisations, they offer training in which they discuss feminism and antifascism to raise awareness among the members. They organise assemblies both national and regional to plan future events and the fight against specific laws. They also have a lot of other events like one congress a year where they discuss the political life of the organisation with the two General Secretaries. Since last year they have worked a lot with OBESSU. MNL is involved in a lot of projects, they participated in Generation D-Liberation meeting in June, they participated in the study session and General Assembly in Vienna, they organised a national event in the framework of SSRR and in the summer school, they have a member in the Coordination Team of the SSRR of which they just had the Editorial Meeting, they participated in the LLWeek event. Being a full member of OBESSU will allow them to work better with other MOs and to participate in more events. They are going to be part of the preparation team for the next study session Vote@16. It is very important to work at the international level, to change the system. To change the educational system we need to do it at the international level, because the local level is not enough. They are trying to find alternative solutions.

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

**UNEL** asks about how they manage their finances without any budget.

**MNL** replies that they had money from the government and other different

organisations but for the last 3-4 years these sources cut all the funds to student organisations because of problems that happened with other organisations that were not using the money properly.

Since then the funds were cut for all the organisations, from thousands of euros to nothing. They do not have a paid secretariat and they are working a lot with other organisations and workers unions because they cooperate a lot between students and workers that share these struggles. They have membership fees that are not mandatory, in order to be very accessible and inclusive. They had an event called national week training that was paid with the money from the workers union.

**LMS** asks who are the members of MNL and asks to present the structure of the organisation.

**MNL** answers that the members are mostly individual members. They have 3700 high schools and the government does not recognise them as a student union, so they need to reach out to the different schools in order to promote the organisation among the teachers and parents.

MNL has different levels of decision-making. The first level is the school level: when students want to organise something in their local school, then there are the federations in which they organise assemblies and elect representatives of the federation. The national team coordinates all the federations and the individual members. The national level organises discussion groups and training. There is also the CT, like the Monitoring Committee that makes sure that everything is done by the statutes and democratically and the decisions are not taken only by the national team. The Congress is the event where the political line and the future plans are discussed. There are 3 councils per year in which more precise action plans are discussed among the federations. There are different channels of communications such as telegram.

**ASUBiH** asks what are their future plans and specific projects right now.

**MNL** is working on a policy paper and on the high school elections that are normally not very democratic. They are planning to grow and have more delegates at the different levels. They are planning to introduce vegetarian options in school meals related to ecology.

**Nadine from the Board** takes the floor to say that MNL has been involved a lot in OBESSU in the last year and the relationship with MNL is very positive and the Board wishes to continue the relationship.

There are no more questions for MNL.

**TOS** takes the floor to present the organisation. They have representatives in many regions and the organisation is composed of representatives, members and an executive board. The provincial representatives gather the opinion of students. They are not present in all the high schools, because that is not possible in Türkiye. They have 250 members, 40 out of 81 provinces which is a good number for the country as they represent more than the 70 percent according to the population distribution. They are working on LGBTQI+ issues, provide opportunities for students that cannot afford them and they represent minorities that cannot get education in their own languages. The elected positions are the chairperson and the deputy chairperson that then creates the board. All the selected people need to be approved by the selection committees. In the past years they had major issues with funding, but thanks to some OBESSU grants they were able to organise events. They conducted research on educational reports (2019 and 2020), educational budgeting and student representation through regions. They had a youth summit in Istanbul where they collected the inputs to create another report that was presented with a debate tournament and art exhibition.

**USO** takes the floor to ask about the relationship between the organisation and the government.

**TOS** replies that the government does not fully support their work. TOS is allowed to attend the assembly two times per year. The government does not fund the organisation, but they provide them with food and accommodation. TOS fundraises through events. There is no legislation to support students in Türkiye. They succeeded with creating legal structures in Istanbul, which is very hard in anti-democratic countries. The opposition leaders support the work of TOS and take into account their inputs.

**AKS** asks if they know the percentage of Kurdish people in the country.

**TOS** replies that they do not have collected data, but they know approximately.

**Anna from the Board** takes the floor to give the recommendations from the Board. They are happy with the evolution of TOS which is a young organisation and they are happy to see an organisation that is not based in a EU country engaged in OBESSU.

The vote on the membership application will happen through closed ballots. The delegates will tick the organisations that they want to join OBESSU. We need a 2/3 majority for organisation to be accepted as full members.

**TOS** is elected as a full member with 17 votes.

**MNL** is elected as a full member with 15 votes.

## 19. Vote on the termination of membership for UNL - France

The **Board** has proposed to terminate the membership of UNL - France.

**Nadine** from the Board explains that UNL has been inactive in OBESSU and we have not heard from them in years. The Board tried to arrange a video call with a new representative, but they did not attend. **UNL** as such dissolved and they are now called La Voix Lyceens, which we are in touch with.

**TOS** asks if the new organisation is part of OBESSU.

**USO** asks what the new organisation is and what they are working on.

The **Board** clarifies that the new organisation is not part of OBESSU.

The **Chair** clarifies that by statutes the termination of membership is automatic when the organisation dies, so the Board is being extra careful with requesting a vote.

The **Chair** opens the vote by show of hands. The quorum changed because we have two new members, so the chair calls for a new roll call.

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

The voting member organisations are now 20.

The Membership voted in favour of removing UNL from the Members of OBESSU with 20 votes.

## 20. Report of the Secretary General

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

Giuseppina, the **Secretary General** (She/Her) takes the floor and gives an overview of the secretariat updates. She mentions 4 challenges:

- Workload: the team is small for the amount of work needed such as back office work, communications, project writing, financial management, event organising, policy work and overall coordination of the organisation.
- Project and financial insecurity: we need to apply for funding whenever we need, but the outcome is never sure. Because of the rising costs, there are challenges related to increasing costs for stuff, rent and energy.
- Understanding the members needs and implementing.
- Broad focus: too many projects, some have been terminated. The secretariat wants to focus on things that can help the members.

**Giuseppina** has been the Secretary General of OBESSU for 5 years and we are in the phase of reevaluating the role. OBESSU has grown, so the SG role might need a different focus. Members will be asked and encouraged to participate.

**Giuseppina** then proceeds with a financial overview. The budget for 2023 has not yet been finalised. 2022 will close on a positive note.

Expenditure: 581256

Income: 589587

For 2023 the budget has not been finalised and it should be similar to this year income wise, but the costs will increase because of inflation and increased staff costs (indexation). We cannot budget for 2023 because the Operating Grant results are not out yet and the grant will be larger than usual, we have applied for 2 projects that have not been approved yet. Once those are approved, the budget prediction for 2023 can be requested by the members so they might give comments.

## 21. Vote on the proposal for Work Plan 2023-2025

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

**Caridad** from the Board presents the proposal from the Board for the [Work Plan 2023-2025](#) (WP).

The Work Plan proposal is for 3 years (2023-2025) and it will be revised and monitored every year. The main focuses will be competences for democracy, sustainable development and re-booting school students action. There will be 2 main parallel focuses: membership and capacity building, and advocacy.

The **Chair** opens the floor for questions. There are no questions so we proceed to vote by show of hands.

There are 20 votes in favour of the Work Plan 2023-2025 proposal, which is adopted.

## 22. Vote on the Implementation Plan 2023

**Rares** from the Board gives a quick overview of the [Implementation Plan 2023](#) proposal. The Implementation Plan is a more detailed plan that we will use in order to achieve our goals highlighted in the Work Plan. The main focus will be the follow up on the European Year of Youth. As presented in the Work Plan, the 3 main topics will be:

- **Competencies for Democracy:** we will host a **Study Session** on vote@16 focused on how voting can build active citizenship and build a more effective and democratic community. We will learn how to advocate and campaign for this in different countries. **DemocraSEE the Change** is going to be the Training of Trainers on how to foster democratic spaces for young people. Our trainers will acquire the skills to moderate polarised

discussions and how to foster democracy through non-formal education. **EPiC** is a project that is not approved yet, that will be about youth and student participation in different levels of political life. Members will be able to organise their own activities, this will end in the Summer School in 2023 where we will write a student manifesto to be shared with policy makers.

- Sustainable development: just, green and digital transition. We will work on the climate crisis, but also on the inclusion in spaces where decisions are taken. CSU has done great work with Generation Climate Europe. Work with GSF and keep working through consultation processes to keep being involved.
- Rebooting school student actions: after the pandemic School Student Unions need a kick to start again and OBESSU will try to support its members as much as possible. In order to achieve the goals related to the development strategy we will have 4 statutory meetings, a focus on the Pool of Trainers, the European Apprentices Network on VET.

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

**SLL** asks if OBESSU is thinking how and when to start working towards the EU elections and if OBESSU has its own goals for the elections, since SLL is also starting to think about the future, and it would be good to create synergies.

The **Board** replies that the goals are not defined yet and this is why tomorrow we will have a discussion corner on this. OBESSU is working on the topic with JEF within the project COYV and during the GA of the European Youth Forum 15 organisations have come together and started to plan jointly.

There are no more questions. The membership proceeds by voting by show of hand.

There are 20 votes in favour and the Implementation Plan is approved.

### **23. Self-organised workshops**

**LMS** will lead a discussion on the war in Ukraine and how to develop a stronger OBESSU position.



**AKS** will lead a discussion on Stonewall riots and gender theory.

**DOS** will lead a workshop about equipping future generations with skills needed in the workplace.

## **24. Announcements preceding day 2 and closing of day 1**

After some logistical announcements, we close day one of COMEM 2022.

## **25. 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 (not present), CSU, DGS, DOS, EEO, ESCU, FSS, ISSU, KYC (not present), LH (not present), LMS, MAKOSZ, MNL, NSoA (not present), OSKU (not present), RNCE, RSM (not present), SAKKI (not present), SIF (not present), SLL, SSUNI (not present), SUS (not present), SVB (not present), TOS, UDS, UNEL, UNL (not present), UNSS (not present), UNSCG (not present), UNSHM, USO.

## **26. Vote on the proposal for Annual Financial Contribution 2023**

The **Chair** gives an overview of what the Annual Financial Contribution (AFC) is and then gives the word to Nadine from the Board to present the proposal for AFC 2023.

The proposal is very similar to the one proposed for the GA 2022. The Board had discussions with the Members during the month. The Board opened a Working Group on the AFC but only one person joined, so it did not go forward. The GA proposal from the Members seemed fair, so the actual proposal is based on that. Nadine projects the proposal. The Chair remarks that the candidates have one minute to ask their questions and explain that we are keeping track of the speaking organisations.

**UNEL** asks how much it changed from the GA.

**Nadine** added a bit of explanation to the process and how they came to the proposal.



**SLL** points out that they did not know that there was a WG on that. SLL asks the reason behind the raising of the AFC again. SLL points out that the difference is not big, but there are organisations that cannot pay it and they still get the right to vote. SLL makes the example of USO and AKS that were not able to pay at the GA in Vienna and they still haven't paid.

**Nadine** clarifies that the WG was posted on Basecamp and sent by email to the mailing list. **Nadine** points out that the organisations that did not pay the AFC had technical issues and not financial issues. According to the Board, the rationale of the document is very clear, the costs of projects and expenses are always rising, so to be able to support the Membership we need to be able to co-finance the projects, to make sure the voice of students is at the centre.

**SLL** answers that this does not support the organisations because it is only some organisations paying the AFC. They understand that costs are rising, but it still does not help the organisations that are struggling financially.

**USO** asks the reason for an increase in the range of 5 to 200 euros. At the GA it was stated that the money coming from the AFC is very small compared to the overall budget, so that money could stay with members.

**Nadine** replies that the AFC is part of the budget that helps OBESSU co-finance projects and to give back to organisations through micro grants and activities. When the price of co-funding rises, we need to raise the amount that we can co-finance with.

**EEO** disapproves not knowing how the money is going to be used exactly, so they think it is the bare minimum to explain how the AFC is spent. It is very hard to pay all the money to OBESSU if the organisations cannot afford it and when there is little justification for the rise of the AFC.

**Giuseppina** from the Secretariat clarifies that the budget of the next year needs to be approved by the statutory meeting (before the next GA). The structural grants are submitted in the current year so we cannot budget a lot in advance, so to approve it in advance is also problematic because it might change by almost 70.000 EUR. This is also problematic for OBESSU. The budget for 2022 that was voted in GA 2022 was the average of 2023, so that can be presented to the members of each organisation, only staff and office costs might change. The legislation of Belgium is different from each country.

**TOS** asks if the fees from their events are also calculated in the turnover of the AFC.

**Giuseppina** replies that when stating the income you also need to state the participation fee.

**CSU** is concerned about the brackets and budget lines. There are big differences between the incomes of the organisations. For the organisations that have a lot of money the percentage of the fee is very small, while it is bigger in percentage for the smaller organisations, so CSU proposes to have more brackets.

**Nadine** repeats that they had this conversation during the past statutory events. They discussed it and it was proposed by SLL and FSS at the GA, but an agreement was not reached and the amendment was rejected because the organisations in the higher brackets would pay more. OBESSU tries to keep it fair also for the bigger organisations. No members are now paying more than 5.2 percent of their budget. The Board makes decisions based on the inputs of the members, but if there are no inputs it is hard to take a decision.

**EEO** points out that statutory events are the place to decide things and asks if the projects are counted as part of an organisational budget. If yes, this constitutes a problem because they need to report to those projects and the AFC needs to be taken from their own budget so this should not be counted in the turnover.

**Nadine** replies that there were online consultations with the Membership and nobody showed up. There is the possibility to amend the proposal before the statutory meetings, but this did not happen. Nadine clarifies that if there is a problem with the turnover the MOs can always reach out to the Secretariat to clarify the details of the project funding because we are flexible.

**Giuseppina** intervenes saying that this discussion has been going on for years and they have had discussions also with other organisations and they recognised that this is a challenge. There is a need to identify which projects allow the use of the money for other purposes, like the Operating Grant. If they need to do so, they would need to check the budget project by project, which is not impossible, but it is going to be an open consultation. They can also re-open a call for a working group where all the organisations can input.

**DGS** understands that the biggest reason for this raise is inflation but would like to know what are the other reasons to raise the AFC. It is not clear why this is important and would like a clarification before voting.

**Nadine** answers that inflation is the leading cause for the increase of the AFC, but since 2012 OBESSU has grown exponentially and the staff is larger, so the costs are much higher. It has been 10 years since the AFC was last raised.

**SLL** asks if they can make amendments here on the spot.

**Nadine** answers that it is possible, but it would take a 100 percent unanimity to be approved.

**SLL** says that Autumn is generally very busy and the information gets lost on the website and is not easy to find. The people present in GA Vienna have changed, so it is difficult to cooperate.

**SLL** would like to make the proposal and amend it to the chair with the given amendment form.

**USO** finds it contradictory that the AFC does not go to projects, but one of the reasons for the higher AFC is because of the projects.

**Nadine** clarifies that if they do not have money to co-finance projects they do not have projects.

**ISSU** welcomes those changes because they make sense and wonders why the discussion happens now while there was a moment to amend. ISSU asks what would happen if the proposal does not pass.

**Giuseppina** highlights that this never happened and it is not sure what the procedure is, but there needs to be an AFC, so we would use the last approved AFC amount.

**DGS** asks the same as ISSU but wants more elaboration on the consequences.

**Nadine** answers that they do not know because the statutes do not foresee this, because normally there is a moment to make a counter proposal before COMEM and arrive at the statutory event with a proposal to be discussed.

The **MC** takes the floor and says that they had this discussion with multiple OBESSU bodies. It is hard to manage all the dimensions of the different finances but it is important to keep a core funding to co-finance the projects. It is important to decide and agree on the financial contribution.

**DGS** asks if OBESSU would still have money if we do not vote on this.

**Nadine** clarifies that we do not have the AFC, we cannot co-finance the projects and we cannot have a budget.

The **Chair** clarifies the meaning of co-financing the projects: when a project is approved OBESSU needs to financially contribute to the project because they do not get all the money from the donors.

**Anna** from the Board clarifies that if we want OBESSU to grow and get to change to sit at the table with policy makers, it is important that we get a higher AFC.

**Giuseppina** announces that they have sent the amendment form proposed by SLL to all the delegates.

The **Chair** gives the floor to SLL to present the amendments on the spot.

**SLL** proposes to keep the same AFC as last year and by the next GA they will have more time and more opportunities and re-word, to get more information both about the AFC and the way to make amendments.

**Rares** from the Board asks how much time the members think they will need to have this communication and asks who would be interested in being part of another WG and how much time do the members think it will take.

The **Chair** opens the floor for a discussion on the proposal of SLL.

**ISSU** asks what would be the effect of the new proposal.

**Nadine** clarifies that nothing would change. We are trying to grow, but if we do not have more money to co-finance projects we do not grow. We would just stay at the same point, both in the advocacy and both in supporting the MOS.

**ISSU** asks if that would also affect the membership application.

**Anna** clarifies that this would not impact the application, but the activities that we can do with the members.

**Giuseppina** also clarifies that we are talking about 100 euros less on a 600k euro budget, so the impact isn't huge, but in the last AFC revision was agreed to increase by 5% every year. The change would be in the long term.

**SLL** takes the floor to answer about the timeline. The problem with the GA was that many IO changed, so it was not easy to get in touch with people present in the GA and if IO are not focusing on OBESSU at the moment, it is difficult to engage. SLL asks if after the new year it would be a good moment to start the process. The question is for the delegates.

The **Chair** closes the speaking list by acclamation.

**Nadine** says that there are two statutory events and no organisation has less than a year mandate so it is possible to get in touch with other organisations, and there was enough time and this point is not valid.

**AKS** says that now it is not much of a change but if they do not do it now and we wait until the AFC rises by 20 percent, nobody would pay that amount. If the money is urgent this would be a big problem. It makes sense that the AFC is rising slowly and not all at once.

**EEO** thinks that it is true that OBESSU needs to grow. It is not necessary to grow at this moment but to use the money for the members it has, because it does not make a difference otherwise. If we want to grow OBESSU this is not the way. Rather, helping the organisations to grow and supporting them with events and then raising the AFC. EEO supports the proposal to not change the AFC.

**Nadine** points out that OBESSU is growing as a matter of fact. To be able to support the members we need to co-finance projects.

**DGS** asks if the statutes state how many times the AFC can be changed, if it should change regularly or if there is no regulation.

**Giuseppina** answers that there is no timeframe. Both the Board and the members can propose, as long as it is before the statutory events.

**DGS** asks when was the last change.

**Giuseppina** answers that it was in 2011 and the last one in 2022 it was a 5 percent raise.

**DGS** asks how much OBESSU has grown since 2011.

**Giuseppina** answers that in 2011 we had a budget of 200.000 and now it is 600.000. We have lost some members and we welcomed some others, including some organisations that used to pay a lot of money.

**FSS** says that it is hard to justify the raise with the organisation when they do not get much out of OBESSU. Members also face inflation, but they understand that OBESSU needs more money.

**Anna** from the Board understands but if they want to get more from OBESSU they have to engage, and get the most out of the plans and the proposal that OBESSU offers.

**Nadine** clarifies that it is full of opportunities in OBESSU and this is why we propose an implementation and a work plan, that the members can amend and shape it and contribute to it in order to make it more relevant for the members. If members are not getting much from OBESSU it is because there is a lack of contribution.

**Caridad** from the Board says that we cannot see how much OBESSU is influencing the MO in the short term because OBESSU works at a European level. The decisions taken at the EU level influence different countries and impact school student organisations. If we have an impact as a relevant stakeholder we are able to influence change.

**Rares** clarifies that the AFC can be paid in instalments.

The **Chair** closes the speaking list and announces the two votes.

**DGS** asks if they can get two minutes of consultation time.

**ISSU** clarifies that this amendment requires 100 percent of votes to pass.

The Membership is going to vote first on the amendment proposed by SLL and then on the proposal of the Board.

**Roll Call:** AKS, ASUBiH, BSK (not present), CANAE, CEF, CNE, CSU, DGS, DOS, EEO, ESCU, FSS, ISSU, KYC (not present), LH (not present), LMS, MAKOSZ, MNL, NSoA

(not present), OSKU (not present), RNCE, RSM (not present), SAKKI (not present), SIF (not present), SLL, SSUNI (not present), SUS (not present), SVB (not present), TOS, UDS, UNEL, UNL (not present), UNSS (not present), UNSCG, UNSHM, USO.

The **Chair** clarifies that first we will vote on the amendment then we will go ahead with the AFC vote. The two votes are similar.

The vote on the SLL amendment needs consensus (20 votes):  
There are: 14 votes in favour, 6 votes against, 0 abstain.

The amendment is not approved.

The Membership now will vote on the AFC 2023 as proposed by the Board.

**LMS** asks that the Ballot Committee gives the exact numbers not percentages.

**TOS** asked for a closed ballot vote for this voting.

**ISSU** asks what is the required number of votes.

The number of votes required is 11.

**SLL** asks what would happen if this proposal does not pass.

**Nadine** answers that this has never happened before so it's a grey area. The AFC will stay the same as 2022.

We proceed with the vote by closed ballot.  
There are: 9 votes in favour, 11 votes against, 0 abstentions.

The proposal for the AFC 2023 was not approved.

The Board, Secretariat and MC will propose a new AFC for 2023. The Board asks the membership to engage in the future when the consultations will be open to prepare the AFC.

The **Chair** invites the Membership to propose ways to improve the communication during the self-organised workshops.

The **Chair** proposes to change the Agenda and to vote on the Policy Papers now and postpone the discussion corners launching a vote by acclamation.  
The Membership approves.



## 27. Vote on the proposal for a Policy Paper on Curricula for the 21st Century

The **Chair** invites Rares to give an overview of the Policy Paper on Curricula for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**Rares** explains that the Working Group on Curricula for the 21st century worked on a proposal. The WG started in April 2022 and was composed of representatives from CSU, SLL, ASUBiH, CANAE, DGS plus Rares and Juanma from the Secretariat.

The Working Group consulted the members by running a survey and by contacting them, the result of the consultation process is the policy paper.

The pillars of the Policy Paper are:

1. Mental Health and Wellbeing. The WG wanted to expand the content of the paper by adding some other topics such as well being and mental health and this part of the PP addresses the state of students and how they are affected by external factors.
2. Sexual education: the WG found that this topic is not taught everywhere so the WG proposes more cooperation with experts and external NGOs to achieve the highest quality of education on this topic. They collected good practices on this and democratic citizenship.
3. Sustainability: the WG agreed that it is an important topic but it's not enough touched upon in schools and curricula are outdated. It is fundamental to work more on this topic.
4. Marginalised groups: to work more for and with minorities as well to work more on decolonisation of education. Curricula should encompass objective history teaching and including women, lgbt people and other minorities in the topics.
5. Better enhancement of teaching and learning by providing teachers with more resources.

The **Chair** opens the discussion. There are no questions, therefore the Chair launches the vote for the approval of the Policy Paper.

There are 20 votes in favour.

The Policy Paper is adopted.



## **28. Vote on the proposal for a Policy Paper on Education Funding and Student Welfare**

The **Chair** gives the floor to the Board to present the Policy Paper on Education Funding and Student Welfare.

The Policy Paper comes from a previous case study of OBESSU and inputs from the Members. The core of the PP is accessible, quality and inclusive education. Free education is often a facade, because there are many hidden costs in free education such as book materials, meals and transportation and equipment that are needed to conduct your studies. There is also a social dimension that students need to access to be able to engage fully in their studies and is not always guaranteed.

The demands of OBESSU are divided into two levels: universal demands and direct actions. The structure of the demands is the same for all the areas, accommodation, material, meals, social and cultural life and transportation.

There is an amendment on the spot proposed by the Board. Pina sends the amendment.

The amendment is logistical and draws the attention to line 45 where there is a leftover note from the writing. The proposal is to remove the leftover.

**CNE** asks if the hidden cost of transport has been identified as the main one.

The **Board** replies that the most costly one is accommodation, but the data comes from a study of 2014 so it does not have much of a relevance. From 2014 transport became the first one.

The **Chair** calls for a vote on the amendment.

There are 20 votes in favour of the amendments, so it has been approved.

The **Chair** calls for a vote on the whole Policy Paper.

There are 20 votes in favour, therefore the Policy Paper on Education Funding and Student Welfare is approved.

## 29. Vote on expiring policy papers

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

The **Chair** explains that there are 4 Policy Papers expiring. The Board is asked to present them:

- Policy Paper on Minority Rights: the document was written not so long ago but it needs an in depth revision so the Board proposes to vote for the expiration because it's not in line with OBESSU values anymore. They propose to rework the Policy Paper or start working on a new one.
- Policy Paper on Quality Teaching: it was approved in 2020 and the Board proposes to renew it because it is still relevant for OBESSU's work.
- Policy Paper on Student Welfare: it might clash with the latest Policy Paper approved, but this one focuses more on general aspects of student welfare so they are quite independent from each other based on their content.
- Policy Paper on Education and Labour Market: it was approved in 2016, the Board suggests to renew it because it's still relevant and will be especially useful in 2023 which is the European Year of Skills.

**UDS** takes the floor to inform that UDS did not follow the policy work of OBESSU in the past year, therefore they will abstain, but they do not want to stop the organisation from moving forward.

The **Chair** opens the vote for the renewal of the following Policy Papers:

- Policy Paper on Minority Rights: 1 vote in favour, 16 votes against, 3 abstentions.

The Policy Paper on Minority Rights has not been renewed.

- Policy Paper on Quality of Teaching: 19 votes in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention.

The Policy Paper on Quality of Teaching has been renewed.

- Policy Paper on Student Welfare: 19 votes in favour, 0 votes against, 1 abstention.

The Policy Paper on Student Welfare has been renewed.

- Policy Paper on Education and the labour market: 16 votes in favour, 0 votes against, 4 abstentions.

The Policy Paper on Student Welfare has been renewed.

**CNE** asks if there will be more Working Groups to develop new policy papers.

The **Board** explains that there will be a Working Group on inclusivity to work on a new policy paper. The Board explains that any member can propose amendments to the Policy Papers during statutory events.

### **30. Vote on amendments to the Code of Conduct**

The **Chair** gives the floor to the Board to explain the amendments.

The Code of Conduct was approved a year ago, but it needs some improvements. The amendments concern improvements of small details to make it more specific and thorough.

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

**CSU** has a question about the relation between the bodies of OBESSU and Members. The point is affecting a lot of people between the Board, the PoT, the Secretariat and the Membership. CSU believes that it's not a matter of relationships but a matter of separating better the private lives of people. The CoC does not solve conflict of interests.

The **Board** highlights that the CoC is not set in stone and that there are grey zones. The point mentioned in this case is about sexual relations and the followed actions might depend on the case.

**CSU** thinks that conflicts of interest can also happen between friends and people who work closely.

The **Board** clarifies that the Code of Conduct is meant to prevent conflict of interest but it might not cover everything.

**CSU** answers that the problem might not be the root of the conflict but the fact that it is necessary to make clear personal and professional boundaries.

**EEO** proposes to make individual amendments in the future because it would be a pity to vote the whole document down when it's only a mild adjustment.

The **Board** replies that they will consider these comments.

**AKS** thinks that it is very important to have a conversation about the relationship between Board Members and other members of the Organisation as it is always complicated to tell people what they can do or what they cannot do and it's great that this conversation is starting to acknowledge the hierarchy between individuals according to their gender, race, etc.

The **Board** clarifies that the Code of Conduct is a guide and cannot control people and it's important to stress which things have a zero-tolerance policy.

**SLL** takes the floor to state that they have a child protection policy, but it does not include anything on how it interferes with OBESSU. SLL had cases of people attending OBESSU events and getting drunk. It is difficult for them to protect those people and to gain the trust from their parents if they don't have control over the OBESSU event.

**Giuseppina** takes the floor to explain that a few years ago OBESSU did not have any policy on these topics and there has been progress also taking into consideration the policies that Members have. OBESSU Safeguarding Policy is added as an annex to the parental consents. OBESSU also has a Risk Mitigation Policy that the Secretariat follows during the events, and it follows the regulation of the countries where OBESSU holds events. The idea is to have a Safeguarding Policy that doesn't infantilise people, but a rather balanced policy where all inputs are more than welcome.

**ASUBiH** asks if the mentioned documents can be shared.

**Giuseppina** agrees and asks to not share the documents outside of the Organisation as they contain sensible situations that might trigger some people.

**AKS** shares the fact that their organisation is very radical on sexual assault and asks if OBESSU oversees consequences for abusers and for those who align with abusers or do victim blaming.

**SLL** leaves the room to take the flight. The quorum changes as one Member Organisation leaves.

**Caridad** from the Board clarifies answering AKS that not in the Code of Conduct, as it is just a guide and not a punishment room. The repercussions can be agreed case by case.

**Anna** from the Board adds that the Code of Conduct doesn't directly mention specific repercussions, but it is in the core value of OBESSU to help Members in case of abuse.

**Giuseppina** clarifies that in case of infringements the participant(s) are sent home and their organisation will face repercussions. In some countries there is an obligation to report the facts to the parents or the police. OBESSU always asks the victims how they want to proceed.

**AKS** asks if the same repercussions apply for those who stand with abusers?

**Giuseppina** answers affirmatively.

**CSU** proposes to pause the long discussion for the moment and to have a collaborative session on expanding the Code of Conduct in a way that everyone can input.

**Caridad** from the Board clarifies that this document can always be amended and that Members can contact the Board to discuss changes.

The **Chair** opens the vote. There are now 19 Organisations with voting rights.

There are: 13 votes in favour, 2 votes against and 4 abstentions.

The amendment to the Code of Conduct has been approved.

## 31. Membership survey

**Eleonora** from the Secretariat gives an overview of the Membership survey. The inputs from the Membership have been mentioned several times during the COMEM and now it is the occasion to gather them. The survey is divided in different sections: contact, general satisfaction, Membership, shaping direction of OBESSU, policy and advocacy, communication, and finances.

Members have 40 minutes to fill in the survey.

After the survey, **MAKOSZ** takes the floor to point out that this is a good way to ask the MOs how the organisation is working and that the questions were appropriate.

**UNL** says that the questions were good but hard to answer and sometimes as organisations might not have an answer ready.

**Caridad** from the Board takes the floor to explain the discussion corners' times. The SO workshops will be shorter so they can focus on the student involvement Workshops.

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

**Carmen** from the Secretariat gives an overview of the events and activities that will take place in the next period.

Innovation Station is a project led by OBESSU. There was an Exchange Seminar in Brussels and we will be having discussions on digital learning where it is important to have student opinions. OBESSU will take the lead on policy recommendations to make classes more engaging with self-directed learning.

COYV (Co-Operation Youth Vote) is a project led by JEF Europe, of which OBESSU is a partner of. It aims at developing a study on how to engage students in elections and other school projects. There will be a Crash Course on civic education and an event during the European Youth Event in Strasbourg.

OBESSU will host a Study Session about ensuring democratic participation of youth and vote@16. The open call for participants will be sent soon.

There will be an open call for the Pool of Trainers. We are trying to mainstream the PoT and engage them in more activities.

EPIc: Empowering students participation in campaigning is a project that we applied for, but we don't know yet if it will be approved. It is a 19 months project on active participation that focuses on the European Parliamentary Elections that will take place in 2024. It will be divided into capacity building activities to equip students with tools to mobilise in their communities, and one on communication and campaigning. The main activities overseen are: a Training Course for International Officers (TCIO), a Summer School and 2 rounds of grants for Members to organise activities.

We will open a call for the new Working Group on inclusivity that aims at making OBESSU more inclusive.

The **Chair** launches the 3 discussion corners that will tackle: the European elections, vote@16 and inclusivity.

### **33. Discussion Corners**

There are some notes from the discussion corners.

Vote@16: they discussed what are the things they can do in their own countries. In some countries they have the right to vote@16. They talked about the Study Session; there is a big difference between the Member countries.

Inclusivity: participants realised that many things go under this umbrella so it's hard to settle on one, so they thought of different ways to approach the topic:

- Accessibility: infrastructure that can be more inclusive, that can allow for physical disabilities, mixed bathrooms, as well as facilitated methods for learning disabled people and better inclusivity for religious people.

- Curriculum: what kids are taught in school; sex education needs to be taught to improve inclusivity. In some countries, religious differences can become a big

barrier due to discrimination. The bureaucratic aspect such as the Code of Conduct in schools, for trans people to make the name changing process in school much easier, etc.

### **34. Self organised workshops on student engagement**

**UDS** and **AKS** proposed a joint self-organised workshop about the types of social activities we can implement that can engage people in social actions. Remote education made discussion on politics and policies more difficult, we need to restore the sociality needed for political discussions.

The workshop continues.

### **35. Urgent motions and resolutions**

There is an urgent resolution proposed by LMS co-sponsored by Estonian School Student Councils' Union – Eesti Õpilasesinduste Liit (ESCU), Confederación Estatal de Asociaciones de Estudiantes (CANAE) and Union der Schülerorganisationen CH / FL (USO) the URGENT RESOLUTION ON EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY AND DEMANDING ACTION REGARDING RUSSIA'S WAR ON UKRAINE.

The **Chair** explains the procedure, the delegates are going to vote on the urgency of the resolution by closed ballots. The Chair gives the floor to LMS to present the resolution.

**LMS** encourages the COMEM to vote on the urgency of the resolution. The last reaction of OBESSU came 6 months ago but the war is still ongoing and we need to send a strong message from OBESSU. We want to show support to Ukrainian students and demand quality education for the 2 million of them, give them the opportunity to study and pass their exams. We have to act now.

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

**TOS** states that some of the Ukrainian students have not been able to enter countries, some were forced to sleep in the streets, but during this season (winter) it is not possible to do this anymore, so we should act upon it and cooperate with other EU bodies.



**UNEL** states that it is really urgent, it is late now but they support the urgency.

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

The motion has passed as urgent with unanimity.

The **Chair** gives the floor to **LMS** to present the resolution in depth. The resolution contains the demands and condemnations of Russian actions against Ukraine. The resolution can be found [here](#).

**ESCU** clarifies that Ukrainian people should receive the right information to continue their school path. The safe space would be the school itself, not a special room. They should receive the same education as the other students in the countries, and they should receive help to overcome the trauma.

**Nadine** from the Board clarifies that the Board supports the motion and that they were involved in the conversation and the participative process. For future events and resolutions, there is the space to discuss important matters and reach out to the Board if members feel there is a gap in the work of the Board.

**UDS** recognises the urgency of the resolution, but it is important to generalise a bit more, and to recognise that there are very bad things happening in the world and we need to acknowledge the situation of other migrants, so the motion should be more generic.

**DGS** asks how OBESSU is going to make sure that this resolution will be implemented.

**Rares** from the Board explains that when the war started the Board had a deep conversation on how to tackle this matter. Indeed there are many conflicts going on in the world and we have to take into account the imprints of new colonisation, etc. However, if you look at the past OBESSU reactions, they are on global matters, but this is very much in line with our spirit as an european networks

**LMS** reacts to UDS saying that there was not enough time to tackle all the topics that are going on currently in the world, such as refugee's access to education, so they decided to focus on Ukraine.

**LMS** presents the 1st amendment to change the first line from crimes against humanity to war crimes because it is more accurate.

The second amendment: In cooperation with UNEL they are proposing to change line 41 - 43 .

The third amendment: 1.1 - change to add the dictionary definition of the word inhuman.

**AKS** asks why OBESSU should talk about this issue as we need to support refugees, to stand with women fighting in Iran, especially because the EU has failed to act on the refugee crisis to provide good refugee policies and we let people die so we need to hold our governments accountable.

**DGS** asks if OBESSU has already made statements on Ukraine.

**Rares** from the Board shares the documents that OBESSU has on the topic.

The **Chair** proposes to close the speaking list.

The speaking list is closed by acclamation.

**UDS** says they think we have to speak about topics that are close to us and we cannot speak about everything but refugees concern us as every day students try to get to our countries and they can't. UDS understands the urgency to talk about Ukraine and they think we should have another statement to underline our position about refugees in general. When politicians address the war in Ukraine they do it without being fair to other refugees.

**LMS** clarifies that previous OBESSU statements do not condemn the war and that they were written by the Board and not by member organisations, so they felt the need to add this.

The **Chair** proposes to vote on the amendments in bulk. This is approved by acclamation.

Amendments are approved by acclamation.

The **Chair** asks the Ballot Committee to proceed and count the votes for the amendments.

The amendments need the full majority to pass, as they are made on the spot.

There is one abstention. So the amendments did not pass.

**MNL** asks if the vote can be repeated because it was not clear that there was the need for unanimity.

The **Chair** approves the proposal and the vote is repeated. There are now 19 in favour of the amendments.

The two amendments have passed and we are now going to vote on the amended resolution.

The Chair launches the vote on the full amended resolution.

There are: 12 votes in favour, 0 against, 6 abstentions.

The resolution is adopted.

### **36. Any other business**

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

**Nadine** from the Board presents the SSSR Project. The Declaration on School Student Rights is a document that reflects the rights of school students. The process started in 2006, and in 2019 the Declaration was updated and renewed by the GA. Now, after COVID-19 so many things changed that we thought the Declaration needed another update. We organised national events, the Summer School, and we had a Coordination Team who helped organise the process.

**Nadine** explains that it is not enough to have the Declaration so we are creating a toolkit to explain to students how to implement it. We will be presenting the Declaration very soon. Round of applause for Nathan, Eleonora and Nadine for the work done.

The **Chair** gives the floor to Giuseppina to explain how to do the reimbursement.

The **Secretary General** explains how to fill in the form for the reimbursement.

There are many questions that Giuseppina answers.

The **Secretary General** says that there are two possible dates for the GA. The first option is the last weekend of June; the second is the second weekend of July, which seems more feasible for participants.

**LMS** says they would like to suggest the Board to renew the policy on refugees and migrant education. Resolution on infrastructure and educational buildings in Ukraine.

The **Board** says officially goodbye to Rares who is resigning from the position to join the European Youth Forum Board.

### **37. Closing of the COMEM**

The **Chair** officially closes the COMEM 2022.