Minutes: Board meeting Cluj-Napoca

Place: Cluj-Napoca, Belgium

Date: 8 November 2015

Chair: Giuseppina

Minute-taker: Oona

Present: Oona Heiska, Laufey María Jóhannsdóttir, Rūta Meškauskaitė, Brendan Power and Giuseppina Tucci (OBESSU Board), Rasmus Åberg (OBESSU Secretary General)

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

Point of the Agenda 1: Introduction and evaluation of Convention

The chair of the meeting went through the agenda for the day.

The board went around with personal updates.

The feedback from the *Convention of Welfare, Wellbeing and Social Autonomy for School Students* (taking place during the five days before this meeting) was very positive. It showed that the prep-team did a great job and the results will be interesting for the Working Group to work with. It was a very stressfull week for everyone but overall positive.

The board reminded itself about setting goals which are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely).

Point of the Agenda 2: 17Now

The board decided to discuss the campaign for 17th November (”17Now”).

<u>Where we are now?</u> The call is out in three languages, we have spread it to everywhere we could so far. Work needs to be put into getting internal and external signatures.

All board members are encouraged to get into contact with everyone they know, and also to contact our own contact member organisations. We should also consider contacting National Youth Councils.

As OBESSU we can start tweeting to people about what is happening and ask if people would sign the call. ESU should be encouraged to work more with the signatures, Giuseppina will contact them. A ”YFJ organisation screening” will be done by Oona. Ruta, Brendan and Laufey will take care of their countries and contacts. Giuseppina will forward the blank email to everyone. On the 11th of November the emails need to be sent to organisations. We will tell them to sign before the 14th.

What needs to be done:

- Contacting organisations;
- Social Media managing (Giuseppina and Giorgio will take care that new signatures are put on Facebook and Twitter);
- Brendan will draft a press release, Giuseppina will contact ESU about press contacts;
- Follow up plan – Oona (What to do with contacts, how to use the actions done, what will the result of the day be);
- Giorgio will be in charge of action coordination;
- 16th-17th 8.30 PM (eastern time, New York time) ”live tweeting” with Student Voice (American) – Laufey + Giuseppina.

We will get a spreadsheet to keep a track of what is happening. The Board report should be sent asap after the meeting so we can encourage MOs to sign.

Actual day options:

- Brussels-based organisations could maybe take a small time to take a common picture;
- Adressing CULT, Commission and Commissioner;
- Tweet storm @tibor (this it might be super difficult to organise, we will ask ESU what they think);

We will ask all the organisations to Tweet to an MEP, their own govermental figure on the day, so something like organising a type of a tweet storm. Also we will contact MEPs from CULT, asking Giorgio to put the contacts to them in a spreadsheet. The MEPs supporting would be a follow up process.

Point of the Agenda 3: Post-2015 Agenda

The Board reminded themselves of the revision of the UN millenium development goals. OBESSU has so far worked on the outside, UNESCO is organising a lot and ESU is very active in this. Giuseppina met with this group. Some European countries are below targets because of the economic crisis. We will create some concrete demands for this and these will be worked on. Next meeting will be in December. Advocacy is done a lot done at a national level, an advocacy toolkit is being worked on as well. Giuseppina will share what is going on and we could share what this is for the member organsiations. For example, we could make a video interview on this. The member organisations need to be informed about this. Giuseppina will ask if this is possible.

Point of the Agenda 4: Membership issues

The Board discussed how to reach out to ”their” member organisations, and how to gather as much information as possible.

The conclusion was that there are different ways of gathering information about the member organisations, and the Board decided to contact the member organisations after each Board meeting. There are guidelines from the previous Board for interviews/contact. Oona will make the guiding questions for interviews. Objectives: organised interviews, state from member organisations in a clear way, analysis of OBESSU, stimulating participation in OBESSU and keeping them updated to what the Board is doing, and also realise that Board members are tools for them to use.

Point of the Agenda 5: Development Strategy Review

The Board went through the different aspects of the 2015 - 2019 Development Strategy.

The Board reminded itself that there was an agreement to review the strategy every six months with the indicators established at a previous Board meeting.

If the Development Strategy is admended, it is hard to see the direction and it is hard to review the progress, which is important to be communicated.

The review should be sent out five days before the COMEM. Then the Board members should commit to taking initiative for brainstorming indicators. Oona will set a spreadsheet for this. 15th November will be the deadline for qualitative and quantitative indicators. First draft of this need to be done right after that date.

The Board did a priority exercise to prioritise the strategic objectives for the future work. The result is as follows.

2.5 *Increase Member Organisations’ sense of ownership* Is a clear top priority but not a ”working priority”. All the other priorities in some way have to do with this one.

The other priorities were as follows.

- 1.4 *Building the capacity of Member Organisations*
- 4.2 *Increase the multiplier effect of events*
- 2.4 *Funding diversifying*
- 2.3 *Keeping Secretariat capacity consistent*
- 3.2 *Establish better contacts with CULT committee*
- 1.1 *Balance the membership around Europe*

This will be used for the future work of OBESSU until the end of this Board’s mandate.

The Board members divided the preparation of action plan for each priority as follows.

- Giuseppina 1.4
- Brendan 2.3
- Oona 4.2
- Ruta 1.1
- Laufey 3.2

In addition, Rasmus will be responsible for 2.4, diversifying of funding.

Point of the Agenda 6: Letter from SLL

The Board got a letter from our Finnish member organisation SLL, as part of the COMEM preparations. The Board will first reply directly to SLL and then send out a reply with the COMEM mailing. The answers will be something along the lines of the following.

How will you evaluate the strategy and its execution? There are no mentions about the evaluation of the strategy and we would like to know how the board has thought about doing this.

Answer:

- We evaluated this already once, and this can be found in the GA 2015, we want to make this consistent;
- The 1st review is out and the second one will be out during the COMEM 2015;
- We will attach the first review to the email.

Talking about structures, the only structures mentioned in the development strategy are WG's and events.

Should we expect some development of other structures, like the board, MC and perhaps completely new structures that allow for a wider participation of the MO's in the functions of OBESSU?

Answer:

- The MC is found in the Development Strategy and their role is being discussed constantly by the MC and board;
- The role of the Board is defined in the Statutes and admendments can be made;
- We recognise a lack of information on the role of the Board, but we would also like to stress that the Development Strategy was not created by the Board, the member organisations were mostly shaping it;
- The "MOs Forum" is in the Workplan already, but not in the Development Strategy (the latter does not list all the areas to work but mentions how to strengthen the network);

- Also WGs are in the Workplan, as they change over time;
- The Board defines it work every year at the start of their mandate.

What are the concrete goals and actions that you have planned to take in order to develop the whole structure of OBESSU and not just of the two that are mentioned in the DS?

Answer:

- The Development Strategy is not a Workplan. The latter lists concrete actions, not the former.
- Could you maybe define this question as we were not sure what you meant by this?

In the Work Plan, there are practically no mentions of the board as an active structure. Is there a reason for this? What will the board do during 2015-2017? How will the board improve its transparency?

Anwer:

- This is partly a misunderstanding, caused by the fact that SLL has a different style of an Workplan than OBESSU. In the OBESSU Workplan, concrete actions for the various bodies of OBESSU are not listed explicitcly;
- We are aware of the problem that we have nothing written about the role of the Board;
- The Board is the body to make sure that the Workplan (and also what is listed in the Political Platform and various policy papers) is carried out;
- The Board actions are very varied and defined at different times;
- Exactly mentioning what we are doing until 2017 is very hard to say as half of the Board's mandate will end before this. We can, however, tell them what happen in 2016 according to the Workplan;
- The Board will continue to discuss the role of the Board and how to improve its transparancy;
- It should also be noted that the Board posts all the minutes online and shares the external representation trips on the website and social medias.

In addition, the Board will reply with a thank you for the questions and asking these. It is important to keep these discussions alive and the Board can certainly learn from it.

Oona will draft the letter on the basis of this, it is sent to SLL first and then to COMEM mailing.

Point of the Agenda 7: School Student Structure Development (SSSD)

OBESSU is currently representing only 22/47 CoE countries and there was a discussion on how to improve this number. The Board reminded itself about the shift towards internal work, discussed at earlier meetings. But the SSSD must also be worked on, mostly because of democracy and representativeness issues.

We have somehow been in contact with the following organisations.

- NSOA
- Riga
- SSUN
- SVEA
- SE
- Student Voice
- RDSM
- GSSUA
- LAKS
- JOB
- NVURUH

The Board discussed potential ways to reach out to these and other organisations.

- Events
- Study visits
- Their events
- Other networks
- Youth councils

In addition to the already existing organisations above, there are several countries with, as far as we know, do not have any established organisation.

- Montenegro
- Poland
- Azerbaijan
- Portugal
- Greece
- Croatia
- Albania
- Malta
- Russia
- Ukraine
- Turkey
- Macedonia
- Moldova
- Hungary

For these we can work in the above-mentioned ways, and we will soon have the Manual for School Students which will be an excellent tool for developing school student structures.

A short summary of the situation looks like this:

- NSOA – Invited to the *Convention*, could not make it. Maybe we should meet with them? They did not seem overly enthusiastic but we can still discuss with them.
- Riga – Need to be contacted a lot more.
- SSUN – Wait until December, email them more, invite them as a guest to COMEM? – Laufey will do this.
- Svea – not a priority.
- SE – Some scepticism, but could possibly be discussed with again.
- StuVoice – No replies, Brendan will contact them again (and ask for a meeting in connection with NSOA).
- RDSM – UDS has a hard relationship with them, until they contact us officially this will not be discussed further.
- GSSUA – Maybe we can ask the oldies if we can contact them again? How to get into contact is a problem – Giuseppina will contact them.
- LAKS – Not interested
- JOB – 17NOW request sent to them? – Laufey
- NVURUH – Not really working

Croatia – Anna Marie is working with school student development, wanted to get the Manual – we will send it to her to use there. Giuseppina will look into this as well as Macedonia.

Ruta will look into Poland and Riga.

Montenegro, Portugal and Albania will be kept in mind, Giorgio could email Youth Councils and google these organisations, making some research on what is happening and what can OBESSU do.

Point of the Agenda 8: Feedback from the Monitoring Committee (MC)

The Feedback from the MC was not very surprising. The Board noticed that the problems described by the MC are indeed true. The Board further accepted the feedback and appreciated the suggestions. This will be further discussed in a group Skype with the Board and MC.

Point of the Agenda 9: Secretariat and financial update

In general everything is going good. Estel's contract will end next summer and at the first Board meeting 2016 we will start planning for her successor.

Regarding the finances, according to the last financial projection we will be fine in the end of the year, with a small surplus. We saved plently of money by getting parts of the *Convention* sponsored, and the COMEM will be very cheap.

For the 2016 activities, we should be able to finance all the activities in the Workplan. The Study Session is confirmed and so is the "EYF Work Plan", which includes a trainer for trainers and the Summer School. For the Summer School, ISSU has applied for money which will hopefully cover the 1/3 of the costs not covered by the EYF. For the *Convention: Education and*

Work, we have submitted an application and are waiting for the results. For *School Methods 2020* we have not applied yet. The Secretariat is looking into different sources of funding for this.

The Board had a discussion on fundraising, to try getting more money and more diverse funding for OBESSU. Rasmus will come up with an action plan for this.

Point of the Agenda 10: COMEM update

When we get back from Cluj, work on the COMEM will happen. We will stay at a school to save money. Everyone should bring mattresses if possible. We should maybe write in the email that participants should bring matresses and/or contact DGS, LH and EEO about borrowing mattresses. The participants have been told that Sunday evening or Monday morning will be the travel day back.

We are going to have a world cafe with the topics entrepreneurship education, ICT, migration and the Paris Declaration. Rasmus will make a short description for these for participants.

All the member organisations will have a very short presentation of what is going on in ther organisations. The maximum will be 3 minutes and they will be informed about this in advance.

The task division for the COMEM will be:

- Development strategy review – Oona
- Priority explanation – Pina
- Board report – Laufey + Brendan
- Official letter for SLL – Oona

For the world cafe, the task division will be:

- ICT – Oona
- Entrepreneurship education – Laufey
- Migration – Pina
- Paris Declaration – Ruta

The deadline for the Board Report and the Development Strategy is 25th November 12:00. The sessions will be done no later than 30th November.

For the pre-COMEM Board meeting, the travel day will be Wednesday and the meeting will start on Thursday. Giuseppina will arrive later. Travel back will be Sunday evening or Monday morning.

Point of the Agenda 11: ECVET update

Ruta recently participated in the ECVET (European Credit system for Vocational Training) Forum. In addition, OBESSU is invited to be part of a Users' Group, which is a more political body than the Forum is. Preferably there should be one person who is the point of contact and who goes to all or most of the meetings.

The Board discussed whether to join the Users' Group at all. OBESSU has the skills and expertise for this and can probably contribute to the meetings and it is also in line with the Development Strategy to join. Next meeting is in Brussels in December.

The Users' Group is more political to steer this. We need one person for this. The next meeting is in December. The board discussed the importance of being in this group. We have the skills and expertise for this and we can contribute for these meetings.

> Decision: OBESSU will join the Users' Group. Laufey will be OBESSU's representative. Rasmus will communicate this to the ECVET Team.

Point of the Agenda 12: LLL-P Memorandum

The LLL-P (former EUCIS-LLL) has a draft Memorandum out for comments by its members. The Board planned to have a working session on the Memorandum at this meeting, but in the end there was not time for it.

> Decision: Giuseppina will look at the draft and make some comments. She will send these to the Board and to Dani (in the LLL-P Steering Committee).

Point of the Agenda 13: Update on the Manual for School Students

The Working Group will end its mandate soon and has now reached the proofreading process. Materials will be done soon and presented at the COMEM (at least the outline + some content + graphics). After COMEM we will look at the budget if we have money to print it and in January the manual will hopefully be out. We will print around 100 copies, using crowdfunding as a tool.

Point of the Agenda 14: Pact on Youth

CRS Europe has invited OBESSU to join the Pact on Youth. Since the original text was not in line with OBESSU's views, OBESSU sent some amendment proposals to CSR Europe and a few days ago we got a new updated text. The proposed admendments were not sufficiently taken onboard, so OBESSU will not support it. The Youth Forum has also been invited to join and looking at the situation, OBESSU understands if they will sign it. Giuseppina will communicate this to CSR Europe and Rasmus will continue the discussion with Dejan.

OBESSU will still go to the event on the 16-17th November. Laufey will represent OBESSU and bring critical comments.

Point of the Agenda 15: External representation

- ACVT, 17th-18th December, Brussels. Brendan will go.
- Geneva youth rights event, 7th December. OBESSU will not go there.
- "PISA event", 15th January, Luxembourg. Laufey will go.

Point of the Agenda 16: Overview and planning of 2016

Curricula 2.0 Campaign

- For this, OBESSU will start an ad hoc Working Group;
- Somehow we will connect it to the *School Methods 2020* event'
- Oona + Laufey will be in charge of this.

Educational reforms – Working Group

- The WG will outline what actions have been done by member organisations;
- The WG will also look at research;
- It will map tendencies and patterns in Europe;
- It will share best-practices how to look at reform processes;
- It will look at how school students participate in educational reforms;
- It will, if possible, produce data from case studies;
- The call will open 1st December and deadline will be 15th December.
- The Secretariat will make a draft. Brendan and Ruta will look through it.

Study session

The call for prep-team members will go out soon. The team will be composed of Estel, Ida (from the Pool of Trainers), one Board member and two member organisations activists.

Summer School

The dates are not decided yet. We will wait with this until we get the result from the Irish National Agency.

Convention: Education and Work

Ruta will be the boardie in charge.

Point of the Agenda 17: European Youth Event (EYE)

The EYE will take place in Strasbourg in May 2016. Rasmus recently went to the EYE prep-meeting and the overall feeling is good. OBESSU will have an event with the VET Working Group but we have space for another small event too. Possible solutions were discussed.

> Decision: We will have the launch of the (physical version of) the Manual for School Students. There will be plenty of possibilities to get lots of publicity in Strasbourg.

Rasmus will look into the practical details. Giuseppina and Rasmus will discuss with the Working Group.

Point of the Agenda 18: Campaign for recognition of exchange year.

The two mobility organisations EEE-YFU and EFIL are launching a campaign to increase the recognition of intra-European secondary school exchange years. They have asked OBESSU to join the campaign. OBESSU shares the ideals behind the campaign but the topic is not a priority.

Decision: OBESSU will support the campaign officially, but not take an active part in it.

Point of the Agenda 19: Resolutions for the Youth Forum COMEM

For the upcoming European Youth Forum COMEM, the proposed resolutions will be discussed and amended in advance. Comments and proposals can be made in an online system. The Board was planning to look at them at this meeting, but ran out of time.

Decision: Rasmus will prepare online documents of the proposed resolutions and share with the Board and with Dejan.

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