



The European Students' Union (ESU)

*“Representing students
since 1982”*

Martina Darmanin
President

Conference of Central Asian Ministers of
Education, Kazakhstan (Online)
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About the European Students' Union (ESU)

- Founded in 1982, ESU is now the umbrella organisation of **45 National Unions of Students (NUS)** from **40 different countries**. Through its members, ESU represents almost **20 million students in Europe**
- Our **mission** is to represent, defend and strengthen students' educational, democratic and political and social rights. ESU will work for **sustainable, accessible and high quality higher education in Europe**.
- Our members are student-run, autonomous, representative and **operate according to democratic principles**. They are open to all students in their respective country regardless of political persuasion, religion, ethnic or cultural origin, sexual orientation or **social standing**.

What makes ESU?

- **Legislative Body: Board Meeting (BM)**

- The highest decision making body in ESU.
- Each country has 2 votes which are held by the respective national union(s) of students.

- **Executive Body: Executive Committee (EC)**

- The Executive Committee is responsible for the execution of the decisions of the Board Meeting and its political affairs.
- Elected by the Board Meeting for the term of one year, re-elections are possible.

- **Secretariat**

- Employed personnel in Brussels such as Head of Secretariat, Financial Officer, a Project Manager and Officers, Communications Officer and Executive Assistant. Work alongside 3 full time presidency members.

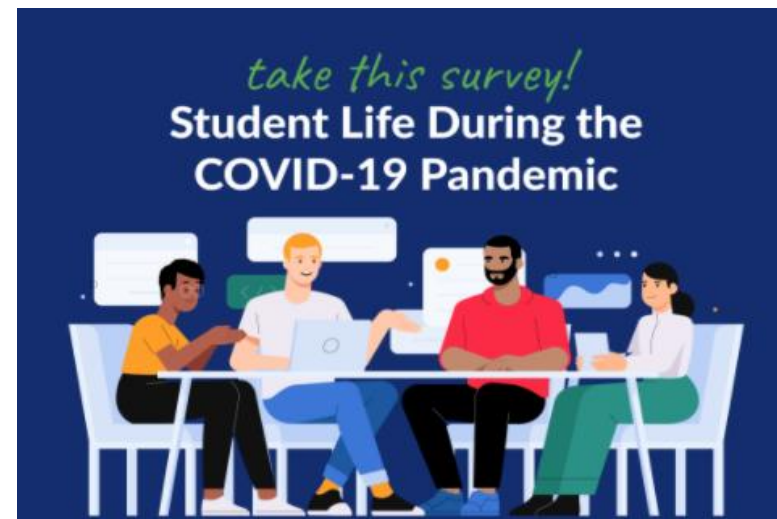
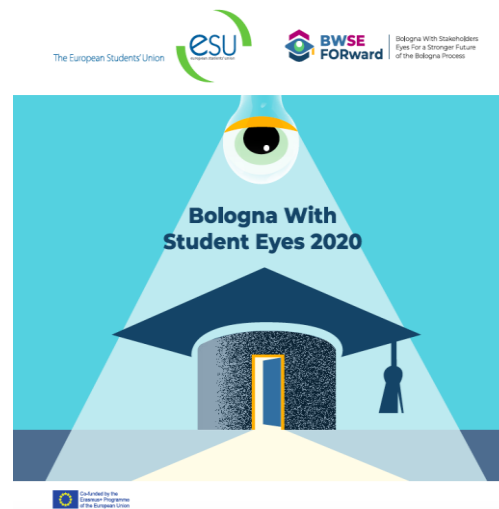
ESU's main working areas

- **Social Dimension:** Access and student support services
- **Public Responsibility, Funding and Governance:** Academic freedom, Student Participation, Sustainability and Community Engagement
- **Quality and transparency:** innovative structural reforms, Quality Assurance, Student Centred-Learning (digital transition)
- **Mobility and internationalisation:** European and Global engagement

What does ESU do?



- European-wide research and policy development
- Project Coordination (<https://www.esu-online.org/projects/>)
- Advocacy and Representation



Advocacy and Representation

- **European level:**

- European Higher Education Area (EHEA)
- European Commission & Parliament
- Council of Europe
- Partners: ENQA, EUA, LLLP, ESN..

- **Global level:**

- UNESCO
- GSF

- **National level:**

- Higher Education Ministries
- Rectors' Conferences (Regional)
- NUSes
- National quality assurance agencies
- ENIC/ NARICs

- **Institutional level:**

- Senate / Councils / Board / Administration
- Local student unions

Recent Activities



- **Bologna With Stakeholders Eyes (Project and Publication)**
- **COVID-19 impact on student life and well being (Study)**
- **Call for ESU's Quality Assurance (QA) Student Experts' Pool (Capacity Building)**
- **Calling for the release of detained Belarusian student activists (Advocacy)**
- **Cooperation with the Global Student Forum (Advocacy)**

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The European Students' Union

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THANK YOU!
