



Board Meeting 65

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Authors: Elin Blomqvist
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VOTE FOR EDUCATION – MANIFESTO

The European Students’ Union (ESU) states that higher education is a public good and a public responsibility. It is an inalienable right of all people residing on European territory. Education is a core institution of our society and one of the main pillars of modern civilisation. It plays a central role in social and economic development, democratic empowerment and the advancement of the general well-being of societies.

Students around Europe have joined forces for this common manifesto.

Dear candidate, by signing the manifesto, the European Students’ Union will acknowledge you as a higher-education-friendly candidate and you will be recognised as such on our campaign website.

1. The financial crisis is not an excuse for cuts in education! Free education, public funding and student support must be provided to ensure genuinely equal access to and support during education - regardless of background. I pledge to keep education free from austerity measures.

27 2. The independent work of students and youth improves
28 participation in society and promotes active citizenship.
29 European student and youth organisations' work must be
30 supported in the EU's budget with both operational grants
31 and project grants. I pledge to preserve the operational
32 grants for student and youth organisations in the EU's
33 budget.

34
35 3. Mobility and cooperation is the foundation of a successful
36 Europe, and must be a possibility for all European students.
37 ERASMUS+ is the flagship mobility programme of the
38 European Union. I pledge to work for a solid and stable
39 funding of the programme and increased grants for mobility.

40
41 4. Europe is multicultural and diverse. A racist society limits
42 resources and threatens the security and well-being of the
43 population. I pledge to condemn any form of racism,
44 discrimination and hate speech.

45
46 5. Graduates' unemployment is a European problem and needs
47 collective actions. Higher education is a vital element of the
48 economic recovery underway in Europe, and essential for
49 societal development. All European graduates should have
50 the opportunity to find decent and relevant work within
51 their respective field. I pledge to raise awareness on the
52 issue, to work for sustainable job creation in Europe.

53
54 6. I pledge to ensure a broad and critical evaluation of the
55 ERASMUS+ loan guarantee facility for Master's students
56 before 2018, paying special attention to the long-term social
57 effects of the loan scheme. The European Students' Union

58 must be a key stakeholder in that evaluation.

59
60 7. International students are major contributors to the quality
61 of higher education. European higher education and
62 European society gain valuable perspectives from students
63 from outside EU/EEA-countries. However, they often face
64 discrimination, in particular in the form of higher tuition
65 fees. I pledge to ensure equal treatment of third-country
66 nationals, and to improve and facilitate visa and residence
67 permit procedures for students and researchers.

68
69 8. The European Union was founded on the inherent and
70 absolute values of freedom, liberty and equality. I pledge to
71 defend and uphold the equitable treatment of all people,
72 and support all legislation aiming to increase the
73 representation in higher education, of people from an
74 underrepresented or a minority background.

75
76 9. I pledge to work for increased transparency of how decisions
77 concerning higher education are made. Students have to be
78 an equal partner in the decision making process. I pledge to
79 work on “establishing a continued dialogue with student
80 representatives and to support the free participation of
81 students in every decision concerning students and higher
82 education”.

83
84 10. Education is not a commodity! I pledge to oppose
85 policies and language that reduces higher education to a
86 mere resource to be traded and acknowledge the
87 multifaceted purpose of higher education.