

toolkit

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' DAY 2015

Hereafter you will have some tips and ideas on what to do on the **International Students' Day** connected with the topic "**Free to learn, free to move**". These are only some ideas and we know well that an idea, in order to become an action needs to be based on a context and a target and we hope you will identify yours and that we share this fundamental day globally.

When preparing and putting in place your activities don't forget to use the **#17now** hashtag as well as the hashtag **#free2** completed with your personal or your organisation's demand on what students should be free to do.

If you planned or are planning any action for the International Students' Day you can email 17now@obessu.org and together we can give it much more visibility, and also to widen this toolkit with the different global ideas and ways to face such important day.

Mobilising actions

Demonstrations

A demonstration is a way of expressing a strong opinion taking the streets, the squares or doing any other mass gathering in a peaceful way. Demos are still very linked to cultural and national contexts and therefore it is hard to give the "how" in a toolkit, but we will give some tips on the questions an organisation might want to ask themselves when organising a demonstration.

- Is the demonstration necessary and demanded by students?
- Are the topics shared with the students?
- Are the practices and tools decided in a democratic way?
- Do we need an authorisation from the local government or public authorities? Do we want it? If not, are all the participants aware of what could happen and do they agree?
- Did we involve different organisations in shaping the demonstration?
- What exactly do we want to achieve (e.g. a discussion with the government, the withdrawal of a law, a new law etc.)?
- Do we have a follow-up plan not to let participation fall in the black hole?
- Are we ready and do we want to negotiate?

Media action

Not willing to organise a mobilisation but you want to make people aware of the topic you are fighting for? Think about a possible impact action (e.g. a flashmob) that you can put in place to raise awareness in your local context.

A media action should be:

1. Of visual impact
2. Catchy for people and for media
3. It should give you the possibility to show but also to talk and raise awareness on the issue

When preparing, keep in mind to:

1. Alert the media and prepare a press release
2. Take pictures and make it viral
3. Decide your target (e.g. the place where you want to do it) and your objective

Other forms of media actions are tweetstorms, “mailbombing”, hashtag trending, photo-petitions and petitions. (e.g. you can organise a tweetstorm @yourministryofeducation and ask people to tweet their #free2 on the 17th November at 1.00 PM).

Solidarity actions

Be helpful!

Gather what is needed in your schools and universities.

- 1) Ask people to donate books, school materials or primary necessity goods.
- 2) Collect them and make them available for those who need them.
- 3) Actively donate them to communities who need them.

Storytelling

Sharing personal stories is important to get to know each other and understand differences and similarities. We are always afraid of what we don't know: knowledge is power!

- 1) Ask people of migrant background to tell their stories in public
- 2) Invite them to a public discussion in your school, university or in a public space
- 3) Gather as many people as possible!

If you cannot have some real-life story, organising debates and discussions in your school or university is also an opportunity to create dialogue in your own community.

We are all migrants

Think about how freedom of movement has been fundamental for your life. Maybe you moved to study what you like; maybe one of your parents moved to be with the other one; maybe one of your grandparents met the other one while travelling for other reasons; maybe you dream about moving somewhere else; maybe you did a trip that changed your life; or maybe you fled your country to survive.

- 1) Print as many world maps as you can.
- 2) Ask people to choose a colour and use it to draw a line between the place where they were born and all other places that are important for their own lives or their family's history.
- 3) Put all this colourful world maps on the walls of your school or university

We wouldn't be us if we weren't free to move.
