



# Some initiatives for a more inclusive, diverse and equal higher education

By The European  
Students Union



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[A brief introduction on  
ESU's practices and  
actions in terms of  
inclusion, diversity and  
equity]

1

The European Students' Union

2

Together Moving Forward

3

An inclusive ERASMUS+ Programme

4

Workplan Project and Mental Health

# 1. The European Students' Union

- **Aim:** *The aim of ESU is to **represent and promote the educational, social, economic and cultural interests of students** at the European level towards all relevant bodies*
- **Values:** Democracy, diversity, inclusion, independence, forward-looking
- **Members:** 45 National Unions of Students from 39 countries. All respect our values.

## 2. Together Moving Forward

- **Since 2016**
- **What?** building positive refugee-host interactions across Europe, inclusion of young refugees in education and society



## 2. Together Moving Forward

- **Objectives:**

- Reshape **public discourse** around forced migration and **confront hate speech** in our societies
- Inspire **student-led initiatives** addressing refugees' and asylum seekers' living conditions and not least their access to education
- **Build capacity for student representatives**
- **Empower** National Student Unions to promote and advocate for **clear policies**
- **Build long-lasting links** between refugees, their communities, and student communities



## 2. Together Moving Forward

- **How?**
  - Capacity building seminars
  - Co-funding of projects/grants programme
  - Since 2016: **33 projects funded at different levels**
  - Task Force: developing a **guidelines and good practices handbook** (students, refugees...)
  - Influence on ESU's advocacy work and expertise: **making a change!**

## 2. Together Moving Forward





## 2. Together Moving Forward



### 3. An inclusive ERASMUS+ Programme

- Position paper of ESU on ERASMUS: **advocacy for a better inclusion of marginalized groups**
- **Advocacy during the new regulation consultations**
- **Plan of work for the implementation phase**
- **Work with other stakeholders**
- Led to specific work and research on **students with disabilities**

### 3. An inclusive ERASMUS+ Programme

#### STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION



Only 15% of disabled people attaining  
a higher education level\*



Only 24% of people aged 30-34 having  
a disability have graduated\*

## 4. Workplan Project



- « Social Inclusion Through Participation and Democracy – promoting active citizenship in the European student movement »
- Funded by the Council of Europe and the European Youth Foundation
- Capacity building for students representatives
- Spreading the knowledge at home

## 4. Workplan Project

- 3 seminars:
  - Democratisation and youth participation
  - Migration
  - Mental Health
- First step in tackling Mental Health in Higher Education
- Training of students representative on the issue, but also giving them the keys to advocate for a better approach
- Main challenges: stigma, lack of knowledge, lack of funding, lack of awareness



## 4. Workplan Project

- Next steps for ESU and its members
  - Continue raising awareness
  - Mental Health Charter
  - Tackle the stigma
  - Projects
  - Events

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ANY QUESTIONS?

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THANK YOU!

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The European Students' Union

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