Call for participants for the Study Session
A.P.A.C. - Active Participation Against Cyberbullying

Strasbourg (France), from the 22\textsuperscript{nd} to the 29\textsuperscript{th} of April 2018
In co-operation with the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg

Deadline for applications: 12\textsuperscript{th} of March 2018\textsuperscript{1}

Link to the online application form:
https://goo.gl/forms/G07fQr3NpHiWxdD62

Background of the project:

"Equality and Diversity in Education" is one of the main pillars of OBESSU work. As it is stated in OBESSU Political Platform (the main reference document for OBESSU work):

"A good social climate in which everyone feels welcome and respected is a prerequisite for learning and personal development. Sadly, bullying is usually part of every school community, as it takes different forms".

Nowadays, the most common form of bullying in the online one, the cyberbullying. OBESSU, in its work for improving the life of school students, also beyond the school environment itself, has identified cyberbullying (and the online hate speech in general) as one of the main threats to school students’ rights and well-being, and in general to their human rights. This is the main reason why OBESSU included this topic in the next Work Plan 2018-2020.

If anti-bullying has always been an important aspect of OBESSU work, this new form, the cyberbullying, is a new topic that OBESSU decided to tackle. That is why it is so important for OBESSU to frame its initiatives on this topic with the work done so far by the Council of Europe. This Study Session will be a great opportunity for OBESSU and its member, candidate and Affiliate Organisations to deepen their knowledge on these main aspects of bullying, to place them in a bigger Human Rights framework, to share best practices and experience, and to shape new advocating initiatives to combat online hate speech and cyberbullying.

The Study Session "A.P.A.C. - Active Participation Against Cyberbullying" will take place in Strasbourg (France), from the 22\textsuperscript{nd} to the 29\textsuperscript{th} of April 2018 (including travel days), bringing together 34 young people active in school student unions from all over Europe.

The main aim of the Study Session is to foster active participation of school students and their unions as multipliers in advocating for online human rights and democratic citizenship.

The specific objectives are:

\textsuperscript{1} For participants that need visa for France, please consider that the deadline will be on the 5\textsuperscript{th} of March, due to technical request from the Youth Department of the Council of Europe.
To understand the concepts of "online hate speech" and "cyberbullying", the human rights framework, and the work done by the Council of Europe in this field.

To analyse the reality and the initiatives undertaken in different European countries, to combat online hate speech and cyberbullying at school.

To explore the role school students and school student unions can have and the tools they can use in modelling and promoting human rights online and offline.

To provide participants with new skills and competences to become "online activists" against online hate speech and cyberbullying.

To design future initiatives to be implemented at local, regional, national and international level, aimed at promoting human rights and combating (removed: online) hate speech and cyberbullying at school.

The call:

OBESSU is looking for 1 or 2 participants from each Member, Candidate and Affiliate Organisation.

The selected participant will be expected to:

- Be aged 16-21 (if outside of this range, please contact secretariat);
- Be a school student and / or a person actively involved in the activities of the union;
- Show previous experience or demonstrate interest in the topic of the Study Session;
- Be able to follow-up the Study Session with his/her organisation, school, etc.;
- Be committed to do small amount of preparation ahead of the event;
- Be able to fully attend the event;
- Have at least a basic level of English.

If your sending organisation is nominating two representatives, please ensure gender diversity.

If there will be more applications form than spots, selection will be made based on the applications received, and on additional criteria to ensure gender and geographical diversity in the group.

The dates:

The Study Session “A.P.A.C. - Active Participation Against Cyberbullying” will take place in Strasbourg (France), from the 22nd to the 29th of April 2018 (including travel days).

How to apply?

In order to apply, you have to fill the online application form and send to OBESSU the “Nomination letter” from your home organisation by email to secretariat@obessu.org.

In case you are under 18 years old, you have also to send the “Parental Consent” form to secretariat@obessu.org.

Costs:

Accommodation, meals and activity costs are fully covered. For the travel costs, the reference price for each participant is €350. Visa costs are also fully covered. Travel costs will be reimbursed on the spot in cash by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe. There is a participation fee of €50.

Please, read carefully this document on the financial arrangements for participants in Study Sessions, in order to be sure you fully understand the rules for the travel costs and the reimbursement.
If you have any question/doubt, or would like some more information, please contact the OBESSU Secretariat at secretariat@obessu.org.

The Study Session is organized in cooperation with:

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**OBESSU**

The Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions is a platform for cooperation between national school student unions active in general secondary and secondary vocational education in Europe. Founded in April 1975 in Dublin, it brings together independent, national, representative and democratic school student organisations from all over Europe. OBESSU’s objectives are:

- To represent the views of school students in Europe towards the different educational institutions and platforms;
- To uphold and improve the quality and accessibility of education and educational democracy in Europe;
- To provide assistance and support to national school student unions and co-operate for the development of school student structures;
- To promote greater solidarity, cooperation and understanding among school students and to put an end to discrimination and injustice where they exist within the educational systems in Europe;
- To promote innovative teaching methods.

OBESSU’s work is based on its Statutes, Work Plan and the Political Platform. All activities are carried out with non-formal learning methods.