

OBESSU General Assembly 2021

19 – 20th June 2021, online on ZOOM

1. Opening of the GA at 10:30am CEST
2. Election of the Chairperson
3. Election of the minute-takers
4. Election of the Ballot Committee
5. Adoption of the internal regulations
6. Legality of the General Assembly and adoption of the agenda
7. Voting on speaking rights of Affiliate Organisations and guests
8. Voting right for Member Organisations failing to pay the Annual Financial Contribution
9. Presentation from COMEM
10. Adoption of minutes from the COMEM 2020
11. Election of the Rapporteur of the GA
12. Board report
13. Parallel discussion corners: CoFoE and Covid -19 advocacy
14. Report of the Monitoring Committee
15. Report of the WG on Education Funding and Reforms
16. Vote on received Membership applications
17. Roll call and quorum recall
18. Report of the Secretary General
19. Presentation and vote on the 2020 Financial Report and the 2021 Forecast budget
20. Parallel discussion corners: Advocacy Strategy / Code of Conduct
21. Vote of trust to the Secretary General
22. Announcements preceding day 2 and closing of day 1
23. Official opening of day 2, roll call and quorum confirmation
24. Parallel discussion corners: Role of the Board and SG / Membership engagement
25. Report from the Covid-19 taskforce
26. Report from the Taskforce on Decolonising Education
27. Report from the Pool of Trainers

28. Discussion Corner on Annual Financial Contribution
29. Roll call and quorum recall
30. Vote on expiring policy papers
31. Panel discussion: how OBESSU influences external organisations
32. Vote on Annual Financial Contribution 2021
33. Elections of the Board
34. Elections of the Monitoring Committee
35. Urgent motions and resolutions
36. Any other business
37. Closing of the General Assembly

1. Opening of the GA at 10:30am CEST

Bicca from the Board welcomes everyone to the GA.

Juanma from the Secretariat explains the main functionalities of Zoom, the online platform for the GA, and the online etiquette to follow during the GA.

Roll Call: AKS, ASuBih (not present), BSK, CANAE, CEF, CNE, CSU, DGS, DOS, EEO, ESCU (not present), FSS, ISSU (not present), KYC (not present), LH (not present), LMS, MAKOSZ, NSoA (not present), OSCU, RSM, SAKKI, SIF (not present), SLL, SUS (not present), SVB (not present), TOS (not present), UDS (not present), UEM, UNEL, UNL (not present), UNSS, USO (not present).

There are 20 Organisations present.

The **Secretary General** reminds everyone in the room to either unmute their microphones or write in the chat when their Organisation is called.

2. Election of the Chairperson

Bicca from the Board presents the Chairperson. We have 2 chairs: on day 1 the GA is chaired by Anna Widegren, former OBESSU Secretariat Member while on day 2 the GA is chaired by Ela Jakubek-Grootjans, former OBESSU Secretary General.

Bicca asks whether there is any active opposition.

There is no active opposition.

Anna and **Ela** are elected Chairs of the GA 2021.

Bicca gives the floor to Anna to introduce herself.

Anna explains that she came to Brussels around 10 years ago for OBESSU, where she worked as Policy Officer. Since OBESSU, she worked in various NGOs in Brussels promoting human rights. For a while in ESU, Secretary General of YFJ and working now in the European network towards ending Female Genital Mutilation.

Anna opens the floor for questions.

There are no questions.

Anna is elected Chair of day 1 of the GA.

3. Election of the minute-takers

The **Board** proposes María, Juanma and Eleonora from the Secretariat to be the minute takers.

The **Chair** opens the floor for active opposition.

There is no active opposition.

Juanma, María and **Eleonora** are elected minute-takers for the GA.

4. Election of the Ballot Committee

The **Chair** explains what the Ballot Committee is, specifies that we need 3 people to be on this committee and encourages Extra Delegates to be part of the BC, as they don't have to participate in voting.

The **Chair** explains that the BC will be joining a breakout room every time there is a closed ballot to check with the SG and the MC that all the voting is correct.

The **Chair** opens the floor for candidates to the Ballot Committee.

Matvei from SAKKI volunteers to be in the BC.

The **Chair** proposes Anna from ASUBiH to be part of the BC.

The **Chair** proposes Romane from CEF to be part of the BC.

There is no active opposition.

Matvei, Anna and **Romane** are appointed BC of the GA 2021.

5. Adoption of the internal regulations

Anna presents the internal regulations. It is important to stress the following matters:

- Every Member Organisation has the right to one vote, expressed through their Official Delegate. Extra Delegates cannot vote. Should the OD need to give the right to vote to their ED they need to write this in the chat.
- Candidates and Members automatically have the right to speak. Affiliate Organisations need to receive the right to speak by a vote.

DISCUSSIONS

- Discussions are launched by the Chair. The Chair can set a speaking time. You can ask for the word by using the "raise hand button" - the Chair to explain how this is done.
- Direct reply: Direct reply can be given only in case of false information and should be requested by writing V in the chat.
- If someone doesn't have the microphone, they should send their comments to the chair
- If the Chair feels like the point for discussion has been covered extensively, they or anyone in the room can ask for the speaking list to be closed. When someone asks for the SL to be closed, the chair asks if there's any active opposition before asking organisations that want to speak to still be put on the SL.
- The chat should be used for technical questions and general remarks
- You can ask for a break by using the sign (**Anna** explains how to do it) or by writing in the chat. There will be a 5 min every one hour and longer coffee breaks and lunch break.

VOTING

- Voting can be done by active opposition, polling or closed ballot on Election runner. If one organisation asks for the voting to be closed this will be done via closed ballot.
- Questions on the voting need to be asked before the voting is open, otherwise they won't be considered a ground for contesting voting.
- If one organisation demands a re-counting this can be done only by challenging the ballot committee or the voting procedure for all closed ballots.
- Majority for all voting except for the statutes is 50%+1. When counting a simple **majority, abstentions are not counted into the quorum.** E.g. if there's 30 votes cast out of which 10 abstentions, the valid votes will be 20 and therefore the quorum will be 11.
- For the statutes, which require a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority, all votes - including abstentions - are counted.
- For the majority to be valid, at least half of the MOs need to be for or against.
- If there's an amendment to a proposal, this will be voted before the proposal itself.
- Once a proposal has been accepted or rejected, the discussion will not be reopened.
- Changes on the spot are not possible during this GA.
- For the election of persons a majority of all casted votes need to be reached. Abstentions are considered casted. If the absolute majority is not obtained by any of the candidates, a vote is cast again. If one person reaches the majority, and the others don't, there will not be a second vote. If everyone gets a majority, but 2 people have the same amount of votes lower than the 3rd person, there will be a second vote between these 2 people.

The **Chair** opens the floor for questions.

There are no questions.

The **Chair** asks whether there is any active opposition.

There is no active opposition.

The internal regulations of OBESSU GA 2021 are adopted.

6. Legality of the General Assembly and adoption of the agenda

The **Chair** presents the agenda and explains that no major changes can be made to the agenda because of the nature of this GA.

The **Chair** introduces the deadlines of the GA:

- 20th April: invitation to the GA. Call for proposals and Board plus MC candidates sent out to Member, Candidate and Affiliate Organisations;
- 15th May: deadline for proposals (amendments, policy papers, resolutions from MOs, proposals from the Board etc.) 20th May: received proposals will be sent to MOs;
- 29th May: deadline for candidates to the Board and Monitoring Committee to submit the documents;
- 4th June: documents of the Board & MC candidates will be sent out;
- 9th June: 2nd deadline for amendments to the proposals;
- 10th June: new deadline for Board and MC candidates
- 14th June: last GA mailing with 2nd round of amendments sent out;
- 19th June: first day of the GA.

All deadlines have been respected therefore the GA is considered legal.

The **Chair** explains the agenda of the GA.

The **Chair** asks whether there is any active opposition to the agenda of the GA.

There is no active opposition.

The agenda of the GA is adopted.

7. Voting on speaking rights of Affiliate Organisations and guests

The **Chair** explains that Affiliate Organisations need to receive the right to speak from the Members because it is not automatic. The AOs present are **SVB** - Germany and **KYC** - Kosovo. The chair asks them to quickly present themselves and explain why they want the right to speak.

The Chair then proceeds to introduce guests to give them the right to speak.

- Miriam Weber, Member of the POT to present the PoT Report
- Giuseppe Lipari, Steering Committee @ Global Student Forum
- Sara Finnbogadottir, Advisory Council of Youth

(the above 3 people come for a small roundtable discussion on the impact of OBESSU in other organisations)

The vote to grant the right to speak to affiliates and guests is done through **active opposition**.

There is no active opposition, so all the affiliates and the guests have the right to speak.

8. Voting Right for Member Organisations failing to pay the Annual Financial Contribution

The Member Organisations failing to pay the Annual Financial Contribution are: **CSU** from Czech Republic, **UDS** from Italy and **UNSS** from Serbia.

1. The **Chair** gives the floor to each organisation to explain the situation and opens the floor for questions and comments.

CSU takes the floor and explains that the financial situation for CSU was not easy during the year and despite the efforts of the actual and previous international officers, unfortunately the accountancy of the year is not finalised yet, therefore they are not aware of the final audit. The counts should be closed by next week and the AFC paid, as communicated to the Secretary General.

UNSS takes the floor and explains that during the past year UNSS had financial problems as well. There was a complete change of people in the organisation and some documents got lost. Now the situation has been clarified and they will be able to pay the AFC.

UDS is not present at the moment. The **Secretary General** has been in contact with them and explains that UDS has not sent the turnover declaration for 2021 because they had issues since they modified their balance sheet and they have not submitted it before the GA. This is all the information that the Secretariat has.

The **Chair** opens the floor for questions.

UNEL takes the floor and asks whether the Secretariat has any information on the reason why UDS is not present to the General Assembly or if they are going to come later on.

The **Secretary General** answers that they registered but she does not have any additional information on the reason for their absence. All organisations that are not in the GA have been contacted and hopefully they will join soon.

There are no more questions.

2. Before opening the election runner to grant the right to vote for organisations that failed to pay the AFC, a demo video is shown on how to use election runners.

3. Members failing to pay are put in a breakout room for the Members to discuss alone.

The **Chair** asks to launch another Roll Call since more Organisations joined.

Roll Call: AKS, ASUBIH, BSK, CANAE, CEF, CNE, CSU, DGS, DOS, EEO, ESCU Not present, FSS, ISSU(not present), KYC (not present), LH (not present), LMS, MAKOSZ, NSOA, OSKU, RSM, SAKKI, SIF (not present), SLL, SUS (not present), SVB (not present), TOS (not present), UDS (not present), UEM, UNEL, UNL (not present), UNSS, USO (not present).

There are 17 Organisations with voting rights present.

4. The **Chair** opens the voting procedure with the Election runner. All Official Delegates should receive a link to vote in a few seconds.

The **Ballot Committee** is invited to join the Breakout Room with the SG.

The **BC** announces the results: the quorum was 9 and all the votes passed.

Every organisation has been granted the right to speak.

9. Presentation of the report of the COMEM 2020

The **Chair** introduces **Martin** from CSU to give a brief presentation from the COMEM.

The COMEM took place in December last year: 26 Organisations participated and among them 21 had the voting right. The Membership voted upon 5 amendments to the Political Platform, 1 Internal Regulations of the GA, 2 on Policy Papers and 1 to the Development Strategy. 5 reports have been presented: Board, Mc, Secretariat, PoT and Projects reports. We have approved 3 documents: the Implementation plan 2021, the Policy Paper on minority rights and the Policy Paper on quality of teaching. We had discussions on the Covid19 Research and how to keep up with OBESSU. We had 3 discussion corners proposed by MOs on how to keep in touch with other MOs, about decolonising education and period poverty.

The **Chair** opens the floor for questions. There are no questions from the Membership.

10. Adoption of minutes from the COMEM 2020

The **Chair** invites people to approve the minutes from the COMEM by means of active opposition.

The Chair opens the floor for questions and answers. There are no questions.

The **Chair** proceeds asking if there is any active opposition.

The COMEM minutes are adopted.

11. Election of the Rapporteur of the GA

The **Chair** asks if there is any volunteer for the position of the Rapporteur of the GA during the Council of Members that will be held in November. The task of the rapporteur consists in giving a summary of the main points discussed and outcomes of the GA.

There are no volunteers for the position. The SG points out that the rapporteur will be supported by the Secretariat. Afterwards, **Rares** from **CNE** volunteers to be the next rapporteur.

Vote by means of active opposition.

There is no active opposition, therefore **Rares** will be the rapporteur during COMEM in November 2021.

12. Board report

The **Chair** gives the floor to **Adrian** from the Board for the presentation of the Board Report.

The mandate of the Board lasted 10 months, from August 2020 until June 2021. The main priorities were:

- To influence change in Europe and the world
- OBESSU to be owned by well-functioning school student unions
- OBESSU is considered a relevant representative stakeholders
- OBESSU has a strong and stable organisation

Alexandra from the Board takes the floor to present the Global Cooperation actions carried out by OBESSU, to present the actions taken to engage and support MOs and the outcomes of the research on Covid-19.

Lucija from the Board takes the floor to present the advocacy actions and statements of OBESSU and the external representation carried out by the Board (49 events in total).

Bicca from the Board takes the floor to present the overall work of the Board and explains the reason why Nadine (Board Member) is not present today at the GA.

The **Chair** opens the floor for questions and answers and reminds the delegates that they must ask for the floor by raising their hands.

UNEL takes the floor to ask how the Board dealt with the pandemic and how it was to work online.

Alexandra from the Board answers that all her mandate was online and at the beginning it was challenging, but also an interesting experience and it gave the Board Members more possibilities to attend events that otherwise would have not been possible to attend in person.

Lucija from the Board takes the floor to say that the only thing she regrets is not being able to meet Nadine and Alexandra in person, since their mandates were online. Online communication has helped a lot to keep always in touch.

ISSU takes the floor and asks where the Board oversees OBESSU in the future.

Adrian from the Board answers that after the pandemic they would like to have physical events, to intensify the advocacy efforts to meet politicians and stakeholders in person and to be able to meet the rest of the Board and OBESSU bodies in person.

Bicca from the Board takes the floor to say that despite the pandemic, OBESSU kept growing and points out that it is not only up to the Board but to the Membership to contribute to the direction of OBESSU.

The **Chair** closes the question line and thanks the Board for their work. The Membership shows its appreciation for the work of the Board.

13. Parallel discussion corners: CoFoE and Covid -19 advocacy

The **Chair** gives the floor to **Adrian** from the Board to introduce the discussion corners. The delegates can decide which discussion corners they would like to attend, by clicking on their preferred breakout room.

There are 2 parallel discussions on:

- Conference on the Future of Europe

- Covid-19 advocacy

14. Report of the Monitoring Committee

Edvardas and **Milda** from the **Monitoring Committee** introduce themselves.

The Chair gives the floor to the Monitoring Committee for the presentation of the MC Report.

The **MC** has been monitoring the Advocacy, External Communication, Membership engagement within OBESSU. The MC also monitored the well-being of the different OBESSU Bodies and of the finances of the Organisation.

After the presentation, the MC clarifies that the report contains some inaccuracies, e.g. the Board Members have never taken on Secretariat and administrative tasks, the name of the current Working Group (Education Funding and Reforms).

The **Chair** opens the floor for questions and answers and the Board is invited to leave and join in a breakout room.

There are no questions from the Membership. The Chair thanks the MC for their work.

15. Report of the WG on Education Funding and Reforms

The **Chair** gives the floor to **Bicca and Petr** from the Working Group on Education Funding and Reforms to present the work of the year.

Petr from **CSU** proceeds by giving a short presentation of the goals of the WG:

- Toolkit for MOs for advocacy and reach out to stakeholders
- Overview of the latest reforms on education in MOs countries
- Organise the 17th November Campaign.

The WG is already working on collecting the reforms related to education

The **Chair** opens the floor for questions and answers.

SAKKI asks for more information on the methods that the WG is using to collect information on educational reforms, if they ask Members or find the information by themselves.

Petr answers that to map the reforms it depends on the countries taken into account, but mostly they get informed through press conferences and communication on the national websites.

There are no more questions from the Membership.

16. Vote on received Membership applications

Roll Call: AKS, ASUBIH, BSK, CANAE (not present), CEF, CNE, CSU (the extra delegate is present and will vote), DGS, DOS, EEO, ESCU (not present), FSS, ISSU, KYC, LH (not present), LMS, MAKOSZ, NSoA, OSKU, RSM, SAKKI, SIF (not present), SLL, SUS (not present), SVB (not present), TOS (Not present), UDS (not present), UEM (Not present), UNEL, UNL (Not present), UNSS, USO (Not present).

There are 18 Organisations with voting rights present.

The **Chair** explains that there are 2 Organisations that submit the application to become full Members of OBESSU: **BSK** from Germany and **OSKU** from Finland.

OSKU became a candidate in December 2019, while **BSK** in July 2020. They both qualify for Membership.

The **Chair** gives the floor to BSK and OSKU to quickly present the Organisations and opens the floor for Q&A.

BSK presents their candidacy to the Membership: their primary objective is to deal with educational policy on a national level and they try to represent students with the policy makers and with the public. They represent 13 out of 16 of the students' councils in Germany. BSK wants to become a full Member of OBESSU because the international work is becoming more significant within the Organisation and they want to develop in that area. The organisation also organised other different conferences during the yearL plenary and constitutional conferences where they work on educational policies and cooperations. They appear very often in German media, especially during the pandemic. They have been following all the policies that the government made regarding education and Covid-19.

OSKU presents their candidacy to the Membership: they explain that they see the growing importance of European cooperation. OBESSU can help with the promotion of interest of VET in European policies and updates. One of the main work areas of OSKU in the last 3 years is the development of international work. OSKU has been a Candidate Organisation for more than one year and they have been participating in OBESSU's activities, so now they want to be more involved in the development of VET within OBESSU.

The **Chair** opens the floor for questions. The Membership must raise their hands.

CNE raises a question for both BSK and OSKU on how the Organisations manage their finances and if OBESSU contributed to them.

BSK replies to the question saying that the financial situation of BSK is not ideal. They do not have a stable budget and finances but they receive finances for each event. They apply for money whenever there is a need. They want to change and have something more stable.

OSKU replies to the question saying that the Secretary General of the organisation manages their finances. Membership fees and national grants are part of their finances.

CNE raises a second question for both BSK and OSKU on how the Board Members of the Organisations are elected, whether they are elected by their Members or nominated by teachers.

RSM asks both BSK and OSKU which recruitment methods they have to attract new members and if they have different bodies that cooperate together.

BSK answers the first question saying that the Board is elected by the plenaries which are composed of delegates from the State Students Council (up to 3 delegates)and have one vote each. BSK proceeds answering the second question specifying that the members cannot just join the Organisations, but they need to be Members of the Student Council first part of the Federal Board then, in order to be able to apply for Membership.

OSKU answers the first question saying that the General Assembly elects the Board and only VET students can be elected to the Board. The second question: only VET students can be Members of OSKU.

CSU asks a question to both BSK and OSKU regarding the structure of the organisations, the elected and unelected bodies and how they ensure the functioning of those bodies.

CNE asks both BSK and OSKU whether there is a training process for the new members.

BSK answers that the main decision making body is the Plenary where State Student Councils are present and then there is a Federal Secretariat that manages the events and conferences. There are different coordinators inside the Secretariat, for example there is the financial responsible, the media responsible and so on. BSK replies to the second question clarifying that all the people part of BSK have a background on student representation, therefore there is no need for a specific training process.

OSKU replies that the General Assembly is the highest decision making body. There are working groups. OSKU answers the second question saying that there is a training every summer where students can be trained on the organisation and on VET matters.

The **Chair** suggests closing the speaking list. There is only one question left from CNE. There is no active opposition to closing the speaking list, therefore the question from CNE is the last one.

CNE asks what is the relationship with their governments and with their ministries.

BSK explains that they are not linked to any national structure and they are an independent organisation, but they have good contacts with ministers and politicians because they represent students and try to make them cooperate. Each State Students Council is connected to their State ministry of education, so there is not a national connection with the ministers.

OSKU is part of many ministries' working groups and they have very good cooperation but they are independent.

BSK and **OSKU** are not asked to leave the room, since there is no such request from the Membership.

The **Chair** asks Alexandra from the Board to present the Board perspective.

Alexandra explains that both organisations are qualified and they support their applications.

The Membership must vote on the admission of BSK and OSKU and a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority is needed. The quorum to be reached is 12 votes.

The Chair opens the vote through the election runner. The Chair invites the Ballot Committee to leave the room to proceed with the scrutiny.

BSK and OSKU are both accepted as full Members of OBESSU. The Organisations with voting rights are now 20.

The call for Monitoring Committee is still open until 15.59 CEST

17. Roll call and quorum recall

Roll Call: AKS, ASUBIH, BSK, CANAE, CEF, CNE, CSU, DGS, DOS, EEO, ESCU (not present), FSS, ISSU, KYC, LH (not present), LMS, MAKOSZ, NSoA, OSKU, RSM, SAKKI, SIF (not present), SLL, SUS (not present), SVB, TOS (not present), UDS (not present), UEM (not present), UNEL, UNL (not present), UNSS, USO (not present).

There 24 Organisations present.

18. Report from the Secretary General

The **Chair** gives the word to the Secretary General.

The Secretariat is the operational body of OBESSU. In the Secretariat we make all the decisions taken by OBESSU Statutory Bodies become a reality.

The Secretariat is composed of paid staff, volunteers and interns and works on projects, logistics, advocacy, fundraising and communications – among others

Projects: Writing, reporting, management. ECMA, #Ecofigthers, Citized, Stronger, E@H, Generation D-Liberation and more are coming soon.

- Membership: Involvement, support, development and learning!
- Policy: Support, development and briefings
- Finances: to make sure the organisation is safe and sound and can live long
- Support: to Board, MC, PoT and Working Groups

The OBESSU Secretariat grew a lot in the last year.

Main achievements of the year:

- Covid-19 research with 1000+ responses, policy recommendations coming soon and dissemination starting already
- Membership survey: first Membership survey in a while; insight will help future engagement and membership strategy undergoing
- Lots of new project applications: Erasmus+ KA2 applications +5; Horizon 2020 +2

Stronger strategic focus. We are currently developing:

1. Advocacy Strategy: A strategy to refocus OBESSU's advocacy efforts and define the priority areas
2. Membership strategy: A strategy to support current membership development and mutual support and to involve new members
3. Communication Strategy: The Communication Strategy aims at monitoring and planning the external and internal communication to adapt according to the new trends
4. Strategic goals: These are goals in which we evaluate the work of the Secretariat.

Strategy, Management and Finances – Main achievements and challenges

Achievements

- Staff reviews show employees' satisfaction and very good work environment
- HR processes are more standardised
- Board-Staff coordination enhanced through monthly coordination meetings
- Internal fundraising taskforce to start soon!
- New contacts with potential members in Latvia, Malta, North Macedonia and Northern Ireland
- Stronger to start again during summer!

Challenges

- HR becomes more and more demanding as Staff grows
- Financial situation for 2022 is still not clear, although first projection is positive
- Need to strengthen internal core revenues (e.g., Annual Financial Contribution)
- Big handover to carry out with the new Board
- Behind on carrying out consultation on the role of the Board and SG

Projects and Programmes – Main achievements and challenges

Achievements

- Diverse partnerships in projects and positive feedback from current partners
- Projects are very much in line with OBESSU Strategic docs and planning
- Scheduled training on a standardized project and financial management
- Very good response to the Covid-19 crisis in terms of project management and adaptation

- Working on a simplified and unified reporting for all regranting (e.g., #EcoFighters and SSSU)

Challenges

- Membership involvement in projects could be developed – opportunities for fundraising
- Need to balance number of projects with amount of financing
- Working Groups are not necessarily functioning and their best – lack of continuous engagement
- Projects team and workload growing means that clear responsibilities need to be set in the Secretariat

Policy and Communications – Main achievements and challenges

Achievements

- Policy team improved expertise in certain areas (e.g., digital policies, environmental education) thanks to projects and Covid19 research
- Research including the perspective of school students helps with needs-based policy making
- More mainstreamed policy work within projects
- More proactivity on social media and new channels (e.g., TikTok)
- Increased visibility on social media

Challenges

- Membership feedback (e.g., Policy MOOC, Recovery and Resilience Facility, Policy briefings)
- Need for further policy staff
- In the future, we should try to be more proactive and less reactive when it comes to advocacy
- Website content is not a lot
- Need to improve presence on twitter

The **Chair** Opens the floor for questions.

CNE asks whether the Secretariat plans to have some people working from home full time since they adapted so well during the pandemic.

The **Secretary General** answers that we are starting to go back to the office once per week as teleworking is not compulsory anymore in Belgium. The Secretariat is not planning full remote work experiences but we will adapt to a more flexible schedule. OBESSU will be more open than in the past when it comes to full remote work, but there has not been a strategic discussion on it yet.

UNEL asks what was the most difficult challenge the Secretariat had to face this year.

CNE asks whether there was an evaluation behind the data on employee happiness and who did it.

The **Secretary General** answers that everyone faced different challenges in their work, but that the biggest challenge was to continue to work remotely and to start getting a bit disconnected; building the team was not easy, some people left and some people came in but the Secretariat survived it very well. Regarding the question by CNE, the Secretariat does staff evaluations twice a year staff evaluations where each person does a self evaluation with their own learning goals evaluated with their manager and the SG, and then there's a meeting with one board member and the SG in July and December. Once per year the Secretariat does a 360 evaluation that takes place internally. The MC does their own evaluation of employee happiness.

CNE asks whether OBESSU is thinking of expanding the research and policy team, as a lot of systemic changes are going on in terms of educational policy.

The **Secretary General** answers that OBESSU is in the process of recruiting another intern to work on policy and research, and that there is a will to expand the policy and research team, although it is challenging to fundraise for positions like this. The Secretariat would like to pick up again on the Staff Cooperation Corner, as the team cannot follow all the national legislation, so they want to work on policy with MOs but for this the Secretariat needs MOs to be more proactive, and initiatives will be taken to know what are the priorities.

19. Presentation and vote on the 2020 Financial Report and the 2021 Forecast budget

The **Chair** gives the floor to Giuseppina to present the 2020 Financial Report and the 2021 forecast budget.

The **Secretary General** presents the Financial report and the 2021 forecast budget.

2020:

- € 40,756 reserves account. It is a good level but it is not ideal.
- 691,553 Total assets / liabilities
- 14 Sources of funding
- 250,000 Staff expenditure

2021:

- +20% Overall expenses
- 5% Of total budget is Membership Fees
- 16 Sources of funding
- Increase in number of projects

The **Secretary General** states that there is nothing unusual compared to other years. There is an aim of increasing staff salaries. It is projected that 2021 will close in a loss but it is because we are waiting for the results of many project applications that will allow OBESSU not to close the year on a loss, including the next Stronger School Student Unions.

The **Chair** opens the floor for questions. Voting will happen later in the Agenda, together with the vote of trust of the Secretary General, in order to have only one more election runner vote.

The **Chair** explains that the financial report needs to be approved by the GA but not the budget.

SAKKI asks what would be the goal for staff costs in %.

ISSU is interested in knowing about the possibility of the Board becoming a full time position and whether this is something OBESSU would consider exploring.

The **SG** answers that it is not the %, but the amount. If OBESSU was to keep 10 employees, the expense should be up to 350 000 eur per year, possibly with new employees and better salaries, as a long term vision, not something OBESSU can do in one or two years. The SG is working on salary transparency among the staff and on increasing staff salaries. In %, now it is just a bit below half the budget and it should be a bit higher than half the budget in the SG's vision.

The **SG** answers that the question on the Board becoming a full term position is a leadership discussion, so a decision that the membership should take. On day 2 of the GA there will be a discussion about Membership and Board so this can be discussed. If the Board was to become full time, they should have regular salaries and come to the office which would require quite some adjustments. This should be a long term strategy.

20. Parallel discussion corners: Advocacy Strategy/ Code of Conduct

The **Chair** gives the floor to Lucija from the Board to introduce discussion corners very quickly. **Lucija** from the Board explains that the current Advocacy Strategy is expiring, so the Board wants to get the input of the Membership in creating the new one. Regarding the Code of Conduct, it is very important for OBESSU to create a safe space for everyone.

Group 1: Advocacy Strategy (Lucija)

- Priorities: digital education with a focus on mental health, environment, school student participation, infrastructure.

Group 2: Advocacy Strategy (Adrian)

- Priorities: mental health, funding, inequalities, school students participation, early school leaving.

Group 3: Code of Conduct (Bicca)

- The Code of Conduct principles should be embedded in all OBESSU activities
- There should be a range of different measures other than expelling, although they depend on the situations and some require an immediate expulsion from the event.

Group 4: Code of Conduct (Alexandra)

- Some MOs have similar documents.
- MOs should be involved in finding solutions when a breach happens.

21. Vote of trust to the Secretary General

The **Chair** explains that given that the current SG is finishing her 2 years mandate, her vote of trust needs to be renewed.

The **Chair** explains first delegates will have the chance to ask questions to Giuseppina and then she will leave the room and delegates will be able to ask questions to the Board and the Secretariat.

The **Chair** gives the floor to Bicca from the Board to explain their decision to renew the contract and the Board's opinion on renewing the vote of trust.

Bicca explains that some time ago a letter on behalf of the Board was sent to MOs explaining their reasoning behind this decision. Everyone is happy with Giuseppina, she has put heart and

soul in managing the organisation, that's why the Board wants to renew her contract and would like MOs to also do so.

The **Chair** gives the floor to Giuseppina.

Giuseppina explains she has been active in OBESSU for a very long time, she has been in this position for 3 years, it started as a 6 months maternity cover and it ended up becoming her job afterwards. In the last 3 years she has learnt a lot, OBESSU gave her the space to learn and develop, she wants to continue working with the Members and develop the organisation strategically. She also does not work to leave her colleagues. She hopes MOs see that she really believes in the organisation and has lots of passion for what she does.

The **Chair** opens the floor for questions.

There are no questions.

The **Chair** invites the SG to leave the meeting room and opens the floor for questions directed to the Board or the Staff.

CNE would like to hear some impressions from the staff members that are present in the room.

Eleonora from the Secretariat answers that some periods have been very complicated and also adapting to working online was hard, but Giuseppina contributed a lot to create a nice environment where everyone can give their best. She recommends staff to have a nice work-life balance and not to overwork, to have good working conditions, which is something that does not always happen in work environments.

María from the Secretariat confirms what Eleonora said.

ISSU asks how the Board sees working with the Secretary General.

Bicca from the Board answers that the Board enjoys working with Giuseppina a lot. It is true there have been some communication issues, trying to find out the best way to communicate between Staff and Board, and Giuseppina was a good link to lead the conversation and cooperation among Staff and Board, finding solutions.

Alexandra from the Board says that if she is ever in a leadership position, she wants to have those competences that Giuseppina has, because she's a very good role model, she really empowers people and she's also a personal advisor for many of them. She also agrees with what Bicca said.

Lucija from the Board says that a very big advantage of Giuseppina as Secretary General is that she used to be in the Board of OBESSU so she understands the Board's perspective.

Adrian from the Board says he agrees, if there were another person, that person would not have done as much as Giuseppina did. He thinks the organisation grew a lot with her help, and that he hopes she stays for a long time in OBESSU.

The **Chair** closes the floor for questions.

The **Chair** calls Giuseppina to come back to the room.

Voting is run through Election runner.

Roll Call: AKS, ASUBIH, BSK, CANAE, CEF, CNE, CSU, DGS, DOS, EEO, ESCU (not present), FSS, ISSU, KYC (not present), LH (not present), LMS, MAKOSZ, NSoA, OSKU, RSM, SAKKI, SIF (not present), SLL, SVB (not present), SUS (not present), TOS (not present), UDS (not present), UEM (not present), UNEL, UNL (not present), UNSS, USO (not present).

There are 21 Organisations with voting rights present. The quorum is 11 (simple majority).

The **Chair** and the **BC** join a breakout room.

ASUBIH asks for a clarification whether the vote is for the budget or for the financial report of 2020 or for both.

The **Secretary General** explains that the vote is only to approve the Financial Report and not for the budget, but that there was a mistake in the ballot questions.

The **Chair** asks if there is any active opposition in proceeding with the same ballot even if there is a mistake. There is no active opposition.

Results: the quorum was reached for both votes.

The Financial Report was approved and the SG was granted the trust of the membership.

22. Announcements preceding day 2 and closing of day 1

The **Chair** reminds participants that at the end of the day there will be a social event and that the Delegates will receive the application of the latest submissions to the MC.

The **Chair** reminds the Delegates to participate actively on day 2 and the Board Election on day 2.

Day 2, 20th June 2021

23. Official opening of day 2, roll call and quorum confirmation

Bicca from the Board officially opens day 2 reminding participants that today's GA will be chaired by Ela Jakubek Grootjans, former OBESSU Secretary General.

Bicca gives the word to the **Chair** for a quick presentation of herself. She does so and starts with an energiser. Before the roll call, the **Chair** invites Juanma from the Secretariat to do a quick recap of the rules for the day and **Juanma** does so.

The **Chair** quickly introduces the agenda of the day.

The **Chair** invites all Official Delegates to turn their microphone on and reply when their name is called.

Roll Call: AKS, ASUBIH, BSK, CANAE, CEF, CNE, CSU, DGS, DOS, EEO, ESCU (not present), FSS, ISSU, KYC (not present), LH (not present), LMS, MAKOSZ, NSoA (not present), OSKU, RSM, SAKKI, SIF (not present), SLL, SUS (not present), SVB (not present), TOS (not present), UDS (not present), UEM(not present), UNEL, UNL (not present), UNSS, USO(not present).

20 Organisations with voting rights are present.

24. Parallel discussion corners: Role of the Board and Secretary General /

Membership engagement

The **Chair** gives the floor to Alexandra from the Board, to briefly present the discussion corners and give an overview of each of them. **Alexandra** does so.

Participants are divided into breakout rooms. Results of the corners:

Group 1: Role of the Board and Secretary General (Bicca)

- Priorities: The SG should focus on administrative tasks as a priority and maybe more political work if their workload allows. The Board should focus on strategic aspects such as communication, membership development and external and political representation.

Group 2: Role of Board and Secretary General (Lucija):

- Priorities: the Board should prioritise decision making and implementing the inputs from MOs. They should also have more contacts with MOs. Activities like Hot Chocolate or Spill the tea are good opportunities to improve this.

Group 3: Membership engagement (Nadine):

- Priorities: online informal meetings have been a good inclusion and they should stay after in-person meetings come back. The timing is not the best for some MOs. More content could be included in these meetings. Communication: Too many platforms. Whatsapp usage could be improved, while Basecamp and email seem to work equally well.

Group 4: Membership engagement (Adrian):

- Priorities: the different platforms work well but they all should be used more by MOs to improve communication between organisations. More information should be gathered from MOs' structure to better understand how to communicate to them.

25. Report from the Covid-19 Taskforce

The **Chair** gives the floor to **Ismar** from ASUBIH, member of the Covid 19 Taskforce to present their report.

The **Taskforce** started in January. They met for the first time to agree on the tasks to be performed and get to know each other while in the second meeting, they discussed the policy and advocacy part of the project and research, had a small focus group and prepared for the ICSEI Conference where several Ministers would be present. A survey that got more than 1000 answers was created and during the next period will focus on desk research, analysis of the gathered information, create policy recommendations and publish the results.

The **Chair** opens the floor for Q&A.

CNE congratulates the Taskforce for their work and shares his concern that although 1000 is a good number of answers for a survey, OBESSU is big enough to aim for even more. **CNE** wonders how the survey was disseminated in order to improve this aspect with the support of all members.

Ismar agrees that the number could be higher. The answers were collected through MOs and SM channels. In any case, the Taskforce is happy with the number because of the good quality of the answers.

UNEL asks for the floor to ask for how long they expect OBESSU to need the Taskforce.

Ismar explains that the duration will depend on the date finalisation of the research and analysis of the survey.

Nadine from the Board explains that it is necessary to create a policy outcome (eg. policy recommendations) of such a survey which will probably lead to the Taskforce continuing to work for some more months.

CNE asks if the Taskforce would consider using Facebook Ads in the future in order to get more respondents.

Ismar answers that the Taskforce did not consider such tools and now it is closed but in the future, if OBESSU has more surveys, it could be implemented.

ISSU wonders if there is any recommendation that the Taskforce could give to the MOs from the data extracted or if there is any aspect that MOs should look at carefully.

Ismar explains that there is valuable information within the preliminary results but it is too early to give direct input to MOs. **Nadine** from the Board agrees.

Eleonora interjects to clarify that online ads were used in channels such as Instagram. Of course the impact could have been even bigger but these ads were reflected in the results.

CNE asks what was the role of the meetings with Ministries such as the Lithuanian one in the work programme of the taskforce.

Ismar answers that there were contacts with ministries of several countries (Lithuania, Spain and Austria) and other stakeholders during the ICSEI conference, where OBESSU was given the chance to speak but due to some technical difficulties the Taskforce could not participate. The **Taskforce** expects to be able to engage with more stakeholders in the future.

The **Chair** thanks participants for the questions and encourages them to take a break away from the computer.

26. Report from the Decolonising Education Taskforce

The **Chair** gives the floor to **Alexandra** from the Board to present the report of the Taskforce.

Alexandra explains that the Taskforce was supposed to have a study session that needed to be postponed to next year because of the pandemic. The Taskforce is composed of six members: one Board member, one person from GSF, two MOs representatives, one person from the Pool of Trainers and one Secretariat Member.

Alexandra explains also that some meetings were held and some very good ideas were discussed, but because of the "ZOOM fatigue" two out of four Members have been slightly unresponsive so the Taskforce might reopen for applications in December if they do not get back to work. **Alexandra** thanks all people involved in the Taskforce for their work.

The **Chair** opens the floor for Q&A.

CNE asks if there was some research also within this Taskforce and what are the next steps apart from the Study Session

Alexandra takes the floor and replies that the next steps have to be discussed with the Taskforce and that for her it would be sensible to close the Taskforce and reopen it in December. They could be the prep team that will organise the Study Visit. She explains that some research was done in order to track other organisations working on the topic but not through a survey or any other more traditional methods.

27. Report from the Pool of Trainers

The **Chair** gives the floor to Miriam Weber from the Pool of Trainers to present their report.

Content of the presentation:

Presenting the 12 members of the PoT and the division between Senior and Junior trainers. The work of the PoT for this period included: discussions about relevant topics such as mental health, monthly planning and coordination meetings, crash courses (graphic facilitation, Canva for activism, how to use Mural), SSSU Modules for MOs and the pre-GA game night.

The **Chair** opens the floor for Q&A.

CNE thanks Miriam for the presentation and congratulates the PoT for the work done. **CNE** asks if there are certain members specialised in different topics and how the work is divided among the PoT to make sure the workload is even.

Miriam answers that there is plenty of freedom in terms of what work each member takes and does not take depending on their expertise and/or availability.

UNEL asks how interaction is between MOs and the PoT and how many people take part in the different events. **UNEL** also wonders if the PoT considers organising training on weekends or shorter training.

To the second question **Miriam** answers that maybe the modules that they will be working on during summer would fit this request. **Miriam** is not sure about the first question so she asks for someone to clarify this.

Maria introduces herself and her role in contact with the PoT from the side of the Secretariat and interjects to support Miriam: The last year and a half has been very different with all events being adapted to online format. The idea is to go back to in person events soon but it depends on the measures of each country such as Stronger where shorter training can be provided.

Maria explains that the modules are taking longer than expected because of many MOs applying to very different topics, which poses a logistical challenge on how to fit the needs and interests of all MOs. Regarding other events, applications have been lower than previous years probably because of MOs being tired of online activities.

28. Discussion corner: Annual Financial Contribution

The **Chair** gives the floor to Bicca from the Board to introduce discussion corners very quickly.

Bicca explains that there are 5 discussion corners on the same topic: the Annual Financial Contribution. **Bicca** asks participants to provide as many inputs as possible and asks the Staff to divide participants into breakout rooms.

The **Chair** informs that the duration of the corners will be 30 minutes. Participants go into breakout rooms.

Group 1 (Nadine) :

- Most of the participants agree on the fact that this has been a difficult year and that it is not the best timing to increase the AFC. The possibility of paying it over the year is mentioned. On the solidarity fund, MOs think that the beneficiary will need to demonstrate that their work cannot continue normally if they pay the AFC, while it is proposed to have a trial with small amounts to test it in practice.

Group 2 (Lucija) :

- In general increasing the AFC is a good idea but it is necessary to show a bigger ROI and showcase the specific necessities of OBESSU to justify the increase.

Group 3 (Adrian):

- The amount could be increased gradually. A higher AFC could allow the organisation to be more financially independent. Maybe exceptions could be implemented if a MO is decreasing in membership and capital.

Group 4 (Alex):

- In general the increase is deemed acceptable but other sponsors should be found in order to diversify funds. The financial instability caused by COVID needs to be taken into consideration with maybe a more individualised approach to each MO.

Group 5 (Bicca):

- MOs flagged the lack of internal discussions on the AFC in their organisation's Board. The impact of COVID in MOs finances was brought up again. Some MOs do not get any governmental funding and maybe this should be considered as a factor in the AFC calculations.

The **SG** gives a reminder about the Declaration of Participation (DP) that participants need to sign. The **SG** shows on screen the new online system to fill the DP.

The **Chair** announces the lunch break and asks participants to be back at 13:30. The **SG** opens breakout rooms for those who want to stay for lunch.

29. Roll call and quorum recall

The **Secretary General** reminds participants again to sign the DocuSign documents.

Roll Call: AKS, ASUBIH, BSK, CANAE, CEF, CNE, CSU, DGS, DOS, EEO (not present), ESCU (not present), FSS, ISSU, KYC (not present), LH (not present), LMS, MAKOSZ, NSoA, OSKU, RSM, SAKKI, SIF (not present), SLL, SUS (not present), SVB (not present), TOS, UDS (not present), UEM (not present), UNEL, UNL (not present), UNSS, USO (not present).

There are 20 Organisations with voting rights present.

30. Voting on expiring Policy Papers

The **Chair** explains that every 4 statutory meetings OBESSU needs to look back at policy papers and decide whether to renew them, re-discuss, update them or not.

There are 5 policy papers expiring at this COMEM:

- Policy Paper on Innovation in Education
- Policy Paper on Mental Health in Schools
- Policy Paper on the Concept of Consent
- School Student Guidelines on Global Citizenship Education
- Refugee and Migrant Rights in Education: A school Student perspective

As per our Statutes, policy papers need to be renewed at the 4th Statutory meeting after their approval, and this is the case. The **Chair** gives the floor to the **Board** to make a recommendation on whether they should be kept or not.

- Policy Paper on Innovation in Education - **Bicca - recommendation to renew**
This paper is a very good take on how we feel about innovation. Originally approved in 2017 in Berlin and re-approved 2 years ago in Madrid, the Board suggests to approve it again because it contains many relevant things in innovation as a concept in education. Some things may need a bit of an update as they talk about things that already happened such as conferences, but it includes many important things that are present in online learning and VET, inclusion and practical learning.
- Policy Paper on Mental Health in Schools - **Nadine - recommendation to renew**
First accepted in the 2019 GA in Madrid. It promotes good mental health in education, learning about it and teacher training in mental health education. The Board recommends to renew it for the next two years.
- Policy Paper on the Concept of Consent - Adrian - **recommendation not renew as it is included in the Code of Conduct**
It was submitted in 2019 by AKS. We decided to work on a bigger document, which is the Code of Conduct which will be presented in the next statutory meeting. In this context, the Board proposes not to renew the policy as its contents and principles will be included in the Code of Conduct, which is a bigger document for the organisation stating how to organise events.
- School Student Guidelines on Global Citizenship Education - **Adrian - recommendation to renew**
After working on this topic for almost 3 years, the Board discussed that the policy paper is quite narrow and would be better to re-discuss it so they propose to renew it.
- Refugee and Migrant Rights in Education: A school Student perspective - **Alexandra - recommendation to renew**

It was adopted in 2019. It's still very relevant, some things are not up to date, it makes sense to renew it and review it in the next statutory meeting, including different organisations that work on the topic.

The **Chair** reminds delegates that, in case adopted, these papers can be amended at the next statutory meeting, but not at this one as it is expiring and its duration should first be confirmed or not.

The **Chair** opens the floor for discussion.

CNE asks whether it would be possible to receive an email with the proposals of policy papers, that it may be very helpful for MOs to take a look in parallel and take an informed decision, to go to the policy paper itself before voting.

The **Board** answers that all those documents can be found in OBESSU's website, and it was specified in the email that was sent by the Secretariat. Those documents are public, it is the obligation of Members to prepare themselves before the GA to make an informed decision.

31. Panel discussion: how OBESSU influences external organisations

The **Chair** introduces the panel and the panelists. The Panel is moderated by the Chair.

Speakers: Giuseppe Lipari, Steering Committee at Global Student Forum; Edvardas Vabuolas, Trustee at 100 Million Campaign; Sara Finnbogadottir, Advisory Council of Youth; Giuseppina Tucci, Vice President of the Lifelong Learning Platform.

Edvardas explains that he used to be an OBESSU Board Member until last summer. He is now a trustee at the 100 Million Campaign organisation, hopefully soon in charge of finances. He would not say he represents OBESSU as he is not an elected person anymore, he is a Trustee of that organisation. There's representation from OBESSU in the co-leadership of 100 million, for example Alexandra from the current Board. A Trustee is similar to being a Board Member but not making specific decisions or campaigns, it is still OBESSU that has most of the power. His mandate is coming to an end, and then OBESSU can nominate another person. Main areas of work: child safety, access to education, against child labour, against child trafficking.

Giuseppina explains that the Lifelong Learning Platform is a platform that gathers organisations that work on education in general and on lifelong learning related issues. It is an umbrella organisation of umbrella organisations, it is like a big matryoska. They put together all the sectors working on education to strive for lifelong learning. It has been more than 7 years that OBESSU is

strongly represented in the LLLP, as before Giuseppina there was another OBESSU representative and each mandate is 3 years.

Giuseppe explains that a couple of years ago, different student organisations started cooperating and discussing common goals and common ideas, firstly mainly focused on university students but also for school students. Umbrellas transform cooperation that is sporadic into a more structural work that is not fractioned. A Steering Committee (Board) was created with a representative from each region of the world, country or sector, and a first Secretariat member too. At the moment Europe, Africa, Latin America and the Commonwealth are represented in the Global Students Forum, and the network of students from Australia just entered too.

The **Chair** asks the speakers to share with Members a success story of their experience in other platforms:

Giuseppina says that one of the biggest events of the LLLP is the Lifelong Learning Week, where OBESSU contributes. In 2019 OBESSU organised an event regarding the 17th of November where we had our Members, MEPs, education international, etc., a big platform for cooperation. It is a week in which all the organisations that are part of the membership of the LLLP get an incredible chance to work with the different institutions and create some synergies.

Giuseppe says that the pandemic situation did not help as they did not manage to meet in person since the Forum was created. They organised many events that allowed more people to join, for example OBESSU and its Members joined and discussed, interconnecting directly student organisations. The main success is that they are managing to get a new role for school students, they are showing that school students can join high level debates and can share their opinion and skills. There is a global strategy to bring together school students from all over the world led by school students for the first time.

Edvardas says that the success story for him is the entire OBESSU partnership that was developed just 2-3 years ago. 100 million connects OBESSU with a lot of big organisations such as OECD, they have access to some confidential information before they come out. All the campaigns that 100 Million organises include MOs, they are invited to join, and representatives invited to speak at their events.

The **Chair** asks the speakers why should people choose to work with these platforms:

Giuseppe says that at GSF, everything is organised together with OBESSU, things do not overlap normally. Events are not going to be at the same time as OBESSU events. International perspective is very important, and we can include it in OBESSU's work. When there are big events where key topics are discussed, there are specific spaces for school students to connect and provide the political content.

Edvardas answers that this answer is connected to the previous answer. Become more tolerant, more passionate and more connected at the individual level, it makes you more open minded and changes your perspective.

Giuseppina answers that if you do it at the national level, why wouldn't you do it at another level. When you're nominated by OBESSU, you are not alone, you always get support from the Board, the Secretariat, the Members, etc. MOs can get a lot from this.

The **Chair** thanks the speakers and closes the panel.

The **Chair** re-opens the floor for a question on the Policy Paper on the Concept of consent.

DGS says that removing the Policy Paper on Consent is a bit worrying because that would mean that until the Code of Conduct is approved, there would be no regulation on this in OBESSU. Also, a Policy Paper is an external document and it defines our policy also to other organisations, while the Code of Conduct is an internal document on how we work together. DGS asks whether we could keep this document at least until COMEM.

The **Board** answers that the text of the Policy Paper is written in a way that is internal, it outlines how OBESSU should work on it internally but it does not include policy statements, this is the reason why the Board wanted to have it in the Code of Conduct instead of a Policy Paper. There is not a chance that OBESSU won't advocate for the concept of consent in the upcoming half a year, this is part of OBESSU core values. The Board says that if Members feel the need to have a policy paper that outlines the need for such topics such as consent and harassment, they are encouraged to write a policy paper that outlines external policies and ways on how to deal with this.

The **Chair** opens the floor for remarks.

The **Chair** closes the floor for discussion.

32. Vote on AFC 2021

The **Chair** gives the word to Bicca from the Board to present the proposal.

The **Board** explains that the proposal is to raise the AFC by 5%, a small change that over time would help increase OBESSU budget and give the organisation some flexibility and sustainability.

The **Chair** opens the floor for Q&A and for comments.

SAKKI asks whether it's 5% or 5 units, which was answered by the Board's presentation.

ISSU asks whether this 5% is aimed at anything in particular or general.

The **Board** answers that it is general to increase our budget, as it is the only budgetline OBESSU can use for whatever it works best for the organisation and does not go to one specific project.

The **Board** adds that AFC is of utmost importance for OBESSU as shown in the presentation, though it is a very small part of our budget, and therefore OBESSU does not have the freedom it would like to have when carrying out different activities. An example of this is if OBESSU wants to invest more in having more people in the Secretariat doing advocacy and research: as it is not

connected to projects, it is normally not funded by Erasmus+ or the European Commission. Increasing the AFC would give the organisation more flexibility.

The **Secretary General** adds that this AFC calculation (the one that exists at the moment) has been the same for at least 7-8 years. Even just considering the inflation, this raise is very little. The idea is to slowly bring it up to speed with the needs of the organisation, so this is one of the top priorities of the organisation. There will be a more in depth discussion on AFC with the new Board.

The **Chair** explains that the following vote will be on the expiring Policy Papers and the AFC proposal and that it will be done through Election runner.

Roll Call: AKS, ASUBIH, BSK, CANAE, CEF, CNE, CSU, DGS, DOS, EEO (not present), ESCU (not present), FSS, ISSU, KYC (not present), LH (not present), LMS, MAKOSZ, NSoA, OSKU, RSM, SAKKI, SIF (not present), SLL, SUS (not present), SVB (not present), TOS, UDS (not present), UEM (not present), UNEL, UNL (not present), UNSS, USO (not present).

There are 20 Organisations with voting rights present.

ISSU asks whether the vote on the Policy Paper on the Concept of Consent was proposed not to be renewed in favour of the Code of Conduct.

Bicca from the Board affirms.

Everything has passed. All policy papers are renewed and the AFC is raised.

33. Elections of the Board

The **Chair** introduces the procedure:

1. From this moment onwards no one can enter the room as Zoom will be locked.
2. The Chair explains the procedure from the Internal Regulations
3. The chair reads out loud the names of the candidates:
 1. Alexandra Seybal, nominated by AKS, Austria
 2. Caridad Alarcon Sanchez, nominated by CANAE, Spain
 3. Rares Voicu, nominated by CNE, Romania
 4. Petr Franc, nominated by CSU, Czech Republic
 5. Nadine Toye, nominated by ISSU, Ireland
4. Each candidate has 3 minutes to present themselves.

Alexandra from the previous Board presents her candidacy to the Membership.

For many years, she has been part of AKS. She wants to thank everyone for the past mandate in which she had the opportunity to grow. She believes that education is a key changemaker at all

levels for school students. Especially the past year has shown that the problems that students have raised for all the past years are more obvious than ever. It is up to young people to show the gaps in education, students have to organise to return to better schools and to a better reality. She wants to see a stronger OBESSU, organised transnationally and internationally, and this is why she wants to run for the Board.

All the rest of the candidates leave for the breakout room.

The **Chair** opens the floor for questions.

UNEL asks Alexandra what she has learned during the past year and what she would do better this year.

Alexandra answers that she learned a lot and said one needs to deal with frustration and not to be silenced when injustice happens, one needs to raise their voice and stand up. She would do better when it comes to diversity in OBESSU as she did not manage to do so much as she wanted to, so she would like to take this task for the next mandate if she gets elected.

ASUBiH asks what she thinks it is the most valuable resource OBESSU has.

Alexandra answers that the most important resource is its MOs and school students standing up at local, national and European level. She thanks everyone for their work and says it's really admirable how MOs stood up and fought for school student rights despite all the difficulties.

SAKKI asks what she would have done differently in the past year.

Alexandra answers she doesn't think she would have done anything differently as being in the Board is a learning process, but diversity, Membership and international solidarity are very important to her and she really wants to enforce that during her next mandate, as the past year went by so fast.

ASUBiH asks what was her main inspiration to apply again for the Board.

Alexandra answers that she feels she did not fulfil everything she planned to and she wants to meet people in person again. Her motivation is that school students need OBESSU now more than ever, a strong voice is needed for asking for school student rights and social justice. More than an inspiration it's a duty for her.

The **Chair** closes the speakers list.

Candidates come back from the breakout room.

Caridad from CANAE presents her candidacy to the Membership.

Caridad created an organisation when she was 14 in her high school. She has been working with the federation of her region, with a lot of students. She has worked with school students and in school activism for four years now and with OBESSU during many seminars and workshops. She is concerned about inclusion and equality. This is why she is running for the Board. One of the most important things for her is to work together, as some countries are far away or near but everyone is here for the same purpose, to fight for a better education. She thanks her organisation, CANAE, for nominating her, and thanks OBESSU for all the work that has been done during this pandemic because it is not easy.

The rest of the candidates leave for the breakout room.

CNE asks what are the key issues she is planning to tackle during her mandate.

Caridad answers that engaging people is something everyone is concerned of in their organisations because it is really difficult to make people feel part of an organisation. It is really important that everyone knows they have the right to speak, to make proposals, and that it is possible to change things and make things happen. The topics that are closer to her are equality and inclusion, people with disabilities, mental health.

ASUBiH asks what she thinks is the biggest concern of school students in Europe.

Caridad answers that everyone knows that during these 2 years of pandemic people are just focused on studying and it is really hard to go out of the box and do something different. It is very important to make people feel they have something else to do besides studying and being concerned. If people have information they have the power.

DOS asks which is the aspect she thinks OBESSU has the most room for improvement.

Caridad answers that OBESSU works on every topic and that each year it focuses on a specific topic. Mental health is really important now as well as the inequalities that emerged during this pandemic, the privileges that some people have so OBESSU should focus on some of those topics: mental health and privileges and making everyone equal.

DOS asks how she sees herself tackling those problems.

Caridad answers that OBESSU can work with MOs on discussing and tackling the points mentioned, as well as with other organisations working on the topics, for example cooperating with psychologists and having the information and sharing it, making information get to schools and students.

The **Chair** closes the speaking list.

The candidates come back to the room.

Rares from **CNE** presents his candidacy to the Membership.

Rares is 18 years old, the President of CNE and he has been active at every level for the last 4 years. CNE represents 1.8 million school students in Romania. Last year has been the most challenging for students. CNE reports show that 95% of the students have been highly affected by the pandemic. We can see together building back better membership engagement. NRRP can play a crucial role in monitoring the implementation of those plans. Expanding E+ and making it work for school students. Help MOs to recover from the pandemic and have a quality representation. In CNE the motto is being the voice of your peers.

ASUBIH takes the floor to make a comment on the high commitment of Rares.

ASUBIH asks what is the motivation to lead his Organisations.

Rares answers that his mandate as a President will end in July. He has been working at every single level and the expertise acquired can be now spent at the international level. He can help to bring a bit of CNE in OBESSU. The main motivation.

DOS takes the floor to ask how he does see the cooperation between European stakeholders and OBESSU, since he mentioned European policies multiple times.

Rares answers that there are just a few countries missing in the submission of the NRRP, but the main focus would be to monitor the implementation of the plan. The advocacy efforts will be directed towards the European Commission and into bringing the MOs perspective and supporting them with an action plan.

Makosz asks how he is planning to carry out all these ideas.

Rares answers that it will take a long term monitoring process, since these plans will be 6 years long. We can start right away with the support of MOs building up from the work of the previous Board. It is crucial to be a relevant stakeholder and to have a strong Membership.

Petr from CSU presents the candidacy to the Membership:

Petr is starting University this year. At the beginning of his student activism started to realise that many things were not right. He started to represent students at the local and then at national level. There is a strong need to have a say, to speak up about inequalities and to segregation and access to education. This is the main motivation to run for the Board of OBESSU: to provide change and represent students in the best possible way.

ISSU takes the floor to say that a big part of OBESSU is the local level and asks if there was only one thing that he could do, what would that be. **Petr** answers that he would take over the Working Group on Education Funding and Reforms and support it as much as possible in finding all the reforms in Europe.

NSoA asks how you are planning to integrate VET. Petr answers that they had to face the same on a national level because they were underrepresented and he thinks that what needs to be done

is to have a focus group on this, student-led, because we cannot represent them if we don't have the inputs and tackle all the problems from their perspective.

Nadine from the previous Board presents her candidacy to the Membership:

Nadine presents her OBESSU experience: she has been involved in OBESSU since 2018 and she has been to many events. She has been on the ISSU board for 2 years and then in the Pool of Trainers and the Board. She has a very strong connection with student activism. During the past year she has increased her experience by working with all the different bodies and especially with the MOs of OBESSU. Despite the online switch the organisation is fully functional.

UNEL takes the floor and asks what Nadine learnt this year as Board Member and what can be improved. Nadine answers that she learnt about all the European Bodies and about all the projects. She cannot sum up with one word because there are so many things going on. She would like to change different projects and change portfolio, she would like to get experience in other fields.

CNE takes the floor and asks what are the future actions precisely.

Nadine answers that she would like to work on Europe@home project, to support home learning and help disadvantaged students to access education. She would like to work on Stronger on strengthening OBESSU Membership and to learn more.

5. During the Q&A other candidates are sent to a breakout room with one person from the MC and one from the Secretariat.

6. At the end of the Q&A, the Chair calls on the vote through the election runner after having explained the procedure. People can vote up to 5 people on their ballot. They can abstain by selecting none. The 5 people with the most votes and anyway with more than 50%+1 votes are elected.

7. The Ballot committee gives the information to the Chair who does not read out loud the number of votes but only the names of the people elected. Number of votes can be requested to the SG and is still public in the minutes.

8. The outgoing and remaining board should not speak or interfere during this agenda point.

9. The MC needs to be with the BC in the breakout room.

Roll Call: AKS, ASUBIH, BSK (Not present), CANAE, CEF, CNE, CSU, DGS, DOS, EEO (not present), ESCU (not present), FSS, ISSU, KYC (not present), LH (not present), LMS, MAKOSZ, NSoA, OSKU, RSM, SAKKI, SIF (not present), SLL, SUS (not present), SVB (not present), TOS, UDS (not present), UEM (not present), UNEL, UNL (not present), UNSS, USO (not present).

There are 19 Organisations with voting rights present.

All the candidates got elected for the Board.

The Chair congratulates the Board and leaves the room. **Anna**, the Chair from Day 1 joins the room and takes over.

34. Elections of the Monitoring Committee

The chair introduces the point:

1. From this moment onwards no one can enter the room as Zoom will be locked.
2. The Chair explains the procedure from the Internal Regulations
3. This election is to elect 4 MC Members for 1 year
4. The chair reads out loud the names of the candidates:
 1. Cătălin Ilieș, nominated by CNE, Romania
 2. Gearoid O'Donovan, nominated by ISSU, Ireland
 3. Emmi Jantti, nominated by FSS, Finland
 4. Adrian Barbaros, no nomination required as he is running in capacity of former Board Member

Catalin from CNE presents their candidacy to the Membership:

Catalin has been a student activist and vice president of CNE in the past years. 4 years ago, a teacher treated a colleague with disabilities very badly and nobody took action. He had a personal discussion with the teacher, but he felt the need to have a more structured way to act when situations like this happen. Since then, he has been fighting for students' rights and he worked hard to bring CNE interests to OBESSU. He wants to help MOs to grow by organising seminars from the MC.

No questions for the candidate. The candidate thanks all the General Assembly for being here.

Emmi from FSS presents her candidacy to the Membership.

Her OBESSU journey started in Molina and in the past 5 years she has been active. OBESSU gave a lot of opportunities to attend events and organise events. It was an honour for Emmi to be in the Working Group about mental health and to organise a convention. She was president of FSS and part of the Pool of Trainers of OBESSU. OBESSU and activism means a lot because students are the voice of the present and the future. Students can for students' rights and make the policy makers listen to them. Because she is part of a minority in Finland, she is very attached to the Organisation.

There are no questions for the candidate.

Gearoid from ISSU presents his candidacy to the Membership:

Gearoid had a background in youth activism. He has been a member of different Working Groups and he has participated in Seeds for Integration and Stronger projects. In this time he has gained knowledge about OBESSU and also improved his skills. He has gained monitoring and evaluation skills during his years of activism in ISSU. These skills are a great asset for the position in the Monitoring Committee.

ISSU takes the floor and asks the candidate what is the motivation to run from the MC.

Gearoid answers that he is driven by the passion for student activism, and he wants to continue at the international level. The MC is an important body to ensure the Organisation runs well. There are no more questions for the candidate.

Adrian, former BM of OBESSU presents his candidacy to the Membership:

Adrian was previously the International Officer of CNE, then he had very close contacts with the Pool of Trainers and then he continued being part of a Working Group. He would monitor, assist, and assess the Organisation from different angles to find ways to support all the different OBESSU bodies.

There are no questions for the candidate.

5. Each candidate has 5 minute to present themselves.
6. During the Q&A other candidates are sent to a breakout room with one person from the MC and one from the Secretariat.
7. At the end of the Q&A, the Chair calls on the vote through the election runner after having explained the procedure. People can vote max 4 people on their ballot. They can abstain by selecting none. The 2 people with the most votes and anyway with more than 50%+1 votes are elected.
8. The Ballot committee gives the information to the Chair who does not read out loud the number of votes but only the names of the people elected. Number of votes can be requested to the SG and is still public in the minutes.
9. The outgoing and remaining board and MC should not speak or interfere during this agenda point.
10. The MC needs to be with the BC in the breakout room.

Roll Call: AKS, ASUBIH, BSK, CANAE, CEF, CNE, CSU, DGS, DOS, EEO (not present), ESCU (not present), FSS, ISSU, KYC (not present), LH (not present), LMS, MAKOSZ, NSoA, OSKU, RSM, SAKKI, SIF (not present), SLL, SUS (not present), SVB (not present), TOS, UDS (not present), UEM (not present), UNEL, UNL (not present), UNSS, USO (not present).

There are 20 Organisations with voting right present.

All the candidates get elected for the MC.

The SG thanks the Chair for her participation in the final election. The Chair leaves the meeting.

35. Urgent Motions and resolutions

There are no urgent motions.

36. Any other business

The SG reminds participants to fill in the Declaration of Participation.

Alex from the Board takes the floor to thanks all participants for their participation and plays a goodbye video for the Board that is about to leave.

37. Closing of the GA

Bicca from the Board officially closes the General Assembly 2021.