OBESSU is supported by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe, the Open Society Foundations and the European Solidarity Corps Programme.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreword from the Board</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Vision &amp; Mission</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Membership</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our People</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Achievements</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects &amp; Events</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy &amp; Advocacy</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partners</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finances</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Foreword from the Board
For OBESSU, 2021 has been a year of significant changes. Not only have we expanded our Membership and ended the overlapping Board mandate by electing 5 new Board Members but we also, alongside the rest of the world, experienced the struggles and challenges relating to the return to the ‘new normal’. 2021 saw the first in person meeting of the entire OBESSU membership in 2 years, at the Council of Members in November, which took place in Brussels. On top of that, we have expanded our Secretariat and have taken on new projects to further the representation of school students’ rights in Europe.

This year has been difficult for our Membership - issues such as funding cuts, engagement of their own membership, and returning to in person events and education are just a few of the obstacles they have faced in the past year. We, as a Board, are extremely proud of our Membership and our Secretariat for their strength and resilience during the difficult year that was 2021, and we are constantly impressed and inspired by their passion for school students’ rights.

Nevertheless, online meetings seem to not want to disappear for now as well as the COVID crisis. 2021 showed us that anything can happen at any time. That is why OBESSU had learnt how to adjust to changes so that the Organisation could continue to fight for school students rights all over Europe. For us it is clear:

**School Student Rights are not, and never will be, in a lockdown!**
The Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU) is the platform for cooperation between the national school student unions active in general secondary and secondary vocational education in Europe. It was founded in April 1975 in Dublin, Ireland and brings together Member, Candidate and Affiliate Organisations from all over Europe. All Member Organisations are independent, national, representative and democratic school student organisations.

At OBESSU we are all about:

- True school student participation and representation
- Democratic education systems
- Equal access to education
- A school fit to the needs of today’s challenges
- Solidarity and understanding
- Supporting the development of school student structures
- Transnational experience exchange
In 2021, OBESSU enlarged its Membership reaching out to new school student unions and consolidating the relationship within the network. BSK from Germany and OSKU from Finland, previously OBESSU Candidate Organisations for one year, became official Members during the Online General Assembly 2021.

Two new school student unions that we have been working closely with joined OBESSU as Candidate Organisations during the Council of Members in Brussels. We are talking about Mouvement National Lycéen (MNL) from France and the Secondary Students’ Unions of Northern Ireland (SSUNI) from Northern Ireland.

We closed the year with a total number of 34 organisations as part of OBESSU: 28 Member Organisations, 4 Candidate Organisations and 2 Affiliates Organisations.
How do we keep in touch with our membership?

12
Hot Chocolates in 2021 where we discuss different topics from feminism, to environment and policy papers.

12
Monthly OBESSU Overviews

80
Basecamp posts
Our people
The Board is our highest governance body in between membership meetings. They lead the organisation based on the decisions taken by the Members and they represent the organisation externally, with the aim of achieving the strategic goals of the organisation. In 2021, we elected our first non-overlapping mandate. This means that the people elected at our General Assembly 2021 will represent OBESSU Members until June 2023. Get to know them and their portfolios!

**Alexandra Seybal**  
She/Her - Austria (AKS)  
Global Outreach / Gender Justice / Post-Covid19 Schools /Democracy & Participation

**Caridad Alarcón Sanchéz**  
She/Her - Spain (CANAE)  
Non-formal Education / Sex Education / Climate Justice (GCE) / Accessibility in Education

**Nadine Toye**  
She/Her - Ireland (ISSU)  
VET / European Apprentices Network / Migrant Education / Early School Leaving / Mental Health

**Petr Franc**  
He/Him - Czech Republic (CSU)  
Global Outreach / Education Funding / Conference on the Future of Europe / Democracy & Participation

**Rareș Voicu**  
He/Him - Romania (CNE)  
Curricula for the 21st century / Early School Leaving / Digital Education / Post-Covid19 Schools
Our Secretariat

We are thankful to have had a whole bunch of incredible people in the Secretariat. The Secretariat is the executive and operational body of the Organisation. They make sure that the ideas of the Membership are translated into real events, meetings, processes and outputs. They also coordinate the project efforts of the organisation and promote our work through outreach activities. Meet our Staff!

Giuseppina Tucci
She/Her
Secretary General

Dragana Jovanovska
Programme Manager

Samira Boumakdi Isabel
She/Her
Policy & Communications Manager

Maria Ballesteros Melero
She/Her
Projects & Capacity Building Officer

Juanma Báez
Project and Policy Officer

Rute Nunes
She/Her
Finance & Project Officer

Know more about OBESSU than Wikipedia

Meet deadlines without coffee

A pragmatic dreamer

She has a pool of... trainers!

A true Changemaker

Our Excel magician
Eleonora Murru  
She/Her  
Membership & Communication Officer

Carmen Beatriz Romero Rodriguez  
She/Her  
European Solidarity Corps Volunteer - Membership & Outreach

Riccardo Ferraresi  
He/Him  
Finance & HR Officer

Gilda Isernia  
She/Her  
Research & Policy Assistant

Ettore Bucci  
He/Him  
Research & Policy Assistant

Maria Laura Mitra  
She/Her  
Capacity Building Assistant

Is omnipresent in every team

Will turn your event into a musical

Give her something and she will proofread it

NRRPassociate

Creates order from chaos
In June 2021, OBESSU Members elected a new Monitoring Committee. The MC is the body of OBESSU that makes sure that the organisation is accountable, transparent and true to its principles. They audit the organisation regularly under different aspects and are always approachable to solve conflicts or mediate. Meet our MC!

![Gearoid O Donovan](#)

![Cătălin Ilieș](#)

![Adrian Barbaros](#)

![Emilie Jantii](#)

We also want to thank Antonia, Craig, Edvardas and Milda who were in the MC for the mandate 2020-2021.
The Working Group on Education Funding and Reforms is supporting the advocacy efforts of OBESSU by developing a toolkit on how to build stronger advocacy capacity for Member Organisations. The Working Group is composed of 4 motivated members: Adam from ISSU, Andrea from CANAE, Emilis from LMS and Prokop from CSU. The Working Group had the possibility to meet offline during the EYE 2021 and plan the months to come. Their mandate lasts one year.
Our Pool of Trainers makes sure that our events and processes are rock-solid when it comes to quality of learning. In 2021, they supported OBESSU throughout a series of online and offline events and delivered trainings on topics such as graphic facilitation, using canva and mural for student activism, membership and advocacy. They also prepared content related to making school student unions stronger, on topics such as: outreach upwards and downwards, having inclusive and democratic organisations, communication, etc.

Adnana Turkić
Adam Lambe
Aleksandar Nikolić
Azra Sorguč
Craig Smith
Kriszta Józsa
Le’Shaé Woodstock
Miriam Weber
Michal Ostrý
Nikolett Szabó
Srdjan Petković
Xenia Kremer
Sara Pöll Finnbogadóttir
Achievements

**JANUARY**
Position Paper on the Learners Perspective on the Osnabruck Declaration

**FEBRUARY**
First Board & Secretariat Meeting

**MARCH**
First Spill the Tea // Global Congress with GSF // Joined the UNESCO GEM report launch

**APRIL**
46th OBESSU birthday / Spill the beans / Free Ahmed Samir

**MAY**
Impact month #EcoFighters
JUNE
Online GA

JULY
Ideathon

AUGUST
Holidays

SEPTEMBER
2 Regional Exchanges

OCTOBER
Launch of “Through School Students’ Eyes” during EYE

NOVEMBER
ECMA Final Conference

DECEMBER
Hybrid COMEM

Impact month
#EcoFighters

Online GA

Ideathon

Holidays

2 Regional Exchanges

Launch of “Through School Students’ Eyes” during EYE

Hybrid COMEM

ECMA Final Conference

Impact month
#EcoFighters
General Assembly

The OBESSU General Assembly 2021 took place on 19th and 20th June online. During the 2 days, more than 40 delegates from all over Europe participated in discussions on the future of the organisation, elected the Board and Monitoring Committee, welcomed BSK (DE) and OSKU (FI) as full members, renewed the vote of trust to the Secretary General, heard reports from different Working Groups and Taskforces and voted on the Annual Financial Contribution 2022. Among others, Members focused on discussing the impact of Covid-19 on schools, our involvement in the Conference of the Future of Europe. Oh, and let’s not forget our GA dance!

Council of Members

Our Council of Members took place in a hybrid format in Brussels (and online) on 27th and 28th November. During COMEM Members had a chance to discuss in depth several topics, from building curricula suited for the 21st century, to tackling early school leaving; from engaging with the European Year of Youth to re-mobilising students after Covid-19. COMEM delegates also had a chance to experience our Generation-Deliberation methodology and discuss about the Conference on the Future of Europe with external guests. Members also passed the Implementation Plan 2022, defining what our organisational plan is. Curious about our meeting? Have a look at what a day at COMEM looks like!
## Board Meetings

### February 2021
- Staff and Board cooperation
- Covid-19 taskforce and research
- Invitation to General Assembly
- Updates on budget, projects and partnerships

### April 2021
- Membership engagement and strategy
- Preparations of the General Assembly
- Meeting with the Monitoring Committee
- Code of conduct preparation

### June 2021
- Updates on internal structures
- Membership survey result discussion
- Mandate evaluation
- Final GA preparations

### July 2021
- Handover: expectations and mandate goals
- Portfolio division
- Teambuilding
- Intro to OBESSU processes and documents

### September 2021
- Policy session: setting goals
- Received membership applications
- Implementation plan 2022
- COMEM 2021 planning
- Staff and Board Meeting

### November 2021
- Financial outlook 2022
- Operating Grant 2022
- Final preparations COMEM
- New campaigns, policy papers and activities

---

## Monitoring Committee Meetings

The MC met twice in 2021, once in March - to discuss the state of play and prepare their report to the Membership and the internal audit - and once in July when the newly elected MC met to strategise on the work in their mandate and to meet with the Board to discuss their joint actions.
In 2021 we worked successfully on all OBESSU’s pillars through our different projects and events. Indeed, the past year was challenging as it marked the second year of the educational systems around the world (functioning) within the Covid-19 pandemics, but it also represented many new approaches and ideas when it comes to the solving of these challenges.

In OBESSU, we worked for more inclusive and sustainable educational systems that are adjusted and responsive to the current situation and needs of all young people, as well as structural support and investments in terms of funding for the improvement of the school systems all around Europe (and beyond).

**The European Change Makers Academy**

The European ChangeMakers Academy, funded by Erasmus+, finished its two years of implementation in 2021. During this period, more than 100 young people in six different countries in Europe have been trained to conceptualise and implement their own social projects. They received this training through an online **MOOC** on activism, peer-learning activities and training courses and manuals on dissemination among other modalities.

Once our Changemakers felt prepared, they toured Europe with Interrail to organise workshops, they visited a local organisation to learn about how they make a change in practice in each country of the project and they conceptualised six local projects in a Youth Goals Ideathon, a project design competition.

The projects created during the Ideathon were then implemented following the ECMA Methodology and Guidelines in each of their communities. They organised six national events that included the design of a social board game, workshops to bring together Estonian-speaking and Russian-speaking Estonians or a tour around Ireland promoting political participation.
#EcoFighters: School students for the environment

During 2021 we worked on finalising the implementation of the #EcoFighters work plan, funded by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe. The project focused on environmental activism and sustainability, with the major outcomes being a MOOC, a Guide for School Students Activism into Environmental Activism and policy recommendations on Education for Environmental Sustainability. The highlight of the project were also 6 national events that we realised during the Impact Month from the side of our Member organisations.

#ECOFIGHTERS

Stronger School Student Unions

The tailor made project to support OBESSU Membership has successfully come to an end. Thanks to Stronger:

• Six Member Organisations have implemented meaningful projects in their countries;
• We organised two regional exchanges, one in Prague and one in Belgrade, that involved seven organisations and finally allowed organisations from the same regions to discuss and share their experiences as student unions;
• We visited our Member organisation NSoA during their General Assembly and we got to know them and support them better;
• We visited the Secondary Students’ Union of Northern Ireland in Belfast that as a result joined OBESSU as a Candidate Organisation;
• We organised an online training for Staff Members of our Membership that served as a learning and sharing space among different organisations;
• We finalised a toolkit for our Membership to help them organise more inclusive events.
Generation D-Liberation

Generation D-Liberation is a project in the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe that aims at giving tools and creating spaces to discuss political topics among students, in particular climate change, the right to quality education, decent jobs for young people, mental health and minority rights, through school student assemblies and a communications campaign to amplify those ideas and to reach out to more students. You can find the methodology and all the info about the project [here](#).

We organised four student assemblies around Europe: in France, Belgium, Romania and Italy. The methodology of the Generation D-Liberation project was also tested on two different occasions, at the EYE - European Youth Event in Strasbourg (October 2021) and at our Council of Members in Brussels (November 2021).
Policy implementation support and teacher empowerment for CITIZenship EDucation is a European-funded project whose final objective is to develop an innovative set of instruments that will help the implementation of citizenship education in European education systems. It has the ambition to become an effective catalyst of a multiplication process by filling existing implementation gaps between policy statements and daily practice in the schools. The project is complementing some existing policies and measures that have an ambition to mainstream already existing good practices within the policy work and efforts.

European Civic Education through the mobile is a project that OBESSU implemented in cooperation with JEF Europe and it’s member organisation, aiming to examine and further develop the practises of digital education that have been put in place in the wake of the pandemic, with a particular focus on European Civic Education. Results of this joint work is the publication of the research of the state of digital education, led by OBESSU - Digital Education Tools: Opportunities vs Practice, and the Resource Manual for digital civic education.

Brave New You - Reloaded is a project that focuses on building capacities and trust among different groups of young people within the community, in order to bring them closer on local and international level and co-create together a more inclusive and open-minded Europe.

As the core of the work within this project for OBESSU is the creation of the Recommendations for active participation of disadvantaged young people in society, that is due to be finalised and promoted during 2022.
Digital education e-teams and e-tutors for co-careering is a project that OBESSU started implementing in 2021, aiming to provide schools with an innovative approach to co-careering and e-guidance. E-teams aims to provide teachers with digital and pedagogical skills to support students active engagement both in in-presence and digital education settings, and during the next year we are expecting some specific outcomes on the topic mentioned above that we would promote as a resource for our Member Organisations.

European Cohorts of Patients and Schools to Advance Response to Epidemics is a Horizon Europe project that OBESSU started implementing in 2021, that gathers a multidisciplinary partnership between different research facilities, universities, businesses and organisations. It focuses on the impact of Covid-19 over the society, with OBESSU’s main focus being the impact and response in schools.

During 2021 we also had two active European Solidarity Corps projects (Acting for school student rights and Empower us! - Empowerment unites students), where 2 amazing volunteers joined the OBESSU team - Eleonora and Carmen. The projects focused mainly on working with the member organisations, development of the network improving the communication among our membership as well externally.
Policy & Advocacy

Highlights

Covid-19 research
The Covid-19 research kicked off in November 2020. It involved over a thousand students and teachers from all over Europe. It was the first in-house report by OBESSU, aiming to systematically investigate the effect of Covid-19 on secondary school students and their learning during the pandemic. The final output, a report of over 50 pages, contains information and data on the transition to online learning, methodologies deployed in the online classroom, teachers’ digital skills and students’ well-being amongst others. The research report was pivotal for many internal and external priorities of the organisation, to inform project applications and activities, steer Membership engagement strategies and plans, define policy priorities, advocacy and representation opportunities amongst others. It was disseminated both online and in person through conferences, roundtables, debates and events such as the EYE (European Youth Event, October 2021, Strasbourg) and the Fundamental Rights Forum (October 2021, Vienna). Throughout the upcoming year, the research will remain a guiding document for OBESSU.

Other publications
Together with the European Apprentices Network, we produced a position paper on The Learners’ perspective on the Osnabruck Declaration, bringing forward the learner’s perspective.

We published a reaction to the Commission’s President State of the Union address highlighting our concerns related to the lack of funds for education in the context of the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

We contributed as well in the writing of the Lifelong Learning Platform’s policy paper “Rethinking Assessments: Prioritising Learners’ Wellbeing”.

Consultations
OBESSU took part in the Commission online public consultations on:
- Online and distance learning. Our recommendations were based on the data and findings of our research on the impact of Covid-19 on school students’ wellbeing.
• **Pathways to School Success**, focusing on actions to reduce early school leaving from education and training. We participated as well in a consultative meeting, on this initiative, with the School Unit of DG EAC.
• **Education for environmental sustainability.**

Additionally, we have participated in the youth stakeholders meetings related to the organisation of the European Year of Youth organised by DG EAC.

**Representation**
Our Board members have been particularly active this past year, attending conferences, high level meetings and workshops on different topics related to education, at the EU but also international level. In addition to these ad hoc opportunities of representation, our Board Members have successfully secured our presence in several high level spaces:

• Our Board member Rares Voicu has been appointed, on behalf of the LLLP, as a member of the Commission’s Working Group on Pathways to School Success.
• Our Board member Nadine Toye, represents OBESSU in the Commission Expert Group on Vocational Education and Training.
• Rares Voicu is also a member of the GENE’s Working Group on Youth and Global education where he represents OBESSU and participates in the co-creation of a new European Declaration on Global Education towards 2050.
• Our Board member Caridad Alarcón Sanchéz seats also at the Board of Generation Climate Europe, the largest coalition of youth-led networks on climate and environmental issues at the European level and brings the views of school students at every meeting.
In 2021, we have worked on different occasions with the following partners and we want to thank them for the fruitful cooperation.
Outreach Campaigns

Throughout 2021 OBESSU has been communicating actively the advocacy activities of the organisation as well as the advocacy efforts of its Member Organisations. Furthermore on specific occasions or dates, OBESSU has led and or participated in some campaigns as a partner.

8th of March
On the occasion of the International Women’s Day we carried out a short social media campaign to raise awareness of the key issues and sexism that women face every day within the society. Moreover we spotlighted young woman activists from all over the world that are fighting against discrimination.

17th of November
The 17th of November marks a special date for the student constituency. This year OBESSU created a joint campaign with the Global Student Forum and the rest of its member organisations. #DontCutOurFuture aimed at showcasing the challenges that education systems are facing worldwide due to lack of funding and public investment. To launch the campaign, the organisation aforementioned released “Recovering better without cutting our future” This document highlights some of the major challenges that our education systems are undergoing, the impact on students’ lives and our demands for improvement.

Free Ahmed Samir and Patrick Zaki
Patriz Zaki and Ahmed Samir are two Egyptian students who, between 2020 and 2021, have been detained for their activism. Even though their cases are different, the similarities are unavoidable. Both of them were studying in Europe and when going back to Egypt to visit their loved ones, they were imprisoned. Academic freedom and freedom of speech are core values of OBESSU and that’s why we’ve been supporting these campaigns demanding their freedom.

Fair Share Campaing to end child labour
OBESSU has kept on supporting the 100 Million Campaing and the Fair Share Campaign to end Child labour. Despite the resources of the world, inequalities keep on growing and 152 million children are still working at the expense of their learning, childhood and future.

#MyInclusiveEurope
As partners in the project Brave New You, which aims at fighting hate speech and bringing youth communities from different countries closer, we participated in the join campaign
#MyInclusiveEurope that showcases examples of young people fighting hate and discrimination.

**Next Generation EDU**
Co-created with the European Student Union (ESU), the Lifelong Learning Platform (LLLP) and other Civil Society Organisations (CSO’s) involved in education, the campaign aimed at increasing the participation of CSOs in the discussions related to the National Resilience and Recovery Plans.

---

**Social media audience**

- **Facebook**: +33.6% 7.326 likes
- **Instagram**: +80 Followers 8.131 Accounts reached
- **Twitter**: +15% Followers

[Images of people holding signs and social media icons]