



STUDENTS AS DRIVERS OF CHANGE AT HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

By The European
Students Union

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For Seminar “Role of Students in Quality Assurance
at Higher Education Institutions”
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Session plan

1

European Students Union

2

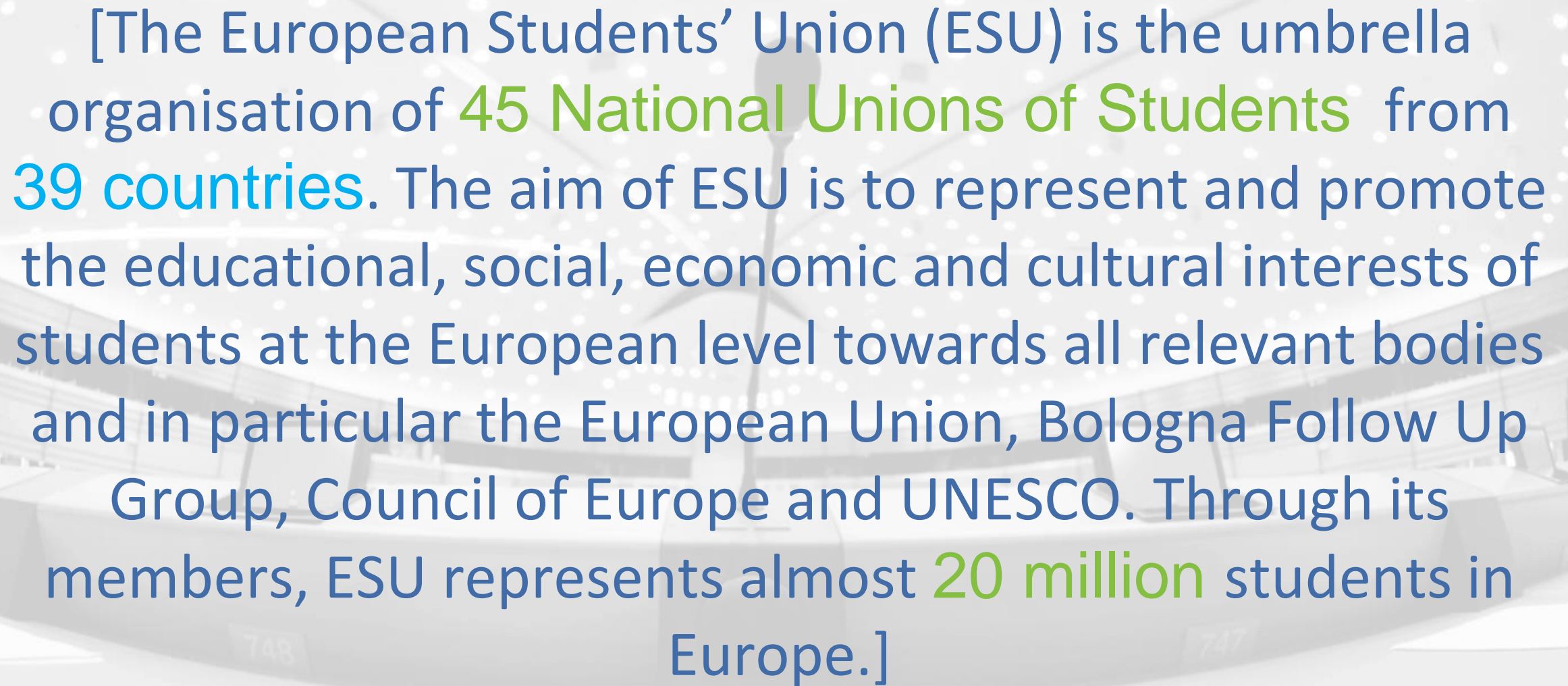
Roles of students: theoretical framework

3

Group Discussions

4

Summary



[The European Students' Union (ESU) is the umbrella organisation of **45 National Unions of Students** from **39 countries**. The aim of ESU is to represent and promote the educational, social, economic and cultural interests of students at the European level towards all relevant bodies and in particular the European Union, Bologna Follow Up Group, Council of Europe and UNESCO. Through its members, ESU represents almost **20 million** students in Europe.]

Our Aim

- **The aim of ESU is** to represent and promote the educational, social, economic and cultural interests of students at the European level towards all relevant bodies and in particular the European Union, Bologna Follow Up Group, Council of Europe and UNESCO. Through its members, ESU represents almost **20 million students** in Europe.
- **ESU's mission is** to represent, defend and strengthen students' educational, democratic and political and social rights. ESU will work for sustainable, accessible and high quality higher education in Europe.

Activities

- Bringing together, training and informing national student representatives on policy developments in higher education at the European level;
- Organising seminars, training, campaigns and conferences relevant to students;
- Conducting European-wide research, partnership projects and campaigns;
- Producing a variety of publications for students, policy-makers and higher education professionals.



Mobility and
Internationalisation



Quality of higher
education



Public responsibility
financing and
governance



Social Dimension

- **Social Dimension:** Access and support
- **Funding and Governance:** Public responsibility for education
- **Quality and transparency:** Structural reforms, academic affairs, Quality Assurance, Student Centred-Learning
- **Mobility and internationalisation**

Student changemakers: Medieval times...



Today: Multiple purposes of Higher Education

- Preparation for sustainable employment
- Preparation for life as active citizens in democratic societies
- Personal development
- Development and maintenance of a broad, advanced knowledge base

THREE DISTINCT MODES

- **Personal:** students' solitary actions that can be directed at changing **their own** circumstances or also **those of others**
- **Proxy:** trust to student representatives or student government to act on their behalf to **solve** a particular problem or secure a particular outcome
- **Collective:** belief in their **collective efficacy** as a group to secure a mutually desired outcome

Multilevel Nature of Student Participation

- **Formal:** Governing and Management, Council, Senate, etc.
- **Quality Assurance:** Internal and External
- **Student-Centered Learning:** Creating ones own learning path

Four relationship constellations

- state/students
- university/students
- professoriate/students
- representative student organizations/students

Group work

- Break into groups of 9-10 people
- Choose one person to write down your discussions
- Follow the instructions on the right →
- Choose one person to report your discussions to the whole group

1. Modes

- List **3 problems** to be solved through
 - I. personal involvement;
 - II. Proxy
 - III. Collective

2. Multiple levels

- Name at which level (Formal, QA, SCL) this problems can be solved

3. What will the students get?

- Explain how will you as a students and community of the students benefit from this?



Barriers for students to make changes

- **Physical**

- **Structural**

- **Cultural**

- **Resource dependant**



[It is important that students bring a certain ragamuffin, barefoot irreverence to their studies; they are not here to worship what is known, but to question it.]

Jacob Bronowski

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The European Students' Union

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THANK YOU!
