

# Strengthening student role within higher education institutions

*“Training for students”*

*Project: “Supporting and Developing the Structures for the quality Assurance at  
the Private Higher Education Institutions”*

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**TEMPUS**

***Mjellma Carabregu***

*WUS Austria Prishtina Office*

# Importance of student participation in the higher education processes

- ✓ Continuously underlined by Ministers in the Bologna Process;
  1. Prague Communiqué 2001
  2. Berlin Communiqué 2003
  3. London Communiqué 2007
- ✓ Conclusion: The role of students in higher education recognized at all levels

# Definition of student union

- ✓ Different names: **students' union, student government, student senate, students' association, guild of students or government of student body**
- ✓ **It is a student organization present in many colleges, universities and has started to appear in some high schools.**

- ✓ In higher education, the student union is often accorded its own building on the campus, dedicated to social and organizational activities of the student body.



# Pillars of the student movement

✓ *Representativeness*

✓ *Openness*

✓ *Democracy*

✓ *Independence*

*According to “Ljubljana Declaration”  
created at the 15<sup>th</sup> European Students  
Convention*

# Making the student voice heard

- ✓ *The media*
- ✓ *Your presence online*
- ✓ *Branding*

*“According to the European Students’ Union (ESU) assessment on students’ movement, 2008, student representation has not succeeded to establish itself in Kosova, Turkey, Armenia and Moldova”.*

# Recommendations of ESU on student participation

- ✓ Legislation guaranteeing minimum level of student participation
- ✓ Union funding needs to be examined

# Consultation of higher education institutions with students

- ✓ Are there transparent procedures in place for students to be able give feedback on the quality of the educational process?
- ✓ Are students consulted on curriculum content?
- ✓ Are students consulted on the teaching and evaluation methods used?
- ✓ Are students involved in periodic program quality reviews?



- ✓ Are students involved as full and equal members in committees where issues relating to the student experience are discussed at all levels (e.g. department, faculty, university, etc)?
- ✓ Are straightforward procedures in place for students to appeal decisions regarding their academic attainment or progression?
- ✓ Are students consulted when learning outcomes are designed?
- ✓ Are students informed on the intended learning outcomes before they start a course or program component?

- Are students consulted during the institutional quality assurance process?
- Do students have access to appropriate research and study facilities both on and off campus?

# Sources

1. The Student Union Development Handbook, *The European Students' Union (ESU)*, Brussels, March 2009
2. Bologna with students eyes 2009, *The European Students' Union (ESU)*, Leuven, April 2009
3. Student-Centered Learning –Toolkit for students, staff and higher education, *The European Students' Union (ESU)*, Leuven, October 2010

Thank you very much for your  
attention!