

Dear liberal friends, please find below the second issue of the ELSN newsletter: ELSN News of November 2009.

Best regards

Phil

===== ELSN NEWS =====

What happens inside ELSN? Updates on current events and initiatives by the European Liberal Students Network.

. YLM: Philipp attended the 2009 Young leaders Meeting in Aachen, holding a presentation about ELSN. During the discussion round regarding the topic of the YLM, "Innovation, Science and Higher Education: The future of Europe?", ELSN was asked to elaborate positions on excellency in European Higher Education and related social aspects for students. See the LYMEC statement at <http://www.lymec.org/index.php?name=News&file=article&sid=733>

. LYMEC student campaign: ELSN was tasked by the LYMEC Bureau with the planning, creation and execution of the LYMEC campaign aimed at students. The ELSN working group during the Zagreb EC has already collected some ideas about the campaign, which will be shortly sent around.

. LYMEC EC in Zagreb: A ELSN fringe meeting has taken place during the EC in Zagreb. At the meeting, the current and future projects of ELSN were discussed as well as the internal ELSN rules. The minutes will be posted to this mailing list.

. ELSN internal rules: As per §6a of the LYMEC Statutes, ELSN gives itself internal rules that will shape its work. A proposal has been drafted by the ELSN coordinators and is currently being discussed inside the LYMEC Bureau. As soon as this draft has been pre-approved, it will be sent via mailing list to all ELSN members who then shall engage in a discussion to modify and expand this draft of core principles. This discussion, where ELSN MOs can speak out and propose additions and modifications to the future rules governing ELSN, will take place until early 2010 in order to present a draft to be voted upon during the first 2010 LYMEC EC.

. ELSN on twitter and Facebook: ELSN is now tweeting! ELSN has a twitter account that you can follow: <http://twitter.com/ELSN> If you have not already, please join our Facebook group and tell your fellow liberal students to do the same. You'll find it at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=9174322094>

===== CALL FOR ACTION =====

Your action required for ELSN! We need your opinions, suggestions and contributions.

. LYMEC student campaign: ELSN will create a campaign aimed at Europe's student! Possibly to be distributed along with your own material, we would like to create a leaflet to underline the European dimension in liberal student politics and embed the political action at the universities in a larger picture of universities' autonomy, the freedom of research and their role, as well as that of the student, in building the innovative society of tomorrow.

. ELSN positions on excellence in HE and social mobility: Following the debate at the YLM, the MOs in ELSN were asked to produce a document outlining their common position on how the EU can promote the competitiveness/excellence of our universities (private/public funding, etc.), and how to approach the social mobility issue in this context (student selection, tuition fees, etc.). Does your organization already has a policy on this? Please kick off a discussion on this mailing list by writing to members@elsn.eu

. Next ELSN seminar: We are starting the preliminary preparations for the next (and

third!) ELSN seminar, scheduled to be held in the first half of next year. A general discussion on the mailing list about the possible topics of that seminar is very, very welcome. What could be a good topic? Please share your opinions and ideas with the mailing list!

===== HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY NEWS =====

Who talks about higher education in Europe and what do they say? Interesting tidbits concerning higher education policy.

Do you have a link that you think the ELSN members should know about? Any suggestions are very welcome at newsletter@elsn.eu

. "EUROPE: Scoring university autonomy": Under the supervision of the European University Association, a comparative study to be launched on 30 November will map university autonomy in 34 European countries. The study will form the basis for a scorecard system to benchmark university autonomy after

2011. <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20091106120156959>

. "SWEDEN: Plan to introduce fees creates problems": In its budget for 2010, the Swedish government has proposed introducing fees for foreign students from 2011. The Education Ministry is preparing a bill that will be presented to Parliament while universities and government officials are working out how to handle the change. Are we sure that raising fees on foreign students is going to increase student mobility in the EU and improve the attractiveness of Sweden for foreign students? <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20091015174906988>

. "EUROPE: Bologna a success but state support needed": A report from the EU education network Eurydice considers the state of the Bologna process. Regarding students, the report also analyzes the mobility of students between regional institutes but it says little research has been completed on tracking the movements of students between countries for the purpose of study: "Many countries still gather data only on nationality of students rather than tracking movement between countries for the purpose of

study." <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20090508120344853>

<http://www.elsn.eu>

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