

# Accountability Report

*For the position : Education Officer, mandate 2019/20*

**Julia Bauer**

## **General Overview**

The supporting position of the Education Officer is mainly responsible for everything related to education, Higher Education Institutes, policies and policy making and other non-commercial stakeholders. In the past year, my main goal was to push ESN forward in the field of recognition of student volunteering and to strengthen the relationship with certain stakeholders, such as the DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) and the VDSI (Verband Deutscher Studierendeninitiativen). Let's see, what I did, where I represented ESN and what I could have done better.

## **Tasks**

In general my main tasks were to stay in touch with our institutional partners as well as with the Education Community of ESN International. I had monthly calls with the community as well as with the VDSI and the DAAD, mostly to update on what is going on inside of ESN Germany, but also in terms of asking for advice or general best practice sharing. I also monitored education policies and the development of the future Erasmus+ programme.

In the beginning of the mandate the main task was to spread the ESN Survey regarding Active Citizenship, translate the documents for our National Agencies and spread it as well as answering numerous calls from Higher Education Institutes regarding the survey. If you look at the official report, you'll see that ESN Germany did quite a good job. In relation to this survey, I helped the DAAD with organizing the special Europeday Activities, reminding the sections (those who are LEIs) and helping some to come up with ideas.

Related to this is the regular reminder to fill in and send the LEI reports and applications for those sections who are LEIs (and obviously those who want to become one). Also, attending the LEI Meeting in June in Rostock was part of my « Job », I helped with advertising for it as well as preparing it contentwise with the DAAD and holding a session on our national Code of Conduct. Thanks again to ESN LEI Rostock for organizing, they did an awesome job !

Another big event I was highly engaged with, was the German-Greek Youthbarcamp in Leipzig, organized in honor of the foundation of the German-Greek Youth Foundation in cooperation with the German Ministry of families, seniors, women and youth (BMFSFJ). I was responsible for

leading the German delegation (unfortunately only few people joined) and getting in touch with the Greek ESN delegation. There, we had the chance to present workshops (in my case on active citizenship and current fears and threads in Europe), connect with other youth organizations both from Germany and Greece. Also, I was part in a public discussion with other participants and the federal minister for families, seniors, women and youth (Mrs. Giffey).

Not part of my position, but as a representative of ESN Germany, I joined the GlobErasmus Meeting in Brussels, where we worked together with other Erasmus-related organizations on the UN Sustainable Development Goals and how we can include them into our work (you can find our guide in the Wiki, just check the ICE documents).

I also joined the Education Community Meeting in June as well as the Erasmus Upgrade in October. The first one is mostly a training and best practice sharing with other presidents and Education Officers, where I could connect with other EOs, learn more about advocacy in general and share experiences and best practices. It was also the first meeting of presidents and EOs since the community merged. During the Erasmus Upgrade, other Education enthusiasts were also present, such as the members of the International Committee for Education. The Erasmus Upgrade training ended with the launch of the results of the ESN survey in the European Parliament, where we could ask questions both to the people involved and a MEP and other representatives of European organizations. Being a part of the Education Community means also to take care of the European University Initiative, where we luckily have now ESN Kiel as part of the EU Sea Alliance, together with other ESN sections.

Like the year before, I wrote an article for the VDSI magazin (Engagier Dich), this time about the anniversary of ESN and its achievements in the past 30 years. In general, I was always in touch with VDSI, inviting them to our NPs/NAs, forwarding mails and surveys, joining their meetings and representing ESN Germany and our interests. I also joined their advocacy team where we work together on a more reliable system of volunteer recognition. I am currently still part of this team and work further on this topic as it is highly important that student volunteering receives more attention. This year, I also got the chance to visit a statutory meeting of one of their other member initiatives, called Marketteam, where I shared some ESN knowledge and presented our CoC (with the result that they now have their own one).

My last duties were again spreading and translating the documents for the ESN survey, but due to Covid-19, it switched to the Covid-19 survey, but the duties were the same. It was very well received by the DAAD as well as the universities and the numbers were similar to the ones from

the year before. In combination with this topic, I also joined a few calls from various partners and ESN International regarding the actions of ESN during the pandemic.

I also organized a group of ESNers to join our National Agency's (Jugend für Europa) project weekend on solidarity projects in Hannover, where I also took part.

A huge part of my tasks were not only in the field of education but rather in the general NB tasks. We have weekly calls, we had two physical meetings, one transition meeting and one right before NP Karlsruhe to work on our action plan. Also the preparation for the NPs/NAs is part of our duties and in my case, I took care of facilitating workshops on the engagement in VDSI, local advocacies, creating local partnerships with non-commercial partners and other initiatives etc. I'd have chaired the LP East (everything was ready to go), but unfortunately it had to be cancelled due to the lack of participants. I was also present during the Spreebreak, where I was actively supporting the OC. Important for me to mention is that generally supporting the NB as a team and our mutual decisions are something which I highly value and work for. Especially for the position of EO, working together with the president is the most important thing. Working together with Olivia was such a pleasure and I always had the feeling that we could talk about everything, share tasks and just in general support each other. Both of us have different strengths and we always found a way to combine our « forces » and I surely miss working with her.

One of my last tasks was to organize and prepare the registration for the EYE in Strasbourg. We managed to accumulate over 30 German ESNers and were ready to sign up for workshops, but due to Covid-19 the event was cancelled, similar to the meeting for the German-Greek Youth Foundation (the registration was not opened due to the pandemic), which would have been in Greece this time.

I also took the chance to join the Eduk8 Starter, which is not one of my tasks, but I joined to give hopefully some of my knowledge back to the network in a more professional matter.

### **Events + Type of Participation**

NPs/NAs : Dresden, Karlsruhe, München (NB)

German-Greek Youthbarcamp (groupleader)

GlobErasmus (participant)

LEI Meeting Rostock (participant, WS holder)

Two VDSI general meetings (representative for ESN Germany)

Spreebreak (OC helper)

WEP (participant, reflection group leader)

Marketteam general meeting (representative for ESN Germany)

Education Community Meeting Warsaw (participant)

ErasmusUpgrade Conference (participant)

Projectweekend « Solidarity Projects » (responsible for the delegation of ESN Germany)

Eduk8 Starter Poland (participant)

### **Personal Resumé**

After two years of mandate, I can say that I had a wonderful time being the EO of ESN Germany. To be honest, I often thought that this is not the right position for me and that I can't put as much time and energy into it as other NB members. And I am pretty sure that there are people who are not happy and content with the job I did, regarding that I didn't have as much achievements as planned in the strategy and action plan. I can just say that I did the best, that I could during that time and if I every caused harm to anyone, it was never with any ill intentions. Also, looking now at Jeannine, she is already doing such a great job, with all her passion and energy – she really is the best successor I could have wished for. I wish her and the rest of the board a productive and enjoyable mandate, and hopefully with some events soon as they keep you going and motivated.

For me personally, I had the best time working in two great NBs : teamwork is part of your general work in the NB, in my opinion, and I had the feeling that I got the chance to work together with very talented and passionate people.

A huge thank you goes also out to the sections who trusted me two times with this position and for always supporting me, I met some of the best people ever due to this opportunity.

So, see you hopefully all soon, I wish everyone the best for the future, both personally and in ESN.