



6 Months After - EDS Bureau Enters 2nd Part of the Term!



Dear Friends of EDS,

My bureau and my self have now been in office for almost exactly six months. We started our work by having our first of many bureau meetings already one day after being elected into office. Here we started designing our plan of how to lift EDS as an organisation, in order to unleash the full potential which is latent in an organization representing over 500 000 students across Europe. One of our main priorities was to organise the XX. EDS Winter University in Brussels, in order to take our members as close to the institutions which are becoming ever more important aspects of European society. Today, six months later, it is with great pride I can say that it is only three weeks left until 150 centre-right students from across Europe will travel to Brussels for five days of seminars, workshops and meetings with high profile politicians and policy makers. The bureau has worked hard, in close cooperation with our friends in edH and CDS in order to make this possible; and I think it will not be unreasonable to say: this will be the best winter university in many years! The topic of the winter university is "Europe today, 20 years after – priorities for the youth", and we have gathered a wide array of relevant speakers and workshop organisers for our participants. In addition to this, we are looking forward to hosting the first alumni dinner since 2001, and we look forward to meeting those of our alumni who are attending, in order to learn more from our common history as EDS activists.

Last but not least I feel it is important to mention two people in specific who have made a great contribution to this event becoming reality; Secretary General Maria Keris, and EDS Policy Director, Juraj Antal. These two individuals have laid down an amount of working hours, which would infuriate even the most liberal labour unions, in order to make the Winter University in Brussels possible.

You can read more about the Winter University here:

www.winteru.eu

Sincerely,

Bence Bauer
Chairman of EDS

Preparations for the upcoming XX. Winter University

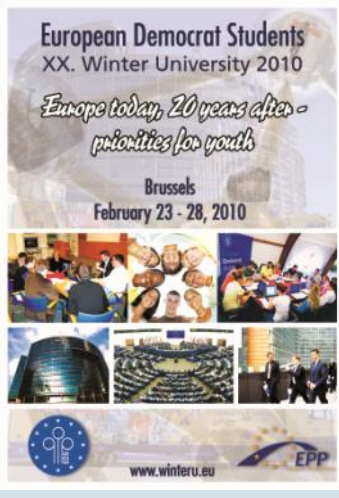
The preparations for the upcoming XX. Winter University in Brussels are ongoing with full steam: While EDS Secretary General Maria Keris and EDS Policy Director Juraj Antal are organising the technical and infrastructural background in Brussels, EDS Bureau, led by Chairman Bence Bauer, are focussing in key areas that need to be dealt with before the event.

According to the „normal“ Bureau responsibilities EDS Bureau divided its work to make the preparations most efficient: While Chairman Bence Bauer is taking care of high profile speakers and guests, leads the negotiations and overviews and supervises the work of the Bureau and the Secretariat, Bureau members have a certain and specific assignment: Vice-Chairman David Bozic is dealing with all conference-related materials and publications, Vice-Chairwoman Ildze Kanepaja is updating the participants', rooming and other lists while creating best practices also for future event organisers, Vice-Chairman Jean-Baptiste Dabezies compiles relevant information and knowledge about the venue, the higher education and the political system in Belgium with a reader, Vice-Chairman Samuli Kauranne follows up with members on their activities and expectations, Vice-Chairman Andreas Willersrud gathers the alumni to the alumni dinner and informs members. Our Vice-Chairman Andreas Perotti organises venues and all Parliament-based activities, while Vice-Chairman Christian Peuker fully takes care of the workshops and working groups and Vice-Chairman Matija Magerl is the chief designer of all WinterU-related appearances of EDS.

Last but not least the Directors Tetiana Gostieva and Carina Munck Olseen are dealing with registration and check in and inviting the press. Juraj Antal coordinates the background work in Brussels and is the key person to contact the Belgian full member organisations CDS and EDH who are helping EDS tremendously during this event. Thank you to Maarten Marchal and Jerome Nsanziimana.

Already Chairman of European Parliament Jerzy Buzek, Chairman of European Commission José Manuel Barroso, President of Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation Hans-Gert Pötering, President of EPP, Wilfried Martens and Secretary General Antonio Lopez-Isturiz have confirmed as well as Stevan Vanackere, Foreign Minister of Belgium, Director of the Centre for European Studies, Tomi Huhtanen and former EDS Vice-Chairman Frank Engel MEP.

This event will gather 125 participants from 35 countries and EDS Bureau is confident, that after six years, EDS needs to have its place for the WinterU in Brussels again.



EDS workshop at the Robert Schuman Institute



EDS Chairman Bence Bauer and former Co-Chairman of the PWG (Permanent Working Group) „Higher Education and Research“ Márton Schöberl, delivered a presentation about higher education policies, the Bologna Process and and education reform.

During the 6-day-programme of the Robert Schuman Institute, „Young Leaders Training XVI/3“, more than 15 young people from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Moldova and Ukraine participated. They were trained in specific fields of public affairs, including campaigns, but also different policies.

At the workshop delivered by EDS, special attention was given to the Bologna Process. EDS presentation pointed out the main elements of the Bologna system, its advantages, but also some weaknesses. Nevertheless, EDS strongly advocates the Bologna Process as the right way of shaping the European Higher Education Area.

Participants had a rather positive image of Bologna. It was underlined that student strikes against Bologna as such are totally unacceptable and on behalf of EDS, Chairman Bence Bauer pointed out that it is high time to think and talk about the positive changes Bologna brought us.

RSI project manager Gábor Berczeli thanked EDS and expressed his gratitude that RSI full member EDS is always active on the European stage in such issues.

To read more and find EDS powerpoint presentation, please visit:

www.edsnet.eu

SOHSS Croatia Elects New Leadership!



On Saturday, January 30th, SOHSS Croatia held their electoral assembly where around 50 delegates elected organisation's new leadership for the 2010 - 2012 tenure.

Newly elected chairman Mr. Mateo Ivanac emphasised in his speech the importance of centre-right values in higher education system and invited SOHSS members to work with him in taking a more active role in student politics in Croatia.

He also spoke about SOHSS' role in EDS saying that it is one of his primary goals to keep the respectable position SOHSS took as a full member of EDS in the last three years.

EDS Vice-Chairman Mr. Matija Magerl was present as a guest speaker at the conference while Mr. Bence Bauer's letter was read out to the assembly confirming strong ties and important role of SOHSS in EDS.

EDS Bureau wishes best of luck to the newly appointed SOHSS leadership in fulfilling planned goals in the next term

Upcoming events

- **23. – 27 February EDS 20th Winter University in Brussels** – Stay up-to-date! For latest programme and technical details visit: www.winteru.eu

EDS Bureau meets in Vienna!



After a short Christmas vacation, the bureau met in Vienna, Austria hosted by Aktionsgemeinschaft Austria (5th Bureau Meeting). During the bureau meeting the bureau focused primarily on planning the XX. EDS Winter University in Brussels, organised by the bureau in cooperation with our members edH and CSU, from Belgium. The bureau also took time to reflect on the first 5 months in office, and see where our weaknesses were, and find solutions to fixing them in order to become more efficient during our last 7 months in office. The Bureau Meeting in Vienna was finalized by a visit to a traditional Viennese ball at the imperial palace Hofburg.

EDS Bureau sums up its first six months in office!

Barely a month after being in elected into office the bureau met on the banks of the magnificent Lake Balaton in Hungary, for a two-day bureau meeting, where they laid the foundation for their common project; a stronger and more visible organisation. The individual bureau members were given specific areas of responsibility in order to maximize the utilization of our Vice Chairmen and Directors. A lot of focus was put on building up EDS as an effective organisation again, and objectives ranging from rebuilding the EDS website, gaining contact with our alumni, identifying and pursuing new sources of external financing were put on the agenda for the upcoming year...

Read the whole report on our website:

www.edsnet.eu

Busy Chairman

January was busy in the light of the intensive preparations of EDS Chairman for the XX. Winter University, but connected with less travel: Between January 8-10, Chairman lead the V. Bureau Meeting in Vienna, hosted by Aktionsgemeinschaft. January 18, the „20 years after“ campaign was presented to Fidesz officials and January 19, Bence Bauer attended the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation's conference at Andrassy University in Budapest and represented EDS. January 20, an interview was conducted with Hungarian daily Világággazdaság where EDS positions could reach out to broader public. January 22, Chairmen delivered a presentation at the Robert Schuman Institute about the Bologna Process and discussed with young people from Central Eastern European countries. Several bilateral meetings could be conducted with EDS full member organisations ODM Slovakia January 23 and NGPPCD Moldova, January 24. Apart from that, Chairman wrote official greeting and supporting letters to MGERB Bulgaria January 10, PNTCD Romania January 15, Young Front Belarus January 27 and to SOHSS Croatia January 28. Besides that, regular updates on EDS website and daily tweets (twitter.com/eds2009) enable public to follow EDS activities.

EDS Vice-Chairman elected Deputy Chairman of Tromsø Høyre!



EDS Vice-Chairman, Andreas Willersrud was elected to the position of deputy chairman of Tromsø Høyre at Tromsø Høyres annual meeting 30. January 2010.

Andreas has been active in EDS for two years, and is looking forward to the challenges and workload for the upcoming local elections in 2011. The EDS Bureau wishes Andreas the best of luck for his two-year tenure as Deputy Chairman.

EDS Activist enters national board of TK-Finland!

EDS Activist enters national board of TK-Finland.

The EDS Bureau wishes to congratulate Ms. Lotta Merisaari (25) as the first ever TK international secretary for a tenure lasting until 30th May 2011. Lotta studies theology at University



of Helsinki and has been a member of the TK national board since 2009. In 2008 she was the chairman of TK's Helsinki branch. She has also been an assistant to former Finnish MEP Eva-Riitta Siitonen until 2009 EU elections.

The office of the international secretary was created by the annual congress of TK in November and is in future to have a one-year tenure from June to May, while the rest of TK leadership is elected every November. Previously TK's international affairs have been under the leadership of either the chairman or one of the two vice-chairmen.

Contact details:

Lotta Merisaari, lotta.merisaari@tuhatkunta.fi,
+358 50 321 8015

RCDS Alumni look at the past and imagine the future



The RCDS Alumni association (RCDA) met in the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung on January 22th and 23th. The current RCDA chairman was chairing RCDS in 1989-90. It gave the opportunity to live again some days full of emotions. Until today, it is not decided if Greifswald or Erfurt was the first RCDS group founded in eastern Germany... But in several universities, students with christian roots joined the RCDS in order to defend openly their ideas in a new Germany to invent. In those times, everything was possible and the German unification was nothing but self-evident. People from the East or from the West were gathering and working together. Only a few years later, a certain opposition appeared due to a frustration in the East. Former activists for human rights in the GDR gave their testimony about the peaceful revolution. During the formal general assembly, EDS Vice Chairman Jean-Baptiste Dabezies gave an outlook on EDS activities and met one of the EDS founder, Dieter Ibielsky. In the last session, the RCDA youth and RCDS Chairman Gottfried Ludewig discussed the current challenges.