

58th
Spain

BoardMeeting
Madrid



Presidencia Española *eu* 2010.ES

CREUP Coordinadora de Representantes de Escuelas de Educación Pública

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ESU's 58th Board Meeting & Seminar

Madrid 3rd-8th of May 2010



ESU's 58th Board Meeting Seminar

Madrid 3rd-6th of May 2010

**Public Funding and Social
Dimension of Higher Education:**

**Investing into the future or
borrowing from it?**

www.bm58.eu



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Welcome words by Ligia Deca, ESU Chairperson



Dear friends,

The 58th ESU Board Meeting and Seminar titled “Public Funding and Social Dimension of Higher Education: Investing into the Future or borrowing from it?” is taking place in Madrid, between 3-6th of May 2010. Provocative title, wonderful city, 120 students’ representatives... All seems to be in place for a successful event and our host, CREUP - Coordinadora de Representantes de Estudiantes de Universidades Públicas (CREUP), has been working with outstanding dedication in the past months to make this event a success, on both content and networking levels.

This event would not have been possible without the support of the Spanish Presidency of the European Union, who has supported the event financially and has awarded the official label and thus vouching for its relevance in the higher education policy arena. I want to thank them for their continuous support, not just for this occasion, but also in the various meetings and seminars held in the past months, where Spain has been a promoter of student participation in Europe.

ESU is not at its first event on the topic of social dimension, but the melange between funding of higher education and social dimension is an explosive one, as it usually it goes back to a painful realisation – budgets for higher education are shrinking and there are few governments that are doing something about it, despite their rhetoric on public responsibility for higher education. The fact that the Spanish Presidency has made the relaunch of the social discourse in Europe a priority, especially looking at higher education, is a promising background for our debates. We aim at challenging debates, with contributors from different backgrounds and views that can provide various solutions for not losing the focus on social dimension in a challenging financial situation, solutions that are fit for purpose in the multiple national contexts that Europe has. ESU has been conducting a survey on the effects of the financial crisis on students. The results of the two tiered study will represent another major input for the event, providing some factual data on which the workshops can be based at.

This is also a strategic event. ESU aims at structuring its activities on strategies related specific initiatives or topics of high interest for its members: social dimension, financing, EU 2020, transparency, our experts’ pool, the role of the ESU structures in fulfilling the needs of its members etc. The seminar and the Board meeting will provide a space for discussing, arguing and sometimes clashing, but coming to a common direction that will make ESU the strategic organisation that its members want it to be.

The Board Meeting itself will include the elections of the ESU Executive Committee, Academic Affairs Committee, as well as for the Commission for Internal Audit and a position within the Student Union Development Committee. Also, the Policy Paper on Lifelong Learning will be discussed and hopefully adopted, as well as a through debate on the future vision of ESU will be facilitated by our Vision Task Force.

I want to end by thanking once more the national organizers, the wonderful CREUP team, as well as the ESU organizing team, for their efforts.

I like one Spanish proverb which says: “El movimiento se demuestra andando” (or “Action speaks louder than words” – as an English equivalent). I hope we could consider it an event motto and act accordingly.

May we all have a productive week that will not be easily forgotten!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ligia Deca', written in a cursive style.

Ligia Deca

ESU Chairperson

Welcome words

by Guille Rodríguez Lorbada, CREUP



Hello you all ;-)

It's an incredible honour, not only for me, but for all the Spanish people I represent (from CREUP to my most nearly friends) to share my city, my country, with all of you. To change my house into your house.

Indeed, to bring an ESU Event, specially a Board Meeting, is the first and stronger dream I had when I started this strange but grateful 'thing' of representing university students. It was 2006, and I became part of an old and tired group of students that encouraged me to lead the task of dealing with the unknown, of course to me, huge and impressive thing call ESIB. By the first moment I put my feet in that first ESIB event (Vienna European Students Convention), I knew that I needed to show my country to all that tireless workers for the common profit, and, of course, to show to my country that students representing and EHA issues were not an useless and crazy dream of fools.

And here we are. Just in the perfect moment. ESU comes to Madrid to speak, discuss, conceal and build around one the hardest problems Spain has deal with: the economic crisis. In this country, that has historically enjoyed of a public (as an euphemism of low-cost tuition fees) higher education, a lot of fears around the taxes and prices that the changes will lead to became the primal reason for those who reject the Bologna Process, basing their arguments in lies and fear.

And which way better to fight the fear than the light? That's exactly what ESU brings to Madrid, to Spain, by celebrating here his 58th Board Meeting. The light of the possibility, the light of the capability, the light of faith in an improving change, the light of the achieved results, the success, the light of exciting projects... the European light of a dream come true.

These, all of these, are the reasons why the only thing I can say to all of you is thank you.

I actually expect you to enjoy my city, my country, and see you back here again whenever you want. And, of course, to have a successful, useful and productive Board Meeting. Welcome.

Guille Rodríguez Lorbada

A handwritten signature in blue ink, written in a cursive style. The signature is slanted and appears to be 'Guille Rodríguez Lorbada'. It is positioned to the left of the printed name and affiliation.

CREUP

Preliminar agenda -

Contents

How can we finance higher education in times of economic downturn, without negatively affecting the social dimension of higher education? How can we ensure that reforms in funding of higher education are taking into account the existing social agendas and strategies for widening participation?

How can we fund the massification of higher education? Is there a limit to how long we can depend upon public funding, or will increased participation in higher education pay back on the long run?

Which options do we have when it comes to alternative funding? How can they help us maintaining a diverse and accessible higher education system and improve the systems where private sources of funding are already predominant?

How do private sources of funding affect the values and goals of higher education? To what extent can private sources of funding, university autonomy and public responsibility of higher education go together, or do they go together at all?

Does there exist an alternative to replace tuition fees? Can the implementation of tuition fees be avoided where they don't exist, and can tuition fees be removed where they already exist?

Can a system of tuition fees be combined with successful strategies for the social dimension and widening of participation, or will tuition fees always remain as a major obstacle to access, participation and social inclusion?

Timing

Monday, 3rd of May

8:45	-Bus will leave from Hotel. (Punctuality required)-	
9:30-10:00	Opening panel and welcome words	Paraninfo
10:00-11:30	Panel discussion: <i>The future of financing higher education: A looming disaster?</i>	Paraninfo
11:30-12:00	- Coffee Break -	
12:00-13:30	Parallel Female network meeting and Male session on Gender Equality	Paraninfo and Salón de Actos
13:30-14:30	- Lunch -	
14:30-16:30	Parallel discussion groups + intercultural learning session part 1-2 Discussion group 1: <i>Private funding sources as a part of institutional autonomy and successful governance?</i> Discussion group 2: <i>Does there exist an alternative to replace tuition fees?</i> Discussion group 3: <i>Let the others pay! - Effects of internationalisation on financing systems.</i> Discussion group 4: <i>Social standards in quality assurance.</i> Intercultural learning session: <i>How can we ensure an inclusive and effective board meeting?</i>	Paraninfo Salón de Actos Sala 1 Sala 2
16:30-17:00	- Coffee Break -	
17:00-18:00	Parallel discussion groups + intercultural learning session part 3	Same as before
18:00-18:45	Board Meeting Session - ESU's strategy on the EU2020 strategy	Paraninfo
18:45-19:30	Board Meeting Session - ESU's strategy on the development of the Quality Assurance Experts' Pool	Paraninfo
19:30-20:15	Board Meeting Session - ESU's Executive Committee session	Paraninfo
20:30	-Bus will leave from venue-	
21:30	- Dinner -	

Tuesday, 4th of May

8:30	<i>-Bus will leave from Hotel (Punctuality required)-</i>	
9:00-11:00	Parallel discussion groups + intercultural learning session. Part 4-5	Same as the previous day
11:00-11:30	<i>- Coffee Break -</i>	
11:30-13:30	Panel discussion: <i>Moving towards new financing models by taking into account strategies for the social dimension of higher education</i>	Parainfo
13:30-14:30	<i>- Lunch -</i>	
14:30-15:30	Discussion on the representation of LGBT students (Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual)	Parainfo
15:30-16:15	Board Meeting Session - ESU's Policy Paper on Lifelong Learning	Parainfo
16:15-16:45	<i>- Coffee Break -</i>	
16:45-17:30	Board Meeting Session - ESU's strategy on Financing Higher Education	Parainfo
17:30-18:15	Board Meeting Session - ESU's strategy on the Social Dimension of Higher Education	Parainfo
18:15-19:00	Board Meeting Session - ESU's strategy on Transparency in Higher Education	Salón de Actos
19:00-19:45	Board Meeting Session - ESU's Finances	Salón de Actos
20:00	<i>-Bus will leave from venue-</i>	
21:30	<i>- Dinner -</i>	

Wednesday, 5th of May

8:30	-Bus will leave from Hotel (Punctuality required)-	
9:00-11:00	Panel debate: <i>Fees for students - The road towards efficiency, equity and financial sustainability, or towards social exclusion and decrease in the quality of higher education</i>	Parainfo
11:00-11:30	- Coffee Break -	
11:30-12:30	Panel presentations: <i>The consequences of the economic downturn - cutbacks, reforms and threats towards the social dimension of higher education</i>	Parainfo
12:30-12:45	Presentation of the results from the Intercultural Learning session	Parainfo
12:45-13:30	Presentation and discussions on the results of the Femnet and the Male Gender Equality session.	Parainfo
13:30-14:30	- Lunch -	
14:30-15:00	Presentation on the report of the seminar: <i>Christine Scholz, General Rapporteur</i>	Parainfo
15:00-15:30	Press Conference	Sala 1
15:30-16:15	BM Session - ESU's strategy on structures evaluation	Parainfo
16:15-16:45	- Coffee Break -	
16:45-19:45	ESU's Vision task force session	Salón de Actos
20:00	-Bus will leave from venue to have a sightseeing tour-	
21:30	- Dinner -	

Thursday, Friday and Saturday: BM days

Bus will leave from Hotel at the time which will be announced ant the Hotel Lobby.

Saturday night will take place a **Gala Dinner** at Husa Princesa Restaurant. (Dress code not required.)

Leisure Agenda

Sunday, May 2nd

PHOTO SAFARI CONTEST

At 19:30 we will meet at hotel lobby to enjoy a very way of knowing Madrid: games, challenges, animation...

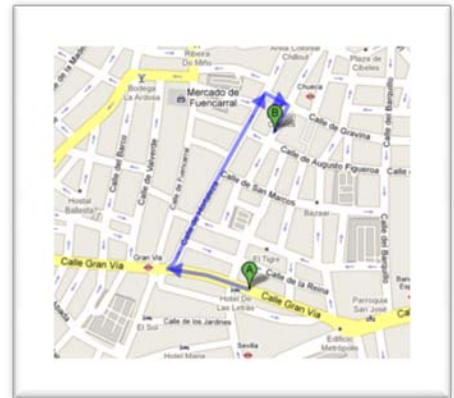
JUNCAR PUB

Quiet place, perfect for the first contact.

Spirit drinks: 4€.

From 23:00 to 2:00.

Address: 22 Pelayo Street.



Monday, May 3rd and Thursday, May 6th

IREAL

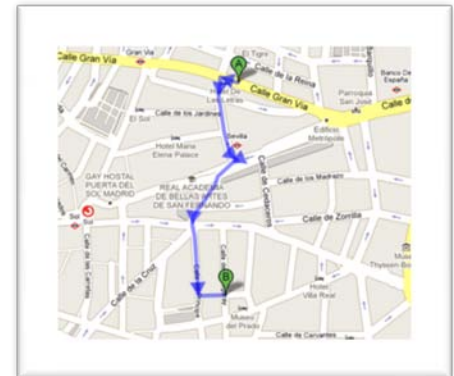
Good music, two floors. Good pub.

Spirit drinks: 4€

SPECIAL GIFT for ESU: Free cup of 'Sangría'. Taste it!

From 23:00 to 2:00.

Address: in the middle of Echegaray Street.



Tuesday, May 4th

MONALISA

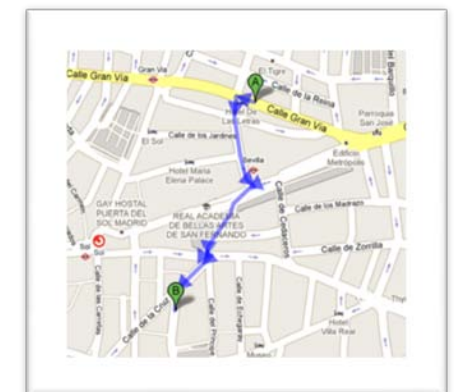
The most typical kind of Spanish pub. Different styles of music.

Spirit drinks: 4€.

SPECIAL GIFT for ESU: Free 'Mojito' at the entry. One euro off in all the drinks.

From 23:00 to 2:00.

Address: 8 Nuñez de Arce Street.



Wednesday, May 5th

KARAOKE LASER

One of the most famous 'erasmus pubs' in Madrid.

Spirit drinks: 4€.

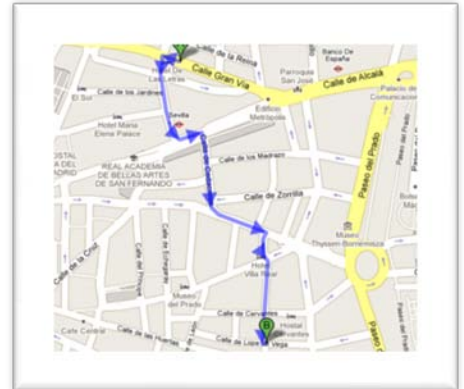
From 23:00 to 2:00.

Address: Costanilla de las Trinitarias Street.

1ST OFFICIAL KEBAP COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING

From 2:30 to...

Meeting Room Address: Kebab shop at Calle de la Cruz, 8.



Friday, May 7th

KAPITAL

Maybe the famous and biggest disco in Madrid. Seven floors.

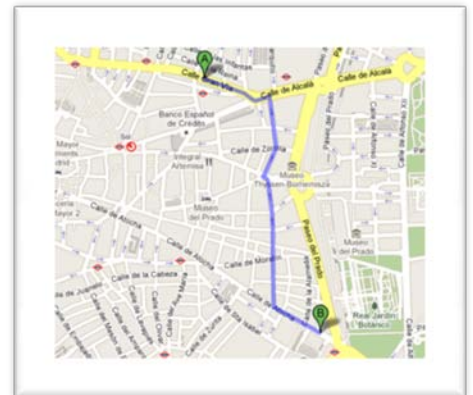
Seven different styles of music, and people.

Full of beautiful people.

Spirit drinks: 2x15€ .

From 23:00 to 6:00.

Address: 125 Alcalá Street.



Saturday, May 8th

PUBLIC HOUSE (to be confirmed)

Every day this pub is full of university students, Erasmus students, foreign people and young afterworkers. Beer pong, darts, billiards...

From 23:00 to 6:00.

Address: 83 Fernandez de los Ríos Street .

Practical information

Welcome to Madrid

Madrid it's a different city. Here you can do all you want, except go to the sea. Because Madrid it's in the centre of Spain.

Madrid has got a lot of important places to visit like Museums, Squares, Places and Gardens.

It originated in the times of the Muslim Emir Mohamed I (852-886), who built a fortress on the left bank of the Manzanares River. Alfonso VI conquered it in 1083. Felipe II moved the Court to Madrid in 1561, and thereafter the town was transformed under the leadership of the monarchs of the House of Habsburg. Philip III and Philip IV will have the mission to broaden and embellish, for which they had the architectural magic of Juan Gómez de Mora. In the seventeenth century, a wall was built to house the new suburbs, whose route would coincide with the current round of Segovia, Toledo and Valencia. It was a Borbón King, Charles III, who modernized in the eighteenth century. We draw the main arteries of the city, like the Paseo de la Castellana, Recoletos, the Prado and the Acacias. In the nineteenth century was marked by the War of Independence-shooting of May 2. In addition, Joseph Bonaparte undertook the reform of the Puerta del Sol and surrounding areas. In the reign of Isabel II was markedly changed their planning. At the end of the century, it was designed the expansion of the city. In the earliest twentieth century the Gran Vía (exactly one hundred years ago) was built, and it urbanized and prolonged the Paseo de la Castellana, where modern buildings have replaced old mansions where were installed some of the largest companies in the financial world. Today is a cosmopolitan, open street, with an intense cultural and night life, and home of one of the first classical galleries of the world, the Museo del Prado.

Transport in Madrid

In Madrid you have three different ways of transport.

Metro de Madrid

Metro de Madrid is the cheapest public transport in Madrid. You can go to the place you want for 1€ Euro. The schedule it's from 6 AM to 1:30 PM.

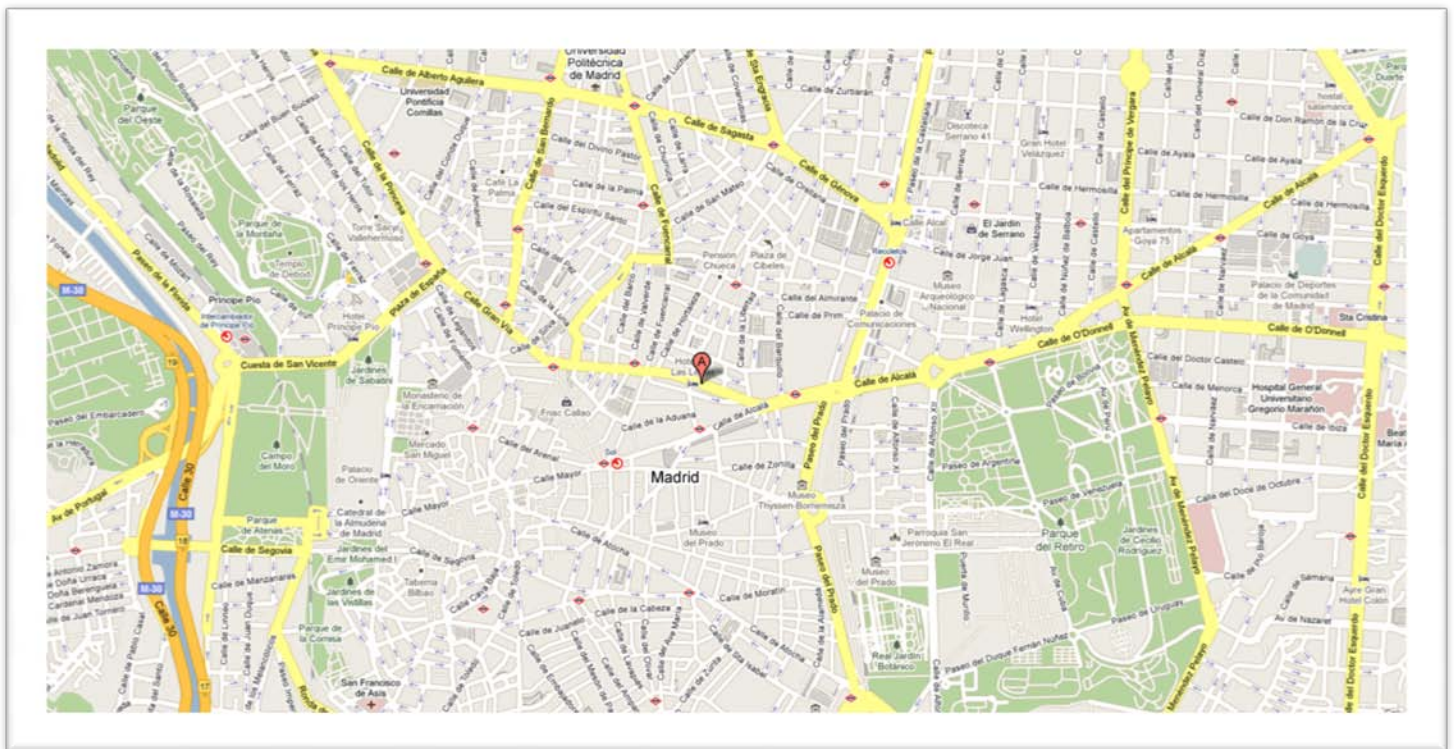
www.metromadrid.es



Accommodation on Catalonia Gaudi Hotel

The hotel is located in a building that dates back of beginning of the 20th century, his eclectic style becomes visible in the front and in the stairs of principal marble that they have preserved in his original version. To give content to the own facilities of a hotel, a few works of extension were realized joining the contiguous building, obtaining a hot and comfortable hotel.

It is located at Gran Vía, 7 (just in the main street of the city centre)



The proximity to "Prado Museum" and to the "Thyssen Gallery" is our better cultural claim. Placed in the acquaintance "triangle of the culture", to only a few meters of the Paseo del Prado and of the Plaza Cibeles, we meet two mythical spaces of the city.

The **WIFI access data at the Hotel** is:

User : **Cataloniagaudi**

Password : **internet**

Where we have dinner:

Sunday:

La Caserola

c/ Echegaray, 3 (10 minutes walking from the Hotel)

Monday to Friday:

Museo del Jamón

c/ Gran Vía, 72 (Near "Plaza España" metro station).

Saturday:

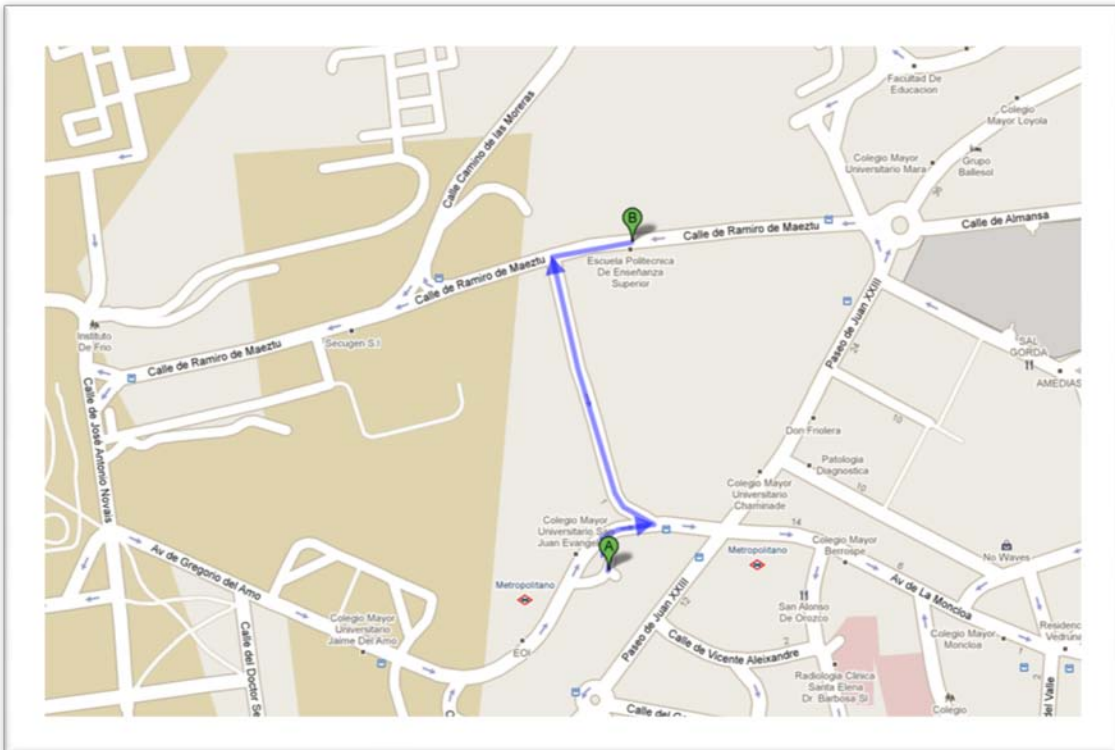
Hotel Husa Princesa

c/ Serrano Jover, 1 (Same location as the BM venue)

Seminar Venue:

The seminar will take place at the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid main building, it is situated about 20 minutes by bus from the hotel, (25 by Metro + 5 foot).

Address: **Avenida Ramiro de Maeztu, 7** (Following map shows the way from Metro station to the Seminar Venue)

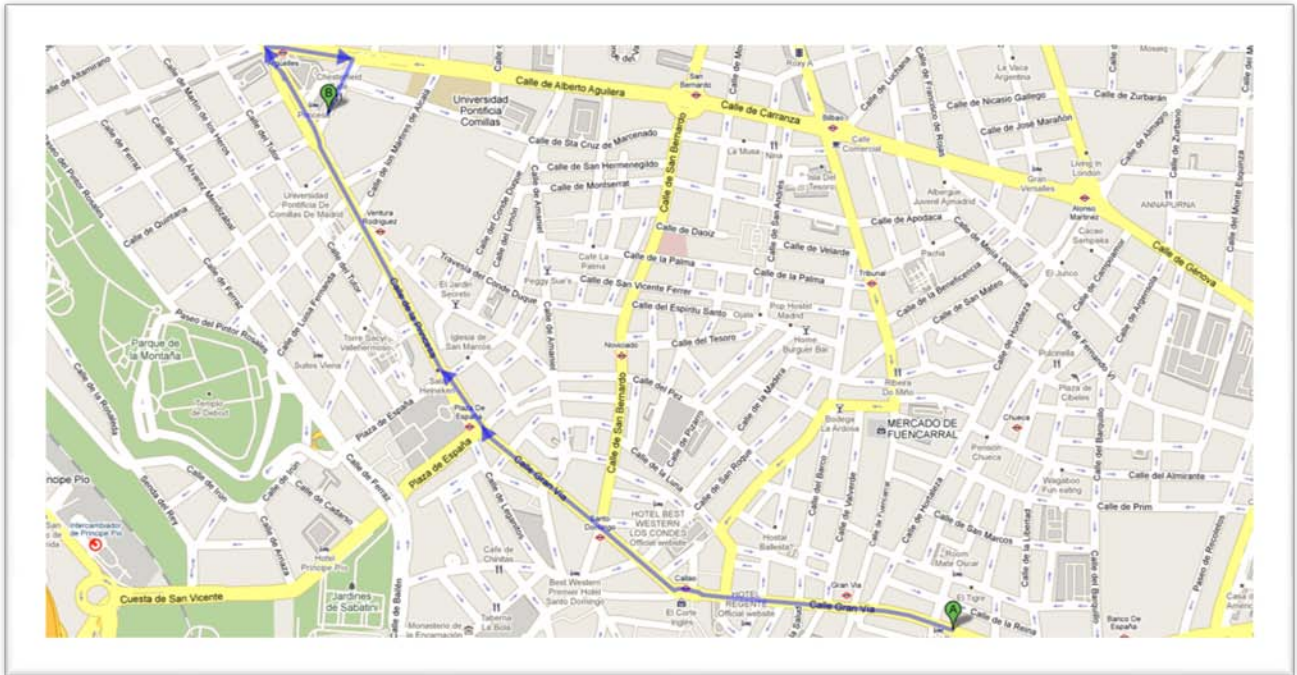


Board Meeting Venue:

Board Meeting will take place in the HUSA Moncloa Convention Center which is the one of best meeting room facilities in Madrid, situated about a 12 minutes by bus from Hotel. (30 by foot).

Address: **Calle Serrano Jover, 1**

(Following map shows the way from the hotel to the Board Meeting Venue)



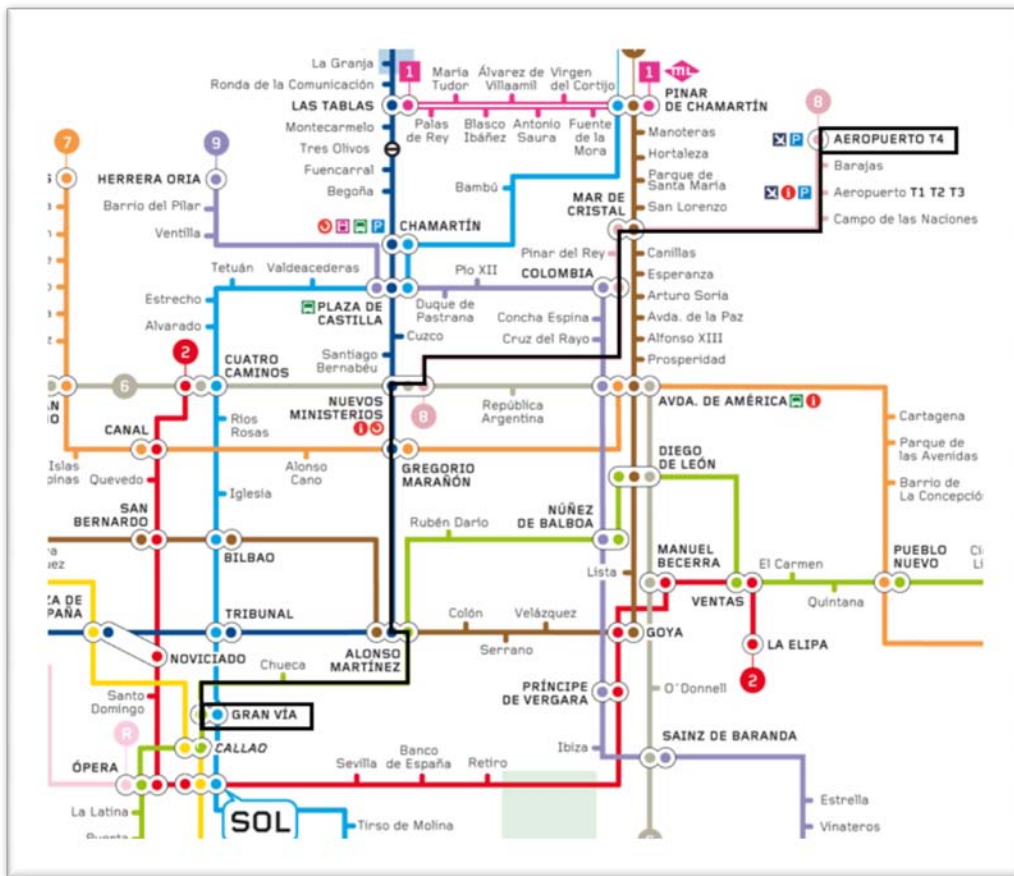
How to get to Catalonia Gaudi Hotel

You can use one of the three different public transports, but the most indicated is Metro. Because it's faster and cheaper than others. Only 2€.

In the airport we'll welcome you, and give you a metro ticket (if the Region Government provide us) to go to Hotel. Look for the BM58 staff at the airport. If you don't find them (they will show a ESU-logo banner), just call any organization member by phone.

But, just in case, here you have a Metro map. The Hotel is situated near "Gran Vía" station.

Metro



Taxi

If you want to go by taxi you can bring one in the airport. Do not listen to anybody who offers you to bring you to the city centre inside the airport. Legal Taxi drivers are only outside, waiting in designated areas inside their cars. Depending on the traffic, it costs around 30 €. All taxis have a taximeter where it is shown the trip money cost.

Bus

It's not a good idea if it is your first time in Madrid. You'll need to change your bus line 2 or 3 times and depending of the traffic it could take you too much time.

Sights to see in Madrid

Madrid is the capital of Spain, have a lot of sights you must visit. The most famous ones will be doubtless in every city guide. Some of them are:

Museums like Museo del Prado, Thyssen and Reina Sofia

Squares like Plaza Mayor, Callao and Puerta del Sol

Places like Gran via, Preciados and Santiago Bernabeu



We recommend to take a sightseeing bus to see the city. Other interesting places are:

Retiro

Retiro is a garden in the centre of Madrid. You can see little palace, the Cristal palace, you can visit the recent kings or have a nice time playing card on the grass



Royal Palace

It's located in Orient square. It was the house of the Kings of Spain for too many years, but now it's only a museum you can visit.



Near the Palace is the Almudena Cathedral, the most recent cathedral of Spain.

Colon Square

It's do it to celebrate the discovery of America, Colon it's the Surname of Cristobal Colon the discoverer of America. This square has the biggest flag of Spain in the middle of the square, but you can see outside this square. On the other hand, it's the place of Hard Rock, typical American Restaurant.



You can have more info at: <http://www.turismomadrid.es/>. Of course, if you have any doubt, just ask to any Organization Member.

Nightlife

Madrid is one of the most appropriated places to go out at night in Europe. Because of the weather, because of the closer distribution of night leisure areas, because of the different kind of places, styles, music... but, fundamentally, because of Madrid people: open, kindly, funny... It doesn't matter the day (or even if it's raining). When the night falls... Madrid arises.

Here, only a few (maybe the most popular) places to go and have fun:

Huertas

Probably the most known zone and encouraged of Madrid. Huertas is the place preferred to go out by the tourists and foreign students. The more animated streets are Huertas, Echegaray and Principe streets. In Madrid was born the famous "La Movida madrileña" .witch was an alternative movement arisen in the earliest eighties, which would turn very soon already with national character across Spain, in the "Moved Espanola" and it, prolonged until ends of the eighties



Malasaña

Malasaña is a neighborhood at the downtown. This zone was the centre of the call "Movida madrileña" of the years 70 and years 80 and it's characterized by his ambient alternative and bohemian.



Chueca

We might call to this zone the "Soho" of Madrid. This small neighborhood is one of the most cosmopolitan and entertained of the city, apart from being the zone of environment of Madrid. The life in the neighborhood turns about the Plaza of Joke, where we can find heaps of terraces when the good time comes



Torre Europa:

Near the Real Madrid Football Stadium (Santiago Bernabeu) we can find one of the zones more "cool" of the city, expensive bars and handsome (pretty) people.



Argüelles-Moncloa

This one is the zone for the youngest people. In Argüelles also there abound the university students of the nearby residences.



We will move mostly between Chueca and Huertas .

Glossary of Spanish words

Here you have some Spanish word to help you in Spain, however maybe you can find a guy who speaks English:

Welcome!	<i>Bienvenidos</i>
Good morning/Good afternoon.....	<i>Buenos Dias</i>
Good evening.....	<i>Buenas Tardes</i>
Good night	<i>Buenas Noches</i>
Excuse me; I beg your pardon.....	<i>Perdón</i>
Excuse me. (when getting someone's attention).....	<i>Disculpe</i>
Here you are.....	<i>Toma</i>
Goodbye	<i>Adios</i>
See you	<i>Hasta luego</i>
Bye-bye!.....	<i>¡Adios!</i>
Thank you	<i>Gracias</i>

Introductions

My name is.....	<i>Me llamo...</i>
What's your name?.....	<i>¿Cómo te llamas?</i>
Nice to meet you.....	<i>Encantado de conocerte</i>

Talking about yourself

I'm hosted at Catalonia Gaudi Hotel, In the Gran Via street.....
 *Estoy en el Hotel Catalonia Gaudi, en la Gran Via*

I'm a student *Soy estudiante*

I work in *Trabajo en...*

I'm here on business.....*Estoy aquí por negocios*

My telephone number is..... *Mi número de teléfono es...*

Do...?

I don't speak Spanish very well.....*No hablo español bien*

Do you speak English?.....*¿Hablas inglés?*

What does it mean?..... *¿Qué significa?*

If you meet with a Girl/Boy...

You are so beautiful *Eres muy guapa*

I like you *Me gustas*

Do you like me?..... *¿Te gusto?*

I fall in love with you..... *Me he enamorado de ti*

May I kiss you? *¿Puedo besarte?*

Come to my hotel room! *¡Ven a mi habitación!*

Ethical Guidelines

Introduction

The Ethical Guidelines consist of a full set of the basic standards expected of the European Students' Union (ESU) which are to be respected by all the elected representatives and members, during any event ESU organizes, co-organizes, supports or otherwise lends its name to. This code also applies to internal ESU events as well as social events during the said events.

Basic principles ESU adheres to are: *Equality, Accessibility and Respect*. We believe that ESU must be an arena open to all students in Europe, a safe space where argumentation and debates are carried out with all participants both being actively engaged in discussions and being able to comfortably express opinions and challenge ideas. Being a European wide organization, ESU is the arena of different cultures, religions, political stands, backgrounds, beliefs and contexts. To make the best out of our differences and diversity, promote cultural understanding and intercultural dialogue certain standards need to be respected.

An underlying thought of these guidelines is that every participant in ESU's events is aware and responsible towards the principles mentioned. As students' representatives, we have the responsibility to act towards them.

We believe it is essential to include the guidelines as lines of principles of each individual's behaviour as much as the lines of principles which will guide us towards creating an encouraging and welcoming atmosphere of our organization.

Equality

ESU is continuously at the forefront of improving equal opportunities and nurtures equality within itself, as strongly as it is advocating for equality for all within the Higher Education Area.

Accessibility

ESU is a transparent and open organization and thus demands that all events it organizes, co-organizes or supports, and its members should adhere to the highest possible standards in this regard with emphasis on the principle of accessibility while paying particular respect to the needs of people with reduced physical mobility and socio economic background. Accessibility is not only an issue of physical barriers, but also psychological ones and openness and welcoming atmosphere. Behaviour of individuals is essential for creating an accessible organization.

Respect

Consideration for each other and appreciating the diversity of the students of Europe is the foundation of the organization. Everyone must be treated with respect in ESU. Therefore, argumentation must be based on facts, opinions and emotions free of disrespect.

Environmental Sustainability

ESU considers behaviour towards the natural environment as important as social behaviour. Students have a moral and practical obligation to develop a society which is environmentally stable, while reducing the warming of the earth. Concretely, this means that ESU strives to organise environmentally stable conference, have a low carbon travel policy and use as many recycled materials as it can.

Promotion of healthy behaviour

One of the main problems of students is abusing of alcoholic drinks and light drugs. ESU has to assume its role as educator of the segment of society it represents and to ensure for the events it organizes or co-organizes a healthy alternative for social events for the above mentioned problems.

Code of Conduct

Based on the principles of equality, accessibility and respect, ESU representatives and participants on internal and external events are expected to adhere to the following points:

Treat everyone equally irrespective of socio economic background, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, political views, reduced mobility, gender expression, disabilities or any other basis of discrimination, abstaining from any direct or indirect discrimination as well from any form of harassment.¹

Not make any inappropriate jokes or remarks, based on any discriminative grounds that cause people to feel uncomfortable or discriminated against.

Behave and react towards their colleagues with respect.

Actively engage in the organized activities during seminars, panel sessions and discussions as well attending all the organized sessions, meetings, discussions and debates.

Respect the different multicultural backgrounds of their colleagues.

Proactively create an inclusive welcoming atmosphere for all of the participants, during both formal and informal parts of the event.

Not use demeaning or abusive language towards other participants.

Respect the timeframes given by the organizers of the event.

Respect the event's facilities and any rules associated with such use.

Respect the environment and take care about their surroundings.

We are emphasizing herein that this list is not exhaustive and that the violations of the Ethical Guidelines might happen outside of the frames given by this Code of Conduct.

Rules of Procedure

Depending on the gravity of the behaviour, the EC and organizers reserve the right to address the issue in the best way they see fit by applying one or more of the measures listed below through the set procedure.

Active Legitimacy

Any of the participants witnessing the breach or the victim her/himself may report the matter to a person specifically entrusted to that role for that particular event. The person informed will immediately forward the information to the ESU Executive Committee.

¹ Harassment herein is perceived as unwanted behaviour that has the purpose or effect of violating a person's dignity or creates a degrading, humiliating, hostile, intimidating or offensive environment.

The Acting Procedure

Upon receiving the report, the EC has to set up an independent ad hoc committee of three persons within 24 hours.

The ad hoc committee is chosen by the EC including one representative of the EC, one representative of the respective organizers and one representative from a member union. At least one member of the ad hoc committee will be of a different gender.

The ad hoc committee will immediately look into the report, consult the acting parties and bring a decision whether there has been a breach of the Code or not.

If the ad hoc committee decides, there has been a breach of the Code, it will immediately decide upon enacting one of the below proposed measures, on their free estimation of the most appropriate reaction to the breach.

The decision making process within the committee needs to be unanimous.

The decision of the ad hoc committee will be read before the beginning of the next session of the event.

Measures

Spoken warning to the perpetrator in question

Written warning to the perpetrator read before the beginning of the next session of the event in question

Removal of the perpetrator from the session/event in question

Official ESU letter to the sending organization of the perpetrator

Restriction of participation in future ESU events of the individual breaching the code.

Any other measure not mentioned here, in agreement with the Executive Committee.

Right to Appeal

Any person, including the perpetrator in question, or NUS who feels that the EC decision is wrongly based, whether on fact or principle, must address their objection in writing to the EC within 14 days of the measure being taken and then will be afforded the opportunity to bring up their side of the argument at the next BM session. The board will then be asked to decide by simple majority whether to uphold the decision or not or propose an alternative sanction.

Money, money, money

The domino effect of the global economic crisis has hit the academic communities too. Widespread concern is being expressed by students across Europe as reports from student unions across the continent report significantly negative effects of the economic crisis ranging from lack of sufficient resources available for higher education institutions to the lack of motivated academic and administrative staff that have been faced with pay-freeze cuts.

Reports from national unions of students across Europe compiled by the European Students Union (ESU) indicate that the majority of the European students attributed the *status quo* of their higher education arena to the financial crisis. The situation is worrying particularly in the case of Iceland and Eastern Europe with countries such as Estonia, Latvia and Romania witnessing substantial budget cuts for education that go as high as 40%, partly also the result of the conditions imposed by the International Monetary Fund in relation to the loan requested.

Despite ongoing developments in ICT and the facilities required to complement political commitments set within the Bologna Process and the Lisbon Agenda, only a handful of countries have persisted with infrastructural investment in education institutions. In

The call for further public and private investment in higher education has been the eternal struggle of student representatives across Europe. Yet until politicians start keeping their promises and companies acknowledge the mutual benefit of investing in education institutions, as a way of bouncing back from the economic crisis in our current times, the general appeal of the European student movement is for higher education institutions to channel their effort into ensuring that better use is made of the existing funds. This should primarily be done after an analysis of the current expenditure leading to a revision of internal allocation of resources.

Simultaneous to the struggle of the educational institutions, European students are fighting to cope with the other facet of the economic downturn and facing an increase in tuition fees, decrease in loans, less job and internship opportunities and escalating dependency on their families. Student loans have been affected particularly in Eastern Europe whilst in other countries the students are witnessing a decrease in student-oriented benefits and subsidies.

According to the national unions of students, higher education institutions are arguing in favour of tuition fees even more than governments, in order to prevent any decrease in quality of higher education resulting from a lack of public financing. An evaluation of the already existing student or family contribution to these costs would indicate that these include not only tuition but also other administrative charges, study materials and everyday essentials.

Housing costs represent students' biggest financial burden in the majority of countries, representing on average about a third of student expenditure. Adequate accommodation combined with sufficient financing is one of the foundations for accessible higher education.

Heavily-burdening the students with debt at a critical point in their life when seeking a place in the labour market to pursue a career whilst simultaneously making family plans and starting to act as active citizens is unacceptable, deceiving and jeopardises the possibility of a successful completion of higher education. Even where the repayment schemes are based on one's salary level, the possibility of pending debt is determining for potential students when enrolling in a higher education institution or when choosing a career path and thus creating a big shortage of professionals in some economic areas. Financial support measures have to be strengthened together with affirmative action such as financial incentives, outreach programs, improvements in admission practices, quotas or positive discrimination in favour of underrepresented groups.

Evidently, unless proper support is given to students, certain socio-economic groups will be *a priori* excluded from higher education for economical reasons. As EUROSTUDENT data has shown, the contribution made by the parents to students is highly relative to the family's socio-economic background without such decrease being fully compensated for by state support. This in turn means that students have to work alongside their studies in order to cover their expenses. Particularly worrying are reports that the decrease in demand for student workers has led to many students resorting to illegal employment whether the employer and the employed students are not forced to pay social security.

As the work of the European students' movement persists in its strive to uphold the right to education, the movement itself is witnessing the effects of the global recession with a number of national unions of students reporting a decrease in resources and having to resort to substantial cost-cutting. This while stepping up their operation to secure a minimal impact on the student body. In the bi-annual European Student Convention organized by ESU in Swedish capital, Stockholm, the students called for more political commitment towards encouraging and facilitating learning, with a strong call for increased student support services, especially in a time when students are hit by the crisis not only within the higher education institutions, but also within their family environment.

Whilst the appeal remains for further investment and development in education for sustainable growth, concepts such as academic freedom, student participation or personal development and creativity should not be sidelined by highly economic discussions. The most important roles of education are as means for social development and as a means of not only of accumulating knowledge and increase economic competitiveness but also as a means for personal growth and well-being.

ESU Briefing note:

Master Suppression Techniques/domination techniques

The first female party leader in Norway; the professor and former minister Berit Ås found out that she during meetings wasn't treated in the same way as men. When she was talking, men acted in another way than if another man was talking and her suggestions weren't taken care of in the same sense as men's. Her analyze resulted in a mapping of five different methods men used in order to gain power over women, and thereby diminishing them. She called them Master suppression techniques, also known as domination techniques. Even though these techniques were a way of showing how men suppressed women, it should also be cleared out that women also uses these techniques in order to suppress other women and men, as well as men also can use them towards other men. It's also obvious that these, in a discriminative way, also can be observed between people of different backgrounds, including for example social status and ethnicity. Before describing the methods, it should also be stated that they're often used unconsciously, since they are ways of expressing prejudices and generalizations (which often are unconscious). Berit Ås' mapping was a way of making them conscious. Through showing they exist, the work on eliminating them can start, in order to create a more including climate where everybody gets respected and listened to.

Following are descriptions of the five techniques, as well as strategies on how to act when you feel you're being exposed to them (counter strategies) as well as techniques of confirmation; how to act when discovering that someone else gets exposed to them. Since the five master suppression techniques were labelled, others have been identified. Some of them will also be exemplified in the end.

1. Making invisible

Among many different ways of making another person invisible, are to whisper, look through papers and similar ways of showing lack of interest while someone is speaking. Other ways of neglecting people are to totally ignore someone's contribution and to repeat what someone just said without referring to that person or showing the suggestion really came from someone else, and then taking all the credit. Another way is when a chairperson at a meeting "forgets" about suggestions, or when a question at a meeting gets left unanswered.

Counter strategy: demand your place

Demand others to listen to you! You are always as important as everybody else, as well as no one is more important than anyone else. If someone is interrupting you and talking while you already are talking, then continue talking until the other stops. Claim the right of your suggestions, but avoid becoming a victim by keeping calm and self-confident. Formulate the response as a question rather than as an accusation.

Technique of confirmation: make visible

Show people you put interest in them. If you like a proposal someone's put forward, remember to show that it wasn't your proposal from the start. If you dislike someone's suggestion, don't ignore it just because you dislike it, rather explain why you dislike it (of course in a positive manner). Refer to others, especially to the one who was first putting forward the suggestion, not the one who's hijacking it. Don't be afraid to tell if someone's interrupting someone else. By listening to others and give constructive feedback you make others visible, as well as you also make yourself visible to others.

2. Ridiculing

To make someone look ridicule can both happen behind someone's back as well as in front of a person. To make fun of proposals or to diminishing people by saying "don't you have any humour?" are other ways of ridiculing as well as to reduce someone to being sexual object, or less important because (s)he is "only a student", rather than an intellectual person.

Counter strategy: questioning

Don't laugh with the others. Show and tell the others that the ridiculing jokes aren't funny. Turn down irrelevant compliments or for example arguments based on you being younger and therefore less intellectual. Don't get stuck in a feeling of diminishing, but act out of a definition as you being someone with self confidence and who doesn't deserve such a treatment.

Technique of confirmation: respect

Never participate when someone's been made fun of and state what you think of such behaviour. Don't spread rumours around about others; rather help the ones being exposed to ridiculing by confronting the person(s) spreading the rumours. Respect others, treat them serious and make people feel important, especially those being ridiculed about.

3. Withholding of information

To being able to participate in a decision, it's really important that everybody gets access to the same information. Ways of withholding information can be when a group of people already before the actual decision-making have decided together upon what to vote for, as well as not making sure that everybody understands a specific decision or what's going on. Formal and informal pre-meetings, where everybody involved in the decision-making isn't invited, are other examples. People without the right contacts or possibility to join are then left far behind. In Swedish this is referred to as sauna-meetings; a physical place where not everybody's included merely depending upon their sex. As politics are about building alliances, this is a difficult technique to tackle. Though, this shouldn't be an argument in order for the withholding to continue.

Counter strategy: demand the cards on the table

If people are discussing things as if the things are obvious, and you don't understand why - demand information. You should rather postpone a decision if someone hasn't had the possibility to look into the background information, than claiming it's a really important decision that has to be taken right

now. Remember that if the decision is that important, there should be time for people to really understand what it's all about.

Techniques of confirmation: inform

Include everyone in discussions before the decisions are supposed to be taken. Pass on information in time for others to look into it. If you're in informal networks (in the sauna, for example) you have a larger responsibility to make sure the ones who weren't invited/present have the same information.

4. Double punishment; damn if you don't and damned if you do

Whatever you do is wrong! For example if you're quiet during a meeting, you're seen as not interested in what's going on, and if you're talkative you're seen as taking over. If women don't grab power they're portrayed as wimps, but when they grab power they're regarded as not feminine. Men can also be accused for not participating in working on increased gender equality, and if they do they're ridiculed by female members, as not knowing enough.

Counter strategy: set your own priorities

Ask how the accuser thinks you act and/or should set your priorities. Set clear boundaries and explain why you prioritize in a certain way. "I know why I do what I do, and I know what's important for me!"

Techniques of confirmation: double rewarding

Support the person who feels double punished by questioning the one(s) who punishes someone else. Be aware of your own expectations, and that they might not be the same as someone else's. Suppose everybody's doing their best, out of their own prerequisites.

5. Heaping blame and putting to shame

When saying to someone that they have to blame themselves for something that has happened, this person obviously gets diminished. For example telling a rape victim that it was her own fault by wearing provocative clothes or acting in a certain way is an extreme way of explaining the technique. This works in other areas as well; sexual harassments towards a woman can as well be seen as her own fault, since she's so pretty. Not to take someone for serious by judging of the clothes is another way of expressing this technique.

Counter strategy: intellectualize

Be yourself! Ask the person what (s)he's implying and why, since most people won't stand up for their implications. Understand that your negative feelings are being imposed by someone else. Try to put words on your feelings. Intellectualize the situation where you were ashamed by asking yourself why you felt in that certain way. Look at situations in their context; if there are patterns in the negative behaviour there's obviously something wrong in the culture, and then you can also be sure that others have felt the same as you do right now.

Techniques of confirmation: confirm

Confirm yourself as well as others. Be aware not to judge people of for example their looks. Talk to the exposed, trying to make her/him understanding that it isn't her/his fault. Make sure to speak up when you hear for example irrelevant gender-based comments or irrelevant comments based upon someone's sexual orientation.

Newly identified master suppression techniques

Berit Ås herself has been talking about two "new" techniques; violence/threats of violence and objectifying. Others are talking about for example stereotyping, precedence of interpretation and accommodating resistance. Sexual harassment is another technique some refers to as a master suppression technique. And there are probably even more labels and ways in which you can classify a systematic (un)conscious discrimination with the goal of diminishing others.

Learning to recognize the (five) techniques, though, will help the exposed (woman):

Realizing (s)he's not actually the one who's boring, stupid and ridiculous – even though (s)he feels like it,

Understanding that the techniques can and should be combated, and

Getting the discussion going.

Identifying and labelling the techniques renders them harmless.

References and recommendation on further reading

"A gender equality handbook – how to work with gender in your student club", Social Democratic Students, Sweden

"Bekräftartekniker och motstrategier – sätt att bemöta maktstrukturer och förändra sociala klimat", Ditte Jonasson, Diana Amnéus, Ulrika Flock, Pernilla Rosell Steuer, Gunnel Testad, Empowerment Nätverket vid Stockholms Universitet (ENSU)

"Domination techniques: what they are and how to combat them", The Centre for Gender Equality, Norway

"Master Suppression Techniques"; KILDEN (the Norwegian Information and Documentation Centre for Women's Studies and Gender Research), Norway

www.women2top.net

What if you have a problem and any kind of help is needed

Call the organization team!

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Daniel: +34.651.67.66.54

Guille (other one. Important for Sunday Hotel welcoming): +34.615.47.02.05

Sergio (Night-man): +34.619.58.19.32

Sara Areta: +34.618.92.06.59

Sara Granado (from Wednesday): +34.660.18.05.55

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Pablo (The treasurer): +34.660.64.41.59

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