

STRATEGY PAPER OF THE STUDENT COMMITTEE – 4EU+ ALLIANCE

1. Executive Summary

The Student Committee (SC) of the 4EU+ Alliance is a space for engagement and coordination bringing together students from the eight partner universities around a common objective: contributing to the development of the Alliance by integrating the student perspective into its activities, reflections and priorities.

In a context where European universities are evolving towards more integrated and collaborative models, students have an important role both as beneficiaries and active participants in these developments. Their direct experience of the initiatives implemented within the Alliance allows them to provide concrete feedback regarding accessibility, visibility, engagement and students' expectations.

The SC therefore aims to act as a link between students and the Alliance by:

- representing students' perspectives and needs;
- facilitating communication between students and Alliance structures;
- contributing to the development and follow-up of student-oriented initiatives;
- promoting the opportunities offered through 4EU+.

The SC also plays an active role in promoting the Alliance within partner universities by acting as a relay between European students, their needs and perspectives, and the opportunities offered through 4EU+, including activities available on the portal, mobility opportunities, joint programmes and European research cooperation.

The SC meets once per month in order to discuss ongoing projects, students' expectations and possible future initiatives. In addition to these meetings, the SC regularly collaborates with different Alliance structures, including Flagships, Local Offices, Liaison Officers, MICI, and working groups through meetings, presentations, and project follow-up activities.

This strategy paper aims to present the SC's vision and ambitions for the coming years, while proposing concrete objectives aligned with the priorities of the Alliance and the realities experienced by students across partner universities.

2. Strategic positioning of the Student Committee

The SC stands between the strategic orientations of the Alliance and the realities experienced by students within partner universities. This position allows the SC to bring a concrete and constructive perspective based on direct exchanges, experiences and feedback from students.

The SC contributes to strengthening communication between students and institutional stakeholders while helping identify students' expectations, interests and needs across the Alliance.

In this context, the SC acts both as a point of contact and as a relay between students and Alliance structures. It contributes to promoting opportunities available through the Alliance, improving

communication between partner universities and encouraging the sharing of ideas, experiences and initiatives between students from different academic and cultural backgrounds.

The SC also aims to strengthen students' sense of belonging to the Alliance by encouraging visible and concrete student-led initiatives at a European level. Beyond representation alone, the SC hopes to encourage students to actively contribute to projects developed within the Alliance and to feel more connected to a wider European student community. The objective is also to reinforce exchanges and collaboration between students from different universities and academic backgrounds in order to create a stronger sense of participation and belonging within the Alliance.

3. Added value in governance

The progressive involvement of the SC within different coordination and governance spaces reflects its willingness to contribute more actively to the ongoing development of the Alliance.

Beyond representation alone, the SC aims to contribute concretely to ongoing discussions and initiatives by bringing perspectives grounded in students' realities and experiences across partner universities.

The added value of the SC lies in its ability to identify students' needs and expectations, communicate feedback from students across partner universities and contribute to discussions surrounding ongoing projects and initiatives.

In practical terms, the SC contributes through:

- regular exchanges with Local Offices, Flagships and institutional stakeholders;
- participation in discussions and project follow-up meetings;
- presentations regarding ongoing projects and student initiatives;
- communication of students' feedback and expectations;
- support regarding the visibility and accessibility of Alliance opportunities.

The SC also aims to contribute more actively to reflections regarding educational innovation, student engagement, communication and accessibility of opportunities offered through the Alliance.

In this context, the SC would welcome a progressive integration within additional governance bodies and ongoing reflections within the Alliance, including the Management Committee, in order to contribute student-oriented, realistic and structured perspectives to ongoing discussions and strategic reflections, while also helping ensure that students' realities, needs and feedback can be more directly integrated into ongoing reflections and future developments of the Alliance.

The objective is rather to ensure that students' perspectives can be heard and taken into consideration within discussions by contributing concrete feedback, practical observations and realistic proposals based on students' experiences across the Alliance.

4. Ambition of the Student Committee (2025–2027)

The SC aims to continue developing its role within the Alliance by contributing in a constructive, realistic and concrete way to ongoing reflections and initiatives.

The SC also aims to make the opportunities offered through the Alliance more visible and accessible to students in order to encourage stronger engagement and participation across partner universities.

Finally, the SC aims to encourage the development of student-led initiatives aligned with the Alliance's priorities by creating stronger connections between students and existing structures and by supporting projects with a concrete European dimension.

In this context, the objective is not to multiply short-lived projects, but rather to focus on a limited number of solid, concrete and sustainable initiatives developed in close collaboration with Alliance stakeholders.

The strategy developed for the coming years is aligned with several priorities reflected in the 4EU+ Strategy, particularly:

- committed leadership;
- pooling of resources;
- inclusive decision-making;
- and dialogue with partners and stakeholders.

Strategic objectives (short, mid and long-term)

Short-term objectives

In the short term, the SC aims to strengthen the visibility of the Alliance and student engagement through concrete and accessible initiatives developed in collaboration with different Alliance stakeholders.

Current reflections and initiatives notably include:

- cleanwalk initiatives, clothing and course book collections organised in collaboration with Flagship 4, as well as possible prevention and awareness campaigns on social media;
- closer collaboration with work packages and projects where the student perspective can provide practical added value;
- improving coordination and communication between student representatives from partner universities;
- and improving the sharing of information regarding ongoing projects and initiatives through platforms such as Teams.

Another objective is to progressively strengthen students' involvement within the Alliance by creating more opportunities for participation and encouraging students to contribute more actively to projects developed at a European level.

Mid-term objectives

In the mid term, the SC aims to contribute more actively to ongoing reflections regarding educational innovation and the future development of the Alliance.

In particular, the SC would like to participate in discussions surrounding the creation and implementation of micro-credentials in order to help ensure that these initiatives remain aligned with students' academic and professional expectations.

The SC also aims to reinforce inclusive decision-making by encouraging a better understanding of students' needs and expectations across partner universities. In this context, reflections are ongoing regarding the possibility of conducting needs assessments or surveys among students in order to better understand their expectations, their understanding of the Alliance and the opportunities they consider

most relevant.

Several needs and opportunities have already been identified, including:

- facilitating students' understanding and visibility of opportunities available through the Alliance;
- encouraging research and academic cooperation opportunities for students;
- strengthening exchanges between students from different partner universities;
- and strengthening collaboration with student ambassadors and local student representative bodies.

The SC would also like to continue strengthening communication and cooperation with Alliance structures where the student perspective can bring practical and constructive added value.

Long-term objectives

In the longer term, and in line with the broader ambitions reflected in the 4EU+ Strategy 2025–2035, the SC aims to contribute to the development of a stronger, more connected and more student-oriented European university ecosystem within the Alliance.

Beyond 2027, the SC hopes to progressively strengthen the role of students not only as participants in Alliance initiatives, but also as active contributors to the development of long-term projects, reflections, and strategic priorities.

One objective would be the progressive development of an alumni network bringing together former members of the SC in order to preserve institutional memory, maintain long-term connections and facilitate the transmission of experience and knowledge between generations of student representatives.

This could notably include:

- consolidating reports, archives, and contact information of former SC members;
- inviting former members to conferences or events organised by the SC;
- encouraging networking and mentoring opportunities;
- and strengthening long-term collaboration between current and former student representatives.

The SC would also like to continue encouraging the development of visible and concrete student-led initiatives with a European dimension.

Through this long-term approach, the SC hopes to contribute to building a more stable, connected, and sustainable student representation within the Alliance.

5. A collaboration-based approach

The SC adopts a collaborative approach with the existing bodies of the Alliance. It does not aim to create new structures, but rather to contribute to ongoing dynamics and strengthen student engagement.

In this perspective, a progressive involvement of the SC in certain spaces for discussion and coordination could improve the flow of information and enable earlier consideration of student perspectives.

This approach reflects a genuine willingness to engage in the Alliance and contribute positively to its

development by fostering regular interactions, concrete co-creation and consistent follow-up of actions over time.

The SC therefore seeks to continue developing constructive and regular exchanges with Flagships, Local Offices, Liaison Officers, working groups, and institutional stakeholders in order to facilitate communication, strengthen coordination, and support the development of student-oriented initiatives across the Alliance.

6. Concrete contributions and examples of the Student Committee

The SC is already involved in several concrete actions and projects within the Alliance. Through collaborations with Local Offices, Flagships, and project coordinators, the SC contributes to strengthening communication, visibility, and student engagement across partner universities.

In practice, the SC collaborates with Alliance structures through regular meetings, presentations, project follow-up, and exchanges regarding ongoing initiatives and students' needs. The SC also acts as a relay between students and institutional stakeholders by communicating feedback, sharing ongoing reflections, and contributing student perspectives to discussions.

The Chair of the SC has notably participated in meetings with the G9 and Liaison Officers in order to present the work and ongoing reflections of the SC. In addition, members of the SC themselves maintain regular contact with their respective Local Offices, which contributes to facilitating communication and coordination between the SC and the different partner universities.

The SC is also progressively becoming integrated into different discussions and collaborative initiatives within the Alliance. The SC currently holds one seat for student representation within Flagship 2 and two seats for student representation within Flagship 4 in order to participate in discussions, contribute ideas and bring students' perspectives into ongoing reflections and initiatives.

Regarding Flagship 4, the SC has already initiated exchanges with flagship coordinators in order to propose first ideas for concrete initiatives and projects. These include:

- clothing and course book collections;
- cleanwalk initiatives;
- and prevention or awareness campaigns on social media.

These ideas were positively welcomed by coordinators and opened constructive discussions regarding future collaborations and student-led initiatives.

The SC also contributes to the follow-up of ongoing projects involving student participation, such as SCAN. Several SC members are involved in the project and regular meetings are organised between project coordinators and members of the SC in order to ensure communication, follow-up and feedback regarding ongoing developments.

The SC also seeks to strengthen links with the broader student community across partner universities, notably through closer collaboration with student ambassadors, local student representative bodies, and student associations.

Beyond project-related initiatives, the SC aims to contribute to reinforcing students' engagement within the Alliance by improving visibility of opportunities, encouraging participation, and supporting initiatives capable of creating stronger links between students from different universities and academic backgrounds.

Finally, the SC contributes to connecting and structuring student-led initiatives, helping bring forward projects aligned with the Alliance's priorities while strengthening communication and collaboration between students and institutional stakeholders.

7. Conclusion

The SC is an engaged actor within the 4EU+ Alliance. By providing a student perspective, it contributes to strengthening the relevance and accessibility of the initiatives developed.

Building on the experience gained and the responsibilities assumed within several coordination spaces, the SC demonstrates its ability to integrate constructively and deliver concrete and positive added value. It therefore positions itself as a reliable partner, capable of supporting the evolution of the Alliance.

In a context of ongoing development and consolidation, its progressive involvement represents an opportunity to strengthen the overall coherence of the 1CORE / 4EU+FUTURE project and bring its objectives closer to student realities, within a framework of positive and sustainable engagement.