

## Plan of Work 2025

### Organisational development

Background: SYL's policy paper has last been fully updated in 2016. In 2024, we updated half of the sections in the policy paper, and will update the other half in 2025. In the near future and the medium term, changes to the funding of the youth sector and other changes in the regulatory environment will present challenges to SYL. This already requires the full application of organisational development resources.

Goal: SYL's political and organisational policies respond to the changing operating environment. SYL has public language principles that the SYL office complies with.

- We will complete the updating process of the policy paper, begun in 2024, together with student unions. The remaining sections of the policy paper will be approved by the General Assembly in 2025.
- Review and assess the implementation of linguistic equality at regular intervals with representatives of student unions.
- Draw up language principles that take the three languages of SYL members into account. Student unions will be involved in the process. The language principles will be approved by the SYL Board.

### SYL strategy

Background: SYL reformed its action plan template in 2024. To ensure continuity in the action plan, SYL will draw up a strategy for its activities.

Goal: SYL starts drawing up a strategy to guide its activities in the longer term.

- The process for drawing up the strategy will be prepared in 2025 and presented to the General Assembly. The preparation of the strategy will be subsequently launched in cooperation with student unions.

## Raising education levels

Background: University students are likely to come from even more diverse backgrounds and starting points as the goal to raise educational attainment levels is pursued.

Goal: To ensure that decision-makers and actors in the field of education are familiar with the diversifying student body and what they need to succeed in their studies. SYL can offer tools to promote completion without lowering the learning objectives.

- A survey will be conducted on the factors that affect study completion and the current situation among the diverse spectrum of students.
- A programme of measures will be prepared on the basis of the survey to develop completion rates, support services, and accessibility.
- We will engage in communication and advocacy towards stakeholders and decision-makers on the basis of the programme for completion rates, accessibility and support services.
- We will train our members on the observations made during the survey and how to influence matters in universities.

## Student wellbeing in everyday life

Background: The actions of the government are significantly undermining the already poor livelihood of students, which is shown to have an impact on students' mental health and wellbeing.

Goal: To increase awareness and understanding of the critical link between students' mental health and livelihood in the social debate.

- An advocacy campaign will be carried out using e.g. the recent results of the Finnish Student Health and Wellbeing Survey (KOTT) regarding the links between student livelihood, mental health, and study abilities.
- Materials will be produced and distributed to the student unions to support their advocacy efforts. The student unions and stakeholders will be educated on the results of the survey.

## SYL's EU advocacy

Background: SYL's vision for EU engagement is valid 2023–2025. Following the European elections and the establishment of the new European Parliament, it is necessary to update SYL's vision for EU engagement.

Goal: To bring SYL's EU policy up to date. The work supports lobbying, work and political advocacy in the international sector.

- We will conduct an analysis of the parts in the current vision for EU engagement that need to be updated, using an analysis of the results of the European elections to help establish new goals. We will identify which parts of the advocacy priorities for the European election campaign we can use.
- We will update the policy especially concerning the European degree and the European Universities alliances.
- We will use our events, meetings and social media to inform and educate our members on aspects of EU politics that affect students and young people and interest them.

## Sustainable development

Background: It is important that students across Finland are aware of sustainable development issues and recognise their own role as agents for sustainable development.

Goal: To engage in communication, advocacy and training on global education themes and to reinforce its role in the student movement.

- We will organise an event during Youth Peace Week.
- We will run a communication campaign on the topic of global education, highlighting the role of students as agents for sustainable development both in the public debate and within the student movement. The communication campaign for global education will involve highlighting the right of students and young people to a viable environment and future.
- We will educate members of the student movement on global education themes.