



Values for a global perspective for students Modern Collegiality as a catalyst of university values

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ESU hosted a World Café table focussing on how modern collegiality can become a catalyst for the values enshrined in the Magna Charta Universitatum, hosting three rounds of discussions.

Through the discussions it became apparent that there is a need to involve and ensure the students' active participation and influence in the governance system in a more meaningful way.

Some of the structural issues raised were that students are rarely seen as equal stakeholders in the sense that they rarely have an equal number or majority of votes in any decision-making body. Furthermore, in some places they are excluded from the Board of Directors of the university. This raised a discussion, from one participant, about the extend to which student representatives can be held responsible for the decisions they make. Other issues raised were students' access to adequate and timely information to base decisions on, as well as the challenges that distance campuses face by being further away from the top management of the university, which in effect only makes it even harder to achieve modern collegiality.

On the other hand, student representatives also admit that they have to improve their work. Engaging the broader student population and raising awareness of the issues that are fought by the representatives remains a challenges, which is largely reflected in low electoral participation throughout European universities.

However, aside from all these issues, there was a striking consensus that Modern Collegiality should be the future of university governance. There was no doubt that engaging students and academics alike as equal partners would lead to not only a more independent university, but also a university in which challenges are addressed more efficiently and quality solutions are reached and implemented most successfully.