



# PROGRAMME OF OBJECTIVES 2016

Aalto University Student Union

## Foreword

This programme of objectives defines the focus of the activities of Aalto University Student Union in the year of 2016. There are two main objectives, which are more extensive and cross-cut several sectors. The programme also defines eight other objectives. The objectives in the programme are in the alphabetical order, not in the order of importance. At the end of each entry, there is an indicative assessment of AYYH15 on the workload required to implement the objective on the scale of 1 – 5.

AYY's Board and specialists prepared a large number of project plan drafts by the end of the year 2015, which may be utilised when planning ways to implement the objectives defined in this programme of objectives in 2016.

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## Main objectives

### 1. Property stock and its use correspond to actual needs

In the near future, AYY will have several major property projects. As part of the preparation process, AYY forms a clear picture of the students' needs and the correspondence of the current property stock. During the year, AYY will decide on its role in the new student centre.

During the clarification process, AYY focuses on the type of apartments that its members will need in the future. In this way, AYY has a clear picture of what kind of apartments should be constructed in the future and which buildings the Student Union could give up over some time span. The planning of new housing projects at Otakaari will continue from these starting points.

Depending on the needs, club rooms and services may be placed in new properties. At the same time, AYY compares the current stock of facilities rented on a one-time basis and the facility needs of associations.

Estimation on the workload required for implementation: 5

### 2. Steering of activities and policies is developed over the long term

In 2016, strategic development targets for the student union activities will be defined for the following years. These development targets will be the basis when working on the plan of action in the future. At the same time, working methods and practices at the Student Union's central office will be developed.

In addition to the strategic development targets of the Student Union, the communications strategy will be updated. AYY will also participate in the updating of SYL's policy paper.

AYY will draft a long-term economic plan by the end of the year 2016. The plan will determine an economically sustainable level of the student union activities in the long term and evaluate the future increase in costs and profit.

Estimation on the workload required for implementation: 4

### 3. Focus on equality and the accessibility of the community

The aim is that all AYY's members feel that they are equal members of the community and consider that the activities of the Student Union and its associations are accessible. Equality may relate to gender, the language used in activities, ethnic origin or being substance-free.

Equality is promoted in the following areas by the end of the year (in the order of importance):

1. **Equality report:** Problems regarding equality have been identified in the Student Union. Measures to solve problems have been planned and are being implemented.
2. **Language issues:** Trilingualism has been strengthened in all aspects at the central office as well as in other sections of the Student Union. The so-called ABC model has been created for the use of associations, which supports their internationalisation efforts
3. **Tutoring:** All new students feel that they have received an enthusiastic welcome and adequate orientation to the basics of student life
4. **Events:** Event communications focus on accessibility and adequate explaining of the student culture. In events, non-Finnish speakers and different cultural backgrounds are taken into account.
5. **Volunteering:** More flexible and shorter volunteer positions have been developed. Special features of Aalto's volunteer culture and the value of volunteering are clear to all students

Estimation on the workload required for implementation: 5

## Other objectives

### 4. Preparing for the removal of Arabia Campus

The rest of the students from Arabia Campus will move to Otaniemi during the years of 2017 and 2018. The Student Union will develop its activities so that students who have moved and will move from ARTS Arabia to Otaniemi can participate in activities as well as possible and feel welcome in Otaniemi. One way to achieve this is to provide opportunities for creative activities in properties.

Estimation on the workload required for implementation: 2

### 5. Clear objectives and advocacy plan are drafted for municipal advocacy

In addition to AYY's continuous work in municipal advocacy, AYY should prepare for the following year's municipal elections in the year of 2016. In 2015, AYY created common advocacy objectives with the student unions in the metropolitan area, based on which it is easy for AYY to continue to polish its own objectives. Advocacy work carried out in cooperation with the WSC network should be well planned in the future and support AYY's own advocacy work.

The aim is that AYY will have a completed advocacy plan by the end of the year of 2016 as well as key objectives for the municipal elections in the year of 2017.

Estimation on the workload required for implementation: 2

### 6. AYY is actively involved in the development of tuition fee system

AYY considers free education as the cornerstone of the Finnish civilisation. The legislation proposed by the Government, which would enable tuition fees for students coming from outside the EU/EEA countries, will most likely enter into force at a quick pace.

The Student Union aims to ensure that the development of internationalisation at Aalto University is not compromised and the effects of tuition fees are monitored continuously. The framework agreement of AYY and Aalto University for the year of 2016 allows AYY to supervise the students' interests in the planning and monitoring of the tuition fee system.

Quality assurance processes must be developed, which ensure that a marketed programme corresponds to the reality. Development proposals received through student feedback should be implemented. Student representatives actively work in groups that address tuition fees at Aalto and higher education institutions as well as gather information and have influence on Aalto's policies.

Estimation on the workload required for implementation: 2

### 7. Studies are developed into a more flexible and interactive direction

Studying at Aalto University is smooth, purposeful and inspiring. Courses are arranged sensibly and students are informed about the courses in a high-quality manner. Flexible study methods allow efficient studying in all situations in life. Student feedback is taken into

account in the planning of study modules and students have the opportunity to participate in the preparing of matters related to teaching and learning services.

The staff and teacher tutors, in particular, are present in the planning of studies and students know where to receive support in different situations. Both the University and the Student Union pay attention to a student's ability to study throughout studies.

In 2016, AYY will focus on these objectives by paying particular attention to students' well-being, the workload of courses and the planning of studies. In addition, AYY develops opportunities for flexible year-round studies and the recognition of previously acquired knowledge. AYY participates more in the development of student services and the spreading of good practices.

Estimation on the workload required for implementation: 4

## 8. Benefits of volunteering to the individual are recognised

The voluntary organisation and event activities are an important part of the everyday life of students. Voluntary work is invaluable for the community but also provides several positive effects for an individual: volunteering creates social contacts, improves the ability to study and teaches several skills that cannot be learned in traditional courses.

In 2016, the Student Union will develop ways to better recognise the personal development and learning of volunteers during their position. Volunteers are provided with the opportunity to set objectives for their development and receive support for the implementation of their objectives as well as the assessment of their development. The underlying motivations behind volunteering and the benefits for volunteers themselves are clarified beyond the Student Union.

AYY aims to have effect on the University by emphasising the skills provided by volunteering more strongly. The Student Union's aim is to make the University to recognise the students' skills acquired in voluntary work and their significance for learning by providing credits for volunteering. The aim is to include this common objective in the framework agreement in the autumn of 2016.

Estimation on the workload required for implementation: 3

## 9. Association services are developed

AYY clarifies the need for current services and whether the services provided for its associations are up to date as well as develops the supply of services based on the observations. In addition, AYY determines principles based on which rental agreements of club rooms may be terminated.

By the end of the year of 2016, the objective is to:

- update AYY's association services to correspond to the current needs
- have closer contact with associations operating in Helsinki and Mikkeli
- develop capacity for the removal of organisations from Arabia Campus to Otaniemi
- choose clear criteria for the maintaining of club rooms

Estimation on the workload required for implementation: 3

## 10. Corporate relations are extended and reach the students more effectively

During the year, the resources of the sector are particularly used for expanding the activities of corporate relations. Corporate relations are developed consistently and new ideas and events are promoted at the

same time. During the year, corporate relations will rise to the next level and serve the members more effectively. In addition, the sector will provide high-quality added value to partners.

Estimation on the workload required for implementation: 3