



**POLICY PLAN  
2021-2022**

**CONTENTS:**

PREFACE	3
INTRODUCTION	4
CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS	5
POLICY PLAN	5
COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT	5
INVOLVEMENT	7
PROMOTION	8
MEMBERS	9
POLICY CONTINUATION	10
EPILOGUE	11



# PREFACE

Dear reader,

The 75th Board of the Vereniging Studenten Psychologie en Pedagogiek aan de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (from next on referred to as VSPVU), presents the Policy Plan for the Academic year 2021-2022. We want to thank you for the time you take to read our Policy Plan which is based on the vision of the 75th Board, previous Policy Plans and the Long-Term Plan 2020-2023. We hope to contribute to the development and growth of the association with this Policy Plan, and would like to note that everything written is based on the fact that activities won't be cancelled due to COVID-19, although this may be subject to change depending on the situation.

We proudly present ourselves:

## THE 75<sup>TH</sup> BOARD OF THE VSPVU

Chairwoman	Selin Elcheik
Secretary	Shannon Fredison
Treasurer	Revathi Renil



## INTRODUCTION

The Vereniging Studenten Psychologie aan de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Association for Students Psychology of the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam, hereafter referred as VSPVU) was founded in 1947 by Mr. Sanders. The study Pedagogical Studies had known her own association beforehand: "Hillaritas", which conjoined to become the VSPVU (Association for Students Psychology and Pedagogical Sciences of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) in 1961. Both studies were established within one faculty and therefore the VSPVU became the faculty association of the Faculty of Psychology and Pedagogical Sciences (FPP). The purpose of the VSPVU is to look after the interests of the students on the broadest level. Since the 1st of June 2015 the Faculty of Movement Sciences and the Faculty for Psychology and Pedagogical Sciences have been fused into the Faculty of Behavioral and Movement Sciences (FGB). The VSPVU and the V.I.B (Study Association for Human Movement Science) chose, despite the fusion of the faculty, to keep their own identity. The VSPVU left the title of faculty association behind and thus became a study association.

From the time when the VSPVU was founded, she used to focus primarily on study-related activities. Over time, she has developed into a study association with a wider range of activities, such as parties, study trips, conventions, sports and cultural events alongside education related ones. Based on the Long-Term Plan, previous Policy Plans and the vision of the 75th Board, a number of main points emerged: Committee Development, Involvement, Promotion, Members and Policy Continuation. These main points are the foundation of this Policy Plan and will be explained in the following chapters.

The Policy Plan of the 75th Board is to be presented to the members of the association during the first General Meeting (GM) of the academic year 2021-2022. Alongside the Policy Plan, the Year Budget and Year Schedule will also be presented.

## CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS

The VSPVU is a study association meant for Psychology and Pedagogical Science students at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. It consists of members, who pay a yearly contribution to the association, active members, who are active in committees and the organization of events, and a board, which guides the association with the help of their Raad van Advies (RVA) and Kascontrole Commissie (KasCo). The VSPVU organizes events ranging from study-related events to leisure events for its members and non-members. The VSPVU also has a public and Board room located in the Medical Faculty, where members can stop by for a break.

From the academic year 2017-2018, the VU introduced the English track to the Psychology course. Therefore, the VSPVU also started internationalization, to make it accessible for international students. In the academic year 2021-2022, the VSPVU will continue providing all documents in both Dutch and English on the website, keeping in mind that the association consists of many Dutch and international students. The only committee that will remain Dutch is the Pedcie, since that study is solely provided in Dutch by the VU.

The VU implemented a numerus fixus for Psychology starting from the academic year 2019-2020, which will allow for 600 students to enroll. This may lead to less first year students joining the VSPVU, compared to years prior to the implementation of the numerus fixus.

In the academic year 2019-2020 the COVID-19 pandemic affected the association by limiting the amount of physical events. In addition, the VSPVU room was closed for almost the entirety of the year, limiting accessibility and socialization within the association. Furthermore, in the academic year 2021-2022, the VSPVU will turn 75 years old and this will be celebrated with a Lustrum Week in April 2022. This week will be full of parties and celebrations, being optimistic that the COVID-19 regulations will be lifted by then.

In the academic year 2021-2022, the VSPVU will continue providing summaries for members with a discount provided by an external summary provider. These summaries will be available at the VSPVU Balie in the VU bookstore, online on the provider's website and on the online version of the VU bookstore.

The VSPVU promotes herself and connects with members through various social media platforms. Furthermore, the VSPVU has a Canvas page where only educational events are promoted since the academic year 2020-2021, to further expand its reach. Promotion will be done in accordance with the corporate identity (huisstijl) of the VSPVU, with the exception of promotional videos and Instagram stories.

Rather than informing the board when you do not want to be a member, members will be given an opportunity to cancel their membership on October 25th before 23.59 through social media and email. This is because many members did not renew their membership resulting in a loss.

## POLICY PLAN

The policy plan, as drawn up by the 75th Board, will be implemented during the academic year of 2021-2022. The main points are Committee Development, Involvement, Promotion, Members, and Policy Continuation. Each of these points will be elaborated on below. By the means of this policy plan the board expects, together with its members, to further develop the association and provide accessibility.



## COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT

Due to the Board consisting of 3 members in the academic year 2021-2022, the VSPVU will consist of 10 committees (excluding the RvA and KasCo): Actie, Balie, Barcie/Feestcie, Chronicles, Congresscie, Illusie, LEX/Opcie, Lucie, Pedcie, and Wintersportcie. The committees that have an "&" sign will represent the combined committees. The committees will be guided and contacted by one of the three members of the 75th Board throughout the year. This decision has been made to make the workload manageable for the 75th Board, as it will consist of three people. The names will be as follows:

- Actie, the Activity Committee
- Balie, the Bookselling Committee
- Barcie / Feestcie, the Bar & Party Committee
- Chronicles, the Yearbook Committee
- Congresscie, the Convention Committee
- Illusie, the Introduction Committee
- KasCo, the Financial Audit
- LEX / Opcie, the Lectures & Excursions and Orientation Psychology Committee
- Lucie, the Lustrum Committee
- Pedcie, de Pedagogiek Commissie
- RvA, the Advisory Board
- Wintersportcie, the Ski Trip Committee

### *Streamlining of Committees*

As a consequence of the board consisting of three members, it has been decided to move forward with only one trip committee in the upcoming year, being the Wintersportscie. This committee will also be organizing an additional trip, to give members who will not be attending the Ski Trip a chance to experience a weekend away. This does not mean that participating in the Ski Trip will deny you access to sign up for the weekend, as all members will be allowed to sign up. Additionally, two members will be added to the committee raising the member count from six to eight. As a consequence of having a three member board, it has been decided to abolish the Reiscie (Study Trip Committee) for the upcoming year.

In the academic year 2020-2021, the committee members of the Webcie stepped down, resulting in the committee being taken over by the 74th Board. Although this was deemed successful, due to the lack of members in the 75th Board it has been decided to not move forward with this idea.

### *Optimizing Committees*

The Barcie will be combined with the Feestcie, and the combination will be renamed as the Barcie/Feestcie. The Barcie/Feestcie will organise four VSPVU room borrels, and two parties, of which one will be an intro week party. The committee will decide later what that part will be, with the possibility of opting for a Gala. Two members will be added to the committee, in order to

ensure that the workload is manageable within the year, resulting in an eight-member committee instead of the previous six.

The LEX committee will be combined with the Opcie, resulting in a combination, which will be renamed as the LEX/Opcie. The committee will be hosting two Opcie events, which one will be the career days (if the faculty decides to organize one with the VSPVU). as well as a minimum of three LEX events. The committee will be allowed 6 members as opposed to 4. This will ensure that the career days can be organised, as well as the LEX and Opcie events.

## INVOLVEMENT

Members and non-members will be able to visit the VSPVU room, MF-D056, in the Medical Faculty of the VU on Weekdays between 11:00 and 16:00 on days excluding Mondays, in which the room will be open from 12:45 until 16:00, unless notified otherwise by the board. The room will remain closed during national and school holidays.

In the year 2020-2021, all committees successfully used their committee ten budgets. In the year 2021-2022, committees will have access to their committee ten budgets until the 28th of February. In the case that committees fail to use their budgets, the leftover money will be appointed to an active member activity, in order to still use the money to give back to active members.

When a committee hosts an event, at least one board member, preferably being the contact person of the committee, will be present.

### *General Meetings*

Coming year, the BOTC will consist of one large assignment accompanied by two small assignments for which BOTC points will be rewarded. After each GBM, new assignments will be appointed and sent out in the Active Member chat after being announced in the meeting.

Last year, four General Meetings took place during the year, accompanied by seven General Board Meetings. As two of the five GMs were an emergency meetings in the past year, we will move forward with solely four GMs that will be held in the months of September, January, March and June.

The point "Committees" will be added to the GMs, in which the contact person of each committee will indicate globally how things are going in the committees. This will be implemented in order to increase transparency towards our members, by giving all members a brief and general overview of how the committees are doing.

## PROMOTION

VSPVU will continue to promote through the means of social media in corporate identity, with the exception of Instagram stories and promotional videos. LinkedIn will only be updated once at every end of the month with a summary of educational events. This is done as an effort to continue



creating relevance in a more professional scene while keeping the workload manageable and realistic. All events hosted by the board will be shared in the Active Member Chat.

More promotion regarding Member Initiatives will be opted for in the form of canvas texts and promotional posters in order to increase awareness of the opportunity and give members a chance to host their own event and be more involved.

### *Lecture Talks*

In the case that lectures are physical, one board member will be present to promote the association during at least one first year and one second year lecture every month.

### *Monthly Compilation*

To increase attraction for events, 75th will post monthly compilations on social media every month, with exception for summer and Christmas break. Additionally, the 75th will introduce Instagram highlights for every month so upon finding the VSPVU Instagram, people can see what has been done in the past few months and to increase engagement with followers. At the end of the year, the highlights will be compiled into one year highlight so it does not overwhelm the page in following years. Additionally, 75th will organize highlights and remove irrelevant ones.

### *Promotion in room*

Due to the limitations that were placed on the capacity of the VSPVU room during the second semester of 2019-2020 and the entirety of 2020-2021, the efficacy of promotion in the room could not be evaluated clearly. 75th will continue the showing of a slideshow of past events at least once a week in the room on the TV during the opening hours. Posters for upcoming events will be hung in the room, and upcoming events will be promoted on the blackboard at the entrance of the room.

## **MEMBERS**

As an initiative to be more inclusive, the board will change Christmas cards to Happy Holiday cards and Birthday cards will continue as usual.

### *New members*

The board aspires to obtain 300 new Bachelor members, as well as 30 new masters students in addition to the 400 yearly contribution students.

### *Study sessions*

Every working day of the week before exam week, the board will host study sessions, leaving the exam week itself free. The VSPVU room will still be available for students who wish to have a break.



This will all be done in accordance with the COVID-19 regulations that are being implemented at the given time.

#### *Member of the month*

To show appreciation for the active members, 75th has decided to reintroduce Member of the month. The board will come to a conclusion, and the chosen member will receive recognition in the form of a small gift and letter from the board, as well as a story post on the VSPVU Instagram.

#### *Active Member Participation Certificate*

The 75<sup>th</sup> Board would like to reintroduce Active Member Participation Certificates in which the chairman of the committee and/or the contact person will write a small text that can serve as a token of appreciation of their work in the committee. This will be given to all committee members during the last GM of the year.

## POLICY CONTINUATION

In the last few years, it was noted that the inclusion of too many events within the year lead to lower motivation and therefore lower participation rates. Aspiring to opt for quality rather than quantity of events, as well as increasing the attendance rates, coming year there will be five borrels hosted by the board instead of six. In addition, a maximum of two promotion events for the Wintersportscie will be held, one preunion borrel for the Ski Trip as well as one for the weekend away.

To get chairmen involved, their contact person will contact them within a week before the GBM, to evaluate what issues they want brought up in the meeting as well as the current standings of their committees.

The Board will host one alumni event due to the importance of involving former members and recent successful events.

Educational events will continue being shared on canvas and LinkedIn.

Due to the lack of relevant information in committee manuals, and a lack of updates in the previous years, committee manuals were replaced by a more resourceful alternative in the means of power-point presentations in the year 2020-2021. The presentations will be updated yearly to ensure that everything is up to date for the upcoming chairman, and the current chairman and their contact person will do this before the end of the academic year.

The board offers the opportunity for individual members to organise one or more activities throughout the academic year. If a member has an idea for an event they want to host, they can apply for it by coming to the board, given they come prepared with a budget and a concept. If an event is organised by a member, a member of the Board will provide assistance with the organisation of the event. If no activities have been planned by the end of the academic year 2021-2022, the Board will reallocate the money reserved for member initiatives to a different post during the GM in June 2022.

The 75th will make it a priority to bring the merchandise to events as a continued effort to sell it off. The 75th aims to introduce at least one new item of merchandise.



## EPILOGUE

The 75th Board of the VSPVU set up this policy plan with the best benefits of the association at heart during the academic year 2021-2022. We thank you for your time reading this policy plan and hope that it will be voted in during the first General Meeting. The policy plan will be revised during all other upcoming General Meetings.

Kind regards,

The 75th Board of the VSPVU