



POLICY PLAN  
2022-2023

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# PREFACE

Dear reader,

The 76<sup>th</sup> 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 2022-2023. We want to thank you for taking the time to read our Policy Plan, which is based on the vision of the 76<sup>th</sup> 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 is written based on the fact that activities won't be cancelled due to COVID-19.

We proudly present ourselves:

## THE 76<sup>TH</sup> BOARD OF THE VSPVU

Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

Commissioner Communication and Media

Žygimantas Pupelis

Sonia Erbé Gómez

Lotta Heijnen

Anaïs van Schalen

# INTRODUCTION

The Vereniging Studenten Psychologie aan de Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Association for Students Psychology of the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam, hereafter referred to 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 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2015 the Faculty of Movement Sciences and the Faculty for Psychology and Pedagogical Sciences have been fused into the Faculty of Behavioural and Movement Sciences (FGB). The VSPVU and the Vereniging in Beweging (Study Association for Human Movement Science) chose, despite the fusion of the faculty, to keep their own identities. 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 76<sup>th</sup> Board, several main points emerged: Committee Development, Communication, Members, Involvement and Events 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 76<sup>th</sup> Board is to be presented to the members of the association during the first General Meeting (GM) of the academic year 2022-2023. 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 Sciences students at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. It consists of three type of members:

who pay a yearly contribution to the association, active members, who are active in committees and the organisation of events, and a Board, which guides the association with the help of their Raad van Advies (RVA) and Kascontrole Commissie (KasCo).

The VSPVU organises 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, thus the association consists of Dutch as well as international students. In the academic year 2022-2023, documents, like the transcripts of General Meetings, will be provided only in English. The only committee that will keep on providing all documents and events in Dutch is the Pedcie. This is because 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 allows for 600 students to enrol. Due to this there has been a decrease in the number of new members.

In the academic year 2019-2020 the COVID-19 pandemic affected the association by limiting the number of physical events. In addition, the VSPVU room was closed in the second semester of the year, limiting accessibility and socialisation within the association. The academic year 2020-2021 consisted of mostly online events, with exceptions depending on the regulations concerning lockdown. In the first semester of the academic year 2021-2022, the association was restricted by COVID-19 regulations. The second semester of the year, everything turned back to normal concerning regulations. Therefore, we expect to have a regulation-free year in 2022-2023.

## POLICY PLAN

The Policy Plan, as drawn up by the 76<sup>th</sup> Board, will be implemented during the academic year of 2022-2023. As the 76<sup>th</sup> Board, one of our main points is to return the association to its functioning in times before COVID-19. The main points are Committee Development, Communication, Members, Involvement and Events and Policy Continuation. Each of these points will be elaborated on below. By the means of this Policy Plan, the 76<sup>th</sup> Board expects, together with its members, to further develop the association.

## COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT

In the academic year 2022-2023, the 76<sup>th</sup> Board will consist of 4 members, thus the combined committees of the academic year 2021-2022 will return to their original state. There will be a total of 11 committees (excluding RvA and KasCo). The committees that will be active this year are the following:

- Actie, the Activity Committee
- Balie, the Bookselling Committee
- Barcie, the Bar Committee
- Chronicles, the Yearbook Committee
- Feestcie, the Party Committee
- Illusie, the Introduction Committee
- KasCo, the Financial Audit
- LEX, the Lectures and Excursion Committee
- Opcie, the Career Committee
- Ouderdagcie, the Parents Day Committee
- Pedcie, de Pedagogiek Commissie
- RVA, the Advisory Board
- Wintersportcie, the Ski Trip Committee

### *Committees*

The Actie, the Activity Committee, will organise 4 events, of which is a one cultural related event, one a sports event and two events free for the committee to decide. The Balie, the Bookselling Committee, apart from selling books and summaries in the basement of the VU bookstore, will be required to release promotion for books, discounts and the location of the VU bookstore, at least once in periods one, two, four and five. This could be for example a promotional video but can be decided by the committee itself. The Barcie, the Bar Committee, will organise at least four borrels in the VSPVU room. The Barcie is allowed to organise up to two additional events, which are decided by the committee itself but have to be in line with the purpose of the committee. This could for example be a Beerlympics. The Chronicles, the Yearbook Committee, will make the Yearbook and will host a Yearbook release event.

The Feestcie, the Party Committee, will organise at least two parties, one of them being the introduction party. The committee can opt for a gala, but this is free for the committee to decide. The Illusie, the Introduction Committee, will organise the Introduction Days, will be in charge of gathering mentors for this and will organise at least one event for these mentors.

The LEX, the Lectures and Excursions Committee, will organise at least four events, of which at least one will be an excursion and one will be a symposium. The Opcie, the Career Committee, will focus on co-organising the Career Days together with the Faculty. This has been decided since events from the Opcie in previous years were not well visited and therefore the function of the Opcie became a bit unclear.

The Ouderdagcie, the Parents Day Committee, will be reinstalled this year and will organise the Parents Day. This has been decided since the event got cancelled in the academic year 2019-2020 and it was not organised in the academic year 2021-2022. The Pedcie, the Pedagogiek Commissie, will organise at least three events related to Pedagogical Sciences. The Wintersportcie, the Ski Trip Committee, will organise the ski trip as well as at least one pre-union and one reunion event.

### *Optimising committees*

For committees that organise promotional borrels, the 'borrels' will be allowed to be renamed into events. This is to allow committees to be more creative and have more flexibility in what they organise. For illustrative purposes, if the Wintersportcie would want to organise a pre-union event, they would not be limited to it being a borrel, but they could also opt for a picnic day. Naturally, they would still be allowed to organise a borrel.

### *Streamlining committees*

Until the academic year 2021-2022, a convention was organised by the Congrescie, or Convention Committee. Every year, this is the biggest educational event of the year. However, since it's hard to get sponsors and locations and caterers are expensive, the event has been difficult to organise financially every year. Therefore, in the academic year 2022-2023 there will not be a convention and this event will become bi-annual. The Congrescie will become inactive this year and in the Estimated Budget, a post will be created in order to invest into the convention of the academic year 2023-2024.

Because of the 76<sup>th</sup> Board consisting of only four people, it has been decided to not organise a Study Trip this year. This means that the Reiscie, the Study Trip Committee, will be inactive in the academic year of 2022-2023. There will be a document created and passed on to the 77<sup>th</sup> Board with a plan and information of what the committee entails.

## **COMMUNICATION**

### *Internal*

One of the main goals of the 76<sup>th</sup> Board for the VSPVU is to ensure clearer communication between the Board and the members of the association. This will be accomplished by communicating the reasoning behind certain decisions as detailed as possible.

Furthermore, each Board member will write a blog post at least once a year, updating on the progress of events and to provide information on personal tasks that were completed. The blog posts will be spread out throughout the year. This also will be helpful for VSPVU members that are interested in becoming a Board member.



### *External*

The 76<sup>th</sup> Board will try to renew and strengthen relationships with external groups, which could have been decreased because of COVID-19. The 76<sup>th</sup> Board will try to attend as many Constitutional Drinks of brother and/or sister associations as possible. Additionally, to strengthen the bond with neighbouring associations (MFVU and V.I.B), the Board will try to organise at least one event which includes the members of these associations. An example of this could be the Battle of MF.

## **MEMBERS**

### *Membership*

In the academic year 2022-2023, members that became a member after 2021, will have to inform the Board that they want to cancel their membership by sending an email to the Board. The deadline will be October 30<sup>th</sup> of 2022.

### *New members*

The Board aspires to obtain 200 (39%) new Bachelor members, as well as 25 new masters students. This will be in addition to the 320 (57%) yearly contribution students.

### *Active Member Participation Picture*

The 76<sup>th</sup> Board will take picture of all the active members throughout the year. These pictures will be hung on a wall in the VSPVU room. If a member is unavailable, does not want their picture taken or does not want their picture on the wall, the 76<sup>th</sup> Board shall not make or present their picture on the wall. In the last General Meeting, the pictures will be distributed to the active members and will be accompanied by a little text to show appreciation for their involvement in the association this year.

## **INVOLVEMENT AND EVENTS**

### *Question section/Frequently Asked Questions*

The 76<sup>th</sup> Board will add a new section on the website, which will be called Questions. There, people who visit the website will be allowed to ask any questions regarding the VSPVU. Furthermore, a Frequently Asked Questions section will be created, which will allow for faster navigation throughout the website or gathering of information regarding the VSPVU.

### *Physical calendar*

To give more overview about upcoming events to members, the 76<sup>th</sup> Board will hang a physical calendar in the VSPVU room. All the planned events during the year will be added to this calendar.

## **POLICY CONTINUATION**

### *Committees*

Once the new chairs of the committees are elected, the previous chair and the contact person from the Board will relay the committee information and training through a PowerPoint.

Since the academic year 2020-2021, all committees successfully used their committee ten budgets, except KasCo in the academic year 2021-2022. In the academic year 2022-2023, committees will have access to their committee ten budgets until the 26<sup>th</sup> of February 2023. If committees fail to use it, the leftover money will be reallocated to an active member activity, to still give it back to the active members.

During the upcoming year, Battle of the Committees will be called the Crazy 76. The Board will come up with 76 challenges throughout the year, which will be released at General Board Meetings to the chairs of the committees. For completed challenges the committees will receive points. The committee that obtained the highest number of points wins the Crazy 76 and will be presented at the end of year.

### *Promotion*

Events are communicated through various social media platforms. This will be in accordance with corporate identity, with the exclusion of Instagram stories and promotional videos. Since the academic year of 2020-2021, educational events are being promoted on Canvas too. LinkedIn will be updated once every month, summarising all the educational events that happened that month and giving an overview of the upcoming events of the month. This will happen to sustain the professional reputation of the VSPVU.

The 76<sup>th</sup> Board will continue to post monthly calendars on social media, with exceptions during the summer holiday and Christmas break. Instagram highlights will be kept as well.

Since lectures have returned to being given physically, per period, at least one lecture talk will be given for the first years and at least one for the second years of Psychology and Pedagogical Sciences, by the 76<sup>th</sup> Board, to promote events. In these lecture talks, the monthly calendars will be shown.

Promotional posters will continue to be hung in the VSPVU room. The blackboard outside the room will display information about upcoming events.

The 76<sup>th</sup> Board decided to continue with the idea box. Members can send an email or fill out a form on the website. The ideas will be read out during the General Meetings.

### *Meetings*

During the academic year 2022-2023, at least three General Meetings will be organised, along with seven General Board Meetings.

### *Members*

The deadline for requesting a member initiative will be the last General Meeting of the academic year 2022-2023. If there has been no interest shown up until that date, the money reserved for it will be reallocated to the flex budget or to an activity for VSPVU members.

The VSPVU room in the Medical Faculty, MF-D056, will be open for members and non-members on weekdays from 10:00 until 17:00. This is excluding Monday and Friday. On Monday, it will open at 12:45, and will stay open until 17:00. On Friday, it will open at 10:00, but close at 16:00. These times stand, unless notified otherwise by the 76<sup>th</sup> Board. The room will be closed on national and school holidays.

### *Study sessions*

The study sessions during the academic year 2021-2022 seemed ineffectual, however the 76<sup>th</sup> Board deems it necessary to give it another chance. The 76<sup>th</sup> Board will re-evaluate the idea in the middle of the academic year.

### *Merchandise*

The VSPVU has been selling merchandise over the past years. The 76<sup>th</sup> Board will continue selling merchandise from previous years and aims to add at least one new item or bring an item back.

### *Summaries*

In the academic year 2022-2023, the VSPVU will continue selling summaries with a discount at the VSPVU Balie in the VU bookstore, online on the external provider's website and in the online VU bookstore.

## EPILOGUE

The 76<sup>th</sup> Board of the VSPVU set up this Policy Plan with the best benefits of the association at heart during the academic year 2022-2023. 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 76<sup>th</sup> Board of the VSPVU