



POLICY PLAN 2026-2027

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PREFACE

Dear reader,

The 80th Board of the Vereniging voor Studenten Psychologie en Pedagogiek aan de Vrije Universiteit te Amsterdam (hereinafter referred to as VSPVU), presents the Policy Plan for the academic year of 2026-2027. We want to thank you for taking the time to read our Policy Plan, which is based on the vision of the 80th Board, previous Policy Plans and the Long-Term Plan 2026-2029. We hope to contribute to the development and growth of the association with this Policy Plan.

We proudly present ourselves:

THE 80TH BOARD OF THE VSPVU

Chairwoman

Secretary & Commissioner of Marketing and Communication

Treasurer

Commissioner of External Affairs

Nicole Kerrinckx

Eline Leuven

Emilia Andreoli

Bas Paeper

INTRODUCTION

The 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 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 VIB (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 80th Board, several main points emerged: Committee Development, Members, Community, Promotion and Policy Continuation. These main points are the foundation of this Policy Plan and will be explained in the following chapters.

CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS

The VSPVU consists of members who pay a yearly contribution to the association, Active Members, who are in committees and involved in the organisation of events, and a Board, which guides the association with the help of their Advisory Board (RvA) and Financial Audit (KasCo). The VSPVU also has a member and Board room located in the Medical Faculty (MF-D056), where members can socialize, study, or 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. From the academic year 2022-2023 onwards, documents such as the transcripts of General Meetings, are provided only in English. The only committee that will keep on providing all documents and events in Dutch is the Pedcie. This is because Pedagogical Sciences is solely provided in Dutch by the VU.

With numerous reasons, such as psychology changing to a numerus fixus programme and Covid-19, a decrease in member count has been experienced over the past few years. In the academic years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 the Board Members worked on creating a Social Safety Plan. During the academic year 2023-2024 the Social Safety Plan was voted in. In the academic years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, the sustainability plan has been implemented.

In the academic year 2024-2025, the bookkeeping system has been moved to being fully online also with the implementation of a new payment system that got rid of the 'turf' list. In the academic year 2025-2026, the statutes of the VSPVU were changed to adhere to the new rules and regulations put forward by the Wet Bestuur en Toezicht Rechtspersonen (WBTR), and the Internal Regulations were updated. During the academic year 2026-2027 a new Long Term Plan will be presented for the years 2026 to 2029.

POLICY PLAN

The Policy Plan, as drawn up by the 80th Board, will be implemented during the academic year of 2026-2027. For the 80th Board, the main points are Committee Development, Members, Community, Promotion, and Policy Continuation. Each of these points will be elaborated upon below. By the means of this Policy Plan, the 80th Board expects, together with her members, to further develop the association.

COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT

In the academic year 2026-2027, there will be a total of 14 committees. The committees that will be active this year are the following:

- Actie, the Activity Committee
- Cheercie, the Bar and Party Committee
- Chronicles, the Yearbook Committee
- Cookcie, the Cooking Committee
- Familiedagcie, the Family Day Committee
- Illusie, the Introduction Committee
- KasCo, the Financial Audit
- LEX, the Lectures and Excursions Committee
- Lucie, the Lustrum Committee
- Opcie, the Career Committee
- Pedcie, the Pedagogical Sciences Committee
- Reiscie, the Study Trip Committee
- RvA, the Advisory Board
- Wintersportcie, the Ski Trip Committee

Committees

- Actie, the Activity Committee, will organise four events, of which one is to be a cultural related event, one of which is to be a sport event, and at least two events will be free for the committee to decide. The Actie is allowed to organise an additional event.
- Cheercie, the Bar and Party Committee, will be a pilot committee during the academic year 2026-2027 which is the merge of Barcie and Feestcie. The committee will organise six events in total. The committee will organise three borrels that will take place in the VSPVU room, with an option for an extra event, as well as two external events of which one is to be the VSPVU-kickoff. The committee will consist of a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Promotion Coordinator, an External Contact, and a General Member. In the academic year 2026-2027, the organization of the gala will be appointed to the Lucie committee and not the Cheercie committee. Consequently, the Barcie/Feestcie merge will be more thoroughly evaluated without the occurrence of the Feestcie gala and the 80th Board can advise the 81st Board how to proceed given the results of the merge.
- Chronicles, the Yearbook Committee, will make the Yearbook and will host a Yearbook release event.
- Cookcie, the Cooking Committee, will host Lunch of the Month starting from November onwards. They will have at least seven events, with one extra optional event. The committee will consist of a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer and a Promotion Coordinator.
- Familiedagcie, the Family Day Committee, will replace Ouderdagcie. It will remain the same as in previous years, by organizing a biannual event. However, it will take the name Familiedagcie to not limit the participating members to bringing a parent but instead someone that is considered a family member.
- Illusie, the Introduction Committee, will organise the Introduction Days and Illusie Weekend. The committee will be in charge of gathering mentors and will organise a mandatory mentor event, with an extra optional mentor event.
- LEX, the Lectures and Excursions Committee, will organise four educational events of which one is to be an excursion and one is to be a lecture.

- Lucie, the Lustrum Committee, will organize the Lustrumweek for 2026-2027, which will include at least one educational event and a gala.
- Opcie, the Career Committee, will organize the Career Days in collaboration with faculty.
- Pedcie, the Pedagogical Sciences Committee, will organise three events, related to Pedagogical Sciences, one of which is to be an excursion and one is to be a lecture. The Pedcie is allowed to organise an additional event.
- Reiscie, the Study Trip Committee, will organise a study trip abroad as well as one preunion-event and one reunion-event.
- Wintersportcie, the Ski Trip Committee, will organise the ski trip as well as one preunion-event and one reunion-event.

Committee manuals

The 80th Board aims to renew and update the committee manuals in collaboration with past Boards. The current manuals no longer fully reflect how the committees operate; therefore, by renewing these documents, we provide committees with clear, accessible guidance on standardized approaches to key tasks, possible sponsorships, and ideas for activities.

Renewing the manuals goes through evaluating the current manuals, adding new detailed information and scrapping unnecessary information. With this process we aim to update the manuals to the current time-standards. This will reduce the committee's dependency on the Board for routine questions and enables them to work more independently, confidently, and efficiently. We aim to have the manuals finalized by the end of the academic year at the latest.

The Battle of Committees

During the upcoming year, the 80th Board will organise the Battle of Committees: Crazy 80. The Board will come up with 80 challenges throughout the year which will be released at General Board Meetings to the committee Chairs. The Board will release challenges during at least four of the General Board Meetings which have to be completed before the deadline in order to receive the corresponding bonus points.

The committee that obtains the highest number of points before the last deadline, wins the Crazy 80. This committee will be revealed at the last General Board Meeting and receive a prize. To encourage participation from all committees throughout the academic year, we will release videos and photos of the challenges after every round on the Active Member Chat in order to encourage commentary, motivate everyone to give it their best shot, and foster healthy competition. All active members that are involved in the videos/pictures will be asked for permission to share said videos and pictures in the chat before we send it in the Active Member Chat. A semi-live point counter, will continue to be reachable through the Active Member Chat. Additionally, the 80th Board will publish interim challenges that the Board will do throughout the year if the committees obtain a certain combined amount of points.

Committee Collaborations

The 80th Board wants to give committees the opportunity to work together on events. This can be a committee specific event, or an extra event. The two committees that want to collaborate need to fill out a shared document, created by the 80th Board, where they send in their worked out idea. This worked-out idea contains at least the following: a budget-proposal, theme or subject of the event, date and location. Both participating committees need to send the document to the Board e-mail via their respective committee e-mails a minimum of eight weeks before the event. The Board will decide during their Board Meeting about approval of the proposal.

In order to approve or reject a proposal, the Board will consider the feasibility of the event, the proposed budget, the added value of the collaboration, the capacity of both committees to organise the event, and how it fits within the association's overall calendar and activities.

MEMBERS

Membership sign-ups

In the academic year 2026-2027, members that became a member after 2019, will have to inform the Board that they want to cancel their membership by selecting to discontinue their membership in their account on the VSPVU website or sending an email to the Board. The deadline will be the 31st of October 2026 at 23:59.

The 80th Board aspires to obtain 130 additional Bachelor members (+23.81%) as well as 12 additional Master members (+21.43%) in comparison to last year's total member count of 612 yearly contributing students (+23.20%)

Member Cards

The 80th Board aims to implement a member cards system to improve the efficiency of transactions during association activities. The system would allow members to use a physical member card for purchases during VSPVU activities, while regular payment methods will remain available. Members will have the option to purchase a card when signing up for membership, as well as separately after becoming a member.

The 80th Board will investigate the feasibility of allowing members to add credit to their card online, preferably through the existing Genkgo platform. The Board will also explore how member balances can be securely linked to individual members and how lost or damaged cards can be deactivated and replaced. The card will be available to all members under the same price, yet special edition designs for current- and former Board members may be considered.

Additionally, the 80th Board will investigate whether member benefits, such as discounts, can be offered based on the financial feasibility of the system and the savings in transaction costs. At the end of the academic year, the Board will evaluate the system based on its feasibility, financial impact, member use and ease of use.

Member of the Month

The 80th Board wants to continue having a Member of the Month, as a way to boost member engagement. There will not be a Member of the Month during vacation periods. We aim to show a picture of the chosen Member of the Month on the TV in the room, make an Instagram post explaining why they are the Member of the Month including fun questions to get to know the Member of the Month, as well as make a blog post on the website. If the chosen Member of the Month does not want a picture of their face posted, their face will not be shown. If someone does not want to be posted at all, that person cannot be chosen as Member of the Month. The Member of the Month cannot be the same person more than once during the academic year. The 80th Board will use pre-set guidelines as to what contributes to making someone Member of the Month. The Board will choose who will be Member of the Month but nominations are possible.

COMMUNITY

The 80th Board believes in the value of a strong community where people of diverse cultures and identities can turn to. The Board aims to expand the VSPVU's celebration of culture and identity diversity while simultaneously making sure that Dutch national holidays and festivities are acknowledged.

While the VSPVU remains a politically neutral association, members are allowed to voice their opinions on different matters, provided that discussions remain respectful and considerate of differing perspectives. The 80th Board will encourage members to engage openly and respectfully with different perspectives and backgrounds, creating opportunities for members to learn from one another. To support this, speaking English in the VSPVU room and at VSPVU events will be encouraged by the Board due to the association's large number of proficient speakers.

The Board will lead by example by speaking English in these situations and will communicate this expectation to committees at the beginning of the board year. However, no individual should feel obligated to speak a language that they may or may not know. The 80th Board hopes that people will put in the effort of their own volition to include individuals of other cultures in their conversations or activities. At the end of the academic year, the Board will evaluate these efforts through member feedback, such as the creation of a survey.

Culturalization

The 80th Board aims to have a minimum of one event related to holidays or commemorative days with a cultural, social, or unifying character. While these activities may acknowledge the cultural or religious background of a holiday, they will remain inclusive and respectful of members with different beliefs and backgrounds. The activities will focus on cultural exchange, community, and shared experiences rather than advocating for a particular political or religious belief.

PROMOTION

The 80th Board will continue to use Instagram and WhatsApp as the main forms of promotion. In addition, the Board will aim to implement a more active usage of LinkedIn, to promote the Lustrum year to alumni and give them the opportunity to be involved with activities. Instagram and WhatsApp will keep the same tone as set by previous Boards and Canvas will proceed to be used as seen fit by the 80th Board. Furthermore, the 80th Board will continue to stream posters digitally on the TV, selling VSPVU merchandise, and showcasing the merchandise physically in the room so members know what items may be purchased. The 80th Board aims to add a minimum of one new piece of merchandise to the collection. Additionally, the 80th Board will create a new video for the VSPVU website 'Become a Member' page that better represents the association today with more recent videos and clips of activities.

Lastly, the 80th Board will hold a total of at least 12 lecture talks for first-, second-, and third-year bachelor students as well as master students.

POLICY CONTINUATION

Companies

The 80th Board will follow the example set by the 79th Board and continue making the VSPVU more visible to companies, by having in person meetings as much as possible to strengthen the relationships. In person meetings can take place at a location of their choosing or at the VU to show them the association. However, the Board is aware that it is not always possible for the meetings to happen physically.

Committees

As the Boards before, the 80th Board will continue with the Committee 10. The deadline to claim the compensation is March 1, 2027. After this, any leftover budget will be reallocated to other activities for our Active Members, such as Active Member Weekend.

Meetings

During the academic year 2026-2027, four General Meetings will be held to keep members informed. If needed, emergency General Meetings will be arranged. Additionally, seven General Board Meetings will be scheduled, allowing the Chairs to stay updated, provide input, and receive feedback from one to another.

Room opening hours

Room opening hours The VSPVU room (MF-D056), in the Medical Faculty, will be open for members and non-members from Monday until Friday from 10:45-17.00. During Board meetings, the room will be closed. The Board will announce definite opening hours before the start of the period. Note that times may differ, which will be notified by the 80th Board via Instagram and the Member chat. The room will be closed on national and school holidays.

New membership sign-ups

The 80th will follow in the 79th Board's footsteps and continue to try to make the application process easier to lower the threshold for new members to sign-up.

Sustainability

During the 77th Board, all committees were tasked with incorporating sustainability into their events, a directive communicated by their contact person at the beginning of the year. The 80th Board will continue the sustainability plans set forward by the previous years, and will implement it as much as possible.

To reduce the environmental impact, the use of paper will be avoided as much as possible by prioritizing the use of online forms and digital streaming to promote events. Holiday and birthday cards will continue to be handed out in person when possible, instead of sending them via post. Decorations used at events will be recycled as much as possible by using the storage inventory created by the 76th Board.

Following previous years' examples, the 80th Board will continue to host an event dedicated to sustainability.

Study sessions

The 80th Board believes it is important to continue providing members with a quiet and accessible study space. As the study sessions require minimal resources to organize, the 80th Board believes they remain valuable and will therefore continue offering them throughout the year.

To create a more comfortable environment, snacks and drinks will be made available to pick up in the VSPVU room during each session.

Member Initiative

The 80th Board wants to continue to give members a voice and a say in what is happening in the association. Therefore, Member Initiative, as put forward by previous Boards, will be continued. Members can apply for the Member Initiative through the Board email. If the event is deemed feasible by the Board, the member(s) who pitched the idea will receive funding from the Member Initiative budget as well as support and guidance from the Board. If the Member Initiative budget is not used by May 5th, 2027, the remaining budget will be reallocated to Mini Events.

Master's Event

The 80th Board will follow the example of previous years and organise a Master's Event.

Alumni

The 80th Board will keep Alumni updated by sending at least 3 newsletters - one in the beginning of the year, one halfway through and one at the end. In the first two newsletters, the Board will be sending the year schedule for the coming semester to keep them updated on events and activities held by the VSPVU. It will be mentioned that the dates and activities are subject to change and that they can stay updated via our website and Instagram. An Alumni event will be organized by Lucie, the Lustrum committee, during the academic year 2026-2027.

EPILOGUE

The 80th Board of the VSPVU set up this Policy Plan with the best benefits of the association at heart during the academic year 2026-2027. We thank you for your time reading this Policy Plan and hope that it will be voted in during the first General Meeting. The members will be updated about the current state of The Policy Plan during at least two of the General Meetings.

Kind regards,

The 80th Board of the VSPVU