



POLICY PLAN 2017-
2018

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PREFACE

Dear reader,

Hereby the 71st board of the VSPVU presents the policy plan for the academic year 2017-2018. We would like to thank you sincerely for taking the time to read our policy plan. This policy plan is based on the vision of the 71st board, previous policy plans and the multiannual plan. With this policy, we hope to contribute to the development and growth of the association.

We proudly present ourselves:

THE 71ST BOARD OF THE VSPVU

Chairwoman	Naomi van den Berg
Secretary	Casper van Tongeren
Treasurer	Damian Waij
Commissioner Communication and Media	Pieter Braak
Commissioner External Contacts	Julia de Ruig
Commissioner Education	Lara Bodewitz

INTRODUCTION

The Vereniging Studenten Psychologie aan de Vrije Universiteit te Amsterdam (Association for Students Psychology of the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam) was founded in 1947 by Mr. Sanders. The study Child Studies knew her own association: "Hilaritas". The association conjoined to become the Vereniging Studenten Psychologie en Pedagogiek aan de Vrije Universiteit te Amsterdam (Association for Students Psychology and Child Studies of the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam) in 1961. Both studies were established within one faculty and therefore the VSPVU became the faculty association of the Faculty of Psychology and Child Studies (FPP). The purpose of the VSPVU is to look after the interests of the students, in the most broad way. Since the 1st of June 2015 the faculty of movement sciences and the Faculty for Psychology and Child Studies fused into the Faculty of Behavioural- and Movement sciences (FGB). The VSPVU and the Vereniging In Beweging (Study Association for Human Movement Sciences) chose, despite the fusion of the faculty, to keep their own identity. The VSPVU lost the title of faculty association.

Before, the VSPVU used to focus mainly on study related activities. Over time it developed into a study association with a broad offer of activities, including parties, trips, sport- and cultural activities. Over the last few years the association invested a lot of time into the professionalisation of itself. Based on the vision of the 71st board, previous policy plans and the multiannual plan multiple key points came forward: Involvement, Career, Diversity, Internationalisation, Professionalisation, Promotion and the Continuity of previous policies. These key points are the base of this policy plan and will be elucidated in the next paragraphs.

This policy plan will be presented in the first General Meeting (GM) of the academic year 2017-2018. In case this policy plan will be agreed upon, it will be evaluated every next GM. The board will also present the financial statement.

CURRENT STATE OF BEING

The VSPVU includes active and non-active members. The active members are part of one of the committees that organise different activities. In the academic year of 2017-2018 the VSPVU contains fifteen committees, namely Actie, Balie, Barcie, Chronicles, Congrescie, Feestcie, Illusie, LEX, Liftcie, Opcie, Ouderdagcie, Pedcie, Reiscie, Tranz en Wintersportcie. The Barcie, Ouderdagcie and Pedcie are pilot committees. In the past years, the VSPVU tried to create a good balance between formal and informal activities. This has been realised by the creation of the Congrescie. To give a voice to the Child Studies students the Pedcie has been created.

With professionalisation in mind the VSPVU took on a new corporate identity in college year 2012-2013 including a new logo and a standard design of promotion material. To modernize the VSPVU in the academic year of 2014-2015 iDeal was introduced. A new website was built in the academic year of 2016-2017. On this new website students can sign up to become a member of the VSPVU and buy a ticket for the upcoming activities.

Since 2016-2017 the summaries are being delivered by AthenaSummary for the studies Psychology and Child Studies. The selling of the summaries and the study books takes place in the basement of the VU-bookstore, in which the VSPVU has its own counter.

The VSPVU participates in the Stichting Studieverenigingen Psychologie Nederland (Establishment of Study associations Psychology of the Netherlands) and the Landelijk Overleg Onderwijskunde en Pedagogiek (National Consultation Education and Child Studies). In the academic year of 2014-2015 a manual and a guide with master studies was created by the SSPN. This manual was realised to build a foundation for joint activities. In the college year of 2016-2017 a convention was organised. In the college year of 2014-2015, LOOP organised a symposium.

Upward from the academic year of 2016-2017 all students Psychology and Child Studies are being educated the new curriculum. The new curriculum contains more obligated contact hours. Upward from the college year of 2017-2018 students can participate in the international bachelor Psychology. Therefore the VSPVU must become bilingual.

In the summer of academic year 2017-2018 the VSPVU room had moved from the Transitorium to the Medische Faculteit. The boardroom is separated by a glass door and wall from the member room. The room is located in the same hall as the rooms owned by V.I.B and the study association of Medicine (MFVU). In the new room, there is a bar in combination with a contract with Bavaria. Because of the possibilities this offers, the Barcie has been created.

POLICY PLAN

The policy plan as it is drafted by the 71st board of the VSPVU will be executed from September 2017 until September 2018. Beside Continuity of previous policies the key points are Involvement, Career, Diversity, Internationalisation, Professionalisation and Promotion. These will be explained in the following paragraphs. The board expects to strengthen the association and accommodate its growth together with its members.

INVOLVEMENT

Internal involvement

Internal involvement is the involvement between the board and the students Psychology and Child Studies. Statements overheard in the tutorials indicate that new students sometimes don't know what the association serves for and don't know the people from the board. When a student doesn't participate in the introduction days there is a chance that the function of the VSPVU will become even more unclear. Therefore the first year student break will be introduced. At this break the board will be outside of the lecture hall with coffee, tea and snacks to answer questions or just have a bit of small talk. The first year student breaks will take place four times before the Christmas break. The 71st board hopes that the first year student breaks contribute to involvement with the first year students.

The board want to show appreciation to the active members because active membership is very valuable for the association. The appreciation will be shown through a monthly member of the month and he or she will get an honour full mention on social media. This particular member will be someone who the board thinks he or she has contributed a lot for the association. Furthermore, all active members will receive a card when it is their birthday. These cards will be sent from November 1st 2017 until November 1st 2018. The expectation is that the active members feel like their board is involved with them and that their effort and input is appreciated.

External involvement

External involvement is the involvement from the VSPVU and the external parties. To augment the involvement, it will become possible to become a friend of the VSPVU. Upward from 10 euros a year people can sign up via the website. In exchange all friends will be mentioned on the website and a social drinking gathering will be organised.

Secondly all ex-boards upward from 1996 will be mentioned on the website, so they won't be forgotten. An alumni activity will be organised this year.

Another important point is to keep close contact between the faculty and the VSPVU. Hence a delegation from the board will meet at least once per two months with the budgetkeeper of the faculty, with the aim to ensure clear communication about the state of being.

Image

The image of the VSPVU has to improve. A nice internal culture prevails inside the VSPVU. The internal culture is the culture between active members. From the outside this culture is seen as not inviting. Surveys will be distributed in lecture halls by the board to get insight in the reasons that cause the image the VSPVU has. A small reward will be handed out when students fill in the survey. The surveys will be distributed at the method lectures in year 1 and the study programme related courses in years 2 and 3. The results will be analysed, so further steps can be developed for improving the image of the VSPVU. In the second GM, the board will present the results of the survey and a plan to better the image of the association based on the survey.

Committees

Some chairmen of committees find difficulties with the guidance of their committee. For a chairman to guide the committee it can be helpful to set up a small policy plan together with the committee. There will be guidelines from the board to help the committee. In the first General Board (GBM) it will be explained. Together with the contact from the board the policy plan will be discussed and briefly presented in the second GBM. The expectation is that the small policy plan can help the committees with having a general direction throughout the year.

CAREER

Preparation for the work field

The VSPVU can gain a lot on the aspect of work field preparation. The Opcie has been created to get students in touch with companies and institutes, with the aim of making it easier to get a job or an internship. The past few year the Opcie has passed by this aim. The Opcie will get new guidelines. The board advises the Opcie to organise a network activity, excursions and workshops. The excursions will be focussed on getting in touch with companies. The advice is to visit companies with small groups so that there is more room to get in contact with the company. The goal of a workshop is to gain skills that are helpful for finding a job or expanding a resume. People from multiple businesses or institutes will be present at the network activity. With the new guidelines, the focus of the Opcie will be pointed towards the future of the students. To create connections with companies for the students Child Studies the Pedcie will be advised to organise at least one work field related activity. Both committees should bear in mind that the job or internship should be of university level.

At the moment, the teachers are not enough involved with the VSPVU. Most of the time they don't know what the VSPVU exactly is and how it can serve the students. Therefor the teachers will be invited to become more involved with the VSPVU. A digital document with information about the teachers who are interested in the VSPVU will be created. Because of this document it will become easier to get in contact with the teachers. To get the information all teachers will get an e-mail with the question if they are interested in the VSPVU. In this e-mail, the pros of getting involved with the VSPVU will be highlighted. The document can be requested by the committees if they want to involve one of the teachers. The commissioner Education will personally attempt to contact teachers. This will be realized by visiting teachers and starting a conversation. During that conversation, the commissioner will leave behind contact info of the association so the contact can be maintained. There also will be attempted to organise a student-teacher activity. Teachers can help their students to get the right contacts so it's important that the contact between students and teachers is good.

Added value active membership

Through participation in one of the committees of the VSPVU, students will get the chance to develop themselves personally and professionally. These students can distinguish themselves from other students. To make this tangible, there will be handed out certificates at the last activity of the committee. The certificate shows that the student has committed time to the committee. The role of the student in the committee can be mentioned. Due to this certificate, active membership stands out well on a résumé and ensures a reference.

Vacancies

Finding a job or an internship is essential. On the first Monday of every month a summary of the vacancies will be posted on Facebook.

DIVERSITY

The studies Psychology and Child Studies at the Vrije Universiteit are renowned for their diverse student population. Unfortunately, this diversity is not well represented at the activities. The aim of the VSPVU is to serve every student Psychology and Child Studies, while now only the needs of a small group of students are being served. By means of focus groups there will be conversations with the non-members to find out what is necessary to also serve their needs. The non-members will be approached during classes.

A cultural activity will be organised to connect different cultures and start conversations. The goal is to reach multiple groups of students. To get to this group of students, this activity will not only be promoted on our own social media but also through the faculty. The aim is to connect the non-members to the VSPVU so in the future they may go to activities or even become a member.

Internationalisation

In the academic year of 2017-2018 students have the opportunity to start the international bachelor Psychology. To make the VSPVU website more accessible for those, a button will be added to the website that allows people to switch between Dutch and English. Furthermore an activity for the international students will be introduced. International students will get priority at this activity. The board hopes this activity will enforce the recognition of the VSPVU at the international students.

PROMOTION

In the past years, a lot of effort has gone into the promotion of the VSPVU. Mainly there has been promoted through Facebook. But also through other social media channels the VSPVU can promote its activities. That's why the association and activities will be promoted through social media like Instagram, Snapchat, LinkedIn and YouTube. These social media will be promoted so they can gain more followers.

The VSPVU has its own Instagram account with photographs. Instagram will not only be used as a platform for promotion but also to go live during events, to post movie clips on and share photos on. More people will be reached this way. A VSPVU Snapchat account will be created. Committees can promote their activities on this platform. On the LinkedIn page students can connect with the VSPVU.

There will be more promotion with the use of film material. A VSPVU YouTube account will be created on which after movies and promotion material can be placed. This could aid the involvement with the non-active members. The film material can also be used at the pause movie. Every month there will be a compilation of the activities of last month.

The VSPVU logo will be put onto the photos on social media. The members always can request the photo without logo.

Since this year VSPVU goodies like vests can be ordered by everyone. The request will be investigated and then will be decided what kind of goodies there will be sold. It is fun for the members and well for the awareness of the VSPVU. The VSPVU will invest in the vests of the active members.

CONTINUITY OF PREVIOUS POLICIES

The conversations between committee chairmen and the contact from the board will keep taking place at least 3 times a year. The pause movie will be showed during the pause. The monthly agenda will be published every month.

The VSPVU will keep participating at meeting like SSPN, LOOP, G5 and FSOGB

The goal is to get 309 new members which is 60% of the new students Psychology and Child Studies

SURFACE

With the named key points, the 71st board of the VSPVU hopes for a positive development.

The 71st board thanks you sincerely for your time.