



POLICY PLAN 2025-2026

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PREFACE

Dear reader,

The 79th 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 2025-2026. We want to thank you for taking the time to read our Policy Plan, which is based on the vision of the 79th Board, previous Policy Plans and the Long-Term Plan 2023-2026. We hope to contribute to the development and growth of the association with this Policy Plan.

We proudly present ourselves:

THE 79TH BOARD OF THE VSPVU

Chairman

Secretary

Treasurer

Commissioner Communication and Media

Commissioner External Contacts

Mat Goris

Seliina Grath

India Bartelings

Stephanie Hennekens

Maeve Hermers

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 79th Board, several main points emerged: Committee Development, Active Members, Member Engagement and Events, External Affairs, and Professionalization. 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 public and Board room located in the Medical Faculty (MF-D056), 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. 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.

POLICY PLAN

The Policy Plan, as drawn up by the 79th Board, will be implemented during the academic year of 2025-2026. For the 79th Board, the main points are Committee Development, Active Members, Member Engagement and Events, External Affairs, and Professionalization. Each of these points will be elaborated upon below. By the means of this Policy Plan, the 79th Board expects, together with her members, to further develop the association.

COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT

In the academic year 2025-2026, there will be a total of 15 committees. The committees that will be active this year are the following:

- Actie, the Activity Committee
- Barcie, the Bar Committee
- Chronicles, the Yearbook Committee
- Congrescie, the Convention Committee
- Cookcie, the Cooking Committee
- Feestcie, the Party 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.
- Barcie, the Bar Committee, will organise four 'borrels' that will take place in the VSPVU room. The Barcie is also allowed to organise an additional event, which does not have to be a 'borrel'.
- Chronicles, the Yearbook Committee, will make the Yearbook and will host a Yearbook release event.
- Congrescie, the Convention Committee, will host one convention in the beginning of the academic year of 2026-2027.
- Cookcie, the Cooking Committee, will be a pilot committee in the academic year 2025-2026. The committee will host Lunch of the Month starting from November onwards. They will have seven events, where they will be making, serving, and selling lunch. The Cookcie is also allowed to organise an additional event. The lunch will have a maximum selling price of 4€ and will be the same for members and non-members. There will be a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Promotion Coordinator, and two general members. There will always be a vegan option. Considering sustainability, Cookcie will not be allowed to use disposable plates and cutlery. If people want to take lunch to go, they will have to bring their own containers.
- Feestcie, the Party Committee, will organise three events of which one is to be the PSY-kickoff. The Feestcie is allowed to organise an additional event.
- Illusie, the Introduction Committee, will organise the Introduction Days and Illusie Weekend. The committee will be in charge of gathering mentors and will organise two events for these mentors, such as a Mentor Day or Mentor Weekend.
- LEX, the Lectures and Excursions Committee, will organise three educational events of which one is to be an excursion. The LEX is allowed to organise an additional event.
- Lucie, the Lustrum Committee, will start organising the Lustrumweek for 2026-2027, which will include at least one educational event.

- Opcie, the Career Committee, will co-organise the Career Days with the Faculty.
- Pedcie, the Pedagogical Sciences Committee, will organise three events, related to Pedagogical Sciences. The Pedcie is allowed to organise an additional event.
- Reiscie, the Study Trip Committee, will organise a study trip abroad as well as one pre-union and one reunion event.
- Wintersportcie, the Ski Trip Committee, will organise the ski trip as well as one pre-union and one reunion event.

ACTIVE MEMBERS

The 79th Board wants to obtain new Active Members as well as keep their active engagement high. The 79th Board aims to achieve this by making Meet the Committees a more engaging event. Furthermore, the 79th Board will expand on function trainings given to the positions of Chair, Promotion Coordinator, and External Contacts in previous years. This is to make sure that every Active Member is aware of their function and their role in the committee. During the training there will be given practical examples for these functions as well as an opportunity for the members to practice. During the Chair training, the committee Chairs will be making agendas. During the Promotion Coordinator training, non-housestyle promotion will be shown, which the Promotion Coordinators of the committees will make housestyle, or they will try to make a story themselves. During the External Contacts training, the External Contacts of the committees will make a draft email.

The Battle of Committees

During the upcoming year, the 79th Board will organise the Battle of Committees: Divine 79. The Board will come up with 79 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 communicated by the Board in order to receive the corresponding bonus points.

The committee that obtains the highest number of points before the last deadline, communicated by the Board, wins the Divine 79. 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 have a semi-live point counter, which will be reachable through the Active Member Chat to motivate everyone to give it their best shot and compete with each other. Additionally, the 79th Board will publish interim challenges that the Board will do throughout the year if the committees obtain a certain combined amount of points.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT AND EVENTS

Membership

In the academic year 2025-2026, 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 2025 at 23:59.

The 79th Board aspires to obtain 180 additional Bachelor members (+22.42%) as well as 15 additional Master members (+16.95%) in comparison to last year's total member count of 812 yearly contributing students (+21.44%).

New membership sign-ups

The 79th Board aims to make the application process easier to lower the threshold for new members to sign-up. This is ought to be done by changing the current one-step sign-up process into a two-step process. The split will happen between paying for their membership and filling in their financial information. This makes it faster for members to sign up as they do not need to find all their financial information during the first step and can therefore wait to fill in their financial information once they have it easily available.

If they do not fill in their financial information before the deadline of discontinuing their membership, they will be removed from the member file for the upcoming academic year. Reminder emails will be sent to ensure people fill in their financial information.

Additionally, the 79th Board wants to expand membership sign-up booths to include them at easily accessible and important events during the first two months of the academic year. After the first two months, this will be evaluated to determine whether it has an adequate effect.

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 79th Board via Instagram and the Active Member chat. The room will be closed on national and school holidays

Member of the Month

The 79th Board wants to bring back Member of the Month, as was previously introduced by the 75th Board, as a way to boost member engagement. 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, 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 79th Board will make 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.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Companies

The 79th Board will aim to make the VSPVU more visible to companies. The 79th Board will have 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.

Brother and sister associations

The 79th Board aims to increase our engagement and strengthen the relationship with brother and sister associations. A suggestion for how this is to be implemented is for a member of the Board to have a meeting with Board members from brother and sister associations regarding how it is going for them. From these conversations, the 79th Board aims to strengthen the relationship with these associations and to lower the threshold to contact each other.

PROFESSIONALIZATION

Statutes

The Wet Bestuur en Toezicht Rechtspersonen (WBTR) has changed the laws and requirements for the statutes for associations. Unfortunately, the current statutes of the VSPVU do not meet these requirements. Therefore, the 79th Board will look into the new rules and regulations put forward by the WBTR and will have changed the current statutes of the VSPVU to have them adhere to the new law by July 1st 2026. The new statutes will be presented during General Meeting #2. The 79th Board will ask for funding from Faculty for the notary costs. If it is not possible to get funding from faculty, the costs will be taken from the association budget. If the budget cannot cover the costs, they will be taken from savings.

Long term plan 2026-2029

The current long term plan will meet its end this academic year. This means that before the academic year 2026-2027, the 79th Board will create a new long term plan for 2026-2029. This long term plan will be presented during General Meeting #4.

Digital efficiency

The 79th Board will make the online financial administration of the association more efficient by creating a pilot for improving the way reimbursements are requested and paid. This will be done by setting up an online interface where reimbursements can be requested. Through this interface a payment request with the information of the reimburer already put in can be generated. This increases efficiency and minimizes the chance of mistakes.

POLICY CONTINUATION

Committees

As the Boards before, the 79th Board will continue with the Committee 10. The deadline to claim the compensation is March 1, 2026. 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 2025-2026, 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 Chairmen to stay updated, provide input, and receive feedback from one to another.

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. This year, the 79th Board will continue with the sustainability plans of the 77th and 78th Board. The 79th Board recognizes the importance of sustainability and will implement it as much as possible.

The use of paper will be avoided as much as possible. The Board will aim to use online forms and digital streaming to promote events as much as possible. Furthermore, holiday and birthday cards will 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 the 77th and 78th Board's example, the 79th Board will also host an event dedicated to sustainability.

Study sessions

During the academic years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, the study sessions were not well attended. However, the 79th Board believes it is important to provide a quiet study space for members who prefer to study in a dedicated area. For this reason, we will continue to offer study sessions. To make studying more comfortable, we will offer snacks and something to drink that can be picked up in the VSPVU room at each session. At the end of the year, we will share our feedback with the 80th Board, allowing them to decide how to proceed with the study sessions.

Member Initiative

The 79th Board wants to continue to give our 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, the remaining budget will be reallocated to Mini Events.

Master's Event

The 79th Board will follow the example of previous years and organise a Master's Event.

Alumni

The 79th 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.

The 79th Board will organise one alumni event.

Promotion

The main form of promotion for the 79th Board is Instagram and WhatsApp. The VSPVU also has accounts on TikTok, Canvas, and LinkedIn which will be used as seen fit by the Board. The 79th Board will continue to replace physical poster with digital streaming on the TV. The 79th Board will follow the promotion format changes put forward by the 78th Board.

The 79th Board will hold at least 12 lecture talks for first-, second-, and third-year bachelor students as well as master students.

The 79th Board will continue selling VSPVU merchandise. A poster displaying all available items will be shown on the TV in the room to ensure that members are aware of the merchandise we offer.

First Year's Event

The 79th Board will follow the 78th Board's example and host an event for the first year students.

EPILOGUE

The 79th Board of the VSPVU set up this Policy Plan with the best benefits of the association at heart during the academic year 2025-2026. 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 2 of the General Meetings.

Kind regards,

The 79th Board of the VSPVU