



EUROPEAN STUDENT CONVENTION 33
COIMBHINSIÚN NA MAC LÉINN EORPACH 33
GAILLIMH 6-8 MÁRTA 2017

The Reader



NUI Galway
Students' Union
Comhaltas na Mac Léinn
OÉ Gaillimh



Union of Students in Ireland
Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn



HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY
AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS

Fáilte! from the President of USI

Dear students and friends,

I am very excited to welcome you to Galway on behalf of the Union of Students in Ireland. The opportunity to host a European Students' Convention is a valued once for us, and we have been working hard to ensure that your experience is as welcoming as possible.

We are also grateful for the opportunity to discuss two of the most topical considerations in higher education in Ireland. Like our colleagues across Europe, USI fights everyday to ensure that our higher education system is open and accessible to all. This mission is only possible when sectoral policy promotes the participation of underrepresented groups, and we hope that the sessions held on Monday and Tuesday can enable NUSes to more effectively work on accessibility.

ESC33 constitutes the first student-led international summit to directly address the question of how Brexit will affect higher education. It is imperative that the voice of students across Europe is heard loud and clear on this subject: that we stand for open transnational cooperation in the best interests of global society.

There is a self-evident motivation for hosting such a discussion in Ireland. Our geographical proximity to the UK, as well as our historical relationship, have brought about a renewed discussion about the character of our international relationships. Moreover, NUI Galway is located just 85 miles from Belcoo, the first town on the UK side of the border that partitions Ireland. Depending on the progress of the impending negotiations, this border could become Europe's western perimeter.

Above all, we are keen to see that the interests of students are well represented in the important conversations and negotiations that will define the post-Brexit Europe.

I hope you enjoy your stay with us in Galway and that we live up to the reputation of being the land of a thousand welcomes!

Slán agus beannacht

Annie Hoey
USI President



Welcome from the President of ESU

Dear participants of the ESC 33,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 33rd European Students' Convention. We are delighted to be able to organise together with the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) and their partners, three exciting days filled with debates on topics such as access to Higher Education and consequences of Brexit.

With rising inequalities across Europe and within societies, discussions around inclusion strategies and the social dimension of higher education are crucial if we want to have everyone on board in the XXIst century. Tackling education inequalities head-on is also cutting the fuel of xenophobic rhetorics and hate-speech. In addition, examples of national access plans and discussions around the implementation of the Bologna Process will hopefully shed light on ways forward and policy recommendations by and for students. I'm looking forward to hearing your ideas on ways to dismantle barriers to education that marginalised groups face all so often.

Last, but not least, we will examine Brexit concerns, and generate action points for ministries and NUSes around Student Mobility & Erasmus; Research Collaboration; Internationalisation of Qualifications and Commodification.

I hope you will be able to seize the opportunity to learn from each other and enjoy a fruitful event.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to USI organising team. to everybody who is supporting them and to all the great speakers who agreed to be here. Our most sincere thanks go also to ESU team for all the preparatory efforts.

Sincerely,



Lea Meister
ESU President



Timetable / Clár

Day 1 - Aspects of the Social Dimension in Higher Education

Depart Hotel 9.00

9.30 - 10.15 Registration and Opening of the 33rd European Students' Convention

10.00 - 11.30 Setting the Scene: Basics of the Social Dimension

An overview of aspects contained in the social dimension, an outline of its' importance for Higher Education in general and a panorama of ESU work in the area.

11.30 - 12.00 Coffee break

12.00 - 13.15 Barriers met by students with disabilities and how to dismantle them

The session will outline various barriers met by students with disabilities at higher education institutions and student unions

13.30 - 14.30 Lunch break

14.30 - 15.45 Gender Session

15.45 - 16.15 Coffee break

16.15 - 17.30

Parallel Session Option 1: Access to mobility for marginalized groups

Parallel Session Option 2: Accessibility of the student movement

17.45 - 18.00

Wrap up and announcing practicalities

18.15 - 19.30

Voluntary Parallel Session Option 1: Consultation membership strategy

Voluntary Parallel Session Option 2: Updates from the BFUG

Voluntary Parallel Session Option 3: Equality Organising Space

Dinner & Intercultural Evening

Day 2 - National Access foster the social dimensions

Depart Hotel 9.00

9:30 - 09:45 Opening

09:45 - 11:15 Open Organising Session

11:15 - 11:45 Coffee break

11:45 - 13:00 National access plans forward. Access plans and the BFUG present and future, national examples

13:15-14:30 Lunch break

14:30 - 15:30 Group Sessions on groups in National Access plans

Group interactive sessions along by the Irish National Access Plan

Socio-economic Barriers; "First- with Disabilities; Part-Time/Flex Further Education Qualifications

15:30 - 16:30 Group Sessions on groups in National Access plans

16:30 - 17:00 Coffee break

17:00 - 18:15 Wrapping up

Outcomes of the sessions on the preparing input for a student view the BFUG

18:15 - 19:30 Social Dimension European Pillar of Social rights

19:30 - 19:45 Wrap up and announcing

Dinner & Erasmus 30th Birthda

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Sessions

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Day 3 - Brexit

Depart Hotel 8.45

09:15 - 09:30 Opening

9:30 - 10:00 Key concerns arising from Brexit

10:00 - 11:15 Parallel sessions on key Brexit themes:
Student Mobility & Erasmus;
Research Collaboration;
Internationalisation of Qualifications; Commodification.

11.15 - 12:00 Wrap up of the group sessions

12:00 - 12:30 General event report

12:30 Closing Speeches & End of ESC

Contacts

Jack Leahy, USI VP Academic Affairs & ESC33 organiser:
+353833038519

NUIG Security (on-campus emergencies):
+35391-4923333

Emergency services (off-campus emergencies):
112 or 999

Hotel details:
Nox Hotel, Liosban Road, Off Headford Road, Galway,
Ireland -
+35391 735 555

University address:
NUI Galway, University Road, Co. Galway.

Practicalities / Praiticiúlach

Accommodation

Accommodation will be in the Nox Hotel, Galway for the duration of the event. The hotel's address is: **Liosban Road, Off Headford Road, Galway, Ireland**. The arrival date will be the 5th of March and the departure day will be the 8th of March, so the participation fee covers three nights.

Breakfast is provided by the hotel on the mornings of the 6th, 7th and 8th. We will depart the hotel 30 minutes before the programme begins.

Venue

The National University of Ireland, Galway will host the entire event. NUIG is one of Ireland's seven universities and the leading university in the promotion of the Irish language. NUIG Students' Union will help host the event.

Travel.

As luck would have it, we were informed on 27/02 that a public transport strike is planned from Monday 6 March for services offered by Bus Éireann. Don't worry.

Galway is a small city, without an international airport. Ireland's infrastructure is Dublin-centric, and it's easiest to arrive in Dublin and travel to Galway from there.

Your student card from your institution will be sufficient to guarantee discounts on most services, with the exception of Bus Eireann services. Please be aware that Bus Eireann services are on indefinite strike as of the first day of the convention so please ensure that you book with other providers.

Dublin Airport to Galway direct:

There are a number of private operators running direct services between Dublin Airport and Galway. The journey is 2h 30 mins and the route is scenic. Almost all services offer free WiFi on board and most have toilet facilities. We recommend using the GoBus service (as it is the cheapest), but you may find that the CityLink or AirEagle services are more suitable to your needs.

Dublin Airport to Galway via Dublin City Centre:

If you prefer to travel by train, or you wish to spend some time in Dublin City Centre before travelling to Galway, there are a wide range of services available from Dublin City. Cash fares are accepted on all services but priority is given to passengers with pre-booked tickets.

Train: Dublin Bus # 747 travels direct to Heuston Station from Dublin Airport every 10 mins. From Heuston, there a regular Galway (Ceannt Station) service with a journey time of just less than 2h 30. For cheapest fares, purchase an “open return” student ticket at the station, using “student ID number” 12345. See itishrail.ie for more.

Bus: GoBus, CityLink, and Bus Eireann operate services from the City Centre. GoBus and CityLink are private providers with central departure points on the quays.

GoBus discount: You can access a specific USI discount for the ESC using the code **USIMar17**. GoBus and CityLink have lower requirements for student ID. All are cheaper when pre-booked in advance.

Returning to the airport

The above-named private services run a regular-round-the-clock service to Dublin Airport direct from Galway City Centre. Please allow 20 minutes of walking time from the venue to the bus. The event will close before 12.30 on Wednesday to facilitate timely transport to the airport.

Currency & cash

Ireland uses the Euro. Most restaurants and shops accept bank card, but you should be sure to have cash with you just in case. ATM facilities are available throughout Galway city and in NUIG.

Taxis

Taxi apps are popular in Ireland, especially Hailo. Taxis not using such technology accept cash only. There is a minimum fare of €3.60 (or €4 from 20h to 08h) and a maximum rate of €1.10 per km (or €1.40 per km from 20h to 08h).

Taxis in Ireland are safe, regulated and metered - there is no need to agree a fare in advance. Licensed taxis display a yellow plate atop the vehicle.

GoBus gives a comfortable and quick journey from Dublin Airport and City Centre to Galway. And they've given us a discount. Book it online to get a cheaper fare with the code USIMAR17



Notes / Nótaí

ESU Code of Conduct

Preamble

Based on the principles of equality, accessibility and respect, that ESU has given itself and agreed upon by adopting this code of conduct at the Board Meeting 68 in Yerevan, Armenia, the representatives and participants on internal and external events are expected to adhere to the points detailed below. The purpose of this document is to have guidelines that prevent unwanted behavior in the organization and also determine the process to follow up on potential breaches. The participants of each event have to assure that they are aware of the code of conduct and behave according to it.

The EC is responsible for promoting the code of conduct in an appropriate way in the beginning of each event.

Participation rules

- Actively engage in the organized activities during seminars, panel sessions and discussions as well attending all the organized sessions, meetings, discussions and debates.
- Respect the timeframes given by the organizers of the event.
- Respect the event's facilities and any rules associated with such use.
- Respect the environment and take care about their surroundings.

General Beliefs

- Treat everyone equally irrespective of socio economic background, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, political views, reduced mobility, gender expression, disabilities or any other basis of discrimination, abstaining from any direct or indirect discrimination as well from any form of harassment.

- Do not make any inappropriate jokes or remarks, based on any discriminative grounds that cause people to feel uncomfortable or discriminated against.

- Behave and react towards their colleagues with respect.

- Respect the different multicultural backgrounds of their colleagues and reflect on the own behavior.

- Proactively create an inclusive welcoming atmosphere for all of the participants, during both formal and informal parts of the event.

- Do not use demeaning or abusive language towards other participants

We are emphasizing herein that this list is not exhaustive and that the violations of the Ethical

Guidelines might happen outside of the frames given by this Code of Conduct.

Rules of Procedure

Depending on the gravity of the behavior, the EC in accordance with the ad hoc committee (see below) reserve the right to address the issue in the best way they see fit by applying one or more of the measures listed below through the set procedure.

Active Legitimacy

Any of the participants witnessing the breach or the victim her/himself may report the matter to one of the two persons specifically entrusted to that role for that particular event.

These are designated by the EC for every event and are bound to discretion towards the reported matters. The trusted persons need to be briefed by the equality coordinator before being assigned to be able to handle sensitive situations adequately.

The two persons will be announced at the beginning of the event and should reflect the participants' diversity.

The person informed will immediately forward the information to the ESU Executive Committee and the Equality Coordinator. The person informed will immediately forward the information to the ESU Executive Committee and the Equality Coordinator. However, in case it was not the victim itself reporting the breach, the trusted persons must not forward any information before consulting the perceived victim.

The Acting Procedure

Upon receiving the report, the EC has to set up an ad hoc committee balanced with regard to region, gender and other relevant parameters of three to five persons within 24 hours. The ad hoc committee is bound to discretion and obliged to handle the issue brought up with the utmost care.

The ad hoc committee is chosen by the EC including one representative of the EC, the Equality coordinator, and one representative from a member union. The ad hoc committee is chosen by the EC including one representative of the EC, the Equality coordinator and one representative from a member union not involved in the conflict.

At least one member of the ad hoc committee will be of a different gender.

The ad hoc committee will immediately look

into the report, consult the acting parties and bring a decision whether there has been a breach of the Code or not.

If the ad hoc committee decides, there has been a breach of the Code, it will immediately decide upon enacting one of the below proposed measures, on their free estimation of the most appropriate reaction to the breach.

The decision making process within the committee needs to be unanimous.

If the situation requires it, the decision of the ad hoc committee will be read before the beginning of the next session of the event.

Measures

- Spoken warning to the perpetrator in question

- Written warning to the perpetrator read before the beginning of the next session of the event in question

- Removal of the perpetrator from the session/ event in question

- Official ESU letter to the sending organization of the perpetrator

- Restriction of participation in future ESU events of the individual breaching the code.

- Allow the injured party (also if no individual was harmed) to make a statement before the next session

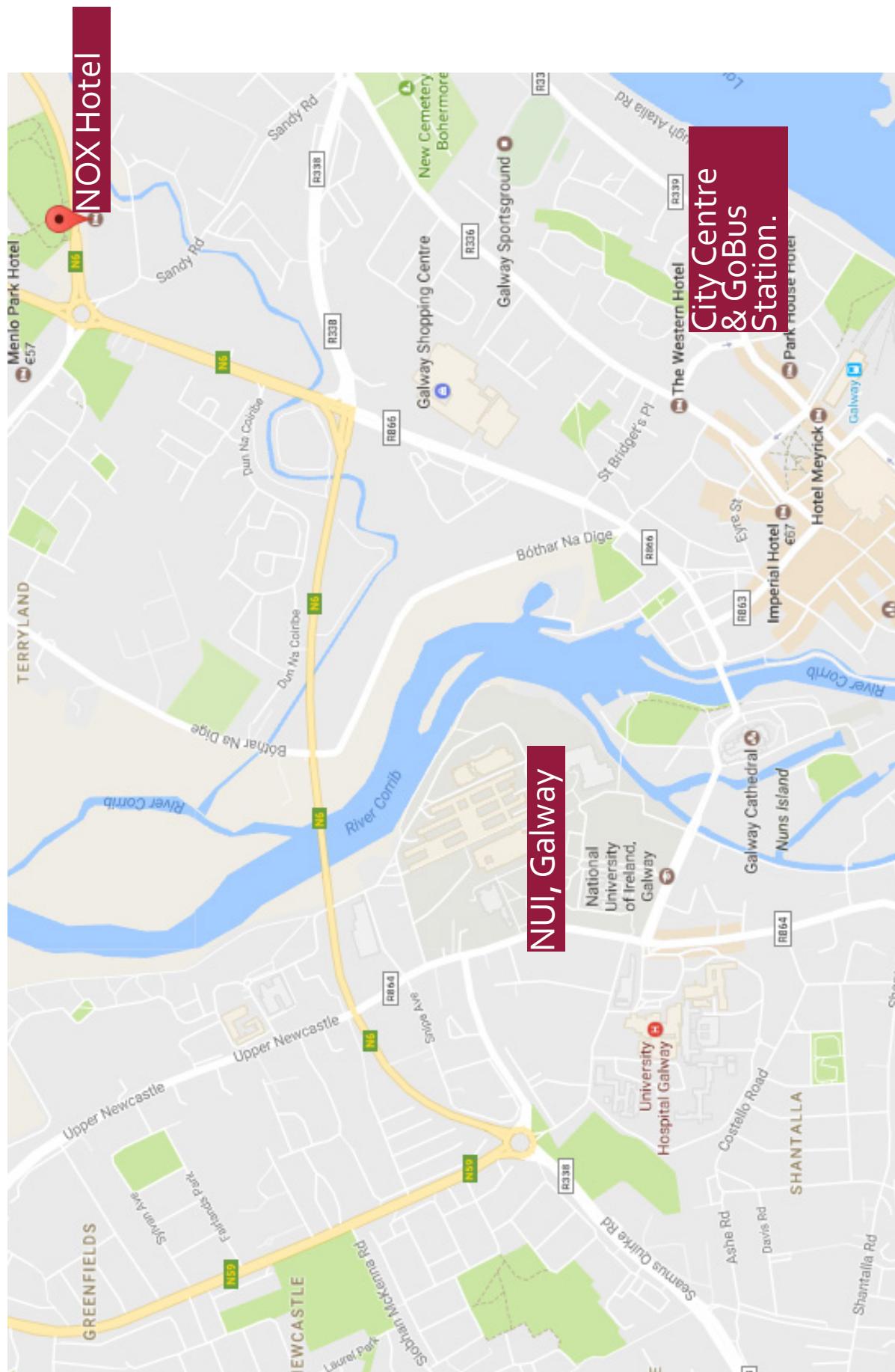
Any other measure not mentioned here, in agreement with the Executive Committee. No public action must be taken without the consent of the injured individual or party.

Right to Appeal

If the perpetrator (or his/her NUS) in question, or the injured party, feels that the EC decision is wrongly based, whether on fact or principle, they must send in an appeal in writing to the EC or the trusted person within two hours. No action can be taken within that two hour period, unless there is a reason to protect the victim's person. Otherwise the objection has to be presented in writing to the EC or the trusted person within 12 hours.

The EC then decides unanimously to revoke the decision or not or to propose an alternative sanction. If unanimity cannot be reached, the original sanction stays valid.

Map / Léarscáil





European Student Convention 33
Coimbhinsiún na Mac Léinn Eorpach 33
5aillimh 6-8 Márta 2017

The Union of Students in Ireland is intensely grateful to the Higher Education Authority, Quality and Qualifications Ireland, GoBus and National University of Ireland, Galway Students' Union for their support in arranging ESC₃₃.

We wish delegates and participants safe and comfortable travel to and from our island of a hundred thousand welcomes, and we would like to show our appreciation to people who read the whole reader by letting you know that the answer to Question 12 is 'Milhous'.