

# Semi-Annual Report of the CdE to the Students 2020-2021



Dear Students,

As we come out of Easter Holidays and enter the second half of this school year, the CdE would like to take this opportunity to update you on the progress that we have made so far and what we plan to achieve before the end of the year. In this semi-annual report, we have tried to summarise our work.

The 2020 – 2021 *Comité des Elèves*, or Pupils' Committee, was elected on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September by all of the class representatives. Our core team is composed of the following 10 members:

Name	Class	Email	Role
<b>Shirin Ahajjam</b>	S6FRC	Shirin.ahajjam@student.eurisc.eu	President
<b>Dries Rooryck</b>	S6NLA	Dries.rooryck@student.eurisc.eu	Vice-President Head of IT and communication
<b>Miles Dijkstra</b>	S7NLA	Miles.dijkstra@student.eurisc.eu	CoSup representative
<b>Katie Jane Wickham</b>	S6ENB	Katie-jane.wickham@student.eurisc.eu	CoSup representative Secretary
<b>Théo Janssens</b>	S6FRA	Theo.janssens@student.eurisc.eu	Head of Public Relations
<b>Hadrien Gervaise</b>	S7FRA	Hadrien.gil-gervaise@student.eurisc.eu	Ex-President Treasurer
<b>Zoé Cros</b>	S7FRD	Zoe-meriem.cros@student.eurisc.eu	Vice-treasurer
<b>Marina D'Ago</b>	S6ITA	Marina.dago@student.eurisc.eu	Green School spokesperson
<b>Ava Abhelakh</b>	S6NLA	Ava.abhelakh@student.eurisc.eu	CdE Climate representative
<b>Paul Gommert</b>	S7DEA	Paul-jozsef.gommert@student.eurisc.eu	Head of merch

Presidential elections were held at the end of September and out of the 5 candidates, Shirin Ahajjam was elected to be the CdE President of 2020 – 2021, gaining the trust of the majority of the student body.

The election for the Vice-President was held internally and Dries Rooryck was elected by the other members of the CdE to assist Shirin in the Presidency.

Although there has been an enduring undertone of uncertainty this year, the CdE has made significant progress, and has initiated many projects, with many still to come, or in the final stages of working.

Our first term "in office" was marked by deep reflection on what the role of the CdE at EEB4 has been in previous years and how we want - and plan - to drastically enhance our role within the functioning of the school.

We identified 3 fundamental and broad elements that we wanted to improve in order to establish the CdE as the legitimate and dependable body that it should rightfully be:

- 1. Reform of the CdE**
- 2. Improving communication and transparency with all stakeholders**
- 3. Improving the well-being of the students**

Numerous efforts have been made to address these priorities and a first step was the reorganisation and eventual reform of the CdE.

To jumpstart this, we decided to write Implementing Rules to legally define our Pupils' Committee's statute and rights, and to be in accordance with the [Election Procedures of the Pupils' Representatives within the European School System](#). Having been approved and signed by the Director, Mr Bordoy, and the Deputy Director for Secondary, Mrs Verwilghen, they can be accessed [here](#).



**WANT CHANGE AT THE SCHOOL?**  
Be the change you want to see.  
**APPLY NOW TO THE CDE!**

TO APPLY, SEND A LETTER OF MOTIVATION TO  
WICKHAKA@STUDENT.EURSC.EU (S4-7) &  
DAGOMR@STUDENT.EURSC.EU (S1-3) BY  
NOVEMBER 1ST

It should include:  
- Name, class & a picture  
- Why you want to join the Cde  
- How you could help  
- Areas of interest

  
@eeb4cde

Check your email for more info!

The reorganisation of the CdE came with the addition of subcommittees, to which all students could apply to to become members of the extended CdE, called CdE+. In total, we now have 34 members of the CdE, who all participate and contribute actively to our functioning.

To optimise communication, a Team was created for all class and deputy class reps, with channels for each year. In this Team, a 'Transparency Project' was launched, whereby minutes (summaries or reports) of all of our meetings, as well as other relevant documents, are shared with the class representatives. Should you wish to access these, you can always ask your class rep or the CdE directly!

### Updates from subcommittees:

#### *ICT*

After insisting on improvement at different meetings, the school Wi-Fi was reconfigured and optimised. Notable improvements have been noticed. Having had experts analyse the network, the Wi-Fi should also be further enhanced in the future.

A CdE website is in the making and should be finished by the end of the year. The school website now includes information about the CdE (<https://eeb4.be/pupils-committee/>). We now also have a dedicated CdE section on the 13Stars website (<https://13stars.eu/eeb4-cde-about/>).

We also set up a functional mailbox in our name to facilitate communication: [LAE-PUPILS-COMMITTEE@student.eursc.eu](mailto:LAE-PUPILS-COMMITTEE@student.eursc.eu). Don't hesitate to contact us!

## Well-Being

The well-being subcommittee has been extremely active during this difficult year. One of their biggest aims was for the school to hire an additional psychologist; this request was repeated many times by the CdE, including at the Administrative Board, with the presence of the Secretary-General. The school has now hired a third psychologist, who will begin work (exclusively for the Secondary cycle) on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April. The school will be sharing more info about this resource soon.

They also initiated a project called "Well-being Wednesday", which consists of an uplifting or informative post about mental health and wellness being shared on the CdE's Instagram every Wednesday.

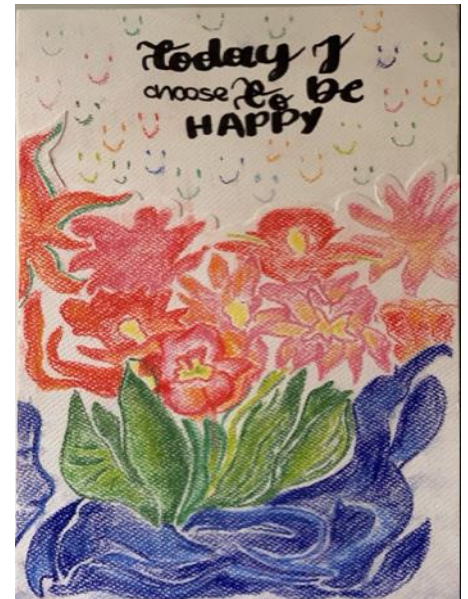
They worked on mental health awareness posters to put up around the school – these were unfortunately not permitted by the school.

They had meetings with the school psychologists and discussed a large breadth of topics for the improvement of well-being at the school. CdE is represented at the school's 'Well-being Working Group', where projects are devised for the school.

CdE has actively sought big improvements with initiatives such as Axado, Stop à la Drogue, KiVa, UNIA, etc.

CdE contributed to the school's [Anti-Bullying Policy](#) and is currently examining a proposal of a draft gender policy by the school.

CdE, along with the APEEE, also wrote an [open letter](#) to the whole school community, calling for immediate action to be taken to safeguard the well-being of our pupils and to end the current academic crisis. This action was resorted to following the sustained reports of mental health crises by the students and the need for more resolute actions to prevent tragedies. Overall, a positive reaction was registered from all stakeholders and it has certainly stimulated change at all levels. Whole School Approaches, with more resolute and meaningful actions, will now need to continue to be consolidated to address the distress among the student body. CdE will ensure of this and communicate to the students.

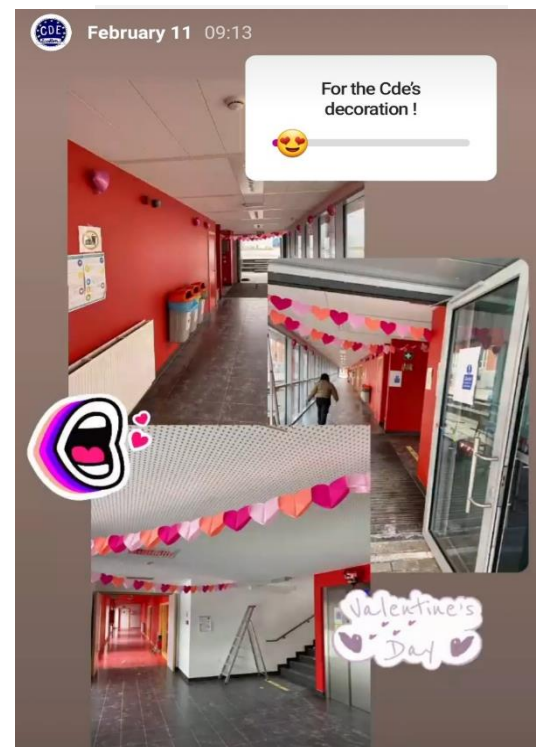


## Leisure & Events

The subcommittee held an "Xmas Day" on the last day of school in December and it went well. They are currently working on 2 projects with teachers: debate events and public speaking (eloquence) events.

For Valentine's Day, the CdE put up decorations around the school to improve the atmosphere before February holidays.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, the International Day of Women's Rights, numerous posts were shared on the Instagram account.



They are also working on projects to raise awareness about racism, colonialism, slavery, etc. and want to put posters up about and hold presentations. They will delicately handle how it is presented and how they ask BIPOC to take part.

Projects are being organised to support the LGBTQIA+ community, such as displaying their flag at the school.

An initiative by the European Commission to support sustainable mobility and well-being was launched in April. VeloWalk consists of the Walking Challenge in April and Velomai in May. EU Institutions and the European Schools all compete to accumulate the most steps per day and cycle rides! Download "the Walking Challenge" and "Velomai" apps, login with your school email account and register your daily steps/ km cycled to help EEB4 reach the top of the leader board and be in with a chance of winning prizes!



### **Green & Clean School**

CdE has cooperated closely with the school's Green and Clean School club, led by Mr Hua. They have worked together to improve the school's sustainability and cleanliness. Particular efforts were made in the field of transport, recycling, the canteen, energy consumption and awareness, as well as solar panels. A meeting with class reps will be held about wastage and a project called 'The Writing's on the Wall', launched by the Climate Academy at EEB2, is in the works.

### **Student Engagement**

The subcommittee is exploring options for "class try-outs" but it is much more difficult to do with the pandemic. They want to make an official document as a resource for students to refer to regarding their options and all their possibilities. They might also contact Alumni Europae who have hundreds of members who would be happy to collaborate in any projects.

### **Merchandise:**



Our big project this term was the hoodie design competition and subsequent hoodie sales. We got a few great submissions.

The top designs were selected, and a general vote was held. In the end, the winning design was the following:



We will be selling organic cotton hoodies very shortly on our 13Stars site!

They will be available in sizes from XXS to 5XL, and in many different colours.

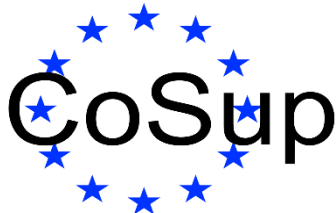
The prices for the hoodies will be set at €27.99!

## Communication:

### ***CdE Finances:***

The CdE currently has 6 237, 48 € in its bank account. So far, we have spent ~100 euros on Valentine's Day decorations but we have many plans that will require expenditure in the future.

### ***CoSup:***



CoSup (Conseil Supérieur des Elèves), the student union of the 13 European Schools, has been extremely active this year and made significant progress in multiple areas. The EEB4 representatives this year are Miles Dijkstra and Katie Jane Wickham.

There have been 4 meetings this year and a breadth of topics were discussed. Among these, some of the most relevant topics include: wellbeing and mental health in the European Schools, the European Baccalaureate 2021, equivalences between the BAC and the EU member states, CdE election procedures, coordinated events in the European Schools... and many more!

Together with CoSup, [ES gaming tournaments](#) and the [ES Discord server](#) were launched, bringing students together from different European Schools. Many other projects are to come!

### ***Representation:***

As per the rules of the European Schools, CdE has represented the students at many administrative meetings, including the Administrative Board, the School Advisory Council, and the Secondary Education Council.

At these meetings, that are attended by all stakeholders of the school, we have expressed the concerns and interests of the students. These include: requesting that additional psychologists be employed at the school, repeatedly calling for teachers to drastically lighten the workloads on students and other online-learning related worries, pushing for improved Wi-Fi and technology at the school, consistently requesting to be consulted on any Covid-19 related decisions, and much more.

All of the minutes of these meetings have been shared with the class representatives and are available upon request.

Additionally, we have been represented at meetings concerning the opening of a fifth European School in Brussels (Evère) for nursery and primary, hopefully to be opened in September.

We also meet the Director and Deputy Director of the school on a regular basis and this close cooperation has led to improvements in many areas of school life, although there have been some instances where we have not been in full agreement, or where our power to affect change has been limited.

### **13Stars:**

The 13Stars Newspaper is the independent, student-run newspaper by the CoSup for the 13 European Schools.

EEB4 has been hugely involved in the newspaper this year, thanks to the tremendous work of our editor, Mariella O’Curneen, and the contributions of the Newspaper Club, which was set up this year. All of the fantastic articles published by EEB4 students can be viewed [here](#).



If you want to get involved, don’t hesitate to contact [ocurnema@student.eurisc.eu](mailto:ocurnema@student.eurisc.eu)

Go follow their [Instagram account](#) too!

### **APEEE:**

The CdE has been in close contact with the APEEE (Parent’s Association) this year and this cooperation has been hugely productive on many fronts, including the canteen/ cafeterias and school buses. The CdE also co-wrote an [open letter](#) with the APEEE concerning the ongoing academic and mental health crisis.

### **Communication with students:**

We have frequent meetings with class representatives from each year section to present what the CdE does and listen to concerns, questions, and suggestions for projects.

The CdE also had meetings with the Primary Student Council, from P3 to P5.

We have opened lines of communication through our mailbox and have been more active on our Instagram account. An anonymous suggestion box is linked in our Instagram bio.

**Meeting with the  
S1-S3 reps  
Communication is  
improving;)**



On this note, the CdE would like to thank all students for their continued trust and support and would urge you all to follow our [Instagram account](#) to get more regular updates!

We hope that this **summary** of our work will have been insightful to you. More detailed information on any of these points is always available upon request.

We are always more than delighted to hear of any suggestions, concerns, or questions from you so please don't hesitate to contact us.

Contact us at:

- [LAE-PUPILS-COMMITTEE@student.eurisc.eu](mailto:LAE-PUPILS-COMMITTEE@student.eurisc.eu)
- [EEB4 CdE Instagram](#)
- [EEB4 CdE Facebook](#)
- [Anonymous suggestion box](#)

Or speak to any of us directly at school!

We hope you all had a restful and rejuvenating Easter holiday. We look forward to further accomplishments this year and wish you all the best!

**CdE EEB4**

