

Strengthening the participation bodies - ESE

Erasmus School of Economics, 12 June 2025

Introduction and process

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide a project proposal for the funds that have been made available to strengthen ESE's participation bodies. The total amount available for ESE is EUR 49.300, which can be spent in the period September 2025 – December 2027.

This project proposal has been developed as follows: (1) an initial discussion between Programme Management and the secretary of the participation bodies took place to brainstorm ideas, (2) these initial ideas and the call for projects proposal has been shared with the School Council for input, (3) together with members from the Programme Committees, the School Council further discussed the projects and indicated which initiatives they would like to receive money for, (4) this input has been used to write the below project proposal, and (5) the project proposal has been shared with the participation bodies for approval.

Project proposal

Training

Current situation and plans:

The participation bodies feel that they sometimes lack the knowledge and/or skills to give the best advice possible on the matters on which they are consulted. The participation bodies would like to develop:

- The skills of the chair in managing the meetings and making sure the discussions are fruitful and efficient. The focus is on the chair of the School Council, but we would also like to offer the opportunity to the chairs of the Programme Committees if desired.
- Their legal knowledge to properly assess the Teaching & Examination Regulations and the School regulations.
- Their meeting skills and, more specifically, their interactions with management.

The last two wishes are potentially already addressed by the trainings that will be offered on a central level by Hobeon. We, however, also understood that the trainings might be offered for a year only. The ESE participation bodies suggest using some of the available funds to offer these trainings for a longer time period, provided of course that there is enough interest in them.

Timeline and budget

Training of the chair(s): Start of the academic year 2025, 2026 and 2027.
Estimated total costs for three academic years: EUR 12.000

Trainings on the TER, School regulations, and meeting with management skills: When not offered centrally, we will organize these ourselves in 2026 and 2027. Estimated costs for two academic years: EUR 8.000.

The secretary of the participation bodies will also join these trainings and/or coaching sessions, so she can provide training and coaching when the additional funding is no longer available. We are currently in contact with *TAQT | Coaching en Advies* about the options and costs.

Expected results

Chairs who can more effectively run the meetings, leading to better discussions and higher quality output. Members who have better knowledge and skills to provide sound advice to management.

Requesting expert advice

Current situation and plans:

The participation bodies can be asked advice or approval on very specific topics which they do not necessarily have expertise on. They would therefore like to have some budget be able to hire an internal or external expert on the matter at hand. This can, for example, be a legal expert or someone with extensive didactic knowledge.

Timeline and budget

Requesting advice: In each academic year, the participation bodies would like to reserve EUR 1.000 for advice, leading to EUR 3.000 in total. In case this budget is not necessary in one or more of the academic years, it will be used to request legal advice on the approval and advice rights on the TER.

Expected results

Better advice for management and for the students and staff.

Increasing visibility

Current situation and plans:

Involvement in the participation bodies of both employees and students is low. Awareness among students about what the participation bodies can do for them is particularly low. The participation bodies would like to use part of the funds to:

1. Develop an effective communication strategy and communication materials. We are currently exploring which communication / marketing bureau could help us with this.
2. Increase the number of initiatives in which they reach out to students and staff. For example, by organizing a Council Coffee moment for students with free coffee. Other options include a stand in the hall of the Tinbergen building and a walk-in lunch for staff members.

Timeline and budget

Communication strategy and materials: Academic year 2025. The developed communication strategy and materials can be used for many years to come. Estimated total costs: EUR 13.000.

More meetings / initiatives to reach out to students and staff. Throughout academic year 2025, 2026 and start of 2027. Estimated total costs: EUR 5.000.

Expected results

Staff and students being better aware of what the participation bodies do and how they can provide support. More input from staff and students, making the participation bodies more aware of the issues within the School that need to be addressed. If the initiatives such as Council Coffee are successful, the participation bodies will apply for structural budget with the ESE management team for the period after December 2027.

Increasing cooperation

Current situation and plans:

Both within bodies and across bodies, cooperation is not always optimal and time and energy is not spend optimally. Dividing tasks and developing task forces within and across participation bodies can increase the quality of the advice while also increasing efficiency. To help facilitate cooperation the participation bodies would like some budget for a bonding event and catering to make attending meetings in person more attractive.

Timeline and budget

Catering for meetings and a bonding event in academic year 2025, 2026, and start of 2027: EUR 4.000

Expected results

Better attendance of meetings, cooperation and division of tasks and time. If catering and the event have the desired outcome, applying for structural budget for after December 2027 is an option.

Archive

Current situation and plans:

Documents from previous meetings are not always easy to find. The participation bodies would like a better archive in which documents are easy to find and retrieve.

Timeline and budget

Use academic year 2025 to set-up the archive. We hope to receive help with this internally and would like to reserve some budget for internal remuneration. Estimated costs EUR 4.000.

Expected results

More efficiency as previous advices and similar cases can be found more easily.