

Strengthening Student Role in Governance

SIGMUS

and Management at the Universities of Serbia

What to expect from students' organizations?

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background

field of acting

obligations

standards

how-to-do

summary

Bologna1999 – Prague2001 – **Berlin2003**– **Bergen2005** –London2007

Increasing focus on students

Central stakeholders:

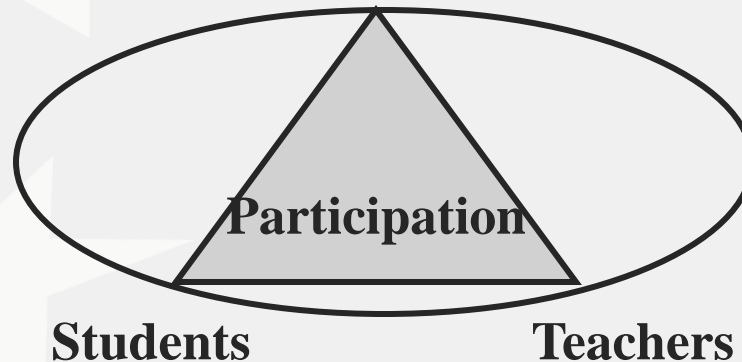
universities, **students**, teachers, employers, and society

“the primary responsibility for quality assurance lies with each institution itself and this provides the basis for real accountability of the academic system within the national quality framework.”

BACKGROUND

The students are, unarguably, the most important stakeholders of Higher Education systems and also that of quality assurance mechanisms therein. The interest and participation of students at all levels in higher education have to play a central role.

Higher Education Institutions



Any Higher Education Institution needs to ensure that students have voice at all stages of the decision making process, formulating learning and teaching practices, and that views of students are to be considered as the primary evidence on which the quality of teaching and learning is evaluated.

- Vocational and educational character
- Socialistic character
 - Extracurricular activities (lectures, excursions, concerts, sport manifestation...)
 - Political (syndical) activities (protection of student rights)
- Capitalistic character
 - As a form of student acting, the primary form of academic activism was organizing students through student organizations
 - Until presenting of the new law, the relevant student representatives were mostly members of the organization (students with a lot of free time)
- Bologna declaration 2003
 - Student representative bodies
 - Student organizations (when the student parliament was about to be formed, student organizations have played a major role)

Decrease in quality and quantity of student representatives

- Student organizations are legal entities with the status of social organizations or associations of citizens registered at the faculty, university or national level, which are primarily concerned with the protection and promotion of the rights of students.
- Student Organizations serve as a medium for academic discourse, personal growth, leadership development, intercultural understanding, community service, and lasting friendships

**(Law on organizing of Citizens in Associations,
Social Organizations and Political
Organizations, 1990-2000)**

Student parliament

Vs

Student organization

- The parliament is the legitimate representative body of students and their will recognized by the law, which largely deals with the **reform of higher education**
- Student body constantly changing
- Principle of democratic majority
- We still have a student organization as an operational team working in the interest of students, mainly **in terms of student standard**
- Student body permanent
- Principle of colleague agreement

A successful way for further decision making process, and that will also include both of student activism (that are not mutually exclusive), is the symbiosis of the parliament's work and student organizations.

- Student organizations are not only focused on issues of teaching-exam process and student welfare.
- Representatives of student organizations often carry out actions related to improvement of social and professional lives of students in the form of organizing meetings and conferences, seminars, lectures, concerts, sports events, student parties, humanitarian actions ...

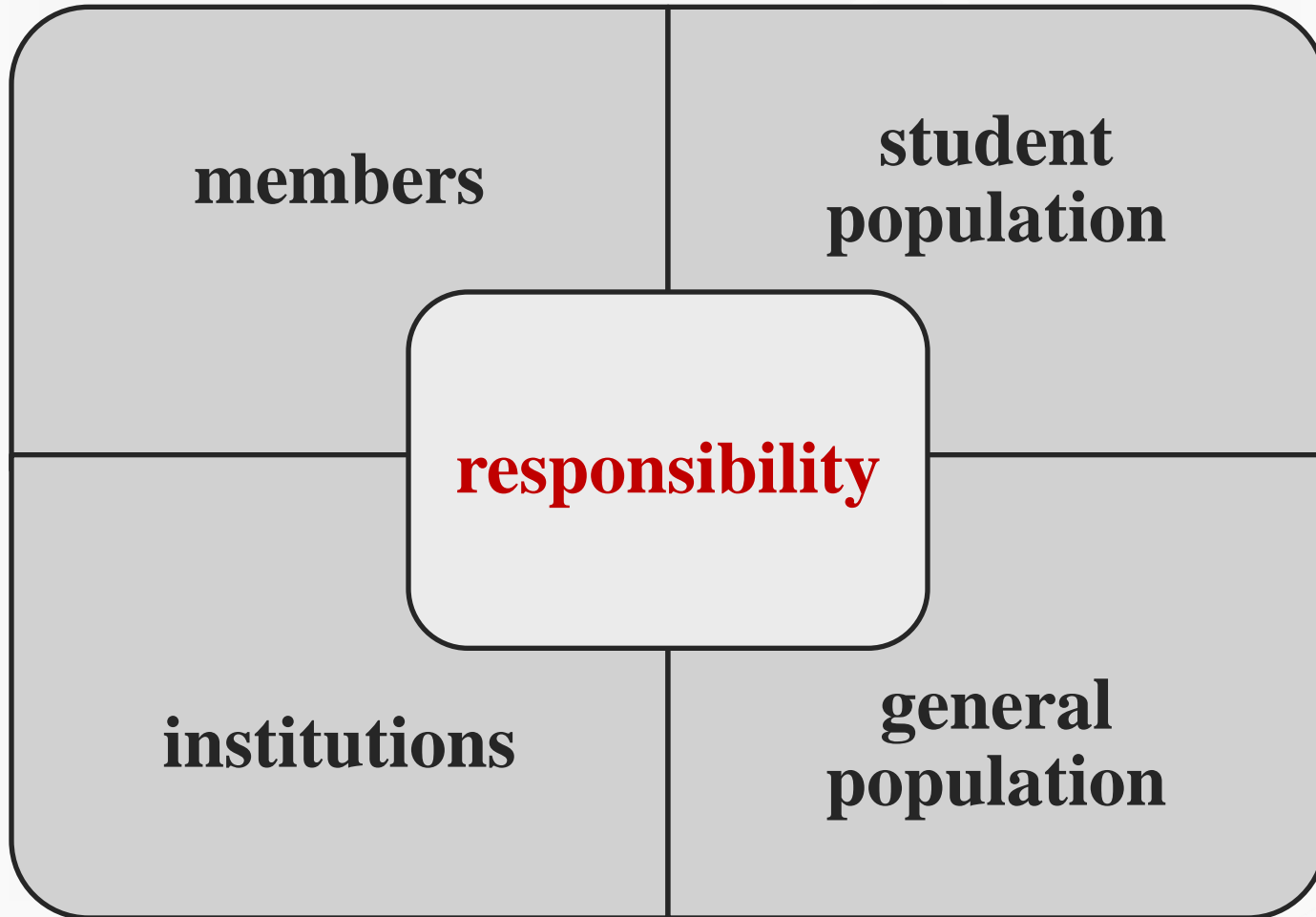


Student organizations contribute greatly to everyday life and often offer important learning opportunities for individual students in:

Increasing retention through providing a sense of belonging
Heightening social and cultural awareness
Developing civic awareness and responsibility
Enhancing moral and personal development
Developing a positive self
Applying the theoretical to experiential

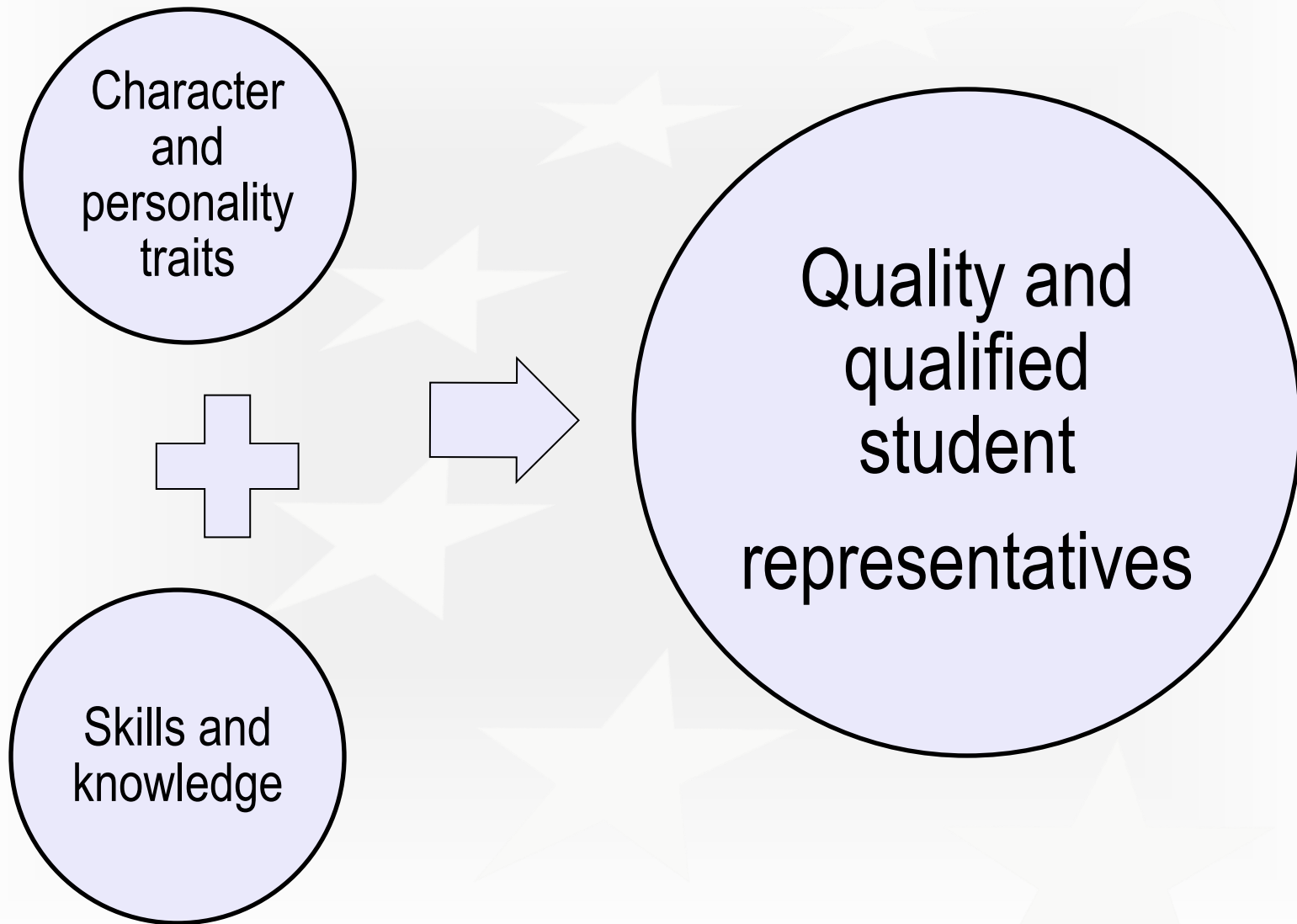
Building interpersonal relationships
Developing personal leadership competencies
Supporting intellectual growth
Embracing a diverse society
Encouraging service to others
Creating engaged and responsible citizens
Fostering a sense of community
Image & interpersonal skills

"Now I've been elected, and part of organization, what am I suppose to do?"



Strengthening of student representative bodies- WP3-SIGMUS

- 3.1. Detailed planning of capacity building of the student representative bodies (SCONUS, Student parliaments)
- 3.2. Developing on-line visibility of student parliaments through creating web portals
- 3.3. Training for trainers in issues related to Bologna action lines at EU partner universities
- 3.4. Training of student representatives at all universities in Serbia



Skills

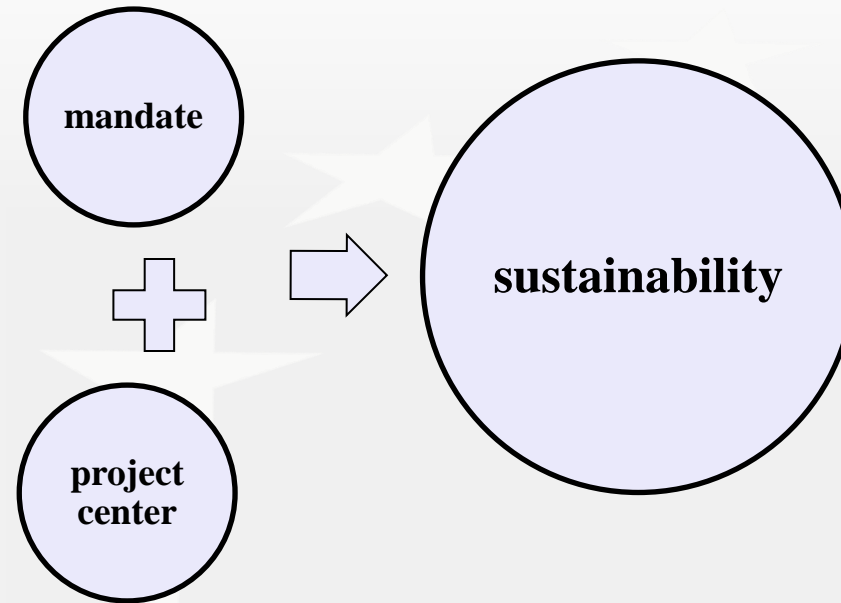
- Presenting, negotiation, project management, fund raising, debating, lobbying, time management, leadership ...
- Computer skills

Knowledge

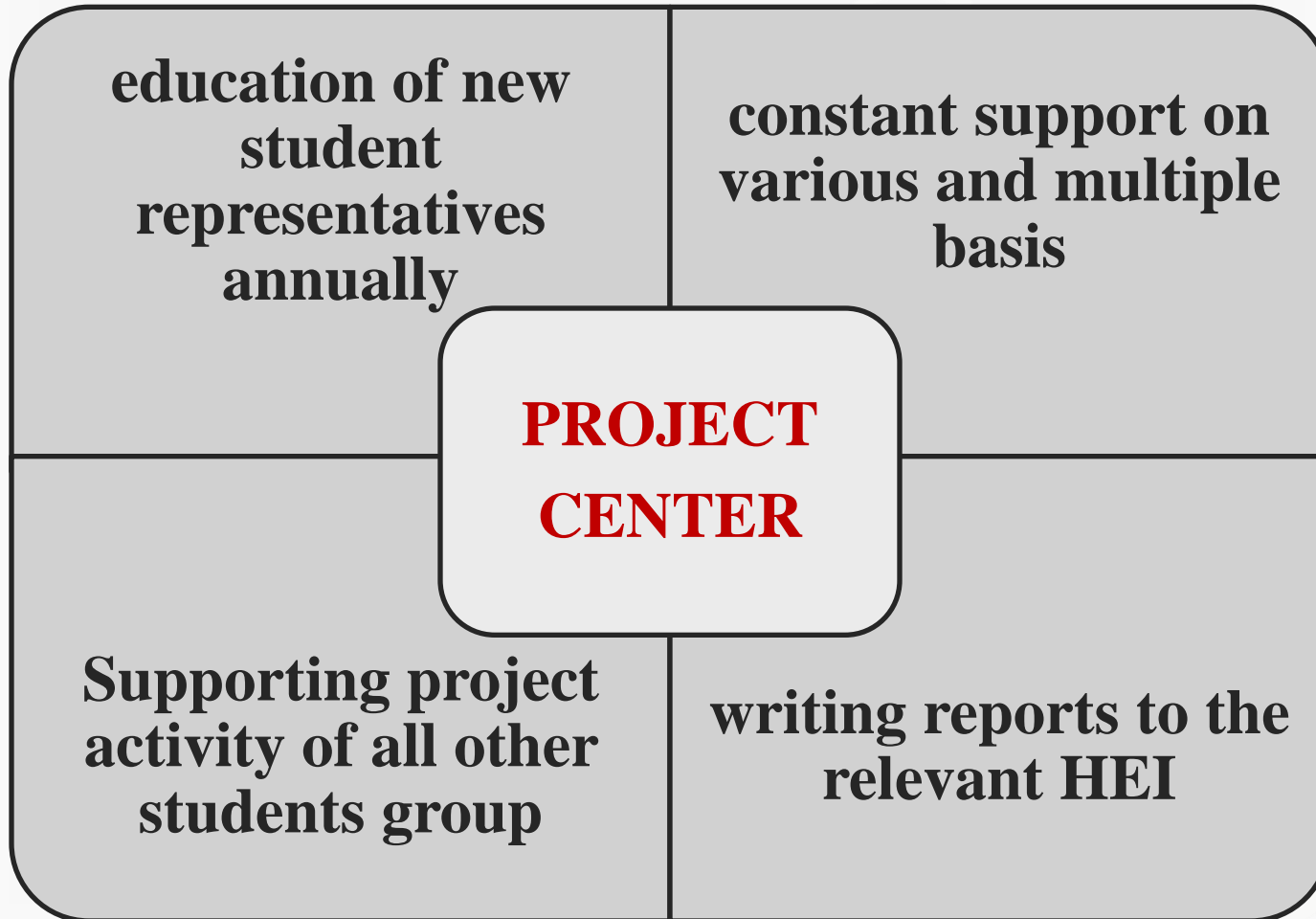
- Foreign languages
- Laws, bylaws, articles,

Zlatibor National conference





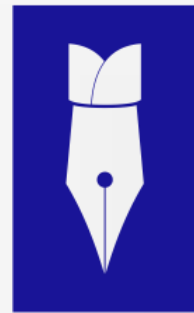
Providing continuity is a very important responsibility. The turnover of officers and members in a student representative bodies is continual, and often the only link with even the immediate past is through the organizations. Members of student organizations can orient new officers and members to this history and help them build upon it. Continuity also implies a link with the future and the organizations can play an important role in helping to develop long-term plans for the future of the representative bodies and in communicating these plans to succeeding generations of members.



- Tight cooperation between SRB and SO
- Tight cooperation MoE-SO-Uni
- Supervising the teaching process
- SO autonomy
- Constant improving and education SO members
- Law instances

As higher education
changes
so does the view **on** students and the view **of**
students.

Students' voices are today being heard
loudly and clearly
and, ever more often, their views are being
taken seriously



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