



HYAL ry Strategy 2020-2025

This document contains HYAL's strategy, which was devised in spring 2020. HYAL is a community operating at the Student Union of the University of Helsinki (HYY), influencing matters in the Student Union's Representative Council and the student community. In this document, *HYAL* and *community* refer to HYAL's association and council group. This strategy responds to our need and desire to make our approaches and goals clear to our members and other persons acting in concert with us.

Purpose

This section specifies why HYAL exists.

The purpose of our community is to improve student welfare and ensure that their voices are heard on matters concerning them. HYAL primarily operates at the Student Union of the University of Helsinki and promotes its values by being an active participant both within the Student Union and by influencing HYY's operations.

INFLUENCING THE STUDENT UNION

HYAL provides all the members of HYY with an interdisciplinary and non-party political avenue to influence the operations of their own student union. In HYAL, interdisciplinarity refers to us spreading our wings over all campuses. Non-party policy, on the other hand, is a statement: We in HYAL think that the politics in the Student Union should focus on issues concerning students. The Student Union is an expert on matters related to studenthood, whereas issues related to national politics are addressed by other parties. Our ranks can be joined by anyone who thinks that the politics in the Student Union should focus on improving student circumstances, so all the duck-minded are welcome, regardless of their field of specialization. However, political views on issues concerning national politics does not restrict one's operations in HYAL.

IMPROVING STUDENT WELFARE

Student welfare is at the core of our purpose: HYAL aims to make the student life as ideal, smooth and meaningful as possible. We want our operations to reach all the members of HYY, identifying their needs and making their voices heard in the Student Union. HYAL views communities as a key factor in improving student welfare. For this reason, we want to help the members of HYY to find themselves a suitable community that operates within the Student Union and support the operations of these communities. Students need to have an opportunity for

self-fulfillment within their student communities.

The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) divides welfare on their website into three categories: health, material welfare and perceived welfare, in other words, quality of life. Welfare encompasses both individual and community welfare. Individual welfare is affected by factors such as social relationships, happiness, self-fulfillment and social capital.

Every student has a right to feel well. HYAL bases its advocacy on human rights. For this reason, we heavily support all operations that promote human rights within HYY's influence. We are actively monitoring the state of student welfare and changing our operations so that they correspond to the needs of students. We are aware of the areas of influence where we have the best prerequisites for improving student welfare and where we need to strengthen the voices of other experts. When necessary, the Student Union can rely on experts and strengthen their voices.

Every student is important to HYAL. The goal of HYAL is to improve student circumstances on an individual level. In a large student union, personal study circles and student communities, such as organizations, are closer to the individual. It is highly invaluable to HYAL when the members of the Student Union are reaching out to communities, which is why HYAL considers community support equivalent to supporting individuals.

SUPPORTING HYY'S COMMUNITIES

HYY reaches out to its members the best through its communities. We operate to influence individual welfare and lobbying for students by supporting communities and ensuring that they have optimal operating conditions. Such communities include networks created by student representatives and committees as well as various organizations, such as subject or interest societies and student nations. We want students to have a meaningful student life, so supporting communities is one way to support a daily life that feels meaningful to the individual.

Communities work for the benefit of individual students, regardless of whether the student is part of the community or not. For example, committees arrange activities and events for all the members of HYY, whereas subject and interest societies monitor the benefit of all students within their circle.

Volunteers carry out a lot of invisible work at HYY. These people form the backbone of our community: without volunteers, our university community or the Student Union would simply not operate. For its part, HYAL ensures that volunteer welfare is cared for and their work is appreciated in the best possible ways.

INFLUENCING STUDENT CIRCUMSTANCES

HYAL's Student Union influences student circumstances as an advocate of study spaces, sufficient resources and operating conditions in communities. Organizations need education and financial support for lobbying as well as other things. The University of Helsinki needs adequate resources for student counselling, student psychologists and other operators supporting the progression of studies within the university.

We want HYY to defend student rights in national and urban politics both individually and through the National Union of University Students in Finland and Finnish Student Health Service. We are aware that student circumstances are also affected by issues related to generational politics, such as climate change and LGBTQ issues. We want to support and promote the voices of more knowledgeable parties in these issues. Our operations need to be sustainable for future generations of students as well.

Dream

Dream is a desire of what HYAL and HYY's situation would ideally look like in the future. We have divided our dream into three categories: dream of HYY, dream of the University of Helsinki and dream of HYAL.

DREAM OF HYY

HYY is socially cohesive and caring. Students are provided with services and support that they need by the society, university and Student Union. Every student has a chance to find a suitable community where they can feel a sense of social cohesion and self-fulfillment. Community operations are supported, and their operating conditions are secured.

DREAM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

We want the University of Helsinki and its student communities to be the best possible place to study. The university offers a versatile and wide selection of courses, which make it possible to study in different life circumstances with equal success. The university also offers various study spaces for students at their own campus. The university personnel and students form a mutually supportive academic community, which makes it easy to improve one's expertise.

DREAM OF HYAL

HYAL is a caring, meaningful and influential community of opportunities. HYAL has a great relationship with faculties, students of various specializations and all student communities. We are all in this together to make the University of Helsinki the best place for studying in the world.

The members and all operators of HYAL consider its operations meaningful and feel that their personal investment is valuable to their communities. The operators can see their improvement through their operations towards next challenges. The welfare of our operators in HYAL is considered in all different forms of our operations. Thus, our operations are socially sustainable and do not exhaust our operators.

Values

In HYAL, values are aspects that we want to improve in our communities: they are crystal clear goals, reasons to exist. Moreover, values can be used as vehicles to achieve our goals.

EXPERTISE

People at HYAL appreciate expertise in themselves and others. Every student is the expert of their own student life through their experiences. Our network is wide,

and we acknowledge the diverse expertise within it. HYAL provides opportunities to develop yourself and improve your expertise. We base our decision-making on researched information and statements by experts. Expertise involves aspects such as open, transparent and adaptable decision-making.

DIVERSITY

To us, diversity refers to various starting points, backgrounds, personalities, individual strengths and opinions as well as the ability to acknowledge all these factors. We do not judge each other, but instead make space for the richness created by our differences. Different backgrounds are evident, for example, through interdisciplinarity and multivoicedness among our members at HYAL. We consider everyone equal and our dialogue is meant to be respectful to each other.

SOCIAL COHESION

We consider social cohesion an important resource in communities. It makes it possible to promote welfare among communities and their members. Members in a socially cohesive community feel that they have opportunities to influence and experience solidarity, fulfillment and purpose. Studenthood is a resource that ties us all together, and together we are bigger than the sum of our parts. We trust and support each other. Both HYAL and the Student Union need to operate as a true link, promoting social cohesion and supervising collective interests for its members.

Goals

In this section, we verbalize how we aim to operate in accordance with our purpose and values. We have recorded our long-term goals to our strategy document, and we will explore and update them each term where necessary. Our electoral program includes our short-term goals, which will be founded on the goals of this strategy document.

OPERATING CONDITIONS IN COMMUNITIES

Organizations and societies outside the City Center Campus need more public spaces for their operations. Our goal is to ensure that HYY constructs or acquires externally more spaces near the campuses for the organizations and societies of Meilahti, Kumpula and Viikki. The number of spaces, services and resources provided by HYY needs to be increased within the available financial resources.

STUDENT RIGHTS

Students need to have a diverse and wide range of course options for various life circumstances. There needs to be enough different types of study spaces in every campus, and in case a space becomes unavailable to use for whatever reason, there should be alternate spaces for studying. HYY needs to have sufficient resources to support the student representatives of the administration. It is also vital that the tripartite system regarding representativeness is complied with in the bodies of the university. The dialogue between students and personnel needs to be supported and increased. Education needs to be free of charge.

VOLUNTEERS

Our goal is to ensure the best possible welfare and capacity among our volunteers in HYY, university and HYAL: Nothing is more important within our operations than human welfare. Their improvement as a volunteer will not go unnoticed and it will be brought up to others, as well as their visible and invisible work. Volunteers are thanked and their work is appreciated. Volunteers are provided with means to verbalize and understand their accumulated skills.

HYY'S FINANCES

HYY's financial management must be predictable and sustainable. It is important to prepare financially both for the potential abolition of automatic membership and removal of membership fees in 2025 so that main statutory operations of the Student Union as a bridge to students and as their lobbyist in the university is not disrupted.

INFLUENCE

We want to have more influence and represent a larger number of members in the Student Union. We want to be a meaningful and influential part of the Student Union. We aim to make the Student Union a community of opportunities according to our values in cooperation with other parties. We will do this by promoting our communication, campus visibility and accessibility.