



university of
 groningen

CUOS 2024-2025 Annual plan

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CUOS 2024-2025 annual plan

1. Foreword

Before you is the annual plan of the Central Implementing Body for Student Organizations (CUOS) of the University of Groningen (UG) for the academic year 2024-2025. This annual plan is intended to provide insight into the tasks and policies that the CUOS will carry out this academic year. Again this year, the focus has been on what the CUOS can achieve in a broad sense and how the CUOS can improve itself.

CUOS endorses the Board of Governors' view that academic development is more than just studying. Groningen as a student city is distinguished by an enormous diversity of student governments and a rich student culture. The CUOS believes that this is an important characteristic of Groningen as a student city, and wants to support it wherever possible to maintain the active student life in the city. This year, the CUOS is following the guidelines established in the policy framework "[Collaboration and Support of Active Student Life](#)". The policy framework describes the different roles and responsibilities within active student life and how the UG supports these roles. In implementing this support, the CUOS plays an important role. The CUOS will relay signals it receives from student organizations to BJZ and SES.

The plans described in this annual plan will be evaluated in the annual report, which will be written at the end of this board year. In addition, the twentieth CUOS board will write a multi-year vision, describing CUOS' view of the future and its role within the university.

In addition to its general duties, as defined in the CUOS regulations, among others, the CUOS specifically focuses on the following in 2024-2025:

- Professionalizing the organization of the CUOS and communication from the CUOS
- Reviewing application forms submitted by student organizations for grants and the Profiling Fund
- Reconsidering the assessment model in terms of membership storage/restriction of Cultural and Other Foundations and (small) associations as established in the Profiling Fund
- Exploring the possibilities of converting the Establishment Grant International Organizations (OIS) into a Merger Grant

As the academic year progresses, new areas of concern will undoubtedly emerge that are not addressed in this annual plan. The CUOS strives with good faith to accomplish these items and support to the best of its ability and accomplish its tasks to the best of its ability.

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The CUOS 2024-2025 board consists of:

Roan Luning	President
Bram van der Sloot	Secretary
Stefan Vinke	Finance
Matthias Benjert	Housing
Jurre	WolsheimerPR & Communications

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2. Goals of the CUOS 2024- 2025

2.1 Professionalizing the organization of the CUOS and communication from the CUOS

The CUOS is aware of the importance of continuing to develop professionally, as many student organizations in Groningen depend on the actions and expertise of the CUOS. It is therefore necessary to improve a number of internal processes within the CUOS. A first point that the CUOS wants to optimize is handover. In addition, this year the CUOS will work on professionalizing the communication towards the student boards. This year the CUOS is aiming for professionalization overall through clear communication.

Transfer

To date, no specific transfer document exists for each position within the CUOS board. In addition, for the existing transfer documents, not all information is current. For example, the declaration system and printing system were recently updated. Although basic knowledge about the arrangements is always transferred well, it is mainly peripheral issues that are not always well documented. Figuring this out takes a lot of time, at the expense of efficiency. The CUOS aims to make this run smoothly in the future, by keeping track throughout the year of what knowledge is necessary for each function to perform the corresponding tasks. This information will form the basis of a handover document, which will be prepared at the end of the board year. In addition, an Advisory Board was established last year. During this year, we will look at how it can best support the CUOS board, with the goal of greater continuity and professionalization.

Communications

The CUOS has recently received signals from student administrators and the University Funds Committee regarding the lack of communication regarding various regulations and grants. This manifests itself mainly in a lack of clarity regarding the provision of information about the college free board and the method of applying for the board scholarship from the Profileringsfonds. Partly with a view to the professionalization of the CUOS and, more importantly, a correct and concrete provision of information for the student organizations, the CUOS aims at a revision of the website. Together with the University Funds Committee, for example, the page on tuition-free administration is being completely revised. The CUOS provides information on this despite the UFC being responsible for it. This information is also not properly updated and can lead to confusion. In addition, all texts, if necessary, will be rewritten according to The UG's guidelines for readability.

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In addition, the CUOS wants to explore the possibility of reaching student organizations in other ways. Currently, the LinkedIn page is only used to announce and recruit new boards. The goal is to use this page more actively. Content would include communicating an explanation of grants and announcing deadlines. The possible use of other social media channels is also being considered. Since CUOS is part of The UG, this is not as non-committal as other student organizations. Nevertheless, CUOS does not want to rule this out at this time. In consultation with the Corporate Communication Department, these possibilities are being explored.

Corporate identity

From the UG, the CUOS has been told that the house style guidelines are not being followed. This is reflected in posters, forms, stickers, etc. To present the CUOS as a full part of The UG, it is important to review the use of media. During this year, work will be done to make the entire presentation of the CUOS follow the guidelines of the corporate identity. When necessary, assistance will be requested from The UG's Corporate Communications Department in this regard.

To avoid mistakes in the house style in the future, on the advice of The UG, the creation of a possible own logo and house style is being considered. The goal here is to increase the recognizability of the CUOS. A positive effect of this may be that finding new board members, who have not previously come into contact with the CUOS, will be easier.

2.2 Reviewing application forms submitted by student organizations for grants and the Profiling Fund

The circumstances of student organizations and the policies the UG pursues to this end are constantly changing. The CUOS is committed to continuing to consider the perspective of student organizations in this in order to keep the regulations and forms up-to-date. Therefore, this year the board will review the relevant documents with a critical eye and - where possible - propose and/or implement changes.

Adjustments in the provision of information surrounding [the new code of conduct](#) are being considered, with consistent and clear communication being fundamental. Similarly, the goal is to redesign all forms to present them uniformly and in accordance with the corporate identity. This includes supplementing data surrounding grant applications. In addition, content will also be reviewed to see if the terminology used is sufficiently clear. For example, there may be confusion between the general activity grant to be applied for by student organizations and the activity grant for student facilities that is already established.

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A name change of the latter to, say, "student facility subsidy" could then be considered.

2.3 Reconsidering the assessment model in terms of membership storage/restriction of Cultural and Other foundations and (small) associations as established in the Profiling Fund

In academic year 2023/2024, the Cultural and Other Organizations cluster was recalibrated in the Profiling Fund. During this recalibration it was found that the special assessment falls short for Cultural Associations compared to Cultural Foundations regarding Article 14 paragraph 5 in Appendix 1 Regulation on Recognition and Recalibration of Student Organizations The UG and HG 2024-2025. This regulation limits the number of board scholarship months that Cultural organizations can receive based on their membership numbers. In the implementation of this regulation, this amounts to a structural disadvantage based on the number of members of cultural associations compared to cultural foundations, which, due to their legal form, have no members. A cultural foundation can hereby, with the same administrative burden as an association, still claim more administrative scholarship months. The same restriction also applies to Other Associations, as established in Article 15, paragraph 5 in Appendix 1 Regulation on Recognition and Recalibration of Student Organizations The UG and HG 2024-2025. CUOS characterizes the outcome of this provision as unsatisfactory, because the goal is to distribute the maximum number of board scholarship months as equitably as possible. To this end, the organization's governance burden should be considered as the measuring point, not the formal requirement of which legal form a student organization uses. The CUOS seeks to amend the drafting of this regulation in such a way as to limit the adverse effects of this provision. Any changes made will not be retroactive.

2.4 Exploring the possibilities of converting the Establishment Grant International Organizations (OIS) into a Merger Grant

CUOS has two different grants to promote internationalization and inclusion; the Establishment Grant for International Student Organizations (OIS) and the Internationalization and Inclusion Grant (IIS). The OIS aims to encourage international students to become more involved in organizations, focusing on establishing them. In practice - whether because of this subsidy or not - the number of operating student organizations in Groningen has increased significantly in recent years.

The board notes that student organizations are increasingly struggling to find new board members to continue day-to-day operations. On top of this, the creation of new organizations exacerbates shortages in other organizations. Logically, these facts have led the CUOS to become critical of the OIS. Establishing organizations is a means, but certainly not an end in itself. Indeed, the board has the expectation that students will benefit more from fewer - and thus larger - organizations.

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For example, in relative terms, larger organizations lower the administrative burden, allowing more of the administrative burden to be invested in social activities. In addition, larger organizations are positive for overall Profiling Fund expenditures.

Inspiration is drawn in part from the business world, where mergers are often used to survive financially. However, it is unclear how much time and money mergers cost student organizations. To this end, the board intends to investigate whether a so-called "Merger Grant" could be a suitable alternative for the OIS, in which support among students will be an important factor. Some concrete practical examples will be consulted in this regard. If, in the opinion of the board, this will lead to a positive assessment of such a 'Merger Subsidy', the board will make a concrete proposal to implement a new regulation.

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3. The general tasks of the CUOS

3.1 Board Scholarships

The CUOS advises the Executive Board on recalibration and inclusion of organizations wishing to be considered for board scholarships under Part B of the Regeling Profileringsfonds UG. The CUOS strives to properly apply the criteria in the regulation and to provide the best possible support to organizations with the application submitted by student organizations.

This year, societies of conviviality and sports will be recalibrated that are included in the current Profiling Fund Part B, along with organizations that have been included for one or two years and can apply for recalibration. Organizations not yet included in the Profiling Fund can apply for inclusion each year. In early October 2024, the CUOS held two information sessions (in both English and Dutch) on the application process of the Profileringsfonds. Applications must be submitted to the CUOS no later than November 15, 12:00 noon 2024. This was made clear during the information meetings and introductory talks to which all organizations that need to be recalibrated, or have indicated that they wish to apply, were invited.

3.2 Grants

The CUOS provides several grants annually to multiple organizations, subdivided into grants for:

- (1) activities
- (2) internationalization and inclusion
- (3) campaign
- (4) student facilities

1. Activity Grant

The UG also wants formation of its students to take place through participation in extracurricular activities and active participation in an organization. Therefore, the CUOS awards activity grants to parties that qualify. The CUOS Regulations, the CUOS Guidelines for Activity Subsidy and Housing and the document "Clusters and Quality Characteristics" are guiding in the assessment of activity subsidy applications. Cultural organizations must apply for their activity subsidy through the USVA.

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2. Internationalization and Inclusion grant

To promote inclusion and internationalization, two grants are provided to student organizations. The Establishment Grant International Student Organizations (OIS) is provided to provide support in establishing international student organizations. The Internationalization and Inclusion Grant (IIS) can be used to promote the inclusion of disabled students, students belonging to a minority group, etc. within the academic community. Both grants are provided according to the requirements of their respective regulations.

3. Campaign grant

Since 2013-2014, candidate groups for University Council have been able to claim a separate campaign grant. At the end of the campaign period, the CUOS reviews whether the supporting groups have spent the subsidy effectively. It is therefore important that the candidate groups provide a clear report and statement of accounts. Disbursement of the campaign subsidy before the beginning of the campaign week has proven to be successful. Therefore, again this year the CUOS plans to provide this grant before the campaign week. Last year the CUOS regulations were amended, with this the maximum of 1000 euros per candidate fraction was abolished. A total amount of €5000.- is available for this grant to be divided among the candidate groups.

4. Student Services

ACLO, ESN, KEI and Usva have a special position within the student community. In 2011 they were given a separate status which means that they receive a fixed number of administrative months, a fixed amount of activity subsidy and possible housing for an indefinite period of time when they cannot provide this themselves or it is already provided for by the UG in another way. It is not possible to request an incidental increase in the amount of subsidy to be received. Because in many cases the amount to be received is no longer entirely sufficient, the CUOS can examine, in consultation with the UG, whether an inflation correction can be applied in the future.

The CUOS is a listener to the meetings of the General Board of the ACLO, ESN and KEI that are relevant to the CUOS and receives the approved annual reports of all student facilities. In addition, a separate director of the CUOS serves as the primary contact for these student facilities. Usva does not have a General Board, therefore there is only a first contact appointed for Usva.

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3.3 Housing

One of the portfolios of the CUOS is *housing*. The housing portfolio holder is the link between the UG and the student organizations housed in the offices located at Oude Kijk in 't Jatstraat 5 through 9. There is also an additional storage area on Turftorenstraat.

Tasks

The housing mission includes several responsibilities. One of the duties of the CUOS is to provide for the housing needs of organizations. The CUOS reviews applications for housing annually. Already housed organizations reapply each year. The application deadline is next February 1. An exception for this application is student facilities and university council groups, they do not have to reapply for their housing each year.

In addition, the housing portfolio holder serves as the first point of contact regarding:

- Access to the property
- Security in the premises
- Facilities that are defective and require repair
- Replacement or provision of desks, chairs, computers and telephones
The meeting rooms in the building
- Consent to act outside the pledge agreement
- Replacement or provision of desks, chairs, computers and telephones
- Other matters directly related to property management.

Through a pledge meeting, interested parties will be informed of this.

The CUOS monitors when it comes to the handling of premises by student organizations. This is done through regular inspections by UG employees and the housing portfolio holder. If the workplace is not kept tidy and clean, or otherwise not handled responsibly, this may lead to enforcement in the form of official warnings or sanctions as laid down in the premises agreement.

Distribution

The following organizations are located by the CUOS in the building at 5-9 Old Look in 't Jatstraat;

- KEI Foundation
- ESN Foundation
- SIB-Groningen
- AEGEE-Groningen
- AIESEC
- The CUOS
- The Free Student (DVS)

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- Student Organization Groningen (SOG).
- List Calimero
- The Groninger Student Union (GSb)
- Enactus Foundation
- TEIMUN
- Integrand Groningen Foundation
- Ganymede LGBT
- The Small Consultant
- African and Caribbean Student Association (ACSA)
- Honors College Social Association (HCSA)

Contacts

In addition to the student organizations as contacts, the CUOS also has contacts with a number of UG employees regarding housing. The aim is to maintain a transparent relationship with the housed student organizations, facility management, the security service and the Real Estate Organization Department. In order to maintain this close contact, there will be a discussion with the student organizations about what is expected of them and what they can expect from the CUOS. For this purpose, a pledge consultation will take place at the beginning of the academic year. Participation in the pledge consultation is mandatory for each housed organization. During this consultation, it is discussed what is expected of organizations and what rules apply. Organizations can also indicate during the pledge consultation if there is anything else they expect. If it is deemed necessary, several pledge consultations may take place during the year.

3.4 Information

The CUOS strives to maintain good relations with both CUOS-supported organizations and all organizations otherwise involved in current and future arrangements. For this reason, the CUOS holds introductory meetings with all parties at the beginning of the college year. The CUOS also organizes information meetings (in English and Dutch) about inclusion in the profiling fund. In addition, the CUOS organizes open "office hours" during which student administrators can drop by to ask their questions in person to CUOS administrators. In this way, the CUOS wants to ensure that associations are adequately informed about the procedure surrounding the recalibration. Finally, a general information email will be sent throughout the year to all associations to inform them of the opportunities offered by the CUOS.

The website is a frequently consulted resource for regulations. As recognized above, it is therefore important that the website always contain accurate and up-to-date information. Therefore, the most current regulations, decisions and procedures are always posted on the website as soon as reasonably possible. Part of the purpose of this is to increase the accessibility of the CUOS.

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In addition, CUOS is working to offer as many regulations and information as possible also in English on the website, although the Dutch versions will always remain leading.

4. Budget 2025 to 2027

The following page shows the new CUOS budget with some changes from last year. This year it was decided with the Executive Board that the room rental subsidy (which was budgeted as "External Housing Costs") of €6,000 is now covered by the activity grant. In addition, a price compensation of €2,650 has been added which includes the annual inflation adjustment. Finally, the housing costs increase given that the internal BHV costs were not included in the budget last year.

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Begroting 2025 t/m 2027				
Inkomsten		Begr. 2025	Begr. 2026	Begr. 2027
Bijdrage College van Bestuur	€	378,550	€ 378,550	€ 378,550
<i>Prijscompensatie</i>	€	2,650	€ 2,650	€ 2,650
<i>Terugbetaling subsidies</i>	€	10,000	€ 10,000	€ 10,000
<i>BHV bijdrage Studieverenigingen</i>	€	17,200	€ 17,200	€ 17,200
Inkomsten Totaal	€	408,400	€ 408,400	€ 408,400
Uitgaven		Begr. 2025	Begr. 2026	Begr. 2027
Algemeen	€	2,800	€ 2,800	€ 2,800
<i>Beleidskosten</i>	€	300	€ 300	€ 300
<i>Overdrachtkosten</i>	€	600	€ 600	€ 600
<i>Constitutieborrel</i>	€	850	€ 850	€ 850
<i>Cadeaus</i>	€	150	€ 150	€ 150
<i>Representatiekosten</i>	€	300	€ 300	€ 300
<i>Reproductiekosten</i>	€	200	€ 200	€ 200
<i>Bureaunkosten</i>	€	400	€ 400	€ 400
Activiteitensubsidies	€	304,500	€ 304,500	€ 304,500
<i>Stichting ACLO</i>	€	50,000	€ 50,000	€ 50,000
<i>Stichting ESN Groningen</i>	€	33,000	€ 33,000	€ 33,000
<i>Stichting KEI</i>	€	35,500	€ 35,500	€ 35,500
<i>Usva</i>	€	92,000	€ 92,000	€ 92,000
<i>Nog te verdelen subsidies</i>	€	94,000	€ 94,000	€ 94,000
Campagnesubsidies	€	5,000	€ 5,000	€ 5,000
Oprichtingssubsidie Int. Org.	€	2,000	€ 2,000	€ 2,000
Internationalisering- & inclusies.	€	15,000	€ 15,000	€ 15,000
Huisvesting	€	71,000	€ 71,000	€ 71,000
<i>Servicekosten</i>	€	30,000	€ 30,000	€ 30,000
<i>Schoonmaakkosten</i>	€	10,000	€ 10,000	€ 10,000
<i>Energie en water</i>	€	10,000	€ 10,000	€ 10,000
<i>BHV</i>	€	20,000	€ 20,000	€ 20,000
<i>Overig</i>	€	1,000	€ 1,000	€ 1,000
Incidenteel	€	1,000	€ 1,000	€ 1,000
Uitgaven Totaal	€	401,300	€ 401,300	€ 401,300
Resultaat	€	7,100	€ 7,100	€ 7,100
<i>Reserve 1-1</i>	€	54,391	€ 61,491	€ 68,591
<i>Exploitatieresultaat</i>	€	7,100	€ 7,100	€ 7,100
<i>Reserve 31-12</i>	€	61,491	€ 68,591	€ 75,691

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5. Update 2024 Q1+Q2

Actualisatie 2024 Q1 & Q2		
Inkomsten	Begroting 2024	Actualisatie 2024
Bijdrage College van Bestuur	€ 378,550	€ 189,276
<i>Algemene Bijdrage</i>	€ 375,050	€ 189,276
<i>Prijsbijstelling 2018</i>	€ 3,500	
BHV bijdrage Studieverenigingen		€ 14,429
Inkomsten Totaal	€ 378,550	€ 203,705
Uitgaven	Begroting 2024	Actualisatie 2024 Q1+Q2
Algemeen	€ 2,800	€ 300
<i>Beleidskosten</i>	€ 300	€ 300
<i>Overdrachtskosten</i>	€ 600	
<i>Constitutieborrel</i>	€ 850	
<i>Cadeaus</i>	€ 150	
<i>Representatiekosten</i>	€ 200	
<i>Reproductiekosten</i>	€ 200	
<i>Bureaunkosten</i>	€ 500	
Activiteitsubsidies	€ 292,500	€ 184,159
<i>ACLO</i>	€ 50,000	€ 25,000
<i>ESN Groningen</i>	€ 32,500	€ 16,500
<i>KEI</i>	€ 30,000	€ 17,750
<i>Usva</i>	€ 92,000	€ 46,000
<i>Overige gerealiseerde subsidies</i>	€ 88,000	€ 78,909
Campagnesubsidies	€ 5,000	€ -
Oprichtingssubsidie Int. Org.	€ 2,000	€ 800
<i>PSAG</i>		€ 800
Internationalisering- & inclusies.	€ 15,000	€ -
Terugbetalingen		€ 15,099-
Huisvesting	€ 66,500	€ 23,889
<i>Servicekosten</i>	€ 32,000	€ 9,153
<i>Schoonmaakkosten</i>	€ 12,000	€ 1,520
<i>Afval</i>	€ 6,000	€ 2,728
<i>Telefoonkosten</i>	€ 1,000	
<i>Elektronica</i>	€ 8,500	
<i>Externe huisvestingskosten</i>	€ 6,000	
<i>BHV cursussen</i>		€ 6,169
<i>Overig</i>	€ 1,000	€ 4,319
Incidentele Uitgaven	€ 1,000	€ -
Uitgaven Totaal	€ 384,800	€ 194,049
Resultaat	€ 6,250-	€ 9,656.45
<i>Reserve 1-1-2024</i>	€ 42,039	€ 44,941
<i>Exploitatieresultaat</i>	€ 6,250-	€ 9,656
<i>Reserve 31-12-2024</i>	€ 35,789	€ 54,597

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6. Global annual schedule

September - October 2024

- Prepare Annual Plan
- Introductions to student organizations, student services and U Council groups
- Information meetings Profiling Fund

November 2024 - January 2025

- Pledge consultation
- Broad Meeting
- Profiling fund deadline and process applications
- Administrative consultation between the BoG and CUOS.

February - April 2025

- Handle applications for activity grants and housing
- Handle applications for internationalization and inclusion grants
- Handle campaign grant applications
- Establishing multi-year vision
- Assemble Nominating Advisory Committee (BAC) 2025
- Recruit new board

May - August 2025

- Applications for new board
- Breaking in new board
- Preparation of annual report

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7. Meeting dates

Meeting dates are set as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>
October 11, 2024 14:00-15:00u	Information P-Fund (Dutch)	Zernike Hall, Academy Building
October 11, 2024 16:00-17:00u	Information P-Fund (English)	Zernike Hall, Academy Building
To be determined	Decision-making Meeting(s).	To be determined

Other meeting dates and decisions of the Decision-Making Meetings will be published as soon as possible at www.rug.nl/cuos.

8. Contact details

Visiting address:	Oude Kijk in 't Jatstraat 5, 1214.0110
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Task assignment:

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Matthias Benjert	Housing	cuos.huisvesting@rug.nl
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