# ANNUAL PLAN 2017



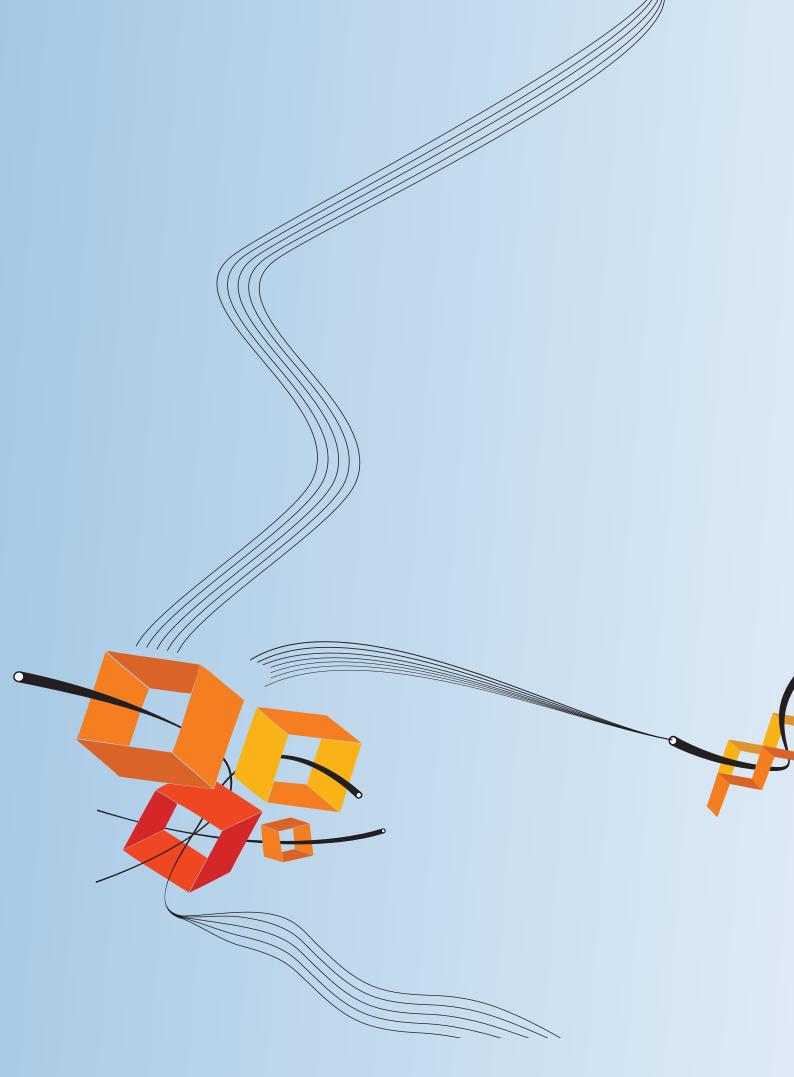












# **PREFACE**

In front of you lies the annual plan of the Student Union (SU) for 2017. In the past period we have spent a lot of time on developing the plans for the next calendar year. Besides the fact that we as board have looked into it and made a draft version at first, we have spoken with as many students from different backgrounds as possible, in order to come to an effective annual plan. We think it is of utmost importance that we draft this plan together with our Union participants, since we represent the interests of all students and associations at the University of Twente (UT). Incorporating all feedback, we have made the final version of the annual plan.

The annual plan that currently lies is front of you, is based on the Strategic Plan¹ of the SU. The Strategic Plan is effective from 2016 up to and including 2019, and in general gives direction to the SU for the coming years. The annual plan as it is currently drafted, is the second annual plan based on the current Strategic Plan. The plan consists of the following four ambitions:

- 1. The SU stimulates students' integration, in order to realize a big community feeling at the UT
- 2. The Student Union offers each student the room to develop his/herself.
- 3. All students look back on a nice student time, making them proud of Twente's student life.
- 4. Each student is familiar with the Student Union

These ambitions are all part of the mission of the SU: enhancing the academic development and welfare of students at the UT. Based on these four ambitions we have created our annual plan. We have developed several actions per ambition, which are marked with (AP), and they are included in the appendix.

Important points of this annual plan are internationalization, entrepreneurship, activism, and the name of the SU. These points, and all other points form the annual plan are not the only activities that we undertake in 2017. Smaller activities were not included, and many other relevant issues will arise that we take action on. Furthermore, during the writing process, we have gathered many ideas, from which we only included the ideas with the highest priority, since we simply cannot do everything.

On behalf of the entire Student Union we wish you a lot of reading pleasure!

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See https://su.utwente.nl/over-ons/documenten/strategisch-plan/





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### **AMBITION 1:**

# THE SU STIMULATES STUDENTS' INTEGRATION, IN ORDER TO REALIZE A BIG COMMUNITY FEELING AT THE UT

The SU sees the students in the student life at the UT as one big community. This community feels connected, since all students feel like they are part of one of the many sub communities. These sub communities feel connected with the bigger part, the University of Twente. The big community consists of both students and employees, in which the students are the SU's primary target group. This year, the SU will continue the work of the past years, in order to ensure that each student feels at home at the UT.

#### A big community

The SU is the umbrella organization of all student organizations at the UT. These student organizations together take care of Twente's student culture. The SU will tighten the relationships between associations from different sectors, but on the other hand the diversity of each association and sector should be maintained. In this way students will feel like being a part of the bigger community even more, and they will discover possibilities to develop themselves. In order to improve the bonds, the SU stimulates organizations to organize joint activities, and it actively creates relationships between associations, also between different sectors (AP). Hereby the SU thinks of for example the sectors sports and culture and the sectors world and culture.

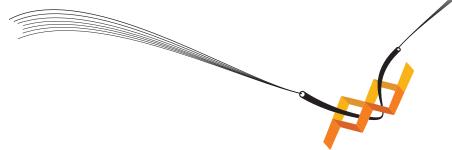
The UT can be identified by its strong cooperation and close contacts between students and employees. Therefore, the SU enhances this strong relationship between students and employees. In this way students feel represented within the organization, employees know better what is on students' minds, and everyone feels more part of the UT community, strengthening the cooperation between both groups. The SU strives for an improvement of the cooperation between students and UT institutions like study programmes and services, by advocating for more side jobs for students (AP). Furthermore, the SU supports the new study advisors of the faculty boards in their tasks by jointly mapping their needs, for example by creating a frequent meeting (AP).

#### Progress through internationalization

The UT is more and more becoming an international university. This also means a transition in the environment of students, as more international and non-Dutch speaking students will arrive at the university. This will result in positive and negative consequences for the entire community and the different organizations that play a part in this community. The SU will guide this process in order to strengthen the community and integration between different groups, among others by gaining and passing on insights about the advantages of internationalization. For instance, the SU will monitor cultural changes, by investigating the influence of internationalization both within and outside associations, by conducting a survey and analysing the results (AP). Furthermore, the bilingualism that arises within associations is supported by the SU through offering and extending translation subsidies (AP). The Student Internationalisation Platform<sup>2</sup> is available for all kinds of matters around integration and internationalization, which will be worked upon in 2017 (AP).

The SU thinks that each student, national or international, should be able to feel at home at the UT. Finding a suitable house is of great importance. Therefore, the SU will actively be involved in improving the housing of international students, by experimenting with alternatives, in order to make the students fit in student houses, without neglecting the

<sup>2</sup> UT-wide platform for and by students, for improvement of internationalization and integration



interests of the Dutch students (AP). Next, the SU supports the introduction of an integral housing portal for the entire dormitory 'supply' in and around Enschede, in order to secure the interests of (future) students (AP).

### **AMBITION 2:**

# THE STUDENT UNION OFFERS EACH STUDENT ROOM TO DEVELOP HIS/HERSELF

The SU is the organization that stands for development of each student, next to his or her study. This happens when students not only work on their study, but besides that also undertake activities, like being part of a committee, board or company. Eventually, this leads to an increase of employability of students, henceforth the SU wants to actively work on this in 2017 as well. This includes that the SU takes care of enough room for activism within the education, and that students can make well-considered decisions.

#### Progress through business cooperation

In 2016 the Career Services<sup>3</sup> was founded at the UT. Moreover, the umbrella Plato was founded for the business associations. The SU was closely involved in both initiatives. In 2017 the SU will strive to put the Career Service and Plato to a higher level. Through Plato and Career Services, two institutions were founded that increase the employability of all students, since these initiatives are in line with what students need, and at some points they also connect with each other. The SU will realize the cooperation between Plato and Career Services (AP). Finally, the SU realizes a semi-annual meeting between Plato and the department Economic Affairs of the municipality of Enschede, in order to shape the long-term strategy (AP).

#### Student and entrepreneur at the same time

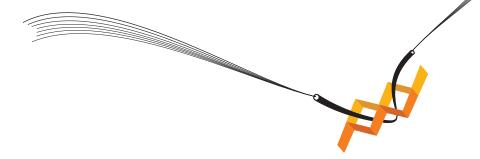
The SU wants students to get in touch with entrepreneurship in an earlier stage. At the entrepreneurial university it is very important that every student is familiar with the opportunities he/she has around entrepreneurship. In addition, the SU wants to make entrepreneurship accessible. By starting preparations for a Start-up Hub<sup>4</sup> in the Bastille, the SU will realize this goal (AP). The Start-up Hub will function like a gym for student entrepreneurs.

For several years, during re-enrolment at the UT in Studielink, you are asked if you are a student entrepreneur. The results that follow from this entrepreneurship research are used in 2017 to map the entrepreneurial students, and to build a community around the Start-up Hub together with Hardstart and DSIF (AP). Building an entrepreneurial community within the UT is important. Students get to know each other and the possibilities for help and support. This increases the odds for success for all students with initiatives. In cooperation with NIKOS and Saxion we continue the plans to show how entrepreneurial this region is, supported by the first academic research resulting from the figures from the Studielink entrepreneurs research (AP).

The SU likes to see the student being seen as central actor around the entrepreneurship initiatives by several parties in the region. Currently there is much fragmentation and it is not clear who organizes which event. This makes it unclear to the target audience, events are visited worse than expected, and double initiatives occur. By reshaping these regional initiatives, a central orchestrated programme for entrepreneurship is built. The SU will put forward its networking position, in order to cooperatively realize this project with the parties involved. Next year we review, together with the involved parties, what initiatives we continue jointly, and which ones we terminate (AP).

The central point at the UT for both everything around the students' careers and the place for the businesses to get in touch with talent

<sup>4</sup> A physical place where entrepreneurs get in touch with each other, support is given, and an entrepreneurial vibe is present.



#### Combining activism and education

The SU offers opportunities and creates possibilities for each student to develop his/herself. Last years the new educational model has changed the available space for development outside the curriculum. Specific Union participants, mainly the part time boards, received less space for their activities. The SU keeps on striving to enhance the combination of studying and activism, giving each student extra opportunities, and making students leave their comfort zone in order to learn from it. Through finishing and implementing the vision Academic Development in Education, the SU gives the direction to its policy and activities in this field (AP). This vision bridges the gap between extracurricular and educational activities with the same objectives, and it supports the established participation in the education, in order to enhance the co-creation of the education by the student and the UT organization. Furthermore, after four years of new education, it is reasonable to conclude what the current effects of Twente Educational Model on Twente's student culture are, in which also national developments are incorporated. Beforehand many worries were raised about for instance less active students. Now it is time to see if these developments came true, and what were the causes, through a big student evaluation. The SU executes this survey together with both Union participants and the individual student, and the SU will be advised by the services of the UT, such that a widely-supported research is conducted (AP).

The UT has an incrediblly active student community, strongly organized in more than 130 Union participants. The SU already offers several possibilities to attend training to students that have been active within these associations, in order to enhance the personal development even more. The so called Skills programme, meant for the individual student, will be extended. The SU exploits the following principle: by students, for students. The SU will set up a platform where student trainers can sign-up, and – facilitated by the SU, offer training sessions to fellow students (AP).

Not only developments at the UT influence activism, also on national level there are some developments going on that influence Twente's student life. These issues can affect the active culture in Twente, both in a positive and negative sense. As a result, the SU frequently discusses this with the student representation from the University council, and it stays in touch with national parties like the ISO and the LSVb, to stay up-to-date on the latest developments on national level in order to possibly implement these in Twente's student life (AP). An important example of this is the exemption for tuition fee for board members.

#### The Bastille, the place to develop yourself

The Bastille is the building on campus specially meant for students. Centrally located in the heart of the campus, the Bastille should be the place for the active student to work on all your student activism, and to get in touch with other active students. This unique selling point is currently undervalued. The SU has already started working towards an improved situation. Next year the SU will work on the possibilities around facilitating your own company in the Bastille, by further working on the aforementioned Start-up Hub. Furthermore in 2017, the Atrium will be renovated to a place where students can work on ideas to develop this together with others, without the Atrium losing its current function for events (AP). One of the services of the SU towards associations and foundations, is enabling them to rent office space in the Bastille for a low price. Policy on this topic however is not always clear. Therefore, the SU will draft a clear policy on the rental subsidies in the Bastille in 2017, which will be implemented afterwards (AP).

### **AMBITION 3:**

# ALL STUDENTS LOOK BACK ON A NICE STUDENT TIME, MAKING THEM PROUD OF TWENTE'S STUDENT LIFE

The SU likes to see all students experiencing a great student time at the University of Twente. For this to happen the campus, the association life, events, and living area play a big role. The campus forms the heart of the university, where students meet each other, study, play sports, act on culture, are entrepreneur, and much more. Furthermore, many students live in the city centre, with all activities taking place there. Finally, our alumni should not be forgotten: ideally they look back on a tremendous student time, and they take on a function as ambassador for the University of Twente.

#### Student today, alumnus tomorrow

The UT has a big network of alumni, that likes to feel connected to the UT. The SU wants to maintain this good relationship between alumni and the UT, and strengthen it where possible, making alumni proud ambassadors of the UT. The SU wants to create added value for students via the good relation with alumni, for example by, together with the Alumni Office, facilitating activities that bring UT students and UT alumni together (AP). In addition, we form the link between the alumni's crowdfund-platform and big projects of students<sup>5</sup> in order to provide this with financial support, by promoting this (AP).

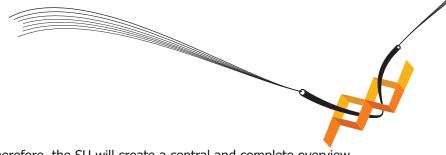
#### An unlimited campus

The UT has a vivid campus where already many possibilities exist, and that has a strong student culture. However, there is still room for improvement. Students that look back on the part of their student time on campus, should have the feeling that they have had all the opportunities to achieve their goals. This contributes to looking back at a great student time. In line with this, the SU wants to offer all students the possibility to act entrepreneurial, ranging from organizing an event to beginning a start-up. This is shaped by the SU, in cooperation with the UT, by making it easier to organize events on campus (AP). In 2017, the UT will re-design the organization of supporting services. In order to represent the interests of students, and to execute its policy responsibility effectively, the SU will be closely involved in the developments in this area. The SU will take care of the fact that organization should be effective to students, in which the student is supported from the beginning stage until the realization stage of the plan, in order to maximally execute each initiative, and to guide students in the process of development. Therefore, the SU takes care of the interest of students being represented in developments at the UT around structuring the organization and housing (AP).

On annual basis, many UT-related events take place on campus and in or around Enschede. Each of these events contributes to the 'vivid' student city, the active student culture in Twente, and the entrepreneurial nature of the UT and its students. The SU likes to be an important catalyser for students and student associations, in order to making the big range of initiatives possible. In this way it becomes more fun and more convenient to be active, and students are able to spend their time more efficiently. The SU therefore develops a CampusGuide that supports individuals and associations in bringing an initiative to realization (AP).

The SU wants that all students at the UT are familiar with the big range of events of the university and its student associations. In the current situation it is mostly not known which events take place. The SU finds it important that no student should miss an activity because

<sup>5</sup> See http://www.steunutwente.nl/ for the platform



he/she did not know about it. Therefore, the SU will create a central and complete overview of activities on its website and the SU will research the possibilities of realizing this in an app, for example the CampusApp (AP). In this way the SU positively contributes to the promotion of activities meant for students and by students.

#### Enschede as student city

In addition to the campus as vivid centre of Twente's student life, the SU next year focuses on Enschede as student city. The SU does not only make bridges between employers and students, but it will also focus on better integration between inhabitants from Enschede and UT-people. Both parties benefit from a good cooperation, for this improves the general atmosphere in the city. The SU takes on a stimulating role, since better cooperation between the UT and the municipality ultimately leads to more possibilities for students in their living environment. The SU informs Enschede's inhabitants, and involves them in among others research and activities at the UT, in particular students (AP). Moreover, the SU lets students connect more to events that are organized by and for Enschede's inhabitants (AP). The SU hopes that a better integration between UT-people and Enschede's inhabitants will eventually lead to 'an Enschede' that transforms into a true student city.

#### Sports and culture of the future

In the fields of sports and culture, the campus has a lot to offer. There are however more student initiatives in the fields of sports and culture, that deserve more attention. The SU would like to create room for new sports and culture association to join the subsidy model, giving each sports and culture association equal opportunities. The SU realizes this by thoroughly reviewing the current subsidy model, and by adjusting the working method through a pilot version for both sectors in 2017 (AP).

### **AMBITION 4:**

#### EACH STUDENT IS FAMILIAR WITH THE STUDENT UNION

In order to fulfil the SU's mission optimally, it is necessary that each student is familiar with the SU, and knows what the SU does. This makes the SU more accessible to the target group audience and being better known contributes to fulfilling the mission.

#### Close to the student

The SU serves the student by being helpful and by standing right between the students. Therefore, the SU creates many initiatives, that significantly gain publicity this year. This can be a big initiative like Create Tomorrow, or smaller ones like the More Than A Degree Awards. By generating more publicity among students, and by structuring these initiatives in a way that each student wants to know it, we as SU offer students big opportunities. This publicity is accomplished by the SU by initiating long-term campaigns around concepts like More Than A Degree, the UnionCard, and Uniondeals (AP). It is not only important to gain publicity for the initiatives themselves, but also to connect its initiatives to the name of the SU from both sides (AP). All of this should make sure that each student finds its way to the SU's website and social media channels.

Next to the findability of the SU to students, also the findability of students to the SU is important. Each student should have the possibility to participate in the policy of the SU, by organizing open participation meetings (AP). Moreover, the SU conducts a research on the feasibility and desirability of a new online platforms where students can propose ideas (AP). This enable the student to think along and co-decide about issues that the SU takes action on. In 2016 the SU has started with the development of Student Union Network (SUN)<sup>6</sup>. This project will yield a member administration system to the first associations in 2017 (AP). In addition, the SU will found a discussion panel, in order to keep on monitoring whether SUN takes actions on the right matters, regarding future features (AP).

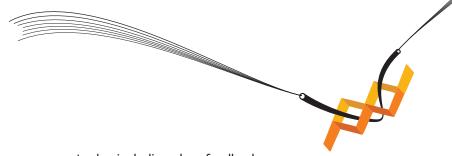
The SU wants to be more visible in its own building, the Bastille. By increasing its visibility through the Bastille, the SU attempts to make itself more accessible for students, and it attempts to make its mission and values known. The SU will present its plans in a quick and attractive way in the Bastille (AP). At the same time, the entire Bastille gets a more colourful and fresh look (AP). Finally, the UnionShop gets a better PR, for example by connecting it to other concepts of the SU, or through a new shop design (AP).

#### Students know the SU

Next to the direct advantages that the SU offers to the student, the SU organization itself will also gain publicity in 2017. By better reaching out to the student, the voice of the student is also taken into account in the policy of the SU and the UT in general. The publicity among the individual students is accomplished by expanding the services we offer to the individual student. In 2017, we will bring new initiatives or exploitations in favour of all students to the Bastille (AP). Examples of this include a Career Service Desk and a second-hand study books sale.

Furthermore, each student board member and many students in 2017 are familiar with the 'open door policy' the SU has, and therefore making it extremely accessible to go to the SU whenever needed. This message truly gets effective when this is communicated and showed during open occasions (AP). This also includes that the SU takes less time to make it clear to

A platform for everything on administration of members for associations, developed by the SU.



students whether or not initiatives are support, also including clear feedback. Whenever the SU will be successful, this will be celebrated with all students, by updating them about it via the relevant media (AP). This is not only the case for achievements by the SU; during big events the SU together with the organizing committees investigates how Twente's student life, combined with this event, can be displayed in the media as big as possible (AP).

### **APPENDICES: ACTIONS**

# Ambition 1: The SU stimulates students' integration, in order to realize a big community feeling at the UT

#### A big community

- Simulating the organization of joint activities between sectors
- Stimulating the hiring of students for side jobs at the UT
- Supporting student advisors within faculty boards

#### **Progress through internationalization**

- Monitoring the transition of culture, as a result of internationalization, by executing and analysing a survey
- Offering and expanding translation subsidies
- Further creating the Student Internationalisation Platform
- Active participation in improving housing for international students
- Contributing to an integral housing portal Enschede

#### Ambition 2: The Student Union offers each student room to develop his/ herself

#### Progress through business cooperation

- Realizing cooperation between Plato and Career Services
- Realizing meetings between Business Umbrella and department Economic affairs of the Municipality

#### Student and entrepreneur at the same time

- Starting preparations for Start-up Hub in the Bastille
- Creating an entrepreneurial community around the Start-up Hub
- Facilitating the conductance of the first academic research around student entrepreneurship
- Together with involved parties deciding on which initiatives around entrepreneurship are continued and which are not

#### **Combining activism and education**

- Finalizing and implementing vision Academic Development in Education
- Evaluating effects of TEM and national developments on Twente's student culture
- Creating a platform for student trainers that give training to fellow students
- Staying up-to-date about national developments, and if relevant implement these in Twente

#### The Bastille, the place to develop yourself

- Rebuilding the Atrium into an informal working place without losing the current function for events
- Drafting a clear policy on rental subsidies for Union participants in Bastille, and implement this



#### Student today, alumnus tomorrow

- Facilitate activities that bring together UT students and UT alumni, together with the alumni office
- Creating a link between crowdfund-platform from alumni and big projects from students

#### An unlimited campus

- Making it easier to organize events on campus, together with the UT
- Represent the students' interests around the structuring of the organization of the campus and housing on the UT
- Develop CampusGuide to support the realization of initiatives
- Offer a complete overview of students' events on the SU website, and if possible in an app

#### **Enschede as student city**

- Inform and involve Enschede's inhabitants in research and activities of the UT
- Let students get connected to the events organized by Enschede's inhabitants
- Sports and culture of the future
- Adjust the subsidy model for sports and culture, through a pilot version for sports in 2017

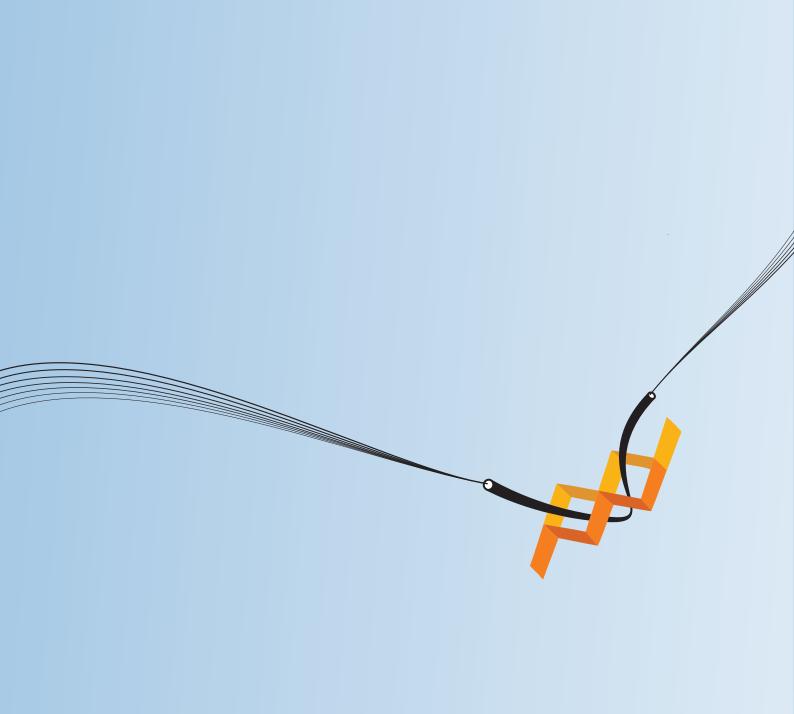
#### Ambition 4: Each student is familiar with the Student Union

#### **Close to the student**

- Set up long-term campaigns for SU initiatives
- Promote committees and events from the SU as SU effectively, and vice versa
- Give students the possibility to think along about the SU's policy though open
- participation meetings
- Research feasibility and desirability of a platform where students can propose ideas
- Serve first associations with a member's administration through SUN
- Enlarge visibility of the SU in the Bastille by presenting the plans briefly and powerfully
- Give the Bastille a more colourful and fresh look
- Improve the Unionshop's PR

#### Students know the SU

- Bring new initiatives to the Bastille
- Each student board member and many students are known with the open door policy
- Fast feedback to students about whether or not we continue specific matters
- Giving good publicity to successes of the SU, through relevant media
- Display Twente's student life in the media through big events



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