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OCEANS Network Newsletter

Spring 2019

## Greetings From The Coordinating Board

First of all, thank you for those who took part in the last president/vice president election.

Giulia and I feel very honored and humbled with your support to become the President and Vice President of OCEANS Network. We were given great support during our handover from the previous board members who have set a great groundwork for us to carry on and take the network into the next level.

We have the upcoming objective of the network as focusing on "retention and growth". We want our current members to feel relevant and connected to the network as much as possible while being ready to present ourselves with a strong identity and benefits when reaching out to a wide pool of potential members.

Next what we did was to form a team of board members. We consulted some from the old board, some new faces during the AGM in Bangkok, and proudly present the coordinating team of 2019.



**President: Jungyoon Guni Han**

**Vice President: Giulia Barbero**

**External Relations head: Jessica Slattery**

**Partnerships Management head: Nik Klaric**

**Community Development head: Vladimir Kmec**

**Communications Head: Gyungmin Lee**

**Digital Development Head: Anezka Aubrechtova**

These 7 Board members will mainly lead the respective working groups, as well as carry on key strategies and programs carried on at the board level. We would also like to thank Alexandra Coffman who is taking on the deputy head of communications helping with the newsletter, as well as Andrew Lescelius who will continue his involvement as deputy head of digital development, being the key player of our IT side.

The network can never have too many volunteers! We're an open working group member application of the 3 core teams where you can be more involved. External relations, which focuses on network outreach, community development which focuses on member retention, and partnership management which focuses our positioning and strategies within the ESAA framework.

The board will also be open and attentive to new ideas! Always feel free to write to [board@oceans-network.eu](mailto:board@oceans-network.eu) with any questions or suggestions - we look forward to hearing from you.

On behalf of the coordinating board,

President Jungyoon Han (Guni)

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## Meet The New OCEANS Coordinating Board!



## OCEANS 2019 AGM Bangkok, Thailand



Read a [member's perspective](#) of the 2019 AGM by [clicking the above image](#).

## Join the OCEANS Working Group

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The OCEANS Network grows with the contribution of volunteers. So if you're looking to become more involved, here is the chance!

We are looking for active volunteers to take part in one of the three working groups for OCEANS - External Relations / Partnership Management / Community Development.

Working as an OCEANS volunteer means an opportunity to develop personal and professional skills while working in a cross-cultural team. We also have upcoming events where the working group can meet and receive training related to the role -- travel scholarships included!

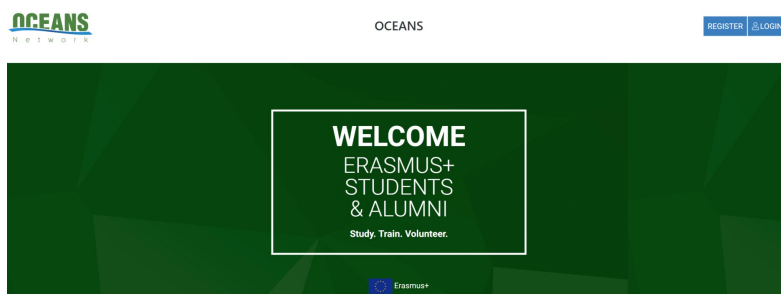
**Apply now to receive an invitation to the ESAA General Assembly which is to take place June 21-23 in Bonn, Germany.**

**Limited spots are available!**

Click the name of each position below for more details.

- [OCEANS National Representative](#)
- [OCEANS Partnership Management](#)
- [OCEANS Community Development](#)

## New Online Community: Join Us!



We have a new Community portal of the Organisation for Cooperation, Exchange And Networking among Students (OCEANS). You can join by clicking the blue "Register" button in the top right of the page. And then once you're approved please introduce yourself (who you are and where you're currently living and what you'd like to get from joining the community).

You can check out the community here:

<https://community.oceans-network.eu/>

## OCEANS NETWORK CROSS-CUTTING



Get involved with OCEANS NETWORK cross-cutting webinar

Are you interested in creating sustainable solutions to advance the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? The Erasmus+ Global Partnerships team will host a webinar on the following topics. Click on the link to follow the Facebook Event page.

#### Innovating through Design thinking

Time: Friday, May 17, 2019 at 12 AM – 3 AM UTC+01

This unique, free-to-attend webinar session is designed to open up the innovation process and make it more inclusive. It will introduce you (our remote participants) to Design Thinking methods as a process to help exchange perspectives, find sustainable partnerships and networks and build a dynamic commitment to your out-of-box ideas seeking to deliver on the UN sustainable development goals.

#### Financing your Sustainable Development Goals Innovation

Time: Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 12 AM – 3 AM UTC+01

A taster session for different Erasmus+ funding opportunities, funding mechanisms, and an exciting virtual idea accelerator! Following our innovation stage through Design Thinking, this webinar is designed to cater to the objective aspects of seeing your idea to its envisioned outcome.

## EU-US Young Leaders Seminar



**By Anja Kiesow**

As I walked into the conference room I was immediately impressed by the size of the seminar and the diversity of my fellow participants. It was obvious from the get-go that we were here to bridge borders and bring cultures together. The spirit of universalism was rekindled for 3 intense days as we acknowledged that success would mean we each have a part to play on and off stage. Looking around the room I could not help but admire the diversity of background and opinion the conference had brought together. We had each made our individual journey to discuss the topic of disinformation in media literacy.

50 participants from all corners of the Western hemisphere, spanning the distance of Bulgaria to California: 25 Europeans with diverse backgrounds, and 25 American Fulbright participants. We all were participating in the already storied tradition of transatlantic partnership by gathering at this year's EU-US Young Leaders Seminar. As I sat down at one of the many round tables, the ice between the participants broke in no time since it was clear inclusion was a prerequisite for participation and soon we were all chatting with each other. The 23-year-old Miriam popped up next to me and introduced herself. As an Erasmus Mundus Student from Germany, she is currently researching disinformation in war photography and journalism, a topic I had never had contact with, so I was keen to learn more. And again, I realized how disinformation touches almost all aspects of life and this has only snowballed in the digital age.

The structure of the program was especially helpful in formulating and understanding the complicated solutions required to combat disinformation. To ensure that



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with by researcher Sophia Ignatidou.

The seminar provided three, panel discussions dealing with separate sectors that struggle with disinformation - government, private, and community levels. Each of these panels were then followed by breakout sessions where we were able to work in groups. With the help of moderators, we could engage with the topics on hand, which ensured the even spread of the information. The panels functioned as a microcosm of what effective dissemination of knowledge looks like on a smaller scale. We were able to share our personal areas of expertise, to network with our fellow participants, and begin to think critically about the problems at hand and formulate best practices moving forward.

By the end of the seminar, we had gained fresh confidence by interacting with such a bright young group of experts and future leaders. The positive experience exchanging ideas and tactics was incredibly empowering. Michaela, a current Fulbright scholar, teaching on the Canary Islands, described my feelings best - we came into Seminar with a much more pessimistic perspective on the state of communication and the public discourse, but after this seminar and the conversations we had with other participants, we leave with more hope and encouragement. There are many steps we can take as individuals and the seminar had laid the foundation for group organization to confront disinformation. For this once in a lifetime experience, I want to express my gratitude to the organizers of the seminar, and to the OCEANS Network for my nomination.

[Have questions, comments, or suggestions? Contact the OCEANS Network board at \[board@oceans-network.eu\]\(mailto:board@oceans-network.eu\)](#)



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