



# Impact Report

2020 - 2022



SET  
| PADOVA

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# Message from the Director



On behalf of the Board of Directors, team members and volunteers, I would like to extend our gratitude to all the partners and supporters that have enabled us to promote human rights in Padua. The Student Engagement Team came at a time of uncertainty and disillusionment, at the beginning of a pandemic that affected our student experience at the University of Padua. We could have sat back in despair, awaiting a saving grace, but thirteen students from the MA Human Rights and Multi-level Governance program chose to come together, to collaborate with the faculty, and to create a supportive space for our peers. I am sorely honoured to have led such a group of dedicated youth who have embodied the spirit of human rights.

Thank you all for trusting my vision over the past two years. I look forward to leading our new team through upcoming challenges and creating treasured memories along the way.

Special thanks to Beatrice Bosco, Guilia Rosina, Susanna Ajazi and Alex Frattin who were part of management and nurtured numerous partnerships with AIESEC in Padova, Arqus University Alliance, Enactus UniUD, Amnesty Padova, Amici dei Popoli, Centro Diritti Umani "Antonio Papisca", and L'osteria Volante, La Bottega dei Ragazzi, Matteo Baruzzo, Alessandra Forti, L'istituto Superiore Aldini Valeriani.

Special thanks to Professors Paolo De Stefani, Sara Pennicino, Alberto Lanzavecchia and Pietro De Perini for their continuing support of our work.

Special thanks to alumni and friends Vera V. Moll, Maria Schiavo, Elifcan Ozbek, Laura D.Reyes, Anthony Chima, Alina Cebotari, Alejandro Ramirez, Adrien Bourgeois, Félix Combreau, Erika Oliva and Alex Osinsky for sharing their knowledge and tips with students.

Dott.ssa Christine D. Nanteza  
Co-founder & Managing Director  
SET Padova, 2020-2022

# Executive Summary

The following report presents SET Padova's 2020-2022 evaluation. The evaluation highlights the essential role volunteers played in organising activities to engage students in meaningful discussion about human rights, providing opportunities for applying the knowledge acquired in the classroom, and connecting with the greater Padua community. The report outlines lessons learnt about the nature of student engagement and satisfaction at the University of Padua, and makes recommendations for best practices in this area.

Evaluation measures focused on peer outreach, community partnerships, and organisational reflections with three primary evaluation objectives: 1. To gauge the extent of student need for professional development support; 2. To identify pathways for collaboration with local and international organisations beyond the university system; 3. To identify challenges and opportunities for internal strengthening, growth and organizational development of leadership, mentorship, and professional development. To meet these objectives, the 2020-2022 evaluation used a mixed methods approach to capture various perspectives of the impact and efficacy of SET Padova on the UniPD student body. This included outreach statistics, surveys, and interviews.

This report outlines three themes regarding the current organisational operations of SET Padova. These include: 1. Management and Support (insights into the growth of the organisation and its impact on internal capacities for members and peer support); 2. Processes and Resources (insights into the expansion of processes and an overview of current resources for SET Padova provincially); 3. Engagement (insights regarding engagement of students and local communities, including partner organisations and the public). With the goal to inform ongoing and future strategic decision making, the report concludes with a tiered approach to recommendations, including immediate (actionable within a short time), medium (requiring more planning and time to implement), and long term (more strategic/future oriented) recommendations.

# Student engagement during Covid 19

The Covid 19 pandemic placed undue pressure on Italian society including the university system in Padua. Almost overnight, the entire university system had to adapt to virtual demands, while still delivering quality education for tens of thousands of students. For students enrolled in the MA Human Rights and Multi-level Governance program, the confusion and uncertainty surrounding our university experience began around March 2020 and only cleared up in 2022.

In response to the unprecedented changes, thirteen students enrolled in the program banded together to form a support group that facilitated communication between professors and students to improve responses to students' needs. We distributed via email, a needs assessment survey titled "Satisfaction of HRG Students" which solicited responses from 53 enrolled students between September and October 2020. The survey revealed that 49% of respondents had issues with the bureaucracy and lack of access to information; 45% of respondents had issues finding internships; and 28% of respondents had issues with the content of the program. Other issues included a shortage of networking and socialising opportunities, difficulty finding long term accommodation, a lack of adequate university support and the language barrier for non-Italian speakers.

With 300 euro in private donations, we managed to host a soft launch events in October 2020, marking the only face-to-face meeting that could be organised for a very long time. The event was a success with 37 registered students in attendance. Professors and alumni who could not attend sent answers via a questionnaire conveying their experiences with and expectations for students in the program.

Our members adapted quickly to virtual communication, using apps like Google, Zoom, Whatsapp, Slack, Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and LinkedIn to reach more students with volunteer and internship opportunities, health and wellness webinars, student written blog articles, academic and professional support seminars, and awareness about global human rights.

The association grew to involve 27 volunteer members, and 50 contributors working together to ease the strain of the pandemic on students. In order to establish a more permanent presence with the community, our members voted to register The Student Engagement Team as a social promotion association in May 2021, officially completing registration in September 2021.



# Project Outcomes

## ROAD TO GRADUATION

The Road to Graduation (RtG) series was developed by the Professional Network Expansion crew (PNE) to help students better find information related to the final thesis submission. From 2020-2022, they organized 5 virtual seminars and 1 in person meeting, attended by 160 human rights students over the years. Other important events involved alumni sharing knowledge and tips for career development and life planning in the Alumni Knowledge Sharing and Getting Professional events.

Crew members: Nicolas Deveaux Mazzega, Silvana Zulmira Ferreira, Clelia Vittoria, Irina Samson, Noemi Nardi, Nicolò Farinella, Alice Menegatti  
Volunteers: Nicolò Palmieri, Christine Nanteza

## PEER SUPPORT GROUP

The Peer Support Group (PSG) was formed as a social support group for students who needed additional assistance with navigating the bureaucracy, managing academic demands and making friends. The group organized online social events around Christmas and Easter, and facilitated the study plan tutorial. Their biggest achievement was publishing the [HRG student satisfaction survey](#) that outlined the most pressing issues for enrolled students during the pandemic.

Crew members: Miranda Lio, Greta Sophie Codda, Miya Rebecca Takada  
Volunteers: Patricia Ferreiro Molina, Thi Ngoc Anh Nguyen, Maria F

I am VERY satisfied with the conference for many reasons.  
1. The opportunity to speak without pressure with our teachers. 2. The space to ask questions about our theses and brainstorm with the professionals. Thank U SET

The insights from the Alumni gave me confidence that I do not have to doubt my current actions, but also set new impulses and showed me alternative ways I hadn't thought of yet. I am thankful to be part of such a thriving human rights community and that I can count on advice or support from my peers!

# Project Outcomes

## CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

The Curriculum Enhancement Project (CEP) aimed to advocate for better teaching and diverse course content. This was accomplished by hosting monthly meetings with program professors and facilitating virtual workshops for capacity building in time management and using diversity as a strength. The crew also managed SET's blog, publishing 83 articles and 15 newsletters between 2020-2022. The blog provided a unique space for students to showcase their work and experience to their peers.

Crew members: Guilia Rosina, Christine Nanteza, Nicolò Palmieri, Noemi Nardi, Alex Frattin

Volunteers: Monique Munarini, Susanna Ajazi, Ilaria Ragni

## SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

The Social Media Expansion (PNE) helped increase SET's brand awareness and media outreach. The crew worked closely with other project members to create designs that conveyed their project messages. They regularly posted information about human rights issues like gender equality, GBV, racial discrimination and youth issues. Through their posts, stories and reels, they managed to reach over 1500 social media accounts and garner a following of nearly 1000 between the two accounts.

Crew members: Ludovica Arico, Emanuela Iulianiello, Carlotta Celle, Martina Villa, Isabella Schmitt Santos Bellezza, Eleonora Piras, Ginevra Zerbone, Christine Nanteza

As human rights defenders we must have a very good capacity to argue with determination, passion and above all with care, because we have to work in contexts of diversity and in special situations, so the conference was of great interest. It showed us how to achieve this goal.

Being able to see that I am not alone in the journey of finding the right theme for the thesis and that teachers are engaged and happily willing to help us on our way

# Project Outcomes

## YOUTH ACTION FESTIVAL

The was a bilingual event that was awarded 1650 euro in funding through the *Bando iniziative culturali e tempo libero proposte da studentesse e studenti* provided by UNIPD. The festival aimed to promote youth volunteerism as Padova was ending its term as the European Volunteering Capital. We had over 100 attendees over the course of 2 days who interacted with professors and local NGO representatives to discuss topics on waste management, international development and climate change. After the festival, we supported the spin-off, Progetto sAVE that was a result of the [2021 Arqus winter/spring school.](#)

Crew members: Christine Nanteza, Beatrice Bosco, Guilia Rosina, AlexFrattin, Silvana Zulmira Ferreira, Suzanna Ajazi, Martina Villa, Irina Samson, Alice Menegatti, Emanuela Iulianiello, Luiza Sartori Costa

## HUMANITAS PODCAST

SET was approached by Prof. Paolo De Stefani, on behalf of the Human Rights Centre to revive the podcast series that was started years prior. SET members re-branded the podcast and centred it around human rights advocates: from and to human rights advocates. The first and second seasons were entirely written and produced by HRG students. The topics covered thus far include anti-racism, art and human rights, women's rights, journalism and human rights and cyber security.

Crew members: Christine Nanteza, Beatrice Bosco, Monique Munarini, Sercan, Mahsan Afzali, Marco Aurelio, Kateřina Hlaváčková



# Project Outcomes

## SAVE PROJECT & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The sAVE Project (Progetto sAVE) is a spin-off of the 2021 Arqus winter/spring school. One of the deliverables of the report was a challenge based toolkit geared towards teaching high school students about the threat of climate change. The crew submitted a proposal for funding to Banca Etica's Produzione del Basso and we selected amongst hundreds of applicants to organize a crowdfunding campaign. The campaign raised over 1300 euro between December and February and garnered support from community members, professors and organizations in Padova and Venice. The toolkit was then adapted to deliver civic engagement workshops in high schools. The first of which took place in May 2022 in Bologna.

Crew members: Guilia Rosina, Christine Nanteza, Francesca Furlan, Martina Villa, Alice Menegatti, Monique Munarini, Eleonora Piras, Ginevra Zerbone

## HUMAN RIGHTS CAFÉ

This initiative was proposed by a bachelor's degree student that attended the Youth Action Festival the previous year. The premise of the café is to provide a safe space for students, university personnel and community members to discuss human rights topics. The initiative was awarded 600 euros through the *Bando iniziative culturali e tempo libero proposte da studentesse e studenti*. This has been one of the most successful SET projects thus far, attracting 120 attendees and numerous requests for partnership. The project has been submitted for the 2023 EU Youth event as an activity to engage attendees in civic education.

Crew members: Alessia Ruta, Chrisitne Nanteza, Emma Thomassine, Agata Rencova, Kateřina Hlaváčková  
Volunteers: Ella Petousis, Beatrice Bosco

Il lavoro a gruppo è stato molto utile e divertente a parer mio, col mio gruppo abbiamo parlato di molte cose legate al futuro e a come potremmo essere dei veri change maker

# The future of SET

SET Padova has been very successful as a volunteer run organization garnering support from the university community and community members. Over the years, we have partnered with Libreria Mazehaul as a venue whose support for our work has been tremendous in our growth.

Moving forward, we want to continue building partnerships with schools and businesses to promote internationalisation and civic engagement. As the [2024 EU parliamentary elections](#) approach, it is essential that young people remain informed about their impact on results, and that they feel empowered to participate in election activities. To achieve this objective, we shall focus on three core projects. These are:

- Human Rights Café
- Civic Engagement Workshops
- Humanitas Podcasts

Each project will be developed based on our core areas of action and our methodology. The projects will be peer-led and peer-centred to ensure that they conducted to benefit youth and students. An essential aspect of sustainability is personnel management. This requires a consistent leader, a tremendous dedication of time, and financial resources. These three requirements work in tandem to support our members, interns and volunteers. We shall develop strategies to elect a Board of Directors that can support the strengthening of these requirements. We shall research funding and donation opportunities that align with our areas of focus. We shall partner and collaborate with organisations that share our values and promote youth empowerment. We shall train our members to educate the community about our work, and provide solutions for community building. We shall accomplish these goals between 2023-2024 and develop a best practices handbook for new chapters of the association at other universities.

READY  
SET  
GO