NeurotechEU
The European University
of Brain and Technology

Student Engagement NeurotechEU

Andra van der Burg
Denise Monkau
03.04.2025

NeurotechEU
The European University
of Brain and Technology

Agenda

1. Integration of students in the alliance structure
2. The Student Council
    a. Structure
    b. Responsibilities
3. Synapses
4. Outcomes and advantages for the students
5. Outcomes and advantages for the alliance

NeurotechEU

Menti - meter

How would you describe student engagement within your alliance?

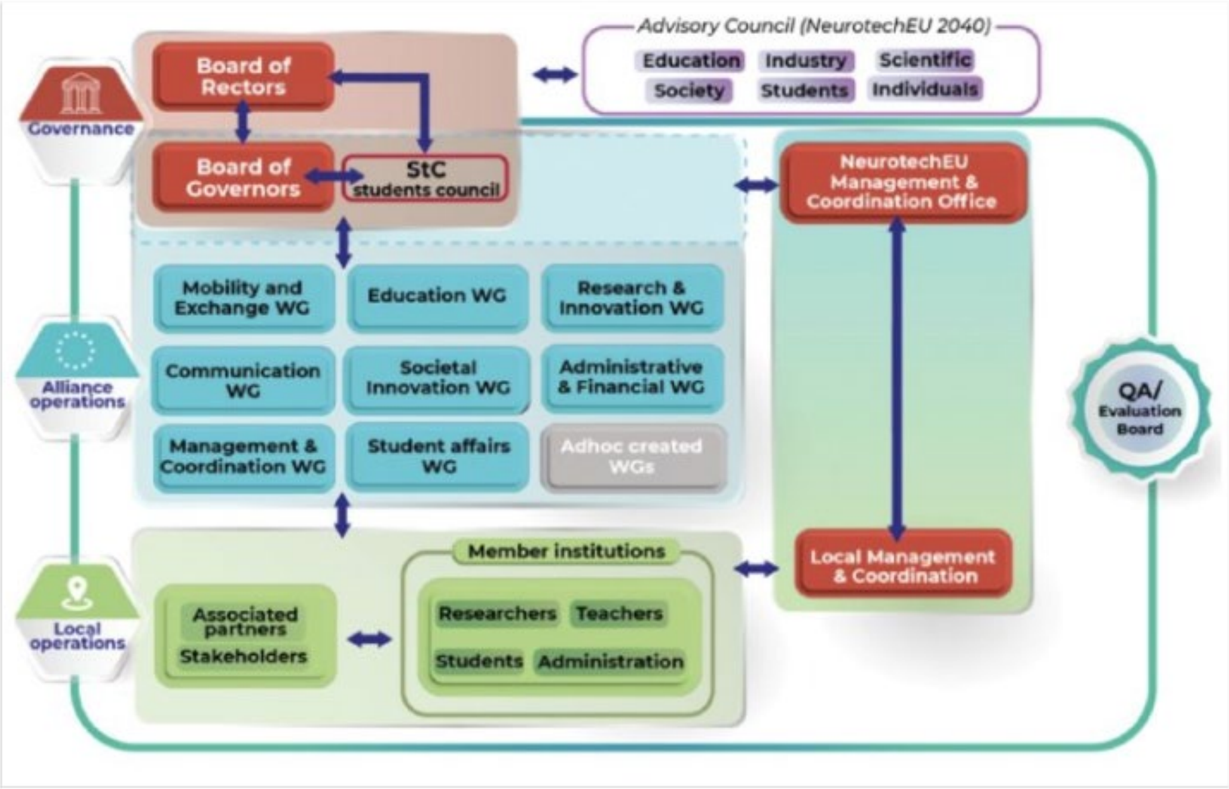
Choose one of the following and explain with 1 sentence:

1. Very good
2. Good
3. Could be better
4. Needs improvement
5. Needs a lot of improvement

https://www.menti.com/al4k1ccnt43r

1. Integration of students in the alliance structure

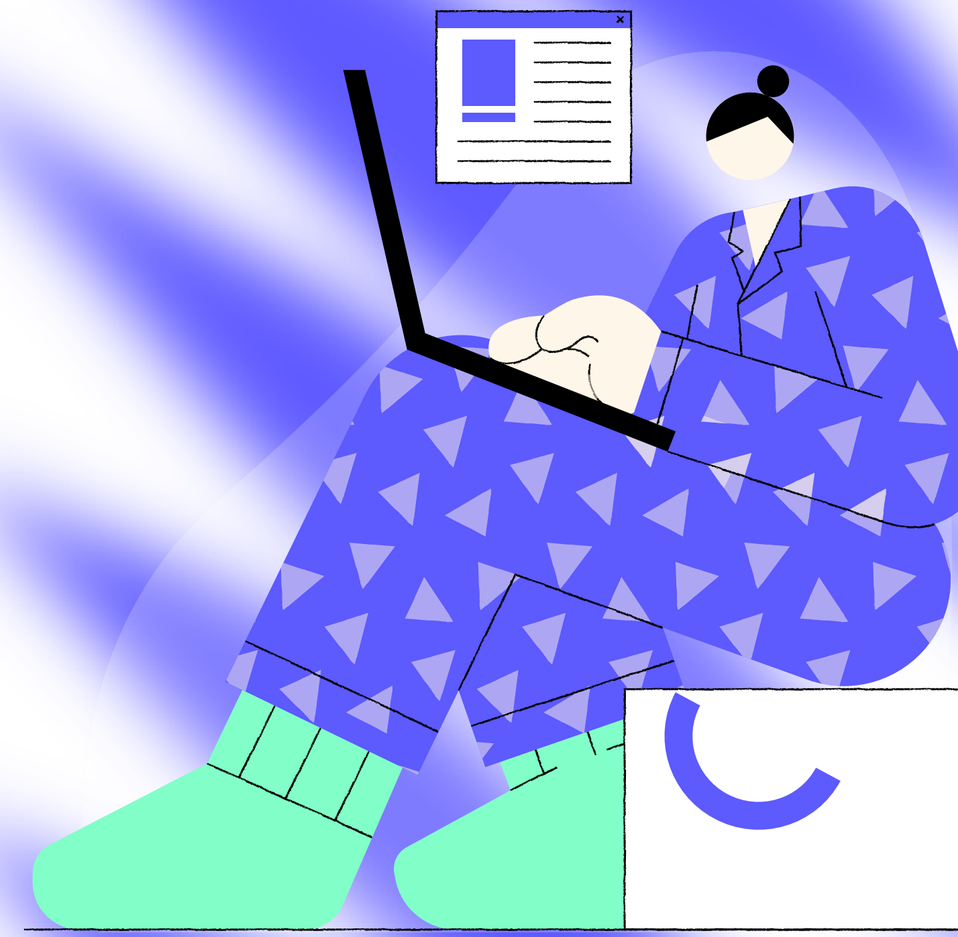
- Students are involved in all Work Packages
- Students have a vote in the Board of Governors
- Students are part of the Advisory Council



2. The Student Council
What is the student council?

The structure

- **StC: Three students from each partner**
  - Bachelor, Master or PhD
  - **Managers**
    - Communication Manager (1)
    - Synapse Manager (1)
  - **Steering**
    - Secretary (2)
    - Chairs (2)



Steering Elections

- **Structure**
  - Open to all StC representatives
  - Positions
    - Managers
    - Secretaries
    - Chairs
  - Procedure
    - Information
    - Application form
      - Made public before the meeting
    - Anonymous vote during a meeting
      - All universities must be present

Onboarding

- **Onboarding StC**
  - Student Council **representatives** and **Project Office** select and inform new representative
    - Explain NeurotechEU informally
  - First StC General Meeting
    - Plan **onboarding session** with the secretary (or chair)
      - Introduction
      - Work packages
      - Workgroup

NeurotechEU
The European University of Brain and Technology

Student Council

Welcome Sheet for new Members!

Welcome to our enthusiastic team of student representatives!

Follow the next 3 easy steps to get started in the Neurotech^{EU} Student Council (NtSC). We are looking forward to working with you!

1 Access to our Wiki, Google Drive, WhatsApp and Slack Channels

In order to access our NtSc Wiki, Google Drive, and be added to all our communication channels you need to write an email to neurotecheu.student.council@gmail.com

2 Choose your Working Group

Decide which working group (WG) you want to join. Contact you favorite group to get involved and receive updates on their ongoing work. You can choose from:

WG Communications / StC Communication
The Communications group is responsible for exchanges of information and public relations work.

WG Synapses / Synapse Managers
The Synapses group (aka Student Club) is responsible for organizing seminar series and social events at alternating alliances members for all to attend.

3 Choose your Work Package

Limited positions are available within each Neurotech^{EU} Work Package (WP) for the NtSc. This is our connection to all Alliance Partners and how our voices can be heard within Neurotech^{EU}. Contact the steering group to get involved and receive updates on their ongoing work.

Phase II Work Packages:

Board of Governors

WP1 – General Management and Coordination

WP2 – Interdisciplinary knowledge creation

WP3 – Empowering Learners and Staff

WP4 – Common policies and strategy

WP5 – Impact and dissemination

Important information

Neurotech^{EU} Mission

Build a trans-European network of excellence in brain research and technologies to increase the competitiveness of European education, research, economy and society

Contacts

Steering group (spokespersons, secretaries)
neurotecheu.student.council@gmail.com

@NeurotechEU

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

2. The Student Council
Why do we have a student council?

Student involvement

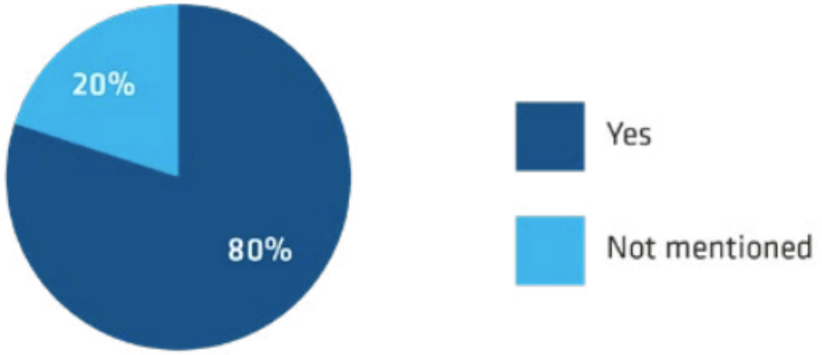


Figure 4 *Student involvement in the alliance governance structure (n=20)*

As stated in the requirements of the two European Commission calls, student involvement in all levels of governance is highly valued.[16] Most of the alliances in the sample (16/20) report student involvement in their strategic governance, while four did not provide any information.[17]

The form of involvement ranges from observation of strategic governing body meetings to participation in the decision-making bodies and/or involvement in the implementation of the work packages. In most cases, a specific student body ("Student Board/Council") has been set up to include student representatives from each member institution. They often, although not always, take part in the Steering Committee. In some alliances (such as YUFE and EUTOPIA), student involvement is deeply embedded in the governance structure, and elected student representatives also take part in the highest decision-making body. In these cases, students help steer the project, together with the executive leadership and operational management teams.

The governance models of the European University Alliances Evolving models of university governance, Thomas Estermann, Enora Bennetot Pruvot and Hristiyana Stoyanova, March 2021, European University Association

The Student Council responsibilities

NTEU Student Council – Constitution 07.08.2023

01

REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF ALL STUDENTS ENROLLED AT THE NEUROTECHEU ALLIANCE MEMBERS AND **ENSURE EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES.**

02

FACILITATE EXCHANGES OF **KNOWLEDGE** AND **EXPERIENCES** BETWEEN STUDENTS WITHIN ACADEMIA, INDUSTRY AND SOCIETY.

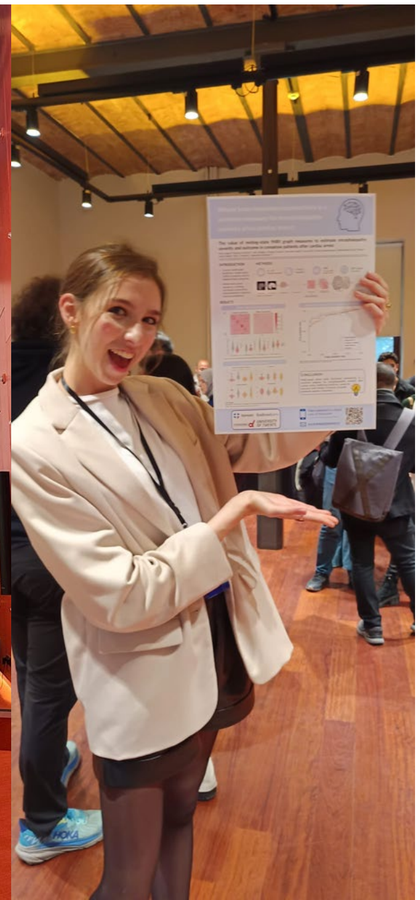
03

ASSIST WITH **SKILL TRANSFER** THAT **ENABLES OPEN DISCUSSION** AND **COLLABORATION.**

04

SUPPORT THE **WP'S** AND THE **BOG IN REPRESENTING** THE **INTERESTS OF STUDENTS.**

Expectations and Accountability

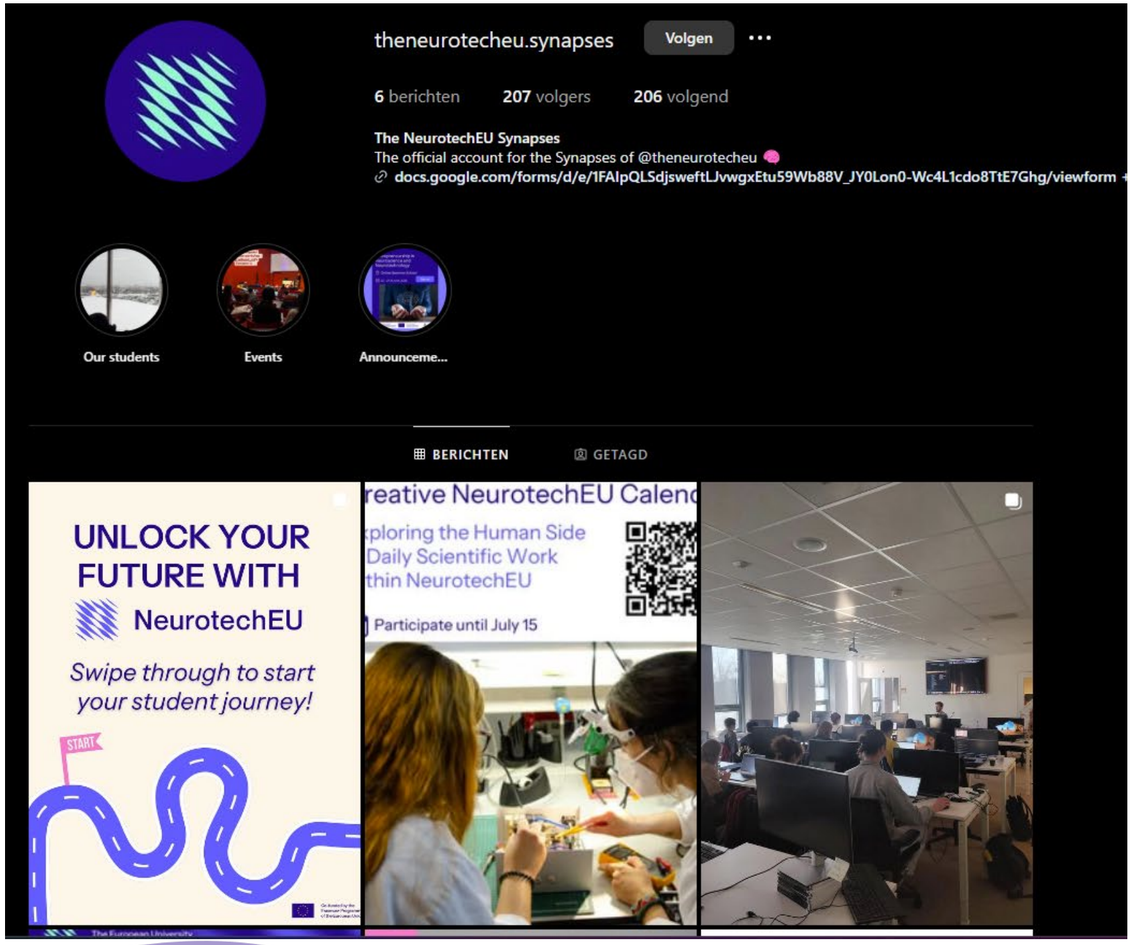


Expectations

- Coordinate and control Synapse events
  - University or Study association events
  - Collaboration over competition
- Students being involved in the work packages
  - Meetings on- and offline
  - Work groups
    - Deliverables
- Communicate with and enthuse local students

Expectations

- Other kinds of events
  - University events
  - Alliance events
  - Study association events
- Collaborate not compete
  - Radboud University examples:
    - Dondrite (CNS): Synapsium
    - CNS Journal: Student Led Journal
    - Young Neuromorphs: Neuromorphic Workshops
    - …



Accountability

- Synapse events :
  - Shared calendar
  - Synapse Manager
  - Synapse NTEU Social Media
- Involvement in the WP's:
  - Reports in monthly meetings by students
- Communicate with and enthuse local students:
  - Word of mouth
  - Group chats
  - Presentation

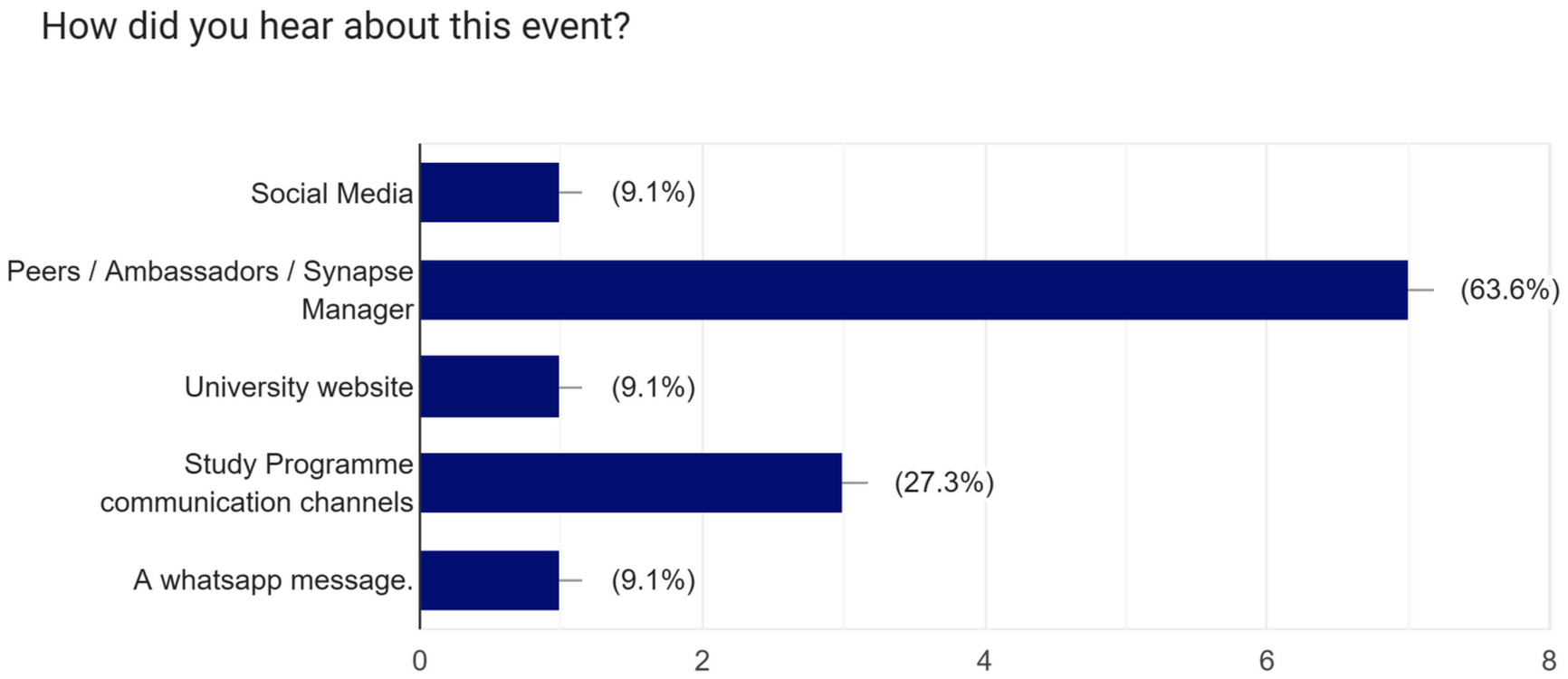
3. Synapses
Engaging students locally

- **Synapse:**
  - Student council members
  - Ambassadors/Synapse Managers
  - Bachelor, Master or PhD students from any discipline

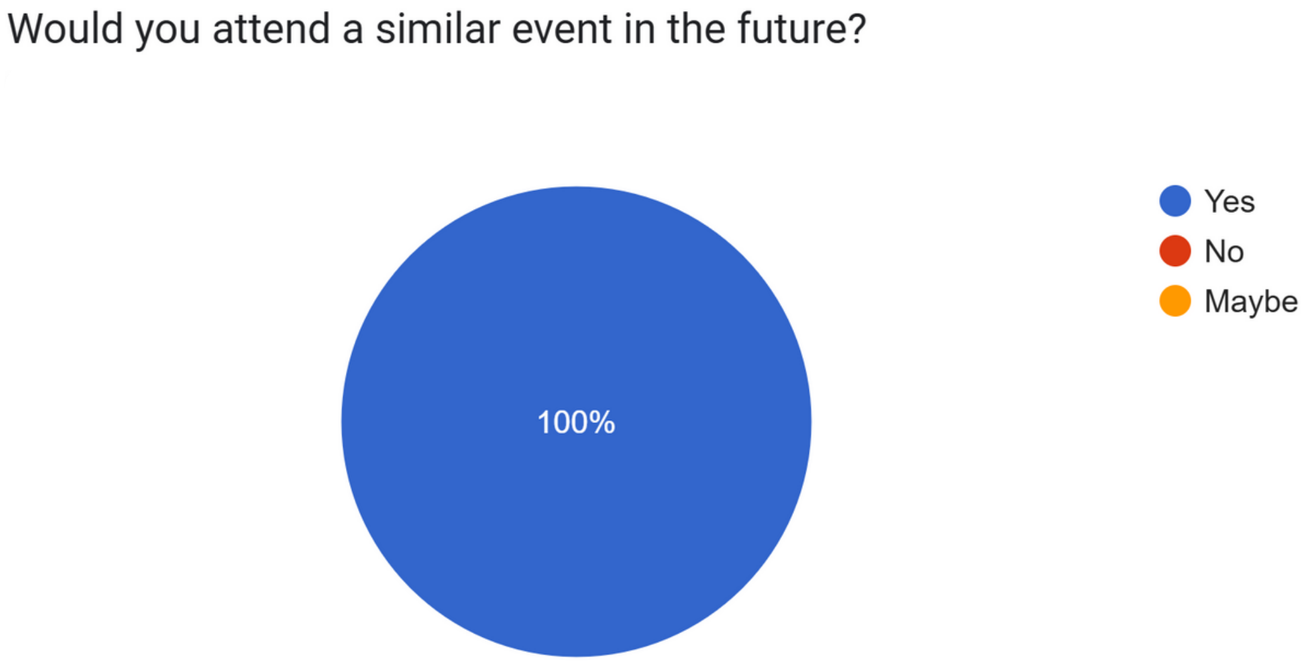
Onboarding

- **Onboarding Ambassadors**
  - **Locally elected** (within **Synapses**)
  - Added to **Global** Ambassador **group**
  - Plan **onboarding session** with the secretary (or chair)

3. Synapses
Engaging students locally (2023 - 2025 local events)



3. Synapses
Engaging students locally (2023 -2025 local events)



4. Outcomes and advantages for the students

- Student mobility
- Knowledge exchange
- Interdisciplinary interactions and experiences

5. Outcomes and advantages for the alliance

- **Fresh Perspectives**
  - Student input in the project output, such as deliverables, tasks and milestones
  - Feedback and input on events from the alliance
- **Diverse contributions**
  - All study levels
  - Diverse backgrounds and experiences
- **Increased Awareness**
  - Reaching the (local) student community à increasing mobilities and student engagement
  - Fostering a sense of community in the younger generations
- **Collaboration Opportunities**
  - Access to academic resources and networks
- **Future Leaders**
  - Advance the goals and mission of the alliance

NeurotechEU

Menti - meter

Do you have any suggestions for NeurotechEU to improve student engagement?

https://www.menti.com/al4k1ccnt43r

Thank you

NeurotechEU

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

NeurotechEU

Discussion

- How can students reinforce the goals of collaboration and why?
- Why is student involvement so important?