

1 Studystore

2 Dear General Members' Assembly,

3 With this piece, the XVIth board of SPiN would like to provide an update on the ongoing situation with
4 StudyStore. In the current academic year, the case of StudyStore, who owe the association money from
5 the previous booksale collaboration, was still ongoing. Due to long waiting periods concerning
6 communication, assessing the situation and finding possible solutions proved to be challenging.
7 Following will be a summary of the steps taken and updates received throughout the past months.

8 On the 4th of October 2023, StudyStore informed the XVIth board that they set up a specific contact
9 person for the settlement of the situation. Hoping that it would accelerate the communication, mails
10 were consequently sent to this contact person. However, issues arose as emails with the contact person
11 from StudyStore were not forwarded properly by them internally. This caused further delays in
12 communication.

13 At the end of October, the board received information from the contact person that there was an audit
14 investigation into StudyStore from the tax authorities. Furthermore, the XVIth board of SPiN was asked to
15 provide information about the association's VAT. As a non-profit, SPiN could not provide such a number.
16 In the middle of December, after not hearing from StudyStore in a while, an email was sent by the
17 regular StudyStore email account with the same content and questions. It appeared that the board's
18 answer had not been forwarded internally within StudyStore. A new email was sent, repeating the
19 previously shared answers they requested.

20 Eventually, after further investigations by the company, they sent an update on the 11th of January 2024
21 which consisted of a deal they were offering. This deal entailed the total owed money, subtracted by tax
22 money that they paid SPiN too much in the years 2018 to 2023, and then 50% of this final amount.

23 In response to this, the XVIth board of SPiN started their own investigation to investigate the legalities
24 and details of this tax-related money. These steps consisted of online research, a consultation with other
25 study associations that were also still dealing with StudyStore, and a visit to the Rechtswinkel (legal shop)
26 after which a referral to a lawyer was received. This meeting with the lawyer was held early February
27 and gave insights into several possible legal steps, risks, and outcomes. It became clear and was
28 recommended to the XVIth board that the best approach was to double-check the finances to see
29 whether these were correct and whether a better deal could be made. The current board was further
30 informed that there is a statute of limitations (verjaring) applicable. This means that legally, StudyStore
31 could only rightfully request the repayment of the tax money from the previous five years to the exact
32 date. As they had sent the email containing financial information on the 11th of January 2024, they could
33 legally only request money back until the 11th of January 2019. This would exclude any financials from
34 2018. However, these were still included in their deal and deducted from the money they stated that
35 they owed. Legally, the XVIth board of SPiN was thus entitled to request these to be removed from the
36 deal.

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After internal discussions on whether to accept the current deal or request a new one without 2018 in it, it was decided to aim for the latter and try to make a better deal. An email was sent to StudyStore on the 8th of February 2024, proposing this and indicating that legal advice was taken that informed the board of their rights.

On the 13th of February 2024, StudyStore replied to the proposal and stated that their legal counsel informed them that the information provided by the XVIth board was correct. Therefore, the proposed deal was accepted by them. In the end, this meant that the XVIth board of SPiN would receive 2.449,10€ instead of the 2.197,14€ that StudyStore had originally offered. StudyStore has received an invoice and has paid the agreed-on money.

While this is not the entire amount that was owed (€7704,47), the XVIth board of SPiN is happy to put an end to this case and thanks everyone who has helped with the investigation and advice about this situation during the previous year.

The XVIth board hopes to have properly informed you about the financial dealings with the previous book provider StudyStore. In case there are further questions, the XVIth board will gladly receive them at the General Members' Assembly. Questions may also be sent to secretary@spin-nijmegen.com before the 12th of March 2024 11:59 PM, these will then be addressed at the GMA.

Yours faithfully,

The XVIth board of Study association Psychology in Nijmegen