

Increasing Awareness of Internationalization among Student Parliament Members



LASSE BERNTZEN
ANSGAR ØDEGÅRD
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF SOUTHEAST
NORWAY

Background



- PKO: Practical Communication and Organization
- A 15 ETCS module for high-level student representatives (student parliament/student union).
- Lectures and project assignment

Lectures



- Organizational theory
- Project planning and execution
- Internationalization
- How to influence decisions

Project assignment



- An opportunity for students to work on issues that is important for, and related to their positions in the student democracy.

Mergers



We have been through two recent mergers

- Vestfold University College
- Buskerud and Vestfold University College
- University College of Southeast Norway

Students had different ways of organizing themselves.

How to organize for a new reality?

From passive to active



- Students are concerned about the lack of participation among co-students
- How to increase the participation?
- Improving introduction week

Internationalization



- Internationalization is of strategic importance for the university
- One of the indicators used by the Ministry of Education to assess universities

Internationalization



- We have room for improvements
- Challenge: Erasmus
 - Students go elsewhere (exotic locations)
- PPI: Preapproved tailored semesters
- PPI: Better information

PKO



- Internationalization is a good topic, since students have opinions, but also ideas
- Topics discussed:
 - Incoming students
 - Outgoing students
 - Internationalization @ home

Study trip



- We have for the last five years (except for one year) included a study trip.
 - Manchester/Liverpool, United Kingdom
 - Crakow, Poland

Study trip



- Visiting university/universities
- Meeting exchange students (But also local students)
 - Erasmus Student Network
 - Student union
- Meeting Norwegian students abroad
 - Association of Norwegian Students Abroad

Study trip



- Valuable for students – they get new perspectives on internationalization
- But also very important: The students get to know each other in a totally different way.