

Norway talks

Time-Plan

- Main work in June, maybe July if needed.
- Material ready to distribute to local branches latest the 25th of august.
- Distribution of the material, Briefing to the local branches on the content, plan and campaign week during the kick off camp in September. If no kick off camp it will be a separate event in Oslo and the local branches will receive the material by post.
- Make a campaign week – set dates after the kickoff event i set.
- Report to LNU latest the first week of October with the National Secretary.

Tasks:

- Stig, Rikke and Daniel - External help to make the design of the campaign and order of t-shirts, posters, flyers, business cards.
- Isac - to create a fan on the ISU page about Norway talks and inclusion.
- Rikke - Make a facebook page for the project.
- EB, NB, Silje and Rikke: Distribute the material to local branches.
- EB: Presentations and carry through the kickoff event.
- Silje and Rikke: Write report to LNU.

Budget

Income:

- 160.000 kr from LNU Frifond, kultur.

Costs:

- 120.000 kr to making of material – external help.
- 7.500 kr for project coordinator in ISU Norway.
- 20.000 kr for kickoff event.
- 12.500 kr for other administrative cost – f.eks. if we have to send the material by post and the accounting.

Inclusion

I have made a little brainstorm of all we know in ISU about inclusion. Its not sure that at all the we will use it all – but it makes a good understanding of the content.

”So what is inclusion? Inclusion is recognizing our universal "oneness" and interdependence. Inclusion is recognizing that we are "one" even though we are not the "same".

Inclusion is the opposite of exclusion. There are 2 definitions:

1. Exclusion is when a group of people in a situation put up a barrier for a person to participate.
2. A person feels that there is a barrier for them to participate.

To work for good inclusion of international students means to break down barriers that prevent international students from participation in academia and social life. Norwegian and international students should be inspired to make active steps to include and invite each other openly and also be aware of how to make sure they feel included and invite themselves.

Why inclusion

The lack of good inclusion can be a barrier for quality of education and international students' contribution in classes.

ISUs resolution of quality in education:

ISU Norway believes that quality in education is defined by which degree higher educational institutions ensure that all aspects of education add to the learning dividends and goals for the education.

Internationalization in education is to increase cooperation of education across borders.

Norway is a small country with a small population in an increasingly globalised world. It is important for Norway to remain internationally competitive and to do so ISU Norway believes it is important that future work force has understanding for cultural differences in work situations, good abilities to speak English and different perspectives and approaches to people, organizations and systems. Through internationalization in higher education, students and Norwegian society can train students in these abilities in practice.

Internationalization at home is internationalization at higher education campuses in Norway. Internationalization at home includes teachers coming from abroad to teach in Norway or international students who are in Norway to study. ISU Norway sees international students as important assets to internationalization. Only a select number of Norwegian students take the chance to go abroad and learn from internationalization. The remaining students who do not go abroad will benefit from having international students in classes. International students add diverse perspectives and gives practice in working with culture difference and English skills to the class. International students also learn the Norwegian culture, perspectives and values in work through interaction with Norwegian teachers and students.

Quality in education is defined as when the institution puts an effort into making all aspects of education to add to the learning dividends and goals for the education. International students meet more barriers. Barriers can hinder that they get the full potential in and outside of class. Some of the barriers can be economical challenges, challenges in visa application processes, cultural challenges, language barriers and loneliness. These kind of barriers can potentially block international students from living up to their full potential in being active in classes, studying, and learning in general.

Barriers

A barrier is anything that restrains and prevents progress, access and etc. from happening.

Language

International students don't speak or understand Norwegian. The language barriers become the biggest barrier in terms of inclusion. For Norwegian and international students to interact they have to find a common language often being English. International students travel to learn language and explore so they are ready to make the effort, however the local students are sticking to their known groups and cultural patterns. The aim is to inspire Norwegian students to make the effort to meet international students in a common language.

Social language barriers

- All events happening on campus – information usually happen in Norwegian unless it is aimed directly to international students. When aimed at international students, Norwegian students rarely show unless they are already a part of internationalization somehow.
- The language at the event – if it is in Norwegian there is no point for international students to be there.

- Norwegians in one end of the room, international students in the other end. Separated by language.

Possible solutions:

- How to include yourself and inspire others to speak in English – Norway talks. Not as an effort but as something fun.

Language barriers in student society and democracy

International students are resourceful students ready to learn and experience. Often they would like to participate in the democratic activities on campus among other students and contribute. There are 2 barriers:

- Call in for the meetings, agendas and event descriptions only in Norwegian.
- The understanding of the organizations: webpages, information and such all in Norwegian.
- The language at the meetings in Norwegian.

Possible solution:

- Work for translation in invitations, information and translation in to English at meetings.
- Lesson/information about what possibilities there are to volunteer at campus in the beginning of the semester.

Academic language barriers

Classes and degrees in English – little to choose from. In classes where there are international students and English students in the room there is again a separation between the 2 groups. Sometimes Norwegian students have “alternative” books translated to Norwegian and can write the exam in Norwegian. That is so Norwegian students don’t have to make the effort of inclusion. That can also have the effect that international students feels excluded from essential information and feels like they are a burden for the Norwegian students in class and the teachers.

Cultural barriers

Bureaucracy

- Difficulty with visa applications.
- Housing – cheap and priority.
- Living costs – jobs next to.

Comfort zone

There are more barriers but I think that focusing mostly on the language barriers, especially the social aspect is the aim of the project with Norway Talks.

In the last meeting we talked about that we had to show what is happening in the bubble “where the magic happens” when inclusion is happening.



Some of the ideas we had for the challenges in the campaign early on:

- Make a cultural dinner with an international/norwegian student.
- Make a selfie with an international/norwegian student.
- Give a hug to a random international/norwegian student.
- Share a beer with an international/norwegian student.

- Set a goal of attending and international/norwegian event – be aware of pushing the excluded feeling aside.
- Sit down and eat lunch in the middle of an unknown group that speaks english.

Ice Breaker

Meeting on Friday the 24th of June

Idea

The idea is to make a poster with pictures of individuals who in their native language say:

“Hello, do you want to grab a coffee?” – Under the question there will be a linguistic explanation of how to pronounce the sentence. The idea is that international students say the phrase in Norwegian and Norwegian students will have to learn the international students’ native language – the fun of learning and failing in another language, to laugh at yourself as icebreaker. Then the next step is to go and have an informal conversation over a coffee. The goal is personal meetings and events for the local branches. The challenge will be to overcome trying a new language and have fun while doing it.

Possible events for local branches– just a bit of brainstorming:

- Game nights with coffee.
- Language coffees with coffee.
- Stand stunt idea: get a couch (Finn.no or second hand) and place it at the stand with people sitting down having a coffee.
- Be creative – creativity course and fun planning the week at the kick off camp?
- Make videos of people on stand for Facebook trying out a new language.

We will have to:

- Take pictures of international students from 16 different countries. We need them to translate “Hello, do you want to grab a coffee?” to their language and tell us how to write the pronunciation. The picture session will probably be on July 11 – Rikke will make an event, Stig will take the pictures.
- Stig will make an Icebreaker logo for the poster and t-shirts. We have discussed how to get the ISU logo on the t-shirts somehow.

- We will make t-shirts in different colors with the 16 different language statements on different t-shirts. Rikke will have to make a size mix for the order: M, L and XL.
- Make fun and self-ironic videos: Norwegians trying another language and international students trying Norwegian. Also to make a funny video of the first conversation in Norwegian: hva hedder du? Jeg hedder Hvor kommer du fra ect. – Videos. Try to get Universitas and Khrono to post it together with a text peace of inclusion and Icebreaker.
- The business cards: use the individual pictures from the posters and the icebreaker logo on one side and then the idea of the game on the other side.