



Date: 4th-6th November 2016

Friday 4th November

15:00-15:30 Internationalization at UiT

- **Responsible**

Astrid Elisabeth Revhaug (International Office UiT)

- **Description**

The international office at UiT will present their inputs on quality in higher education, the importance of internationalization and at UiT, and the role of international students.

15:30-15:55 Refugees Qualifications Passport

- **Responsible**

Hanne-Gerd Nielsen (Nokut)

- **Description**

During this session, you will hear more about NOKUT's various recognition tools for refugees, as well as the NOKUT initiative for a European Qualifications Passport and other European projects¹.

¹ Nokut Refugees Qualification Passport: <http://www.nokut.no/en/Facts-and-statistics/Publications/Research-and-analyses/Foreign-education/NOKUTs-Qualifications-Passport-for-Refugees/>

15:55-16:25 Akademisk dugnad/Inclusion of refugees in academia

- **Responsible**

Anna Buverud (Office for International Relations & Research Support (Department of Academic Administration))

- **Description**

Academic Dugnad² is the collected efforts for refugees and asylum seekers of the University of Oslo and other universities and university colleges in Norway. The main focus of the dugnad has been refugees who had begun or finished their degrees before arriving in Norway, to make it easier for them to continue their studies or find relevant work. Initiatives includes internship arrangements, networking groups, language training opportunities and open lectures.

Saturday 5th November

11:00-11:30 Full degree program for students from developing countries

- **Responsible**

Daniel Hernández Iniesta (National President)

- **Description**

On ISU Norway working plan 2016-2017 is stated that the Executive Board will work to develop a full degree program for students from developing countries, that will include scholarships and/or other funding sources to support those students.

The current Executive Board has been working last months to develop several options to fulfill this requirement as follows.

- 1) Meeting with political parties and the Ministry of Education to support the full degree program for students from developing countries
- 2) Discussed with Norad the option to develop a specific program in their development projects that will include students from developing countries
- 3) Meeting with SiU (center for internationalization of education) located in Bergen to discuss other program and options to support a full degree program for students from developing countries, and also include ISU Norway inputs to Norpart program

² Akademisk Dugnad: www.uio.no/academic-dugnad

The 1st option requires a lobbying work with political parties that National President started by meeting already Hoyre 29th September (Kristin Vinje). Furthermore, National President met the Ministry of Education on 19th October and is arranging meetings with other political parties to emphasize this option. Venstre confirmed a meeting with Iselin Nybo (education leader from Venstre) on 10th November, while Arbeiderpartiet and MdG have confirmed their interest to meet with ISU Norway, and the National President is arranging meetings with them. This option requires more external support to show strength and solidarity, and NSO and other partner organizations are informed to have their political support to convince the political parties.

The 2nd option has been considered not possible in a short-term perspective (however ISU Norway has been included as Norhed stakeholder to make a change in the focus towards more student mobility and scholarship options).

The 3rd option offers an opportunity for student mobility under the program “International Credit Mobility” for students from developing countries coming to study in Norway. The funding (1.7 million euros) comes from the European Union Commission to be spend by Norway. The National President is working with SiU responsible of the program to receive an exact number of students and information to present to students. The Ministry of Education has agreed to negotiate this option with ISU Norway, and requested more information and a detailed proposal. An article to present ISU Norway opinion on the full degree program for students from developing countries and visa renewal fees removal that has been forwarded to the Norwegian political parties³.

16:30-17:45 **New Local Branches recommendation to LM1**

- **Responsible**

Alex Sigal (Union Development Officer)

- **Attachments**

Guidelines for new Local Branches

- **Background**

The Executive Board (EB) worked in a document to include the guidelines to follow when discuss new local branches, in order to ensure continuity of those prospective new local branches and not affect current local branches.

³ ISU Norway Political Cases 2016. <http://isu-norway.no/file/2014/06/ISU-Norway-cases-VISA-renewal-and-full-degree-program-October-2016.pdf>

LEADERSHIP MEETING 1 CASES DESCRIPTION

The Executive Board evaluated last two months' possible new local branches, and the ones below are those EB has been working and to discuss with NB which ones recommend to open at the Leadership Meeting in Tromsø on 4-6th November. According to ISU Norway Constitution, the Leadership Meetings and National Assembly have the authority to approve the establishment of new Local Branches.

Due to budget limitations EB consider 2 as maximum new local branches capacity to ensure an effective functioning of all Local Branches. At the EB meeting held 25th August where EB made the final allocation of Frifond to Local Branches, it was approved a startup funding for new Local Branches of 8000 NOK, divided in two Local Branches of 4000 NOK each one. Besides that, the current ISU Norway budget has allocated 10000 NOK for new local branches and regional cooperation groups. However, opening more Local Branches will create a problem on transport costs which makes not possible to open more than two Local Branches without affecting ISU finances.

The National Board met 8th of October in Oslo, decided unanimously to recommend to the Leadership Meeting open the two following Local Branches:

- 1) ISU Bø (in Telemark)
- 2) ISU Haugesund (in Haugesund)

ISU Bø (HSN, campus Bø)

- Involvement of higher education institution
- Future continuity of the LB
- Contact with Student Parliament leader
- Future relation with other student organization
- Funding sources for the new LB
- Issues or case that the new LB would like to address
- Number of international students on campus
- LB constitution should be written
- A group of engaged students to form a board
- A Facebook group should be created
- Money for an event should be provided
- There should be a local contact
- Kick – Off event

It should be noticed that the elected leader of the chapter has already attended the first national event of ISU Norway - Kick-Off. The growth and development of ISU Bø (campus (Telemark) is simply impressive. For a short while ago the local international student society has approved their local constitution and elected a full new board. Moreover, a great success in the number of participants has to be noted. We have a promising dialog with the local parliament regarding the branch development.

There were approximately 30 international students. The financial independence is not clarified however based on the experience from the other LB associated with the same SP the conditions are favourable. Moreover, the Student Parliament at their institution is supporting and helping actively to establish ISU Bø.

ISU Haugesund

ISU Haugesund (Høgskolen i Haugesund)

- Involvement of higher education institution
- Future continuity of the LB
- Contact with Student Parliament leader
- Future relation with other student organization
- Funding sources for the new LB
- Issues or case that the new LB would like to address
- Number of international students on campus
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We have established strong and promising dialog with Kajsa Ida Lovisa Nordström who is a local student consultor, besides we would like to underline support given by the local activist: Valeriia Atamaniuk who approached the local college authorities to give “the green light” for the future ISU Haugesund. They have created a Facebook page for the future board members. We're working on it to ensure that we have enough students interested for this to be viable. The new contact person Eli is in contact with Valeriia and they should have a meeting to see how they can form a board and figure out the role of the International Office should have. On 2nd November, they had a meeting with students at Haugesund and National President will have a Skype with them.

ISU Norway National Office

Daniel Hernández Iniesta (National President)

Eric Kimathi (Political Affairs Officer)

Alex Sigal (Union Development Officer)

Silje Willumsen (Organizational Consultant)

1st November 2016. Oslo (Norway)