

# Project Sauna

Blazing the icy trail

Improving the Social integration  
of international students

At  
The University of Lapland

# Format of presentation

- ◉ Who am i?
- ◉ The origin of the project
- ◉ Analysis
- ◉ Feedback
- ◉ The project itself
- ◉ Response
- ◉ The Future

# Who am I?

- Teifion Powell
  - > British citizen (Please no brexit jokes)
  - > Studying Media Education
  - > The University of Lapland
- How did I come to lead the project?

# The beginning

- Main meetings and stakeholders
  - Students
  - Teachers
  - Tuudo
  - LYY (Lapin yliopiston ylioppilaskunta)
  - ESN
  - Internationalisation office
  - Communication office

# Self analysis

## STRENGTHS

- Attractive location
- Active participation with ESN and Erasmus students
- Small University (Easier to make changes and see the impact)
- Wide variety of international lecturers

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## WEAKNESSES

- Finances
- Cross integration of international and Finnish students
- Lack of staff to focus primarily on project

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## OPPORTUNITIES

- Recent changes to International student orientation invites new steps to be taken
- Rotation of students on a regular basis allows the university to see what works and what does not
- Changing of staff at ESN and LYY allow implementation of new processes

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## THREATS

- Cultural differences
- Personal differences
- The limitations of such a project

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# Statistical analysis

	Uni Lapland	ISB %	Finland ISB %	Europe ISB %	ISB +/-	Finland ISB +/-	Europe ISB +/-	% p	ISB	Finland ISB	Europe ISB
<b>LIVING AVERAGE</b>	<b>76.1%</b>	<b>79.7%</b>	<b>79.8%</b>	<b>78.6%</b>	<b>-3.6%</b>	<b>-3.7%</b>	<b>-2.5%</b>		<b>56</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>LIVING OVERALL</b>	<b>88.7%</b>	<b>87.3%</b>	<b>89.2%</b>	<b>87.5%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>0.17</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>SOCIAL</b>											
Other friends	96.1%	88.6%	91.9%	91.6%	7.5%	4.2%	4.5%	0.00	1	1	1
Host culture	86.8%	85.5%	82.8%	84.0%	1.4%	4.0%	2.8%	0.51	36	5	9
Sport facilities	84.5%	80.7%	81.0%	79.6%	3.8%	3.5%	4.9%	0.01	22	6	10
Home friends	84.3%	84.6%	86.4%	85.6%	-0.3%	-2.2%	-1.3%	0.77	55	12	23
Social activities	77.8%	82.6%	80.3%	81.5%	-4.8%	-2.6%	-3.8%	1.00	65	11	21
Good contacts	76.5%	78.0%	73.9%	75.6%	-1.6%	2.6%	0.9%	0.88	66	6	15
Social facilities	67.0%	81.7%	79.4%	78.0%	-14.7%	-12.4%	-11.0%	0.01	116	14	30
Host friends	49.2%	72.3%	58.6%	61.7%	-23.1%	-9.4%	-12.5%	0.00	118	14	30

(I-graduate.com, 2017)

# Feedback from meetings

- “Sources of information exist like internationalist [Email list for international students] and FaceBook but they don't reach international students” - Russian student
- “You feel to be an outsider even after three years” – Spanish student
- “A sense of WE and THEM” – Spanish student
- “Social activities needs to be quite different for MA and exchange students” – German lecturer
- “Finns are hesitant to use English language – Finnish Student
- “Integration into the society without language skills” – Finnish lecturer

# The project

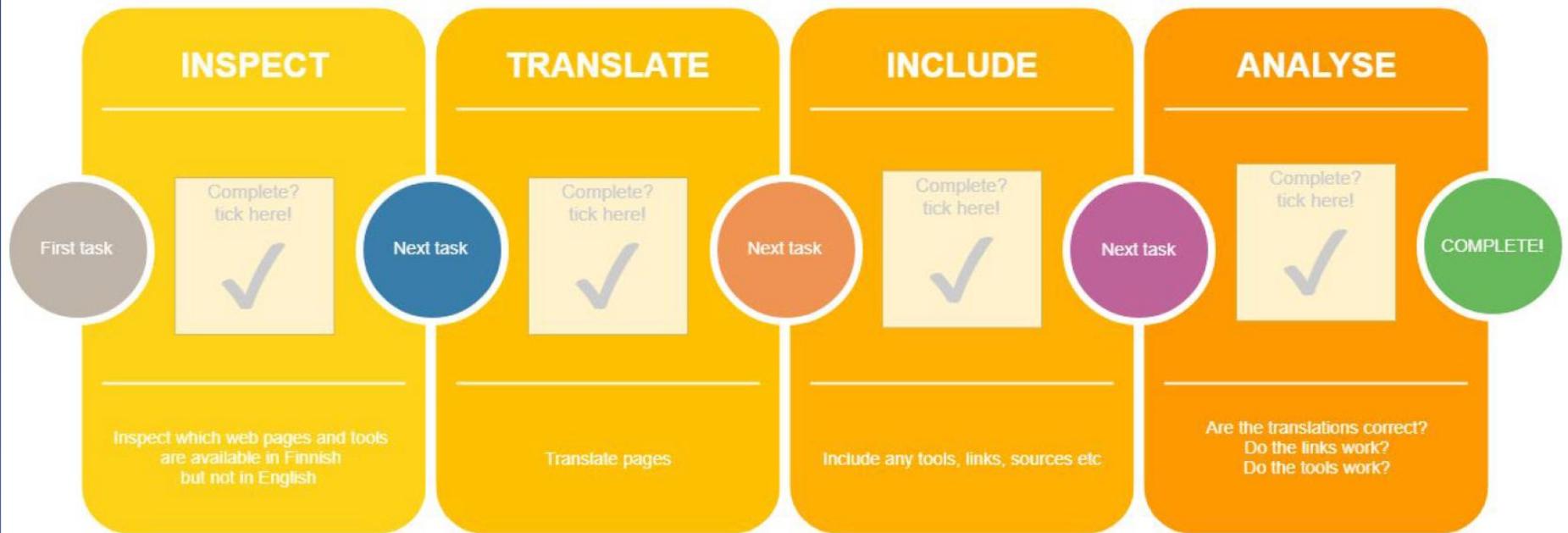
- ◉ A host of proposed steps to inspire integration and co-operation between students and sections of the university
- ◉ Clearly designated responsible persons
- ◉ Three sections: University of Lapland, LYY and Student associations

# The steps - ULapland

## Ensure same tools and information for students via main webpage

### Responsible person(s)

- Coordinator of Applicant and student services
- Advisors, Internationalisation office

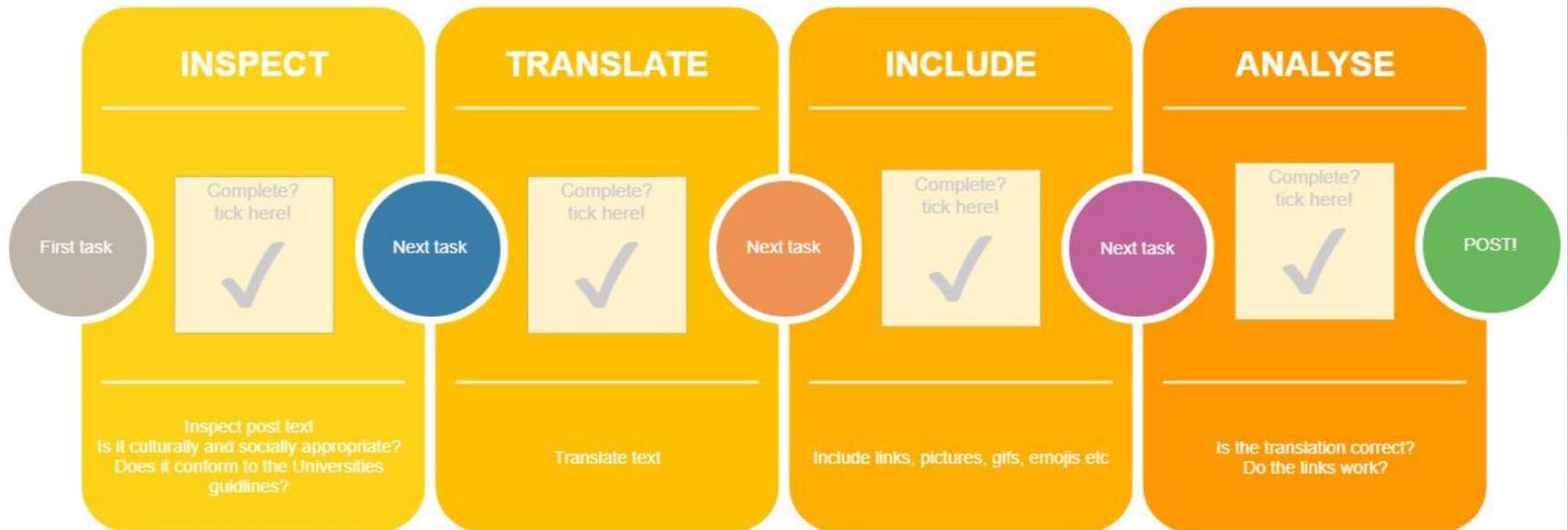


# The steps - ULapland

## Consistent translation of media

### Responsible person(s)

- Coordinator of Applicant and student services
- Director/Advisors, Internationalisation office
- Interns, Internationalisation office



# The steps - ULapland

## Appoint career counsellor for English speakers

### Responsible person(s)

- Director/Advisors, Internationalisation office

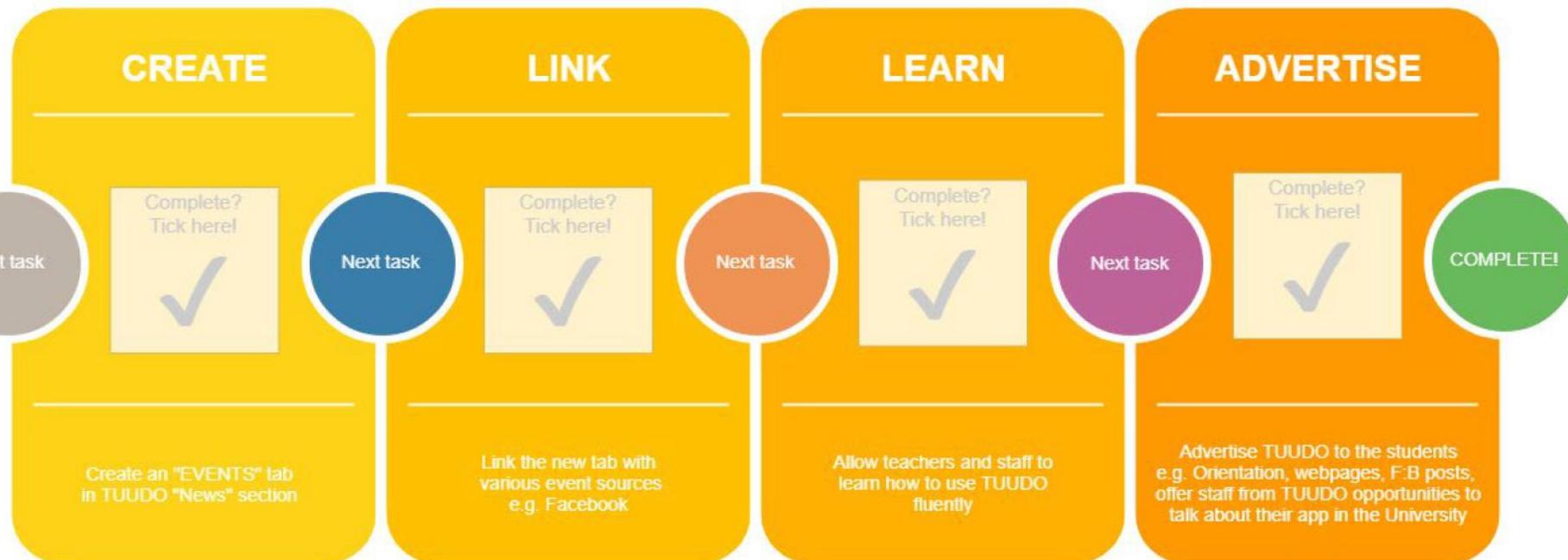


# The steps - ULapland

## Utilising TUUDO

### Responsible person(s)

- Coordinator of Applicant and student services
- Director/Advisors, Internationalisation office

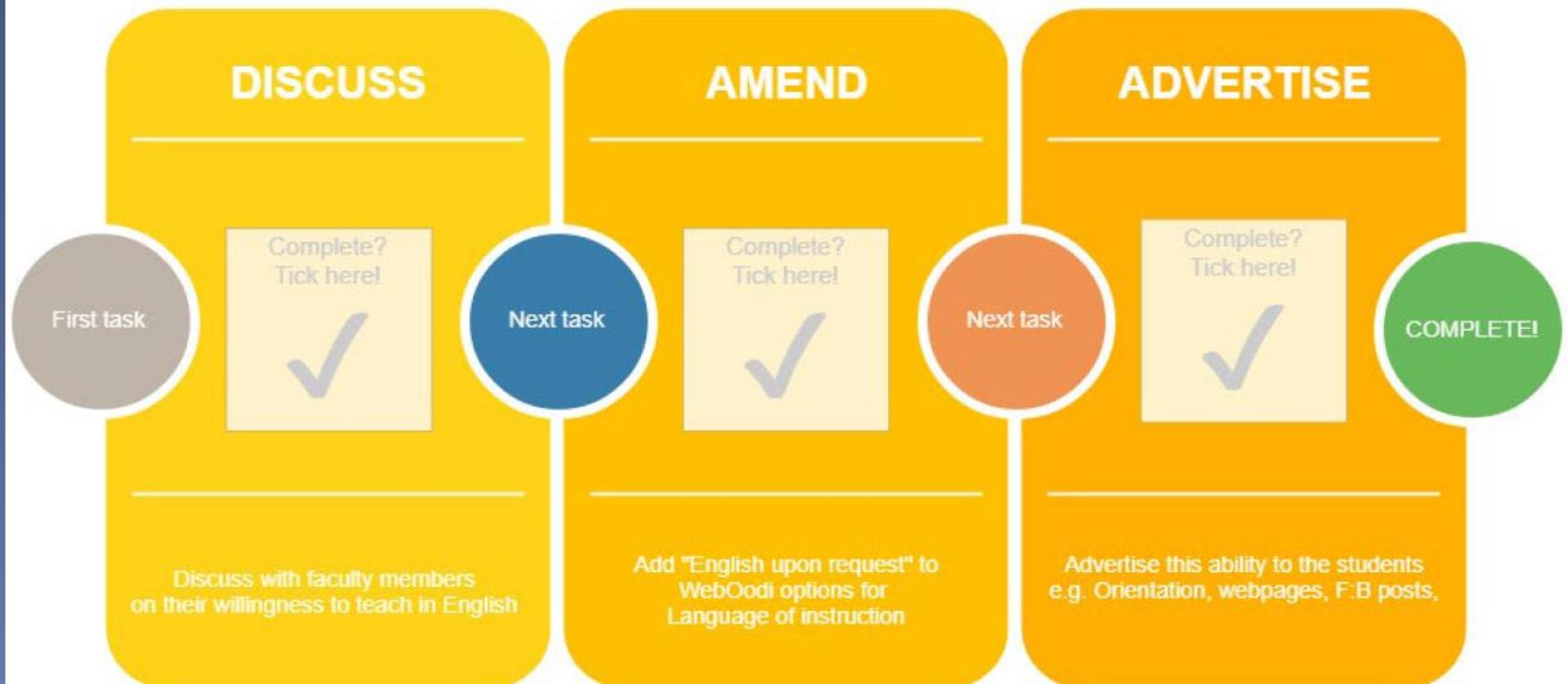


# The steps - ULapland

## Increase emphasis on ability to ask for courses in English

### Responsible person(s)

- Director, Education Services
- Director/Advisors, Internationalisation office

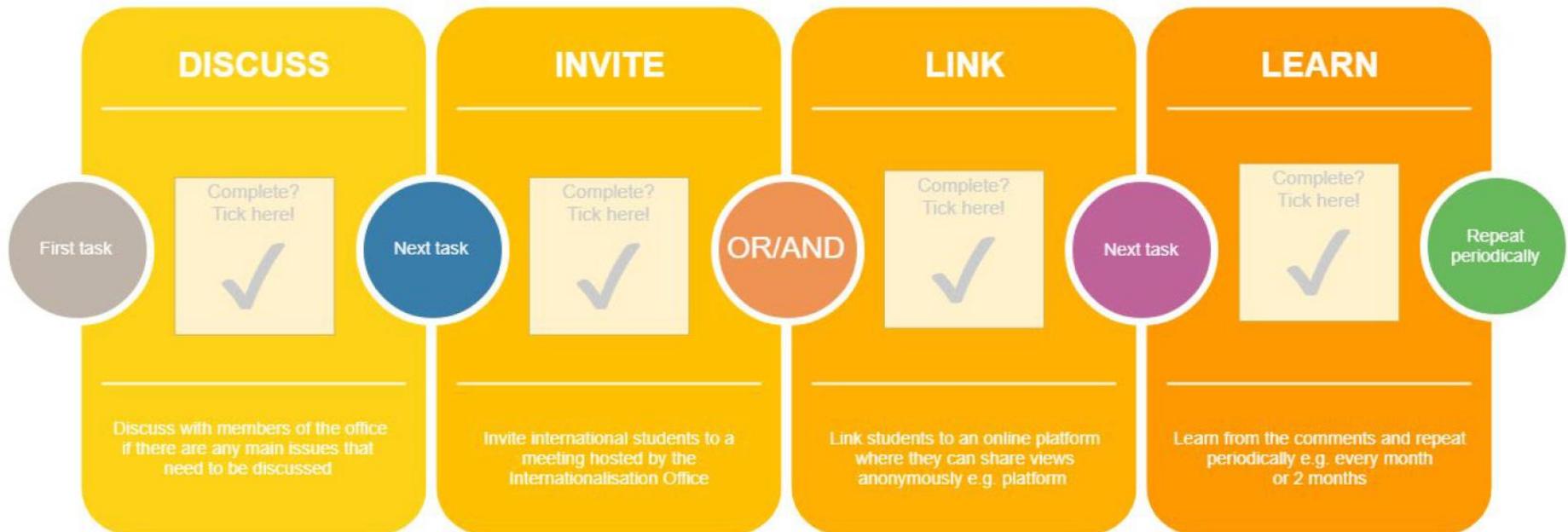


# The steps - ULapland

## Interaction with students

### Responsible person(s)

- Director/Advisors, Internationalisation office

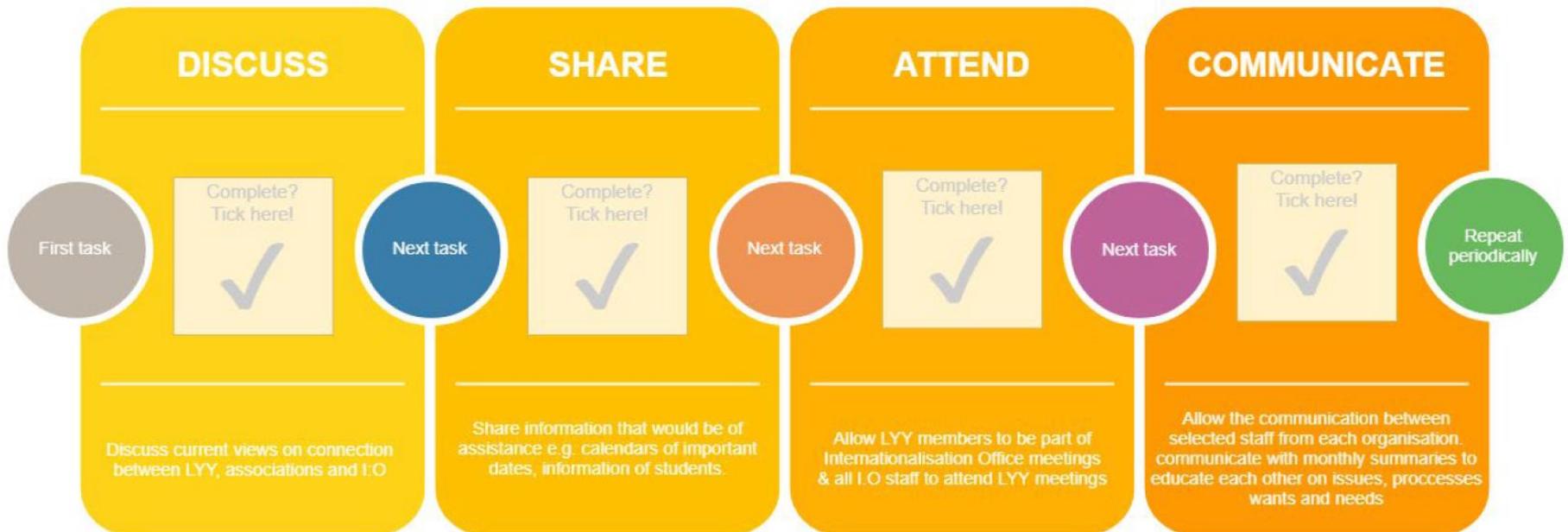


# The steps - LYY

## Greater communication with LYY and associations

### Responsible person(s)

- Director/Advisors, Internationalisation office
- Chairperson of LYY

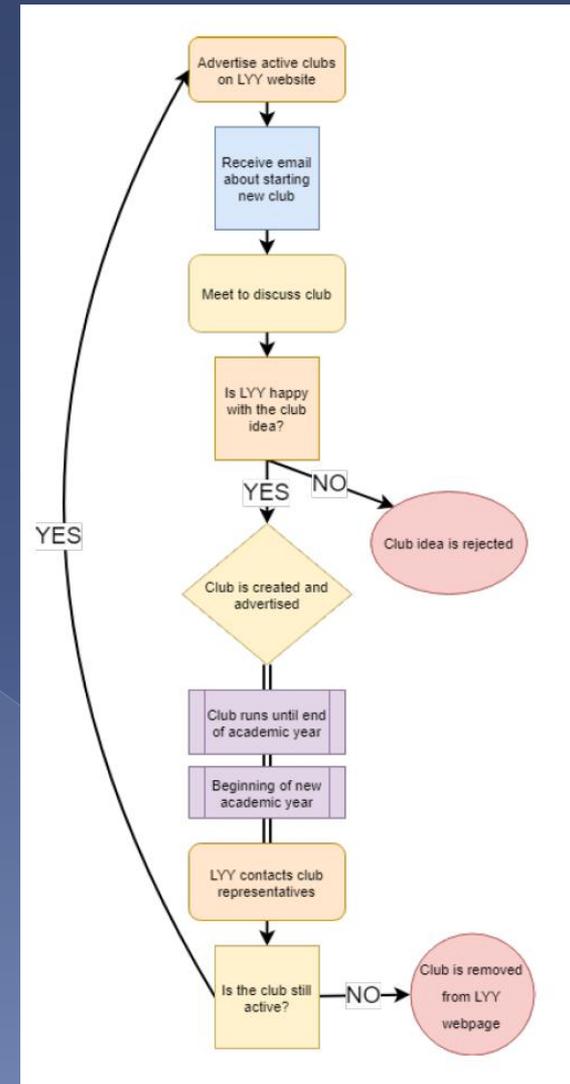


# The steps - LYY

## Implementation and advertisement of clubs

Responsible person(s)

- Chairperson of LYY
- General secretary (Pääsihteeri)
- Advocacy specialist (Edunvalvonta-asiantuntija)
- Non-governmental and communications expert (Järjestö- ja viestintäasiantuntija)
- Culture and international affairs (Kulttuuri ja kansainväliset asiat)
- Social policy, tutoring and culture (Sosiaalipolitiikka, tuutorointi ja kulttuuri)

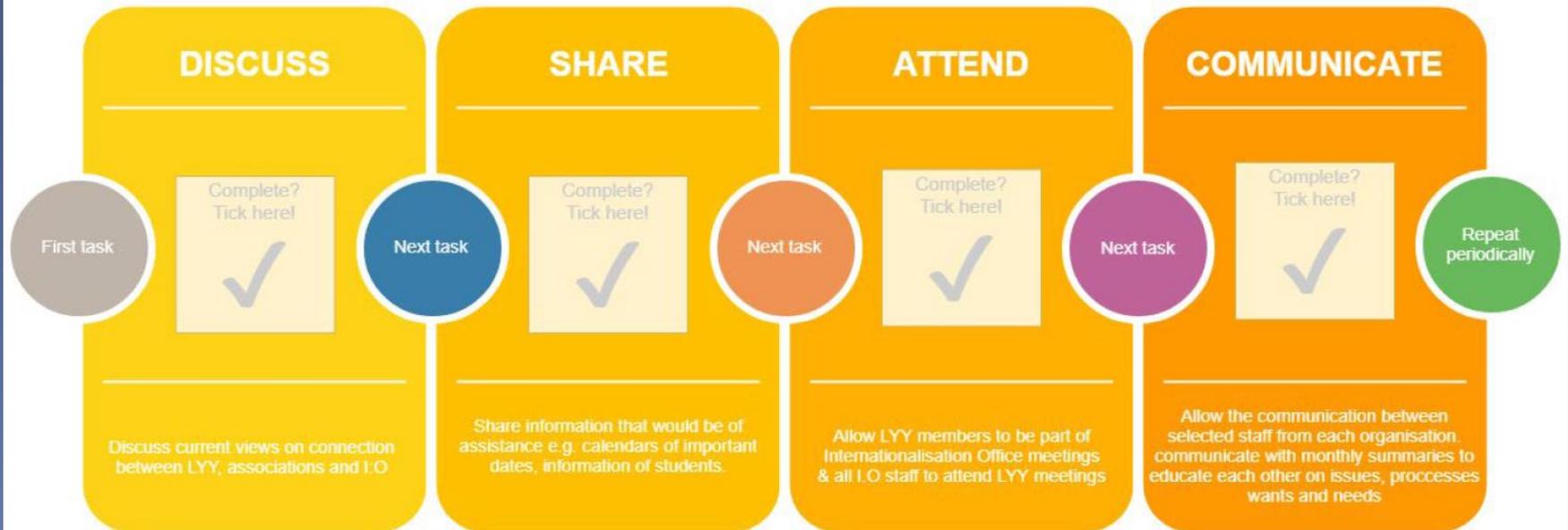


# The steps - LYY

## Greater connection with Internationalisation Office

### Responsible person(s)

- Chairperson of LYY
- General secretary (Pääsihteeri)
- Advocacy specialist (Edunvalvonta-asiantuntija)
- Non-governmental and communications expert (Järjestö- ja viestintäasiantuntija)
- Culture and International affairs (Kulttuuri ja kansainväliset asiat)

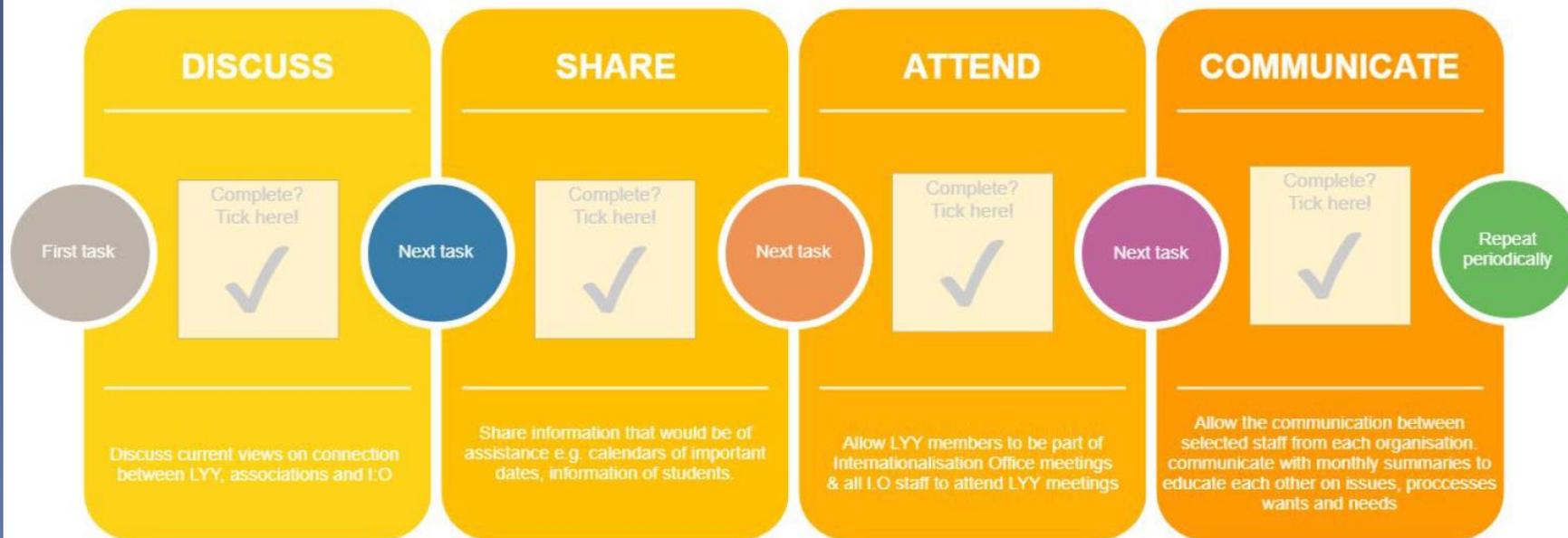


# The steps – Student associations

## Greater connection with Internationalisation Office

### Responsible person(s)

- Chairperson of LYY
- General secretary (Pääsihteeri)
- Advocacy specialist (Edunvalvonta-asiantuntija)
- Non-governmental and communications expert (Järjestö- ja viestintäasiantuntija)
- Culture and International affairs (Kulttuuri ja kansainväliset asiat)

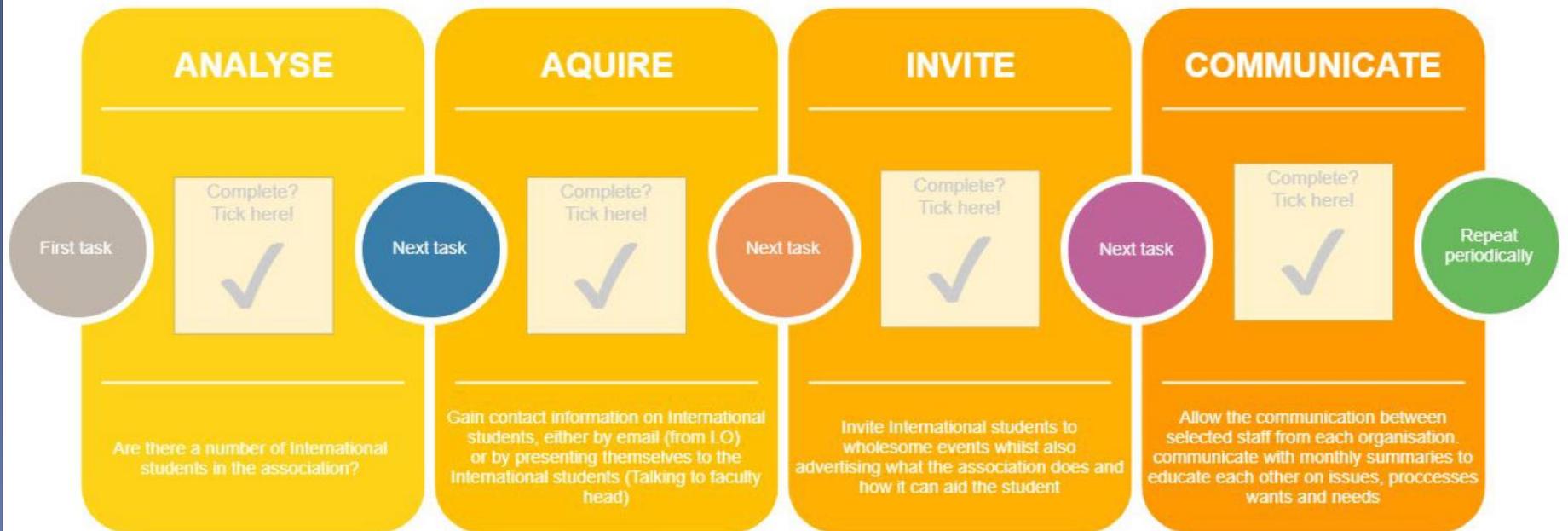


# The steps – Student associations

## Continuous movement to involve International students

### Responsible person(s)

- President of respective association
- Vice president of respective association
- Secretary of respective association

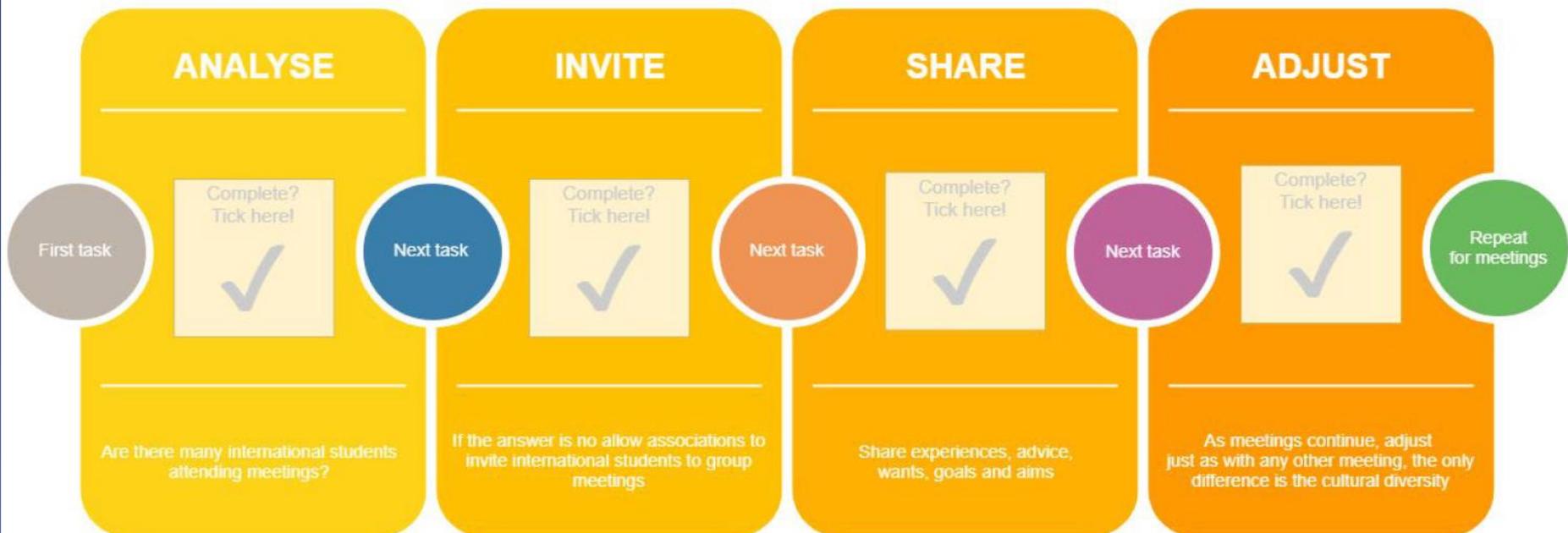


# The steps – Student associations

## International student presence

### Responsible person(s)

- President of respective association
- Vice president of respective association
- Formed committee of international students



# Response

- ◉ After speaking with stakeholders and expressing views
- ◉ Explored and analysed action steps
  - > Positive reaction
- ◉ Was because of thorough work and involvement of stakeholders



# Social integration for int. students

- ◉ In LYY, we have had three main areas and points (for social integration), where we have mainly focused on lately
- ◉ Areas are following:
  - > International Section meetings
    - We have created "international section", where belongs representatives from our subject associations, people from Uni. Lapland's int. office, ESN Lapland representative and LYY's board member and advisor for educational and social affairs
    - There are monthly meetings where we plan our international, especially integration work and exchange information about what we are doing right now in international affairs
  - > International tutoring
    - LYY has organized "Finnish degree tutoring" in the University of Lapland since 2018
    - We also have co-operated with int. office on int. tutoring
      - This year we have had a special focus on getting and well-training tutors for our int. degree programs, as they need more "educational-orientated" tutoring than exchange students, at least based on our experiences
      - Also social integration has been a big theme in the tutoring
  - > Bi-lingual communication
    - As the student union, we have made our communication more and more bi-lingual
    - We also have encouraged our associations communicate bi-lingually
    - We see that communication and shared language is the key for a good social integration
- ◉ Our goal is to help international students to feel themselves more welcomed and feel that they are important part of our university-community. Our co-operation with the international office in this specific subject has been great and we think that we are on our way to succeed in better social integration in the Uni of Lapland.

# The future!

- ⦿ Actions already taken
- ⦿ Plans for autumn (E.g. Implementation of tools to inspire closer connection between Finnish and international students)
- ⦿ Closer communication between sections of the university

# Conclusion

- Should aspects as mentioned above remain untouched, with no change, then it is clear to see how The University of Lapland will suffer, culturally, educationally, financially and socially. However, already, without this document The University has created steps and processes to improve their position on internationalisation. The University serves as a testament for the want of the new and unexplored, a pioneer in the snow. This unique university, at the top the world is changing and with an open mind and heart for adventure, great success is sure to follow.

Thank you for  
listening

Any questions?