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

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

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

THREATS
- Cultural differences
- Personal differences
- The limitations of such a project
## Statistical analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Uni Lapland</th>
<th>ISB %</th>
<th>Finland ISB %</th>
<th>Europe ISB %</th>
<th>ISB +/-</th>
<th>Finland ISB +/-</th>
<th>Europe ISB +/-</th>
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<th>ISB</th>
<th>Finland ISB</th>
<th>Europe ISB</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIVING AVERAGE</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>76.1%</td>
<td>79.7%</td>
<td>79.6%</td>
<td>78.6%</td>
<td>-3.6%</td>
<td>-3.7%</td>
<td>-2.5%</td>
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<td>1.4%</td>
<td>-0.5%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1.4%</td>
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<td>3.5%</td>
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<td>2.6%</td>
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<td>0.88</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>79.4%</td>
<td>78.0%</td>
<td>-14.7%</td>
<td>-12.4%</td>
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<td>-9.4%</td>
<td>-12.5%</td>
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<td>118</td>
<td>14</td>
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(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 - U Lapland

Ensure same tools and information for students via main webpage

Responsible person(s)

- Coordinator of Applicant and student services
- Advisors, Internationalisation office
The steps - U Lapland

Consistent translation of media

Responsible person(s)

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

- INSPECT
  - Complete? tick here!
  - Inspect post text
    - Is it culturally and socially appropriate?
    - Does it conform to the Universities guidelines?

- TRANSLATE
  - Complete? tick here!
  - Translate text

- INCLUDE
  - Complete? tick here!
  - Include links, pictures, gifs, emojis etc

- ANALYSE
  - Complete? tick here!
  - Is the translation correct?
  - Do the links work?

POST!
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

CREATE

- Complete? Tick here!
- Create an "EVENTS" tab in TUUDO "News" section

LINK

- Complete? Tick here!
- Link the new tab with various event sources e.g. Facebook

LEARN

- Complete? Tick here!
- Allow teachers and staff to learn how to use TUUDO fluently

ADVERTISE

- Complete? Tick here!
- Advertise TUUDO to the students e.g. Orientation, webpages, F/B posts, offer staff from TUUDO opportunities to talk about their app in the University

COMPLETE!
Increase emphasis on ability to ask for courses in English

Responsible person(s)

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

DISCUSS
- Discuss with faculty members on their willingness to teach in English

AMEND
- Add "English upon request" to WebOodi options for Language of instruction

ADVERTISE
- Advertise this ability to the students e.g. Orientation, webpages, F.B posts
The steps - U Lapland

**Interaction with students**

**Responsible person(s)**

- Director/Advisors, Internationalisation office

- DISCUSS
  - Complete? Tick here!
  - Discuss with members of the office if there are any main issues that need to be discussed

- INVITE
  - Complete? Tick here!
  - Invite international students to a meeting hosted by the Internationalisation Office

- LINK
  - Complete? Tick here!
  - Link students to an online platform where they can share views anonymously e.g. platform

- LEARN
  - Complete? Tick here!
  - Learn from the comments and repeat periodically e.g. every month or 2 months

- First task
- Next task
- OR/AND
- Next task
- Repeat periodically
Greater communication with LYY and associations

Responsible person(s)

- Director/Advisors, Internationalisation office
- Chairperson of LYY

Discuss current views on connection between LYY, associations and I/O

Share information that would be of assistance e.g. calendars of important dates, information of students.

Allow LYY members to be part of Internationalisation Office meetings & all I.O staff to attend LYY meetings

Allow the communication between selected staff from each organisation. Communicate with monthly summaries to educate each other on issues, processes wants and needs

Repeat periodically
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)

DISCUSS

- Complete? Tick here!
- Discuss current views on connection between LYY, associations and IO

SHARE

- Complete? Tick here!
- Share information that would be of assistance e.g. calendars of important dates, information of students.

ATTEND

- Complete? Tick here!
- Allow LYY members to be part of Internationalisation Office meetings & all IO staff to attend LYY meetings

COMMUNICATE

- Complete? Tick here!
- Allow the communication between selected staff from each organisation communicate with monthly summaries to educate each other on issues, processes, wants and needs

Repeat periodically
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

- ANALYSE
  - Complete? Tick here!
  - Are there a number of International students in the association?

- AQUIRE
  - Complete? Tick here!
  - Gain contact information on International students, either by email (from I.O) or by presenting themselves to the International students (Talking to faculty head)

- INVITE
  - Complete? Tick here!
  - Invite International students to wholesome events whilst also advertising what the association does and how it can aid the student

- COMMUNICATE
  - Complete? Tick here!
  - Allow the communication between selected staff from each organisation, communicate with monthly summaries to educate each other on issues, processes, wants and needs

Repeat periodically
The steps – Student associations

International student presence

Responsible person(s)

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

**ANALYSE**
- Complete? Tick here!
  - Are there many international students attending meetings?

**INVITE**
- Complete? Tick here!
  - If the answer is no allow associations to invite international students to group meetings

**SHARE**
- Complete? Tick here!
  - Share experiences, advice, wants, goals and aims

**ADJUST**
- Complete? Tick here!
  - As meetings continue, adjust just as with any other meeting, the only difference is the cultural diversity

Repeat for meetings
After speaking with stakeholders and expressing views

Explored and analysed action steps
  > Positive reaction

Was because of thorough work and involvement of stakeholders
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?