

ISU BERGEN 2006

Members:

President: Anna Zoellner, Germany
Vice President: Muhammad Anwar, Bangladesh
General Secretary: Eva Colas, Spain
Social Secretary: Gosia Bednarek, Poland
Press Secretary: Justyna Bieszczad, Poland
Financial Secretary: Julia Tropina, Russia
PR Secretary: Steven Emsley, England
Sport Secretary: Angelo Spirito, Italy

And additional support members

University of Bergen:

Students 2005: 16500
International Students: 1300

Finances ISU Bergen 2006

Support UiB Spring 2006: 27 000 NOK

Activities:

- Social:
 - International Quiz, Karaoke Party, Pool Tournament, Language courses, Dance course, Football Tournament, Sport's day, BBQ, Goodbye Party

- Political: Participation of ISU in groups and meetings of
 - NSU
 - National Meeting of Social Science Faculty Representatives
 - Your Guide: official brochure for new students
 - Utdanning i Bergen: a focus group for all schools in Bergen
 - Quality management: semester start
 - Focus group Mentor week
 - Focus Group International Week with UN Vestland
 - Cooperation with Høgskolen i Bergen

That all means:

ISU Bergen does try to provide an enriching program for all international students in Bergen.

At the same time ISU Bergen sees its goal to continuously raise the influence of international students in the committees and focus groups where matters concerning international students are decided- and thereby to become a reliable partner of the University in Bergen as well as achieve an ongoing development of the situation for international students in Bergen.

Major Achievements in 2006

- Cooperation with NSU
 - NSU Bergen is great! To support the integration of international students in norwegian student culture ISU and NSU started to do an 'International Quiz' once a month. That is an achievement for us, since nothing like that was done before in Bergen.
 - NSU helped to raise the income of ISU for the NA and developed a strategy to secure our yearly income
- Cooperation with UiB to enhance the situation for international students in Bergen
 - There was not much cooperation with UiB so far. Now ISU does participate in several focus groups and has started a discussion about issues concerning the study and life quality of international students. And ISU is finally being contacted if something related to international students is to be discussed.
- 'The' issue finally in discussion:
 - Housing situation: The only student residence offered to people applying from a foreign country is a placed called Fantoft, while students applying from inside Norway get the chance to apply for all student residences. Fantoft is cheap, big and 5 km away from the city. By that a gathering of international students at Fantoft is caused and since only a few norwegian students live there, most international students don't get the opportunity for 'low threshold' contact with norwegians. ISU and NSU try to change this situation.

Major Problems for ISU 2006

- ISU social Activities:
 - Since there are two other groups offering activities to students it was hard to come up with an exciting ISU program or to decide to go for cooperation with them. Especially because the money came late.
- Getting money from UiB
 - This semester- due to a lost application- the financial support came extremely late
- Attending meetings with UiB
 - Studies comes first- and sometimes no one has time to attend meetings
- Continuity of efforts
 - Efforts have to be done by people and sometimes people lose interest in ISU. We don't have a webmaster anymore, for example.
- Cooperation with NHH
 - Since we are in the lucky situation to have another ISU branch just 20 minutes away from us it is a real pity that we barely ever meet!

In words:

For ISU Bergen a lot of things are possible- we have quite a number of international students in Bergen and therefore a lot of great people to work with and for. In addition, University and our norwegian colleagues from NSU try to support and cooperate with us and thereby make it worth it to have left our homes to be an international student here in Bergen.

But it is still challenging- on the 'international' side with problems like commitment for ISU and also to actually motivate students to participate in our activities- and on the 'official side' in terms of being confronted with the reality of bureaucracy and the insight, that changing things takes time.

Future:

The branch wants to continue to use the resources existing to keep the work for and with the students up.

Problems ahead are mainly related to the continues change of board members and therefore the difficulty of establishing an ISU profile in the public.

Furthermore ISU Bergen has to improve dramatically in the transfer of knowledge from semester to semester inside its branch.

Also, the organisation of activities can be bettered by having a more consistent plan and more cooperation with the other student organizations in Bergen.

Chances ahead are the improving cooperation with UiB and NSU and thereby the opportunity to gain influence on a higher level and become more important there, where decisions concerning international students in Bergen are made.

Contact: ISUbergen@gmail.com