



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' UNION OF NORWAY

REPORT 081014

**International Students' Union
of Norway (ISU)**

Report

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Prepared by

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Prepared for

Member Branches

and

Samarbeid Partners

- Studentenes Landsforbund (StL)
- Norsk Studentunion (NSU)
- Studentenes og Akademikernes Internasjonale Hjelpfond (SAIH)

ISU General Info and Objective

The International Students' Union of Norway (ISU) is an independent, democratic, non-profit, non-partisan organization run for and by international students. ISU is committed to the social, academic and political interests of all international students studying in Norway. ISU's national administration is located in Oslo, with a National President, two Vice Presidents and an Organizational Secretary. ISU member organizations are located at 12 institutions of higher education around Norway. ISU's basic funding is from the Norwegian Government with an annual amount of NOK 270.000,00. ISU is in partnership with NSU, StL and SAIH.

Overview of Report Period

This period was marked by two important successes. First, we were able to hire a new Organizational Secretary, Solveig Aamodt; and secondly, ISU finally was able to get an organizational number (Brønnøysundregistrene organisasjonsnummer). This organizational number is vital in getting proper accounting, banking, auditing and other benefits from the government and or private institutions. Meanwhile, most ISU Local Branches held successfully their General Assemblies during September and few were encountered with challenges mobilizing students to the events.

Previous and Current Activities

During the month of September, all three partners had their first national activities during the academic year 2008-2009. ISU National President attended all three events. During the same month, ISU was interviewed by [VG](#), a national newspaper, about the Quota Scheme Students. This article was supported by our partner NSU and by the Ethiopian student community at Ås. The article was followed by another where the government stated publicly their interest in

seeking better financial conditions for the newly arrived Quota Scheme Students at different higher education institutions of Norway. We hope that these two articles will spur the government to come up with necessary policies and laws to solve this issue.

Solveig Aamodt, ISU's new Organizational Secretary, was hired mid September. This has been an issue for ISU since last year and finally hiring a secretary was a crucial milestone. One of the first fruits of this was that ISU was able to send the full application for an organizational number (Brønnøysundregistrene organisasjonsnummer) and finally get one (**Our Org. Num. is 892 438 072**).

On the 30th of September, ISU, represented by Prashant Sjøegaard, 1st Vice President, and Farshad Tami, National President, along with partners, Marte Sendstad, NSU International Officer and Ina Tandberg, StL International Officer, attended a meeting with State Secretary Mr. [Jens Revold](#) from the Ministry of Education and Research (Kunnskapsdepartementet). During the meeting, various issues regarding international students and Norway's Internationalization of Education Policy were discussed as well as the financial challenges faced by the Quota Scheme Students. Mr. Revold promised that the ministry will work its best to solve this issue that has been going on for many years (for more details refer to previous reports).

Most ISU Local Branches held their General Assemblies and this has been a challenge for ISU on many levels. First, a few branches suffered from some lack of motivation by the students to hold their assembly. Secondly, most of the branches changes teams completely and that has an impact on the strength and continuity of the organization at the 12 local branches. Both challenges are important issues we should work on during the coming years.

ISU also signed a new agreement with NSU, strengthening the organization and the cooperation with NSU, please find it attached. Finally, in April ISU became member of Landsrådet for Norges barne- og ungdomsorganisasjoner (LNU).

Table.1 Summary of official meetings that ISU have been invited to and attended:

| Meeting | Date | Place |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| SAIH Conference | 13-14 September | Oslo |
| NSU Landsstyre | 20-21 September | Oslo |
| StL Landsstyre | 27-28 September | Sørmarka |
| Ministry of Education and Research | 30 September | Oslo |

Up-coming Activities and Meetings

Next weekend, 17-19 of October, ISU will be holding its first National Assembly during the academic year of 2008-2009 at UMB, Ås. We are looking forward to this event and hope it will be an uplifting experience for ISU and for the participants. During the ISU National Assembly, we hope to discuss how we can establish a concrete framework of cooperation between students, in particular international students, with student welfare organizations (Studentsamskipnaden) in Norway. We also hope to share experiences among ISU Local Branches and continue strengthening ties with our samarbeid partners NSU, StL and SAIH.

Besides the regular assemblies that take place during the autumn, ISU will try and attend the meeting held in Iceland by the Nordic Presidential Meeting (Nordiskt Ordförande Möte, NOM). This network is a consultative meeting of various national unions of students in the Nordic Countries. ISU attended last year's meeting in Bergen and during this upcoming meeting, ISU will try to convince fellow Nordic student unions to copy the successful experience of ISU in their countries.

On Wednesday, the 15th of October, ISU 1st Vice President will be attending the “Seminar on Mobility 2008” prepared by The Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU) and the title of the seminar is “Student mobility in a strategic perspective”. Prashant will be one of people on the panel of discussions about mobility.

During the upcoming month, the following activities are to take place:

- [Seminar on Mobility 2008](#), Student mobility in a strategic perspective,
- SAIH General Assembly (25-26 October),
- [Nordiskt Ordförande Möte \(NOM\)](#) meeting in Iceland (30 October – 3 November)
- Conference arranged by the Ministry of Children and Equality (11 November),
- LNU General Assembly (November),
- Stl and NSU Landsstyre (End of November)

Summery

ISU is looking forward to the upcoming National Assembly in Ås and for participating in partner meetings during the autumn semester.

Acknowledgments

We are honored that Universitetet for miljø- og biovitenskap (UMB) has contributed generously for the success of ISU National Assembly in Ås and keeping up with its reputation as one of the best institutions in Norway that welcomes international students. UMB contributed 12.000,00 NOK in support of the National Assembly. We also acknowledge the kind support of ISU UMB, NSU Ås and Studentsamskipnaden i Ås.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Beniyam Tesfaye Assefa from the Ethiopian student community at Ås for his enthusiasm and assistance of ISU. His efforts along with NSU’s support made the attached news articles possible.