



International Students' Union of Norway

GUIDELINES

Regional Cooperation Group

Version: June 2009

Prepared by: Ilya Sizov and Timothy Allison Findlater

Definition

Regional Cooperation Group (RCG) were suggested during the ISU National Assembly, April 2009, that should aim to bring ISU Local Branches together in order to promote success stories, share experiences, coordinate social events and collaborate on relevant welfare related campaigns. The suggested RCGs comprise of the following 4 regions:

- RCG (1) is made up of ISU Tromsø, ISU Narvik and ISU Bodø
- RCG (2) is made up of ISU NHH, ISU Bergen and ISU Trondheim
- RCG (3) is made up of ISU Stavanger, ISU Agder and ISU Telemark
- RCG (4) is made up of ISU BI, ISU HiO, ISU UiO and ISU UMB/Ås

General Guidelines

The following guidelines provide principles and practices for ISU local branches aiming at supporting contacts between the RCGs. Every branch should have one person in charge of cooperation between the branches. It has been suggested that the ISU Local Branch President shouldn't carry out this responsibility. The responsible branch member should keep contacts with other branches and support work coordination.

Real and Virtual Cooperation

We distinguish two levels of cooperation among the branches: real and virtual.

Real cooperation

1. The regions should be referred to as 'Regional Cooperation Groups' or RCGs.
2. RCGs should focus on cooperation with larger campaigns and sharing their experiences with each other about the different aspects of ISU.
3. RCGs should focus their efforts more on the integration of international students with the Norwegian students. This can be done by pooling the resources of each branch to put on



some joint events such as team building or welcome parties during the early part of the semester.

4. It is recognized that not all member branches in particular RCG will not be able to cooperate on all things since some of branches in a given region are geographic far apart. For example, ISU UiB and NHH can easily cooperate on parties and other social events together, but not so easily with ISU Trondheim. Cooperation between far apart branches will be limited to assisting each other with trips, visits, and student welfare campaigns, in addition to sharing experience and knowledge with each other.
5. When it comes to meetings in person between the different branches in a particular RCG, the meetings should be conducted once a month if possible and failing that at least once every ever two months. If the member branches deem it necessary, it is suggested that a conference could be held attended by members of the different member branches to discuss cases and cooperation. However, this may be more of an option for regions that have branches that are located far apart from each other, rather than for regions that have branches that are close together.

Virtual cooperation

1. ***Common sharing systems:*** Here we have several possible solutions, e.g.: Facebook, Google groups, forum, branches' websites, etc. No matter which system we choose, all branches of a RCG should try and utilize it. The main aim is that each and every ISU member could check out what is going on in the other branch and use this information for the common benefit.
2. ***Teleconferences:*** It's very important for the cooperation not to end after NA and to continue having a common feeling of ISU mission. RCGs should try and organize teleconferences (between RCG member branches and between RCGs) as an opportunity to carry on the common feeling and save travel funds. Relevant RCG member branches will cover any emerging costs.
3. ***On-line Forum Discussions:*** The truth comes up in the argument. We have so many issues to discuss and not enough time to take all of them up on the NA. That's why we need some place to share our ideas and opinions. It can promote better understanding between ISU branches and make our work more efficient. For example, discussions in ISU's Google group are one of the options.
4. ***Information hunters' group:*** This group will consist of several people who will make an Information Packet (IP) once a week comprising the information from ISU Google group and Facebook and other relevant websites, etc. The main goal is to provide the most relevant and important information to all who need it. This IP will correspond to the most important information or activities related to other ISU branches. For example, IP will be displayed on ISU Local Branch and National's websites.