



How to IDEALiStiC

What is IDEALiStiC and how does it work

Imprint

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Who we are

IDEALiStiC, the IDEA League Student Council, was established in June 2005, and brings the student councils of the individual IDEA League partners together. The council represents students at the IDEA League partner universities, promotes awareness and understanding of the IDEA League among students by starting new initiatives, provides support and advice to the IDEA League in matters of educational policy and student welfare, and attempts to improve policies on educational issues and student representation by exchanging best practices.

Currently, three student representative organisations are actively committed to IDEALiStiC: ASTA (RWTH Aachen), Studentenraad (TU Delft) and VSETH (Zürich). With Politecnico di Milano joining, we look forward to work together with the student representation of the Politecnico di Milano.

What is it: mission statement

As a student organisation, IDEALiStiC wants to improve the connections between the students' associations, evolve policies on educational issues and student representation, foster student and research exchanges of IDEA League and the universities being part of IDEA League. Besides the IDEALiStiC promotes awareness and understanding of the IDEA League among students by starting new initiatives, provides support and advice to the IDEA League.

To achieve our noble goals, we meet once a semester to hold a conference and to socialize. At a conference we discuss important matters on university and IDEA League level, try to work out solutions and benefit from the collected experiences of the IDEALiStiC members. To assemble and discuss a topic, a clear purpose or vision is formulated by having and knowing about the long-term vision of IDEALiStiC and IDEA League. But the associations and universities are structured very differently, for a benefit we need to learn from each other, sharing knowledge and best practices.

In monthly Skype-Session representatives of each council continuously work on improving IDEALiStiC and the matters discussed on the conferences. To be more precise, we follow up open tasks, share information about what's happening at the different universities, prepare our conferences, statements and meetings with the IDEA League boards. To prevent the loss of knowledge, we document our visions and goals as well as the outcomes of our discussions and information about the joint problems. The documents are available for everyone in the different boards.

Staying in contact with IDEA League is another important part of IDEALiStiC. Because students are the major group at universities we integrate into the IDEA League workflow by joining the board meeting and get heard. To participate in the work on new ideas IDEA League provides information on what has been done with our input. This includes a short summary, which parts of our ideas have been adopted and which ones have been rejected as well as a short explanation why it has been handled this way.

Benefits of joining

As a student council joining IDEALiStiC makes it easy to create, exchange and realize new ideas on how a university works in a globalized future world. A network such as the IDEA League can set standards in the future education. By taking part in the development of those standards a student council can influence the direction we all going. Furthermore a student council has the opportunity to benefit from best practices and shared knowledge such as implementing a joint degree or basic courses for all students of a network like IDEA League.

Being part of IDEALiStiC can help a student council to solve problems on short notice, e.g. a student wants to change the university and needs counselling on the registration process. In order to support the

student calling the responsible student council within the IDEALiStiC can help giving the information first handed.

Conference topics of 2016/1

Workshop 1: How should we integrate Svolta Studenti (student association of Politecnico)?

The Polytechnic University of Milan will be joining the IDEA League. As we saw with Chalmers, it is not easy to incorporate some of the student associations into IDEALiStiC. How should we tactfully go about integrating Svolta Studenti, so that they will join and also stay in IDEALiStiC?

Workshop 2: What are the future soft skills required for technical students and are they already being taught?

As previously discussed at the last conference, soft skills will be a requirement when applying for a job. Applicants must be good in their field but must also be able to adapt and interact to their new work environment and coworkers. The term 'soft skills' is used profusely, but what skills are actually meant? Are the universities already offering us possibilities to acquire these skills? If not, how could universities offer these needed skills? Will future skills be the same as the required present ones?

Workshop 3: What will future universities look like?

As technology becomes more advanced and everything becomes more digitalized, so will universities also have to advance and change to meet future expectations. Will there be more online classes? How many number of students will there be per class or will there even be a limit if lectures are available worldwide? Are universities ready for the future, or will they need to invest in new online technology? Which countries will take the lead as having the best universities? How will IDEA League play a role in this development?

Workshop 4: What events can be held to invigorate the IDEALiStiC fellow-feeling?

We previously tried having a sports competition, which was not as successful as wished. Should we still have some kind of event that brings IDEALiStiC university students together? What type of event would be possible, considering the distance between the universities? Online competitions or debates? Should we try to aim for another sports competition but trying it from a different angle?

Workshop 5: Why are we ranked as we are?

European universities have a tendency to rank behind American universities. Why is this? What is it that they have and we don't? Is it because they have such high tuition fees that makes them so attractive and competitive? What can we do to change this?

Workshop 6: Should universities allow a certain percentage of students to study even if they do not meet the criteria?

Many students do not meet the necessary criteria when applying for university, just due to the fact that they were not interested in subjects taught in high school. Should there be a quota allowing such students to attend university? What could the criteria be? Such a program would also be beneficial for refugees. Are universities responsible for educating non-national students?

Workshop 7: What other facilities will technical universities need to have in order to be able to compete with other universities?

Will technical universities need to broaden their offered subjects? Technical universities are just that - to teach technical and scientific material. Will they need to offer a medical faculty to still be attractive? Are there other possible faculties that will play an important role in the future?

Workshop 8: How can we promote the IDEA League to gain recognition not only for IDEA League students but worldwide as well?

The IDEA League is not as well known as we would like it to be. How can we promote the name and cast it as the European 'Ivy League'? Will we need to incorporate more universities to gain the recognition we want?

Previous conference topics

Aachen 2015/2

1. Internationalization
2. Fellow Feeling
3. Cluster and Cooperation
4. Diversity and Integration

Delft 2015/1

1. The role of the Student Council in the focus on study success
2. Two different campuses
3. Internationalization
4. Master selection for own students
5. Collaboration between IDEALiSTiC and IDEALLeague

Zurich 2014/2

1. Surveys about the students satisfaction with their study programme
2. How to recruit new students for social commitment
3. New measures of IDEA League – do they work?
4. Other student unions (national umbrella organizations, other associations, ...)
5. Interactive workshop: Working on the website
6. Is there any kind of community feeling at the university. In what way is it created or could be done better? Social events for fellow feeling at the university.
7. Does the university stimulate soft skills and extracurricular activities?
8. Does the university pay attention to the demands of the labour market? And in what way?

Aachen 2014/1

1. Joint Programmes and Mobility
2. Blended Learning
3. Statutes
4. Quality in Education
5. Research Grants
6. Homepage
7. Networking of Student Unions

8. Knowledge Transfer

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Goals and Achievements

Goal

IDEALiStiC (IDEALeague students in conference) wants to improve the connections between the students' associations of big technical universities in Europe. The associations meet once a semester to hold a conference and to socialize. These meetings have the goal of discussing important matters on university level, trying to work out solutions and benefit from the collected experiences of the IDEALiStiC members. The associations and universities are structured very differently which creates a big potential of learning from each other and share knowledge.

Achievements

Learning from each other

Every university has different strengths and initiatives, these are explored during the workshops. It can be difficult to start a new project at your university but if one of the idea-league university already has a similar project is proved to be very easy to implement at our own university.

- Internationalisation (buddy-programme):

At all the universities it was difficult to integrate the international students with the national students. In RWTH Aachen there is a very successful buddy-programme between national and international students to tackle this problem. Due to IDEAListic, the TU Delft could initiate a similar Buddy programme.

- Education quality

Good education quality and teachers are important for every every IDEA-league university. At the TU Delft almost all the teachers do a basic qualification education programme. This consists of trainings in didactic skills and teaching. This programme was interesting for ETH Zürich and RWTH Aachen because these universities are more research than education focussed.

- Challenging global programmes (ETH week)

In the workshop about soft-skills, IDEAListic concluded that there is a growing demand for technical students with the ability to address global challenges and master soft skills. ETH Zürich presented a new initiative the ETH Week. This is a new and innovative course designed to foster critical thinking and creativity. Up to 150 students from all ETH departments, as well as professors and external experts, will work together for one week. They will discuss and identify problems related to some of the most challenging topics of our time. In addition, students will be asked to develop initial solutions to these problems. This is a great concept that can be implemented at every IDEA-listic university.

IDEA-listic achievements

- IDEA-league roadsign

Every IDEAListic member promotes the programmes IDEA-league has to offer for their students. To make IDEA-League more renown we came up with the Idea to install an IDEA-league roadsign on every campus. The universities were enthusiastic and the road-sign will be installed soon.

Rules

Video Meetings

Every month the IDEALiStiC board meets over a Skype conference. Guests are allowed to join when wished and requested by a board member. During these video meetings, each board member will give a brief summary of what has been happening at their school. Following this, the board may discuss whatever it wishes to, be it upcoming topics for a conference or go into depth with certain problems a university is facing. These meetings are in aid of keeping ties between the university students boards strong and to invigorate the IDEALiStiC fellow feeling. At the beginning of the meeting it should be decided who the keeper of the minutes will be. These minutes will be sent to each board member following the meeting.

Biannual Conferences

In addition to the monthly Skype meetings, two IDEALiStiC conferences are held per year, a winter one preferably in December and a summer one in June/July. However, exceptions can be made if the Joint Board Meeting is held at a different period in the year and it is necessary for IDEALiStiC to meet and prepare for this meeting. The board will agree as to how many people from each university are allowed to participate at each conference. Regarding the finances, the hosting school should take over the costs for lodging, food and to a certain extent extracurricular activities for the participating members. As to who will host the conference, there will be a rotation list.

Decision- Making

Decisions within the board about papers, positions, actions and further topics should be made by consensus and only after consulting and discussing with each board member and their respective student councils. For a consensus, all present members have to agree. Should certain board members not agree with a decision, they will not be forced to sign or participate in an action or paper.