



Short Report of the IDEALiStiC Conference in Gothenburg 2019-2

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1 General Information

This report summarises the results and workshops of the IDEALiStiC conference in Gothenburg, which was held from November 21 to 24, 2019.

The main topic of the conference in Gothenburg was **Internationalisation**. The main goal was to discuss about the integration of international students and the selection criteria for admission to master's programmes. Furthermore, workshops about diversity and housing were held. For these two, position papers are currently being written. They will be published soon.

During the course of the conference four interactive workshop sessions took place, where current situations were shared, problems were discussed and solutions were worked out.

2 Member Universities and Abbreviations

UNIVERSITY	ABBREVIATION
Chalmers University of Technology	Chalmers
Delft University of Technology	Delft
Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen	RWTH
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich	ETH
Politecnico di Milano	PoliMi

3 Workshops

3.1 Integration of international students

3.1.1 Description

Being an international student at a university comes hand in hand with a lot of questions and troubles: Where do I have to call in order to get myself registered in the city? How can I overcome the language barrier? Whom do I have to ask if ...? How can I become a member of a student council? Am I even allowed to do that?

Several times in the past, international students and their integration within the university and the student council had been discussed. Since this topic should have more attention than just talking casually about it over a coffee or tea, we wanted to bring this up this time and discuss in a more structured way about it.

Different universities and also their student councils have different methods and mechanisms how they want to integrate their international students. Nevertheless, there are still a lot of issues, which have to be resolved.

3.1.2 Output

Throughout the workshop, the participants were split into three groups, working out different ideas on how to integrate international students. Focusing on problems, we already determined during the workshop session on international students at the conference in Zurich 2018¹, the participants were facing the following situation:

Imagine yourselves in the position of a management team of a company providing supportive services to . . . whoever. You and your staff members know nearly everything about learning, teaching, writing, communicating, moderating, mediating, coaching, integration, cultural differences, etc. You have a great portfolio showing success in helping international students in every possible aspect. You have been hired by IDEALiStiC to come up with ideas in order to improve the situation for international students.

Now, there is a new target audience you want to acquire: International students at IDEA League universities. There will be a meeting with the IDEA League board afterwards, where you present your ideas.

Your task is to develop quickly three ideas for supportive services that might be of great benefit to international students at IDEA League universities and sell them to the board. As time is a limited resource, you should be prepared to not spend more than 10 minutes presenting your ideas.

After preparing the ideas and practising their presentations, the participants met with the "IDEA League board" (consisting of other participants playing the role of IDEA League board members) and got the chance to convince them to implement the ideas at their universities. Within a short pitch, each group presented their ideas. The presentations can be found on our webpage².

¹<https://idealistic.eu/conferences/2018-1-zurich/>

²<https://idealistic.eu/2019-2-göthenburg/>

3.2 Selection processes for admission of foreign students

3.2.1 Description

Different universities have different selection processes for their incoming students on master's level. No matter whether they stay abroad for a semester or year or whether they are doing their whole master's at another university, there are selection criteria handled differently depending on your destination.

During several past conferences, one of the most popular side-discussion has been the interchangeability of courses within the IDEA League universities. One of the major issues there was always the inconsistency among the different universities. Such a catalogue of equivalent course achievements is currently in the pipeline. On the other hand, the same issue also exists for selection processes of foreign master students. This is why we discussed possible implementations for admission processes and mechanisms which have to be installed.

3.2.2 Output

In the beginning of the workshop, every university presented their procedures and it became clear that each university works differently and that often the information for admission is not easily accessible. The information are spread over different webpages and therefore mostly not very structured.

Furthermore all participants had a different idea on how such a perfect process of admission would possibly look like. After discussions in groups, where different ideas were mentioned and the participants had the opportunity to build themselves an opinion, everyone got the task to sketch their personal perfect mechanism of admission to a university. Furthermore the participants had to declare the selection criteria they want to have implemented in these processes. The summary of this task will be published in the long report.

3.3 Diversity

3.3.1 Description

No matter whether we are talking about gender, origin, sexuality, etc., we can summarise it under the term diversity. Diversity has become an important aspect in our society and in our universities. Research groups are trying to get more diverse. The student council tries to be. But what is really meant by obtaining a diverse environment? Even though everyone is trying, there are still a lot of issues around. In this workshop we first wanted to raise awareness for these problems, name them and find solutions.

Diversity was a highly requested topic as it is something that more and more people, specially in universities, are becoming more aware of its importance. Members of the IDEALiStiC had the goal of finding practical solutions and steps for improving the current situation at their universities.

3.3.2 Output

For this workshop, we are currently working on a position paper. It will be published soon.

3.4 Housing

3.4.1 Description

During the housing workshop, the different student councils first collected and shared their current situation with the rest of the participants. The goal of the workshop was to share best practises and also learn from each other. As the situations are quite different at each university, the workshop was adapted throughout it's course and the participants decided to work out a position paper on the topic.

3.4.2 Output

For this workshop, we are currently working on a position paper. It will be published soon.

4 General Assembly

During the general assembly of IDEALiStiC, we discussed about several topics and aspects that concerned us during the past half year. The following decisions and elections have been carried out.

4.1 Decisions

- The next conference will be held in Milano from May 21st to 24th.
- IDEALiStiC decided to publish a position paper about "Diversity".
- IDEALiStiC decided to publish a position paper about "Housing"

4.2 Elections

- Marco Guerini (PoliMi) and Bibiana Prinoth (ETH Zürich) were elected Co-Secretary Generals.
- Nima Salami (TU Delft) was elected PR Manager.

The following project managers have been elected:

- Dennis Norman (Chalmers): Housing
- Charlotte Boersma (TU Delft): Diversity

5 Acknowledgement

The student unions of IDEALiStiC would like to thank the IDEA League and the member universities for their support. A special thanks goes to the student union of Chalmers University for making the conference in Gothenburg possible.

The co-secretary generals and the student council of Chalmers would like to thank all the participants for their active engagement and all the helpers that supported the organisation team.