



Donauforum 2014

5. BAYHOST-Donauforum // hochschule dual international

International Research
Universities Network

IRUN



Counselling via Skype for students at partner universities in Slovenia and Germany

18.9.2014 IN 19.9.2014, INGOLSTADT

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www.irun.eu

What is the International Research Universities Network (IRUN)?



Member universities:

- Jagiellonian University Krakow (PL)
- Peter Pazmany Catholic University Budapest (HU)
- Radboud University Nijmegen (NL)
- University of Barcelona (E)
- University of Duisburg-Essen (D)
- University of Glasgow (UK)
- University of Ljubljana (SLO)
- University of Münster (D)
- University of Poitiers (F)
- University of Siena (I)



What is the International Research Universities Network (IRUN)?



- An international network of ten broad-based European research-led universities,
- Participating universities are well known for the international quality of their research and education,
- IRUN aims to further improve the quality of research and teaching at the universities involved,
- Exchange of researchers, lecturers and students is encouraged and facilitated.

The Career Services Working Group within IRUN



- Started bi-laterally between the career services of the universities of Glasgow and Münster,
- Now all IRUN Career Services are involved, despite different structures and differing numbers of staff;
- Common aim is to combine the expertise on labour market intelligence and to exchange on intercultural aspects of the working life,
- Effect is to considerably enhance the services available for students and graduates of the IRUN members.

Internationalisation and the demand for country-specific careers support



Internationalisation has moved from added value to mainstream activity

The international dimension of higher education is now high on the agenda of national governments, institutions of higher education and their representative bodies, student organisations and accreditation agencies.

The motivess for internationalisation

- International branding and profile;
- quality enhancement/international standards;
- income generation;
- student and staff development;
- strategic alliances;
- knowledge production.



Knight, 2008, Higher Education in Turmoil. The Changing World of Internationalisation, Rotterdam, the Netherlands: Sense Publisher

Outcomes: increased student mobility



A strong tradition of cooperation and exchange within Europe

- 4,000 higher institutions participating in Erasmus.

Bologna Mobility Targets

- By 2020, at least 20% of those graduating in the European Higher Education Area should have had a study or training experience abroad.

An increasingly competitive higher education environment

- Characterised by a focus on international rankings and a battle for market share of international students.
- A growing number of universities across Europe now offering Masters courses in English.
- Tuition fee levels are increasingly being used as a marketing tool.

Consequences for careers services



Increased demand from clients

- Greater numbers of international students
- Increased numbers of domestic students seeking opportunities in other countries.
- More requests about international study opportunities.

Increased demand from institutions

- Internationalise services as part of internationalisation strategies.
- To match or exceed service offers being made at competitor institutions.

An effective response?

- International networks can provide country specific knowledge and expertise through activities such as webinars and guidance by Skype.



Current joint projects within IRUN partners: what and how



Types of collaboration:

- Skype meetings of staff in careers services;
- Online counselling for students and graduates;
- Online information material:

www.uni-muenster.de/CareerService/netzwerke/irun.html

- Live video presentations – webinars;
- Internships.

Subjects:

- Training on job applications by country;
- Application checking;
- Local labour markets;
- Effective job seeking strategies;
- Intercultural aspects of career orientation, e.g. culturally based values, financial issues, social security, flexibility, regulated professions etc.

Skype counselling sessions



Careers webinars



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Slide Changes

Chat Messages

INHALTSVERZEICHNIS [0:00...

Camera and Voice

Written applications for Munster students October 2013.ppt

Full Screen

Chat (Everyone)

User 1: Nicht wundern... ich habe die Chat-History gerade noch einmal gelöscht.

User 1: Hello everyone. We are going to start in a minute.

University of Glasgow Careers Service

Job search and written applications

Jim Campbell,
Careers Adviser

0:00:01/1:05:04

Current joint projects: technical issues and synchronicity between services



Technical issues:

- Appropriate and free of charge infrastructure, e.g. Skype, video conferencing software, joint website etc.)

Synchronicity between services:

- Similar principles of service, e.g. professionalism, confidentiality, reliability etc.
- Staff with experience in all fields of career guidance;
- Similar levels of cultural awareness/access to intercultural training (as an expression of quality and expertise);
- The ability and willingness to cooperate on different levels (CS colleagues, students, international offices, faculties, Company representatives etc.).

Effects and outcomes: the clients' perspective



- Country specific knowledge about particular labour market issues,
- Easy access to the target job market and society,
- Inspiration and ideas,
- Individual approach,
- Feedback.

Effects and outcomes - IRUN partners' perspective



- New contacts, new knowledge and experience with foreign students/graduates,
- Regular online staff conferences – sharing ideas and experiences,
- Intensified bilateral cooperation.

Outcomes of cooperation between University of Ljubljana and Duisburg Essen – about universities



University of Ljubljana

- Established in 1919
- 50.000 undergraduate and postgraduate students
- Over 300 different undergraduate and postgraduate study programmes; 23 faculties and 3 arts academies
- Approximately 6,000 higher education teachers, researchers, assistants and administrative staff.

University Duisburg Essen

- Established in 2003 by a merger of two Universities
- 40.000 students/
30% international
- 100 study programmes in 11 faculties
- Around 4.500 staff

Outcomes of cooperation between University of Ljubljana and Duisburg Essen – Statistics



Skype:

- 54 individual sessions
- seminar on the event Challenges abroad

At University of Ljubljana

- 2 workshops
- 11 individual sessions

Frequently asked questions about Germany:



- Applications: checking and training
- Labour market
- Effective job seeking strategies
- Employers expectations
- Cultural values
- Financial issues, social security, flexibility, regulated professions etc.

Future plans and possible limiting factors



- Establishing a learning platform for webinars for students and staff in all IRUN careers services.
- Thus enabling students at all IRUN universities to participate in webinars offered by each of the IRUN Careers Services.
- The development of an online-archive of webinars and tutorials on labour market intelligence and application procedures in the nine different IRUN countries.
- Growing an internship programme which until now has delivered 27 internship opportunities in 8 universities (another 2 still work in progress).



Thank you!

Ruth Girmes/Universität Duisburg-Essen
Maja Dizdarevic/University of Ljubljana

