

'Preparing engineering students for working in the global workplace' Project Action Plan – Project Leader: Søren Jensen

Project aim: On average the IDE section at TEK sends approximately 50 % of a cohort of engineering students abroad for an exchange semester. This project aims at dealing with the 50 % of the students who stay at home and how we can activate the incoming exchange students in the internationalisation of the home students. Moreover, we would like to develop a framework of progressive steps during the first 4 semesters where international understanding is incorporated in the courses and projectwork.

Project Leaders	Dept. Faculty Campus	Project Title	Target Group Prog. or Course	Project Activity	Project Outcomes
Søren Jensen Lecturer in Technology and Innovation	ITI (Institut for Teknologi og Innovation), TEK, Odense	<i>Preparing engineering students for working in the global workplace</i>	Teachers -Project Development and Innovation BSc/MSc and Diplomingeniør i Integreret Design	Workshop: Facilitating intercultural group work and integrating international perspectives	1.Inspired 8 teachers 2.Kick-started 3 year plan to internationalise the curriculum
Step 1: Meeting educational consultants, Anne and Donna	Søren had attended the original SDU workshops on internationalising the curriculum (ITC) and had met with Anne and Donna to discuss ways to embed ITC into the PDI and ID programmes. Søren had identified a need to better equip graduates from these programmes with intercultural competences. Søren wanted to capitalise on the programmes' diversity: PDI is an international programme and ID is a Danish programme both PDI and ID are taught by teachers of different nationalities. Action: Start with a workshop on ITC and intercultural competences for PDI and ID teachers.				
Step 2: Encouraging teacher attendance at the workshop	Action: To encourage teachers to attend the workshop, a short, videoed pitch about Søren's motivation was shared at a Dept. meeting and all teachers were registered for the workshop. A week before the workshop all teachers were asked to view and reflect on short videos by engineering graduates who regularly apply intercultural competences in their international project manager roles (Available from itc.sdu.dk Resources 3).				
Step 3: Workshop for teachers	Action: Nine teachers participated in the half-day workshop; more were interested but unable to attend. Workshop materials were emailed to all PDI and ID teachers. The workshop focused on: Identifying opportunities for integrating ITC in our programmes and courses and facilitating intercultural group work: scaffolding students towards Experts in Teams: a Semester 5 course for all TEK students where intercultural team-work is an expectation. (Workshop resources available from itc.sdu.dk Resources 1 and 2).				
Step 4: Evaluation and ways forward	Participants commented that they now recognise how ITC is being practised in their courses and that it's not about adding something to an already packed curriculum but rather how some small changes would enable further ITC opportunities. Action: Søren saw the workshop as the first step towards embedding ITC into the PDI and ID programmes. Anne and Donna will continue to support this process. In addition, workshops on facilitation and reflective practice will be offered to Experts in Teams' teachers, which will help develop a framework of progressive steps during the previous four semesters where international understanding is incorporated in the courses and projectwork.				