



Western Norway  
University of  
Applied Sciences



# *Into the world!*

Internationalisation in bachelor's degrees

Together towards  
a culture of internationalization in  
our undergraduate educations

Hege Aarlie  
Project leader

# About the project



- › The project is a collaboration between Child Welfare, Social Work and Social Educator undergraduate programmes
- › Project impact: Target population for project is 330 final years students and 90 members of faculty at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences
- › Duration: Four years

Overarched aim: integrate internationalization in our study programs and promote a culture of internationalization in mobility among both students and faculty staff

# Background for application

## Government ambition:

- › The government proposal «*En verden av muligheter*» («A world of possibilities»)- sets out a long-term goal for 50% for student engagement in international mobility by 2025
- › Western University of Applied Sciences development strategy plan for 2021-2023 target for student mobility: 30 % by 2023

## Baseline:

- › Percentage of Western University of Applied Sciences students involved in international mobility in 2019 = 12.4 %
- › Percentage of Child Welfare, Social Work and Social Educator students = 8.4 %
- › The pandemic has of course had impact on mobility. The positive part of it – gives us the opportunity to think new strategies



# This project is founded by the Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and skills

- › The directorate is the executive agency for the Ministry of Education and Research within the higher education and higher vocational education sectors and is responsible for the national skills policy.
- › The directorate shall contribute to enhance the quality of education and skills, strengthen international collaboration



[hkdir.no](http://hkdir.no)



# Key project activity

- › Further development of professional international collaboration agreements with three European universities
  - › Odessa University of Applied Science
  - › Inholland University of Applied Science
  - › Saxion University of Applied Science
- › Development of existing student programs such that they facilitate and support both student mobility and teaching collaboration
- › Development of collaboration platforms for staff
- › Ensure information regarding mobility is easily accessible for current and prospective students

And

- › Tata Institute of Social Work in India





# Project structure: four work packages

Irene Helland Vikøren



Establish a culture of international mobility among students and staff

Hege Aarlie



Establish and implement lasting structures for increased student mobility

Tonje Solberg



Develop a comprehensive study program, integrating student mobility

Steffen Hansen



1. Explore digital solutions to support and promote international collaboration
2. Document and publicise project progress

# Project milestones

## Year 1

- › Establish partnerships with faculty members at each of the three partner universities
- › Develop and coordinate programmes of study for the three target undergraduate programmes

## Year 2

- › Launch faculty exchange
- › Develop international modules and international teaching arrangements

## Year 3

- › Students engaged in exchange at partner universities

## Year 4

- › Implementation and establishment of planned interventions within the broader Institute for Welfare and Participation



