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## Good Practices in Internationalisation

workshop 06-11-2012

### *European Project Semester*

Avans University of Applied Science  
's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands

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### Content:

- Short description of EPS program
- Advantages of EPS
- Present EPS organization/structure (countries, institutions)
- "Challenges"




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## European Project Semester

- EPS aims at third year students (comparable to internship)
- Developed by Engineering College of Copenhagen (IHK); offered since 1995
- EPS at Avans University in Den Bosch since Autumn 2002
- Total of 11 EPS providers (2012); some offering during fall, some during spring and some during both  
[[www.europeanprojectsemester.eu](http://www.europeanprojectsemester.eu)]
- Project based learning on an integrated engineering design and business project
- First 5-6 weeks: short, concentrated courses; next 16 weeks: project work
- 30 ECTS (courses 7,5 + project 22,5)





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## EPS program

• Wk 0	Introduction Avans and EPS Social activity + cultural excursion	
• Wk 1- 6	Supporting courses	[75%]
	Project work	[25%]
• Wk 7 -20	Project work	[90%]
	Courses (English & Dutch)	[10%]
• Wk 11	Interim report	
• Wk 18	Submission final report	
• Wk 19	Social activity	
• Wk 20	Final presentation EPS graduation ceremony	

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## EPS projects at Avans

- Formation of project groups and allocation of projects and companies; every project group gets 1 tutor assigned
- Restriction: no double nationalities on one project!  
Restriction: maximum of 4 students per project!
- Carry out an industrial project, at a company, in teamwork
- Company pays monthly internship allowance + travel expenses (approx. € 250 for each student, depending on # days per week)


Short description of EPS projects



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## EPS 2012 projects and companies involved



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## Advantages of the European Project Semester

- Easy, relatively cheap and safe access to international experience/exchange for students
- Creating international network
- Exchange opportunities for teaching staff (training, education, experience)
- Improving language skills




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## Present EPS organisation/structure

- 11 Providers, consisting of a mix of "Universities" and "Universities of Applied Sciences"
- Present countries are: Denmark, Norway, Finland, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, France, Spain, Portugal
- Yearly providers meeting (usually December)
- Minor cooperation between some providers in terms of lecturer exchange, assessment, ....




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## "Challenges"

- Different priorities various providers with internationalisation and/or EPS
- No EPS organisation
- No EPS vision, mission and strategy
- No EPS budget/insufficient funds
- No validation/accreditation of EPS programs (Quality)




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## "Challenges"

- Increasing diversity of EPS students in terms of study and interest, which makes it difficult to draft a program that appeals to each and everyone; that's why specialised EPS programs are being created (e.g. Design EPS program)
- Reluctance with present providers to expand number of providers in own country (competition)



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### **Opportunities, problems & Challenges?**

If you would like to implement EPS in your own study domain and institute.....

What opportunities do you see?

What problems do you envision?

What would be your major challenges?

