



UNICA STUDENT CONFERENCE

International students: engaging with local communities

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Main focus points

- Socio-cultural and language barriers
- Access to information
- Community engagement activities
- Recognition of extracurricular activities
- Intercultural competence and intercultural classrooms
- Access to services connected to housing, health and employment

Target groups

- **For whom?**
 - International and exchange students
- **To whom?**
 - Universities
 - Communities, especially civil society

Recommendations

- **Internationalisation of higher education and development of intercultural competence in students and staff**
 - Language and culture courses for students
 - Language tandem framework
 - Cultural activities (i.e. visits to the cultural and natural heritage spots)
 - Train the staff to facilitate intercultural dialogue and teach in intercultural classrooms
 - Train staff to handle discriminatory behavior
 - Implement Code of Conduct

Recommendations

- **Community engagement**
 - Opportunities to **volunteer** and **participate** in activities facilitated by civil society
 - Especially by activity based student and youth-led associations
 - Opportunity for local and international/exchange students to interact
 - Easy way to **access** community engagement activities, i.e. Erasmus+ App
 - **Funds** for student-led associations that facilitate community engagement activities

Recommendations

- **Community engagement and recognition**
 - Framework and a recognition mechanism for community engagement activities conducted as extracurricular activities
 - Diploma supplements, certificates, badges or credits
 - Development paths and assessment/certification, i.e. Erasmus Skills

Recommendations

- **Democratic participation**
 - Ability to form student representative bodies
 - Opportunity to join and participate in current student bodies and associations, i.e. volunteer, apply for positions

Recommendations

- **Housing**

- Spots in dormitories
- Mixed with local students
- Trustworthy accommodation providers

- **Health**

- Accessible mental health services
- Mental health providers who work with internationals

- **Employment**

- Access to student jobs on and off campus

Students

- Eralda Muco
- Nadina Muslic
- Renske de Vries
- Amina Seck
- Cristian Sebastian Micu
- Roman David Udler
- Julia Kostro
- Yavuz Kipdemir
- Uliana Kozlova