



Erasmus Student Network
Linköping

Annual Report 2020/21

Martin Åsenius
ESN Linköping

The Board of ESN Linköping 2020/21

President	Martin Åsenius
Vice President	Oskar Johansson
Secretary	Likith Madhu
Treasurer	Hampus Torehov
Quartermaster	Stefin Abraham
Webmaster	Niklas Samuelsson
Public Relations Manager	Emma Nilsson
External Relations Manager	Emma Körling
Human Resources Manager	Mathias Meunier
Buddy Committee Coordinator	Simon Karlsson
Activity Committee Coordinator	Charlotte Morone



The Activity Committee of ESN Linköping 2020/21

Activity Committee Coordinator	Charlotte Morone
Vice	Adam Gustavsson
Treasurer	Mollie Sager
Special Project Coordinator	Laura Sandner
Secretary	Inez Lodin (Until last of 2020) Riccardo Cinotti (As of 2021)
Public Relations	Florian Zehrfeld (Until last of 2020) Charlotte Bgt-Ltr (As of 2021)



The Buddy Committee of ESN Linköping 2020/21

Activity Committee Coordinator	Simon Karlsson
Vice	Brian Dowling
Treasurer	Anton Lindström
Language Café Coordinator	Annika Lundberg (Until last of 2020) Brian Dowling (As of 2021)
Secretary	Ugné Petrovaite (Until last of 2020) Annika Lundberg (As of 2021)
Public Relations	Anita Knöchemann (Until last of 2020) Victoria Freeman (As of 2021)



Highlights from 2020-2021

Welcome Period

Our biggest project and one of the most important is the welcome period. The welcome period consists of a series of events in the beginning of each semester that focus on welcoming the new students to their new home, Linköping, and the events also work as an icebreaker to meet new friends. Consequently, the welcome periods are of great importance as it is the first contact we have with the new international students.

Autumn 2020

The autumn welcome period was not like previous ones. The Board knew going into the Autumn semester 2020 that the on-going pandemic would affect the welcome period. A continuous dialogue about the situation was held throughout the summer break with the International Office. ESN Linköping was carefully following the restrictions and guidelines from the government and Public Health Agency of Sweden as well as the guidelines from Linköping University. This meant that we had to skip some of our traditional events, find new solutions and limit the number of participants.

Throughout the semester information about guidelines and restrictions concerning the pandemic was continuously shared with the students to keep them up to date.

Some of our events held during the autumn welcome period were:

- **Welcome Desk**

The International Office arranged welcoming days when the majority of all incoming students arrived to Linköping. ESN was present all arrival days and introduced the new students to ESN and what we do. It was a really great way to meet the new students and it was very appreciated by the IO as well.

- **Volleyball Tournament**

A volleyball tournament in Trädgårdsföreningen, the weather was terrible so only few people showed up, but they enjoyed the event. The Activity Committee later hosted a reloaded version of this event which had great turn up.

- **Bike Ride to Bergs slussar**

Gathered in Ryd and biked together to Bergs slussar. The weather was not great, but some brave souls went for a swim anyway.

- **Ice Breakers and Speed Friending**

Two similar events where we first played some simple games and then let the students speed friend with each other.

- **Pub Crawl**

Divided the students into small groups and went for a pub crawl to five different bars including HG, Kappa Bar and O'learys.

- **Hike in Tinnerö**

Collaborated with the student association Vild for a hike to Tinnerö.

- **BBQ and Games outside**

In total three BBQ: s was held, two of them in collaboration with ISA. We joined forces with ISA so we could split up the event into two different locations and that way be able to offer more spots to the students. This was one of the most appreciated events we had.

- **Campus Tour**

A guided tour of Campus Valla which is organized three times in collaboration with ISA. One of them was in the form of a Scavenger Hunt where the students formed groups and solved clues to find their way around campus.

- **ESNcard & Overall sale**

Opportunities for the exchange students to purchase ESNcards and overalls during the welcome period.

In addition, we also organized *Board Game Night with fika*, *Linköping City & Gamla Linköping Tour*, *Yoump Trampoline Park*, and a *Dodgeball Tournament*.

Spring 2021

For the spring semester the situation of the pandemic got worse. Linköping University went out with guidelines that no type of physical events should be part of the welcome period. ESN Linköping argued that it is of paramount importance that the students coming from abroad, not knowing anyone nor the language, have a way to meet new friends physically. The Linköping University was convinced, and ESN Linköping formed the *Social Programme* together with the International Student Association, ISA. Events during the spring welcome period were carried out partly online and partly in the *social groups*.

Some of our events and activities held during the spring welcome period were:

- **ESN Olympics**

An ongoing event continuing throughout the welcome period for the *social groups*. All groups received a list of tasks and things to do from where they received points. The event was intended to encourage the groups to be more active.

- **Swedish Culture Webinar**

Online event where we talked about Swedish culture such as the queuing system, recycling and fika. Also briefly introduced them to the student life of Linköping.

- **Virtual Game Night**

Played online games, mainly Among Us. Communication was done through a formed Discord server.

- **Campus Tour**

Held with the *social groups*.

- **Linköping City Tour**
Held with the *social groups*.
- **Hiking**
Held with the *social groups*.
- **International Dinner**
Held with the *social groups*.
- **Speed friending**
Held online together with ISA.

Overall Inauguration

The ESN Linköping Overall Inauguration is held in pursuit of our continued work of integrating exchange students and international students in the Swedish student culture. The goal of the event is to help the students find new friends through the different games and let them participate in a very fun and popular tradition in Linköping University.

Since no big parties were held during the autumn (where one usually finds use for the overall) we made the decision to not actively promote the sales of our overalls. However, the word spread, and a lot of people decided to purchase the overall anyway, around 50 pieces was sold. We managed to pull off the Overall Inauguration before the infection rate increased in October which we are very happy about. It was easily the event with most positive feedback from the students. Unfortunately, due to the situation during the spring we were not able to host an inauguration.

Transition to the new logo

The previous board had started the transition to the new logo of ESN Linköping, the board continued and finished the transition.

Trips - Timetravels

At the start of the autumn semester things looked promising regarding if the trips could take place to some destinations. We had opened sales for the Norwegian Fjords, Swedish Lappland, and Gotland. The trip to the fjords was cancelled due to the closure of borders from the side of Norway. The Gotland trip was carried out as planned. And the Lappland trip was cancelled due to the increasing infection rate in Sweden at the time. For the spring semester we decided to not promote our trips.

A continuous dialogue with our travelling partner Timetravels was held, monitoring the situation, and trying to find solutions. We are proud of the way we acted; it was not an easy decision to cancel the trips but the right one. Timetravels showed that they are a company carrying for our students by not pushing us to go ahead with the trips and being nothing but supportive to us even though they were facing heavily reduced incomes.

Changes to the Statues

During the mandate, the national board of ESN Sweden announced their intent to resume the attempts of applying for the *Operational Grant*. The last attempt was carried out in 2018 with a negative outcome due to statues in some sections in Sweden was deemed undemocratic and lacking certain paragraphs.

Efforts was therefore put into review the current statues of ESN Linköping to add, rewrite, and clarify certain parts to meet the requirements. The changes will not implicate any major changes to the way ESN Linköping is operating at present. A visual update of the statues was also carried out.

Website

When the Board started the mandate the website of ESN Linköping was not operational. The Webmaster managed to get the website up and running again and partly restore the content. In the spring the Board decided that a new website will be developed which became a project throughout the spring semester. The reason to pursue a new website was to not be limited by the functions and graphical outlay of the previously used theme.

New matching system for Buddies

For years, the system used to match incoming students with local students have left much to be desired. It has been a time consuming and impractical job for the Buddy Committee Coordinator since all sign-ups have had to be entered manually. Hence, a new matching system was needed. The Buddy Committee Coordinator and Webmaster in collaboration developed the new matching system.

ESN Sea Battle

Both the autumn and spring edition of the ESN Sea Battle was cancelled.

National & International Engagements

During the past year, the board participated in two national events and one international. All of them was held online.

The two national events were the National Platforms of ESN Sweden, where members are taught of ESN's structure and tips how to operate at the local level. This is also where the national board of ESN Sweden is elected.

The international event was the Annual General Meeting (AGM) which was postponed until the beginning of June due to the pandemic. It was the last ever AGM due to being replaced by other international events in the future.

The Erasmus Generation Meeting (EGM) 2021 was set to take place in Linköping, the Board of ESN Linköping was prepared to contribute to the event, but it was unfortunately once again cancelled due to the pandemic.

Highlights Committees 2020/2021

This mandate both committees have showcased great responsibility and adaptation skills when organizing events. It has not been an easy mandate due to the constant changes in restrictions and what can be done. Great effort was put into many events that unfortunately had to be cancelled. Yet they continuously showed the will to think forward and come up with other solutions.

Activity Committee

The Activity Committee has strived to make events where everyone can be included.

Focus has been on ensuring that people who do not, for instance, drink alcohol can still come and enjoy activities and events without feeling pressured to drink. The activity committee has done this throughout the semester, always with smiles on their faces, which has further presented ESN Linköping to exchange students in a good way.

Some events that the Activity Committee organized:

- **Pimp My Overall**
The students had the chance to decorate their overalls. A limited supply of fabrics and sewing/gluing material was provided.
- **ESN Karaoke & Game Night**
Held at O'Learys, the students had the opportunity sing karaoke and choose among a wide range of games such as disco bowling and billiard.
- **Easy as a pie**
Baking competition where the participants sent in their creation and was judged by popularity vote.
- **Movie night**
The event was held online where people could join in to watch the movie *Yes Man*. Challenges connected to the movie had been prepared to spice things up.
- **Ready Set Spring**
A set of stations was prepared with different traditional Swedish games, the students were divided in groups and collected points by their performance at each station.

Buddy Committee

The Buddy Committee has continued working towards the ambition to integrate incoming students with Swedish students. They have done this by having a Buddy programme where incoming students get paired with Swedish students (usually before their arrival). This makes sure the exchange students have an easy way to connect with the local people. The Buddy Committee has also arranged events where the Swedish buddy students and the incoming students met and socialized.

Some events that the Buddy Committee organized:

- **Buddy Quiz**
Held at HG with the theme Sweden.
- **International Buffet**
A really appreciated event where each participant brings a dish from their home country to share with the other participants. In this event people had the chance to get to know each other better, enjoy various foods, and culture exchange.
- **Swedish with Swedes**
A new invented concept where the students taking Swedish courses could get help in their preparation for their Swedish exam.
- **Kahoot quiz**
A quiz about Fettisdagen (Fat Tuesday) and the fika culture of Sweden.
- **St Patricks Day**
Quiz about St Patricks Day which is celebrated in March. To promote the event an impressive promotion video was recorded and published.
- **Scavenger Hunt**
The students raced around in Linköping in groups trying to solve clues and riddles as fast as possible. A great way for the students to get to know the city of Linköping better and discover new places.