ETHICAL NORTH-SOUTH STUDENT MOBILITY

21/03/2019 LEO-NET LEIRIA
UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

» Internationalisation and North-South cooperation
» Voice of Global South partners
» Pre-departure and debriefing training
» Long-term partnerships
» Research areas:
  » Global citizenship
  » Gender equality
  » Voluntourism
  » Racism & discrimination
CONCEPTS USED & ASSUMPTIONS

» **Global South** & North-South dichotomy

» **Host-country** partners & Host communities

» **Internships** = learning abroad; traineeship; research; mobility; ICM

» **Belief** in students; **honest** communication; our **added** value

» **Long-term** vision + **ideal** type
GOING ABROAD OPTIONS

» **Internal** (Institutional cooperation)
  
  » Bilateral agreements with universities, HEI, hospitals, schools, companies

» **External**

  » Non-profit: government, ngo,

» **Profit**: commercial sending organisations (voluntourism)
MOST POPULAR PROFESSIONS

» Medicine
» Biology
» Teachers
» Nurses
» Midwives
» Architecture
» Social work
» Physiotherapy
» Engineers
WHY THIS SUBJECT?

» Opening up funds for international mobility + shorter programs
» Internationalisation + development cooperation
» Voluntourism + Africa
» Vulnerability + prejudices
» Fragmentated approach
» Conflicting expectations & evaluations
» Turnover

CRISIS = Critical outlook absent (North) + No honest feedback (South)
The North institution
The students
- Subject related skills
- International skills
The host-partner and community
VISION

International cooperation

Internships in Global South are meaningful for:
- The North institution
- The students
  - Subject related skills
  - International skills
- The host-partner and community
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SESSION 1: 09:45 – 11:00

SESSION 2: 11:30 – 13:30
OVERVIEW

1. Benefits North South mobility programs (4)
2. Principles & recommendations (8)
3. Added value host country partner (3)
4. Questions
BENEFITS STUDENTS: INT. RESEARCH (1)

» Personal growth; global citizenship & vital intercultural skills:
  » Flexibility, resilience, conflict resolution, knowledge, understanding

» Diversity learning; racism reduction; cross learning

» Positive impact career - 2020 soft skills: people management, critical thinking, negotiation, emotional intelligence
BENEFITS STUDENTS: INT. RESEARCH (2)

» Beyond Europe to solve global injustices

» Inequality, alienation, sustainability, migration, climate change

» Empowerment, understanding, activism, engagement
BENEFITS STUDENTS: OWN RESEARCH

» 80% added value to host-partner
» 75% added value to host-community
» 90% would do it again
» 90% added value to own skills & career

» Independence, flexibility, knowledge, social skills, self-awareness, language
BUT

» New **colonial** wave – aid logic
» Attitudes of **superiority** vs passive recipients
» Enforcing **stereotypes**
» Power relations = **unequal** distribution
» Difficult **communication**
» **Added** value **host-community** often unclear

**New humble vision is necessary**
OVERVIEW

1. Benefits North South mobility programs
2. Principles to adhere to (8)
3. Added value host country partner (3)
4. Questions
1. DEVELOPMENT AS A COMPLEX PROCESS

» Broad definition is necessary
  » Complexities
  » Long term
  » Humble contribution

» Development as freedom – Contribution to positive freedom
  » Agency
2. FROM AID TO FAIR COOPERATION

» Aid logic or equality?

» Recognition of imbalances

» Importance of self-interest - Freire

» Who helps whom? Noble offer masks a question – Reciprocity?
PARADOX: WE REMAIN WELCOME

» Part of a larger whole (reciprocal service)

» Importance of status & prestige of cooperation

» Losing face vs. long term hope

» Be sensitive to indirect messages
3. LONG-TERM APPROACH & NETWORKS

» Broad partnerships & networks that are institutionally embedded

» Quality over quantity

» More attention, resources and staff. Mapping + research necessary
4. OWNERSHIP

» Selection of interns
» Conditions for arrival and duration
» Tasks
» Training content

» Broad cooperation

Research! Questions; translation, dissemination
5. FOCUS ON MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS

» Evaluate programs on ability to provide dignified contact:
  » in direct work relations AND with local community

» Language
» Size of the group
» Internship hubs
» Period
» Host families
6. TRAINING FOR EVERYONE

» Extensive compulsory training

» Joint training moments with focus on Global Citizenship

» Strong ownership over content of training
7. VULNERABLE CHILDREN

» Orphanage myth

» Abuse

» Development

» Attachment problems

» Profit system
In summary, the supply chain associated with the trafficking of children into RCIs looks like this:

**Exploited**
- Children and their families
- Voluntourists and donors

**Exploiter**
- Recruiters
- Charities, RCIs and tourism companies

**Orphanage (RCI)**
8. SUSTAINABILITY

» When is all this **worth** it?

» Engagement of institutions to reduce CO2 emissions

» **Compensation**? Focus on **behaviour** change
OVERVIEW

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TOWARDS EQUAL INTERESTS

» Agenda setting for host-country partner
» Honest communication – bargaining power
» Network – international forum – less donor driven
» Capacity building
» Broad cooperation agreement – much more than internships
» Shared future
KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

» What knowledge do host communities find relevant?

» What would they like to exchange?

» Humble role in sharing of knowledge, methods, frames

» Look of outsider
EMPOWERING ENCOUNTERS

» **Dignified** encounters between **cultures** and **class**
  » empowers participants; boost self-esteem; reduces prejudices

» **Connectedness** to each others plight and working on a shared future

» **Empowerment** and **self-belief** are a crucial pre-condition for development
CONCLUSION – A SHIFT IS NECESSARY

» From classical notion of bringing development and knowledge

» Towards a focus on:
  » Dignified encounters & connections
  » Networking & recognition of agency
  » Knowledge exchange
  » Capacity building
  » Empowerment & shared interests
QUESTIONS?