

A week in Aalborg

A university where the entire study program is focused on the study method of “Problem Based Learning”(PBL)? That sounds interesting and I was happy to get a practical impression of it during an Erasmus stay at the University of Aalborg (AAU). For a week, the university's elearning lab (eLL) has been my host, a group of international researchers from the Faculty of Humanities, Department of Communication and Psychology. The university has two campuses. The elearning lab is located in the city on a refurbished and modern designed harbor area, not the worst place to work.

In my eyes AAU is a good place to study, everything is geared to group projects and research. There are many group work rooms for students as well as large open learning spaces, which can be quickly converted into smaller group spaces to help being more creative and innovative.

I had many interesting talks and learned about the idea of a flipped PBL, an ICT Master program, an international online Master on PBL and how student supervising works here. I also discussed Moodle topics with a colleague from the ITS department.

The research group was interested in learning more about the E-Learning Competence Center (ELC) at Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Recht (HWR Berlin). Therefore, I explained how the university encourages eLearning and provides support through funded projects and ongoing support by the ELC. We discussed the organizational anchoring as well as the strategic goals agreed with the university management board.

In order to promote the integration of innovative blended learning elements the HWR Berlin develops new bachelor curricula, based on the existing programs in business administration and public administration to be taught in a blended learning mode, a split between the classroom teaching and online learning.

A service facility offering both, media didactic and media technology advice. Support and trainings does not exist at AAU yet. But I emphasized that I see great benefits in the eLL of AAU as a group of scientists who deal with research questions of media-based learning in any ways. We then summarized that it would be great to have both, an eLearning service unit collaborating with a research group.

Once a semester, the ELC provides a training called “onboarding course for new professors and lecturers”. My Aalborg colleagues were very interested; they would like it if all new professors were to complete this course. Maybe, if we would provide this online course in English, we would certainly have one or two Danish participants.

Many many thanks to Marianne Lykke and Thomas Ryberg for their hospitality and for giving me the chance to gain an insight into their work. And thanks for the extremely nice weather, too.

I had qualified for the stay abroad through “Employee+“, a staff development program, combining language training and a week at one of our partner universities.

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