



Sustainability Education in Guatemala, Colombia and Norway (SEEDs)

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Intercultural Experience. Lessons Learned at the University of South-Eastern Norway

Resumen:

El documento relata la experiencia internacional e intercultural obtenida durante un semestre de intercambio en la Universidad del Sudeste de Noruega (USN) cursando el Máster en Gestión de la Sostenibilidad. De modo que, destaca cómo este programa fomenta un entorno enriquecedor que permite cultivar competencias cruciales para la gestión de la sostenibilidad, abordando tanto la teoría como la práctica y preparando a los estudiantes para afrontar retos globales en diversos entornos profesionales y culturales.

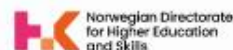
Abstract:

The document recounts the international and intercultural experience gained during a semester exchange at the University of South-Eastern Norway (USN) while pursuing the Master's program in Sustainability Management. In this context, it highlights how this program fosters an enriching environment that allows the cultivation of crucial competencies for sustainability management, addressing both theory and practice, and preparing students to face global challenges in various professional and cultural settings.

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The opportunity to do an exchange in Bø, municipality of Midt-Telemark, Norway, taking the first semester of the Master of Sustainability Management at the University of South-Eastern Norway (USN) has been an enriching experience that extends to personal, academic, and professional realms.

Firstly, USN stands out for the development of different mechanisms that facilitate the integration of international students into the academic, social and cultural environment. Secondly, the Master of Sustainability Management is designed to be taught in English, which allows for an intercultural experience in which people from different continents different continents can converge to discuss sustainability. Thirdly, it is an interdisciplinary program, therefore, it develops sustainability from a holistic perspective that integrates disciplines such as business, information technology, law, finance, marketing and innovation, favoring a more comprehensive vision regarding sustainability.

On the other hand, this exchange experience prompted me to reevaluate the consolidation and configuration of sustainability, to acknowledge its complexities and paradoxes. This reflection not only helped me better grasp the nature of sustainability, but it also emphasized the inherent inconsistencies that might develop when seeking to apply sustainable practices in a variety of settings.

Furthermore, the program enabled me to identify a variety of scenarios and opportunities for the development of public policies that promote access to environmental information as a fundamental right, in order to address local needs and at the same time contribute to sustainable development.



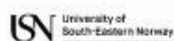


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Enhanced engagement with peers and professors from diverse cultural backgrounds created an environment of mutual learning and knowledge exchange. This environment was not only essential in improving my academic understanding of sustainability but also in refining my communication and collaboration skills, which in turn expanded my world view and improved my ability to function well in multicultural environments.

To conclude, this exchange experience at USN has greatly impacted my personal and professional areas, given me the platform to apply academic theories in real-world situations, raised a deeper understanding of the multifaceted nature of sustainability, and enhanced my skills to work effectively across cultural boundaries, strengthening my resolve to promote social responsibility and care for the environment.

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