

# PBL, Internationalisation and Multicultural Group Work

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## Purpose

Strengthen students' and teachers' understanding of and ability to work in and with multicultural groups

## Activities

- Survey on students' use of tools for planning, management and inclusion in project processes
- Development of prototypes of learning material / "leaflets"
- Evaluated by three multicultural student groups, interviewed during and after project writing
- Analysis of students' responses and evaluation of guides
- Conference on *Multicultural Groups and Problem Based Learning*, April 17<sup>th</sup> 2018 – presenting preliminary results, conclusions and recommendations

## The project intends to

- Increase awareness of benefits and learning potential of working in multicultural groups
- Prevent frustration and unproductive tensions by making students and supervisors aware of potential challenges
- Provide concrete tools/instruments that can support multicultural group work

## The project produced

- "Leaflets" encouraging reflection and discussion on
  - Group formation, Group Work, Group Roles, Global English, Diversity, Supervision.
- "Problem-based learning in multicultural group work – an introduction"

## Conclusion and recommendations

### Students value

- Autonomy, freedom, own decision-making
- Fluid roles, no clear role boundaries
- Flat structure
- Self-controlled identities
- Informality
- Sociality – programs should support social activities in order to help students build social relations

### Recommendations

- Better 'scaffolding' of group formation;
- Introduce group management tools early in the program;
- Some management tools should probably be mandatory: code of conduct and clarification of expectations with supervisors;
- Group management tools that affect students' sense of autonomy, freedom, and identity should probably be voluntary and primarily used for group-internal purposes.

Further information on the project and access to the resources:

<http://www.en.cgs.aau.dk/research/academic-networks/c-inter/resources/>