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Activity Report 2022



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FOREWORD

A few words from the President...

Continuing now the line drawn three years ago by the elected executive board back when I was an Erasmus exchange student, still new to student societies life, I am more than proud of being reelected as representative for Evenstad Campus for 2023. For those people who stood up to make Evenstad Student Society (ESS) an actual entity acting in collaboration with many others, for the 2022 board who greatly helped to make it better than it already was and for the newly elected board this September, we will once again share our energy and passion to make sure our Evenstad students will benefit a maximum amount of what their local Student Society is able to give them.

The continuous support granted from the University, SINN and StudINN will forever be our major asset to offer our students the widest activity panel possible. Accounting for long-term Norwegian students and semester-long staying Erasmus, our main goal remains the same: organizing and proposing activities during which everyone can share, explore, and discover their skills and passions with an emphasis on local social life. In such a small, remote location, I particularly believe that maintaining an active social life, is the key for every student from anywhere around the globe, from whichever origins and beliefs, to gain the most from their stay on our Campus.

With 2022 coming to an end, friends graduating, and new faces appearing, the Board Election took place on the 22nd of September with a record attendance for our Campus. More than an eventual sign of popularity, I believe that the actual willingness of our students to get involved in the Society's life on their campus increases year after year, offering more opportunities for us to hear from them, what they would like, what they expect from us as well as possibilities for them to get directly engaged into our fields of action. During our General Assembly, suggestions were heard and processed, all positions were filled, and I can ensure without a doubt that the newly elected boards members and club leaders are already looking forward to what we will achieve this coming year.

Let's go back together on our year in Evenstad!

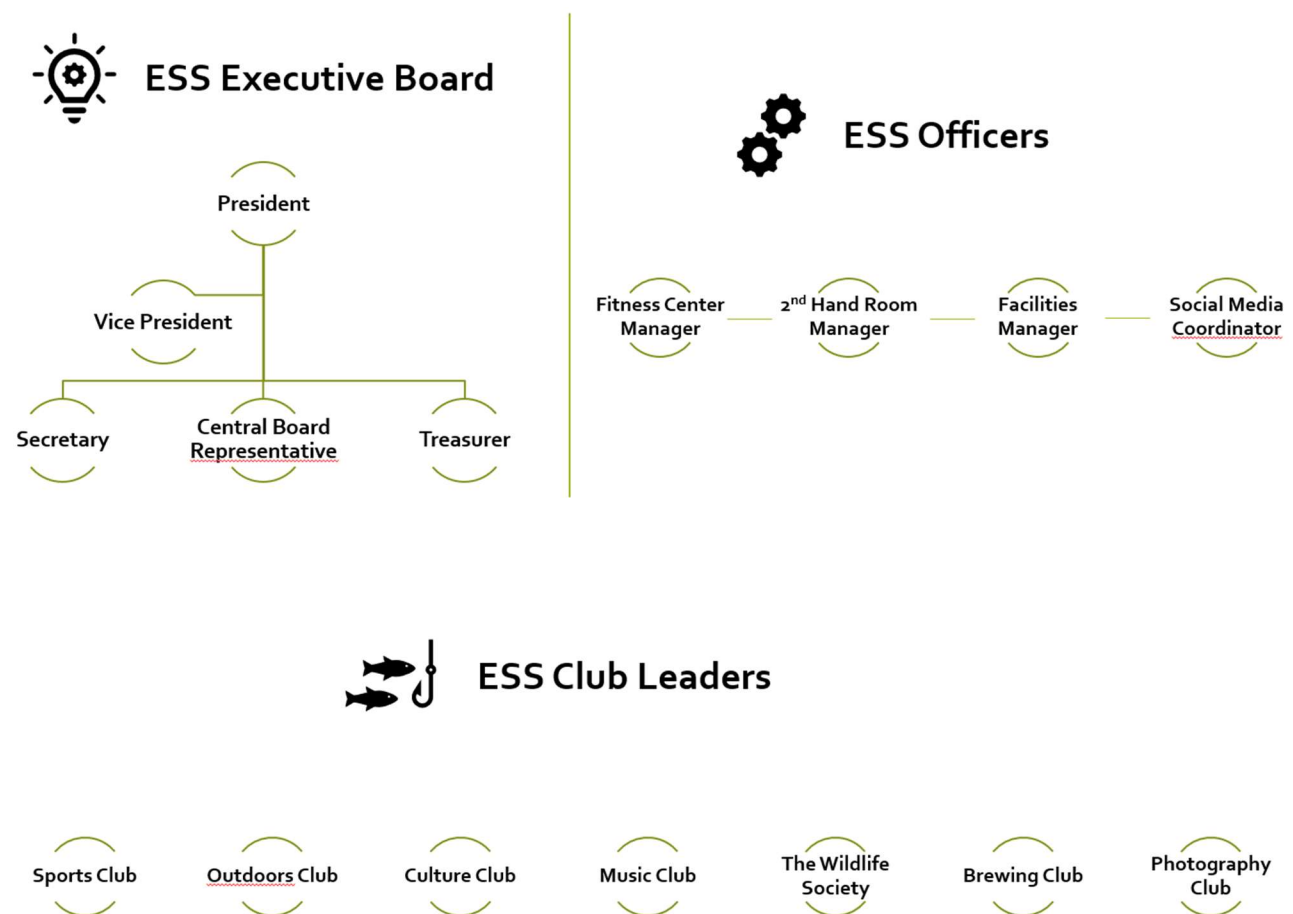
Hugo Epiard

Evenstad Student Society President

INTRODUCTION

I – A structural insight of Evenstad Student Society

Before going into details into our activities, it might be useful to get an overview of how Evenstad Student Society is structured. As per 2022, the Student Society positions were divided into three categories: Executives, Officers and Club Leaders for a total of 16 positions.



Each position has very specific tasks to be addressed, which I will not go through in details here, which are all described in the Student Society Bylaws. To briefly mention their field of action, ESS Executives are dealing with all issues in relation to the Student Society as a whole, including meeting scheduling, relationships with, SINN, the Evenstad Buddies and the University, regulations enforcing and compliance with StudINN requirements, as well as providing club leaders with accounting and organization advises. Executive Board members may also hold activities. ESS Officers are responsible for diverse management tasks related to their positions, which reflects directly on the Student Society as a whole: from the coordination of our social medias to maintaining the facilities which use has been granted to us by the University. Club

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Leaders are our main working group dealing with student activities, with every Club specializing in its own field of action.

II – Attendance for Student Society activities

Quantifying attendance to our activities is considered a standard to measure the success encountered with the activities proposed. However, I would like to deal with it in another way, by reminding that in our small campus, low numbers of attendees is not necessarily linked to an activity being highly demanded or not, and that numbers given has to be set in a scale where time spent and expectations have to be taken into account.

To illustrate my words, on the 11th of November, Evenstad Student Society organized the Hosttakkefest event, on request from the University. This yearly event is an opportunity for students, alumni, PhD's, professors and staff to enjoy some time together with a nice dinner followed by a party, which is exactly a task that sets our standards. With slightly more than a month in advance notice, we managed to set up registration, organize the dinner with the local restaurant's help and set up a concert with student musicians from Evenstad. This event probably was the biggest task ever given to our Student Society, with many aspects to consider and a lot of time to dedicate it. As we expected, it was a huge success, with over than a hundred people participating to the dinner and close to two hundreds joining the concert and party.



Swing dancing required when the Music Club hold the concert!

INTRODUCTION

In comparison to these important numbers, most of our activities have nothing to be ashamed of. Even though they may not reunite as many people, some are just part of our Student Society's identity, and it is very important for us to keep them running. The Sports Club holds for example volleyball session three times a week for a variable number around twenty people. Same pattern is seen for the Culture Club's Sunday Café, where everyone can enjoy some relaxing time with coffee and homemade cakes every Sunday, with fellow students. In my own reflection, the attendance number is not important. What matters the most to me is to see different faces participating in different events, which is a sign that we somehow manage to host activities where everyone can fit it somehow.

III – 2022 in a brief overview

For both StudINN and the Student Societies, 2022 was a year for changes at several levels. Evenstad did not escape the rule and had to adapt to be able to face the upcoming challenges. I would like to mention first the economic shift towards the use of PowerOffice, which by now I can ensure how useful it this, was not easy to get at a first approach. Some of our Clubs could not use their resources at the extent they wanted to, partly due to this change (i.e. Photography Club) as well as being abroad. We are lucky now in Evenstad to have some key senior-positions reelected for 2023 which will be able to teach the newcomers on how to deal with this important tool. Having several board members, at every level, staying abroad was also a major challenge for ESS as a whole, with important limitations for the people involved. With an increasing demand from students in our activities and various fields of action, we needed to make sure our organization could sustain itself during such times. I could never thank Bendik enough for stepping in my position and doing an amazing job at keeping our house safe and to its rightful standard. Moreover, the development of our website, and more recently the iZettle initiative proposed by StudINN, had, and will help us even more in case a similar situation is to happen.

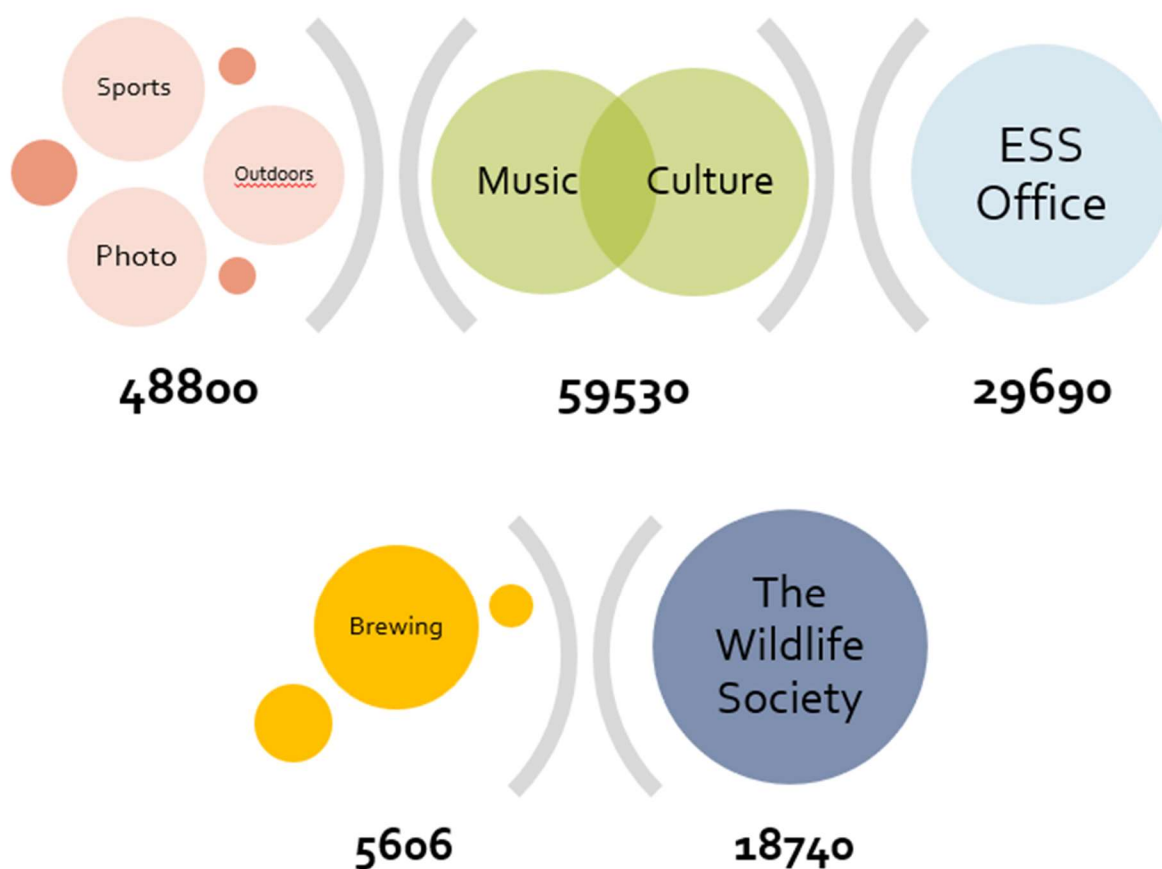
These adaptations would not have been possible without the willingness and involvement from our board members and the generous contribution from StudINN. We believe the fund distribution Evenstad received was fair and allowed us to acquire new stuff, maintain our items and infrastructures and indeed to broaden our activity offer. As of now, I estimate that 90% of our programmed budget has been used in such purposes. To follow, we will go through some examples of activities hosted and fund usages at ESS.

BUDGETING

I – Budget division for 2022

For 2022, indications were given from StudINN towards a budget estimate of 187 500 NOK for Evenstad Student Society. Following established protocols from 2021, the President asked every Club Leader to prepare a budget estimate for its club including a budget proposal accompanied by a cover letter for the expected expenses.

Final budget plan was discussed by the Executive Board and Club Leaders towards a fair division of our budget according to the Club's activity and future projects. In some cases, priority was given to historically important clubs at ESS (i.e. Sports Club and Culture Club) due to the importance of their renewed presence for the social life on our campus.



Budget division between monetary groups for 2022

By summing up these numbers, you may figure out that it does not equal our expected budget. Good catch! To make sure not to have issues with clubs going overbudget we kept around 10% of the amount as a “buffer budget” in case such a situation would happen, just as a simple precautional measure.

In 2022, some clubs were included in a “banner group”, it was the case for examples with Sports Club, Outdoors Club and Photography Club, which activities could overlap. We then decided to create common budget for those and expected their similarities to ease the economical functioning of these clubs. As for 2023, we decided to not repeat this process, not that it did not work out, but we now think it makes more sense for each Club Leader to have an overview for its own club budget instead of having someone supervising expenses for several clubs.

We estimate that nowadays, between 90 to 95% of our predicted budget has been used. This estimate did not account for the several applications to StudINN resource fund, which are spent for the purpose of a specific feature not initially planned by a given club. Also, some confusion appeared this fall as it was mentioned several times that we disposed of an envelope estimated towards 250 000 NOK instead of the initial 187 500 we used to build our budgets with.

II – Reviewing ESS key investments in 2022

In this section, we propose to review some key activities and investments related to the Student Society life in 2022. We ended up thinking that giving too many details would be tedious and that providing a good overview on what we actually spent our budgets on would allow more readability and understanding. To follow a logical scheme, we will provide information on the entity organizing, the amount used, a short description of expectations and implications as well as an illustration if available!

Investment: Equipment acquiring and maintenance

Amount allocated: 150 000 NOK

Groups involved: ESS Board and Club Leaders

For the last few years, improving our range of actions and raise the expectations of students have been our main line at Evenstad Student Society. Such ambitions can only be fulfilled by acquiring equipment related to club activities and maintenance of our existing equipment. A special attention is given by Club Leaders to their material, with a special emphasis on maintaining what we already have before all. In such context, we estimate that 10% of this amount directly goes into maintenance equipment such as bike maintenance, replacement stuff in general, music instruments care (cleaning chemicals, guitar strings) or renewal of the Brewing Club supplies. Most of this sum aims at acquiring new material on our campus to fit the student body's needs and ESS's projects at various levels. As an example, the Music Club invested 15 000 NOK in music instruments, including a new bass guitar and amplifier which were used during the Hosttakkefest event in Evenstad as well as being used for rehearsals. The same scheme can be found regarding the Sports Club budget, where most of the budget (c.a 35 000 to 40 000 NOK) is allocated to equipment replacement and new acquaintances (hockey equipment, renewing badminton and ball sports equipment, disc-golf equipment...). More recently, and as another example, 3 000 NOK were spent for a joint project between our Photography Club and The Wildlife Society Club to develop a camera trap workshop on our campus, a bright idea more than relevant to our campus' study orientation. These few examples should provide an insight on how the Student Society in Evenstad tends to cope personal development through social activities and professional career utility for its students.

Investment: Sandvolley playground

Amount allocated: 20 000 NOK

Groups involved: ESS Board

Working with different entities at ESS is something we are trying to develop as a tool for general collaboration and sharing ideas. Last spring, an opportunity of building up a sandvolley playground was brought to us by Evenstad dean Halgrim Breie. Conscious of this opportunity, ESS

redirected funds allocated to Cabins maintenance to finance and lead this project. In a short term window, and with the help from volunteer students and our Facilities Manager Trym Jakobsen, we managed to have it ready in August for the beginning of the semester. Widely used this summer, it seems that snow and negative temperatures scared some of our player these days. This pattern being expected, ESS remains proud of this achievement ensuring and easing an active social life on campus.



International students enjoying the brand new sandvolley playground

Investment: Swing courses

Amount allocated: 30 000 NOK

Groups involved: Sports Club

For the last two years, ESS has been working with Jan Frenningsmoen, a local classic swing dancer and teacher from Rena to provide swing courses to our students twice a week. More than just dancing, we believe such opportunity also benefits students in their social development as well as in the discovery of new skills. Mixing people from different origins with the same willingness to learn how to dance in old-school spirits once again represent a perfect example of ESS's ideals, as well as involving local actors in our campus life. With regular attendance to each session this Fall, we expect to reproduce these weekly courses if new students show interest in it.



A swing dance session in Evenstad's gymnasium

Investment: Food and theme customization

Amount allocated: 10 000 NOK

Groups involved: Culture club (and others)

Who does not like free food? In Evenstad, we understood very fast that an efficient way for having people involved is to provide food. It's a bit like luring a mouse into a trap, but without the trap... 😊

Event feature, baking competition, cafes, rewards, and board meeting breaks are so many examples of how we use food resources at ESS. This variety in resource use allows us to deal with weekly events (Sunday cafes) which will bring our students together on a weekly basis, as well as for more specific occasions. In 2022, we hosted several games and tournaments where food rewards were used: Hide and Seek, MarioKart Tournament, TWS Quizz...More than just featuring food, most of our events are themed in accordance with Norwegian and International customs. For only mentioning few of them: Fadderukka, OktoberFest, Hostakkesfest, Halloween and even Thanksgiving are celebrated in Evenstad, possibly with a dinner and associated parties. Planning and organizing such events require to invest on themed decorations and other features. I consider these events as very important on our Campus life, especially for our international community, eager to share their own traditions as well as discovering new ones. However, we expect such investments to last for at least a few years, which would induce a drop in spendings related to this topic for the coming year, as our features are reusable!

Investment: Røros Christmas trip

Amount allocated: 15 000 NOK

Groups involved: Culture club

Mentioning how small and remote Evenstad campus is would be redundant by now. However, it is something we know and have to deal with. Allowing our students to go around for activities or other purposes is a possibility to remediate to boredom as well as proposing alternates to study breaks. This December, the Culture Club planned on bringing ESS member students to Røros Christmas market, as an opportunity to get an exam break, to discover new

places in Innlandet county as well as meeting local artisans. As we expected, a great success was encountered with 68 students joining. At the same period last year, INN also proposed their students a short trip to Koppang cinema to watch the last James Bond movie with similar attendance. These examples make us believe that such adventures outside of campus are important for our students and, even if they are usually tricky to organize due to monetary and time constraints, we are planning on proposing a few more in 2023, always promoting educational or cultural purposes.

TOWARDS 2023

With some of these year's challenges already hovered in a previous section, I would like to conclude the report focusing on our expectations and matters for the upcoming year.

First, we may state that all issue cannot that simply be fixed, some just have to be dealt with. A concrete example illustrating this statement using what we have faced in 2022 would be that learning a professional budget monitoring software is not an easy task, it must be learnt and taught. For a whole group of people unfamiliar with these processes, it is uneasy. However, we expect the Student Society board to be renewed every year with senior officers keeping positions and new members filling the gaps. This situation allows students already familiar with the software to teach other students newcomers to the board, who can offer help at every moment. We expect this senior-to-new student help to be our main tool to fix such problems in the future.

On the other hand, if we take into account board members study mobility, it appears difficult to find a solution covering every aspect. Last year, with many key positions leaving for Nepal, part of the Applied Wildlife Ecology master course, I must admit ESS was left unprepared with many responsibilities left on our Vice President. After experiencing the effects of board members absence on our Student Society, we are now discussing how to deal with such situations in the future, with hopes of lowering the harmful effects of absent members.

Furthermore, the situation between ESS and the cabins is still expected to be an ongoing challenge in 2023. Since 2021, previous board members have been trying to find a convenient solution for the different stakeholders involved. However, the situation remains confused. In January 2021, an assessment of one of the two cabins was performed and an estimation of 140 000 NOK was given for repair materials. Efforts from our previous facility manager to have the job done remained unsuccessful, the required amount being too little for both materials and workforce. With positions switching Bendik took over the project, but was unfamiliar with the issue, leading to discussions with Erling Relling over the actual contracts and real usefulness of these cabins for ESS being laid on the table. As for now, we estimate that cabin maintenance has not been done properly since 2012, with cabin's state probably following. Difficulty to go through legal documentation associated with funding and workforce issues will lead us to give back the money to the Kunnskaps Departementet and potentially loose accessibility to one of the cabins, and leaving the other in an already blurry situation.

Another issue we may address in the second half of 2023 is the willingness from to University to see the Student Society to move its headquarters out of the HvitHuset. To provide some background, ESS has been allowed by the University to use this house in the middle of the campus as a base to all its operations for the last couple of years. For budgetary reasons, and the creation of new PhD positions, the University has already informed us that we will not be able to use this

place after Summer 2023, and this without proposing us adequate alternatives. The HvitHuset is by now used as our office, with document storage, ESS workplace and for meeting purposes, as well as a relaxing space for Evenstad students during opening hours. We also host several weekly events in this space and use it to base our equipment rental system, one of our most successful services with international students, and our 2nd hand room. Having all these services available requires space, which is the main issue in there. The solution proposed by the University is to move our stuff up in Biotopen, the student pub, or to use the basements. More than being already full of the Music Club equipment, and not having enough space to shelter the previously mentioned activity, it is also not equipped to be a working place, as we need. In my opinion, I must admit that hosting social events in a dubious basement is a mark of disrespect towards our students and I am definitely not willing to do so. We understand the reasons behind the move and are grateful to the University for letting us use this place, but after the many actions taken by our predecessors to finally give a real Student Society to our campus, we are more than saddened by this decision. We yet have to start the dialogue to try to find compromises that could satisfy all parties and are hoping that the University will take into consideration our, and its own students' needs.

To wrap up this year review, I will have to thank again every board member who is, or have been involved in, making the Evenstad's Student Society what it is today. We are lucky and proud of what we have achieved with the accompaniment from StudINN, SINN and the University staff. 2023 is coming fast and we are ready and motivated to keep the Student Society standards as high as ever with the new students for this year, and the years to come.

On behalf of Evenstad Student Society,

ESS President - Hugo Epiard