



Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole: Fostering Internationalization

I. Internationalization policy of Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole

Internationalization is not something you can learn from a textbook or a single lesson; it needs to be embedded in the mindset of every teacher and leader at the school. We need to provide the right tools for our students so we can generate a true feeling of being EU and global citizens. In order to implement internationalization, it needs to be a focal point when giving lessons, buying materials, and working on projects. When internationalization is a mindset it broadens the horizon of the students and provides them with an opportunity to see themselves as global citizens now and in the future.

Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole is promoting the internationalization policy within the municipality actively. Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole teaches English from the age of six. Starting at an early age means that at a certain point in primary school, the level of English of most children becomes relatively high. This creates the need of putting their English skills into practice.

Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole is a UNESCO school. A UNESCO school has the purpose of strengthening the learners in taking an active and responsible role when facing and solving global challenges. Moreover, the network wishes to develop the learners' ability to actively contribute to a more peaceful, tolerant, and inclusive world. As a global citizen, you will feel connected to humanity and a larger community. The education for global citizenship aims at the learners to develop the knowledge, skills, values, and beliefs that are necessary to be able to contribute to a more inclusive, justice, and peaceful world.

Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole is proud to be innovative, and always looking for new ways of teaching. Among other things, this has resulted in a solid ICT infrastructure and a high-tech FABLAB in the school. This ICT structure offers the technical conditions needed for developing and improving the digital skills of learners, in order for them to be fully ICT-ready when they take their next step towards becoming modern European citizens.

Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole is currently engaged in an Erasmus+ KA2 project. The school wants to stimulate both its primary and secondary departments to participate in internationalization activities, with both teachers and learners. The main reason for this is that the main focal points of the school can be inspired, influenced, and enriched by undertaking internationalization activities.

Through internationalization activities, Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole aims to achieve the following goals:

1. Improving English with teachers and practical applications for learners

Teachers within Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole need to work on their own English didactic and pedagogical skills. Quite often, the primary class teachers organize activities and lessons in English. In secondary education, subject teachers other than English from time to time use CLIL, in various subjects and this can be done more often. In primary and secondary education, the teachers are currently shaping their teaching towards a more differentiated way and piloting ways to personalize education more, especially with English. For children, a practical application of their English skills, like an exchange or a project with children from other countries, will serve as motivation and inspiration to develop these skills further.

2. Increase and integrate the digital literacy of children and teachers within the curriculum

Within Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole coding, laser cutting, robotics, and 3D printing is taught within the FabLab. The school wants to build on this, to teach children these technologies, in combination with 21st-century skills. Laptops and tablets are available for all learners. The challenge lies of course in technical knowledge and expertise, but not only that. For learners, it is important to learn about both the opportunities and the challenges the digital world presents. Important topics are critical thinking, freedom of speech, empathy, and respect.

With the current resources and digital literacy level of the learners/teachers, Alminde-Viuf is already steps further in this area. The next step is, then, to integrate these skills over all the subject areas in the curriculum. Rather than teaching ICT as a separate subject, innovative implementations and integrations of it should be investigated, observed and put into practice.

3. Build on UNESCO: Raise awareness on sustainability and global citizenship

Working with teachers and children from other countries makes you aware of being a global citizen, next to being a citizen of the place and country you live in. Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole is a UNESCO school (<https://unesco-asp.dk/english-2/>). At the moment, the school is engaged in two main projects, Global Citizenship, and Sustainable Development.

With Global Citizenship, the school has the purpose of strengthening the students in taking an active and responsible role, when facing and solving global challenges. Moreover, it wants to develop students' ability to actively contribute to a more peaceful, tolerant, and inclusive world.

In regards to Sustainable Development, Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole focuses on the balance between environmental, economic, and social development. Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole wants to work on these goals together with UNESCO schools in other European countries, to

experience cooperation with people from other cultural backgrounds, to open up a world of opportunities, and foster respect and mutual understanding simultaneously.

4. Obtain knowledge and inspiration in regard to SEN and inclusivity

Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole works hard to create equal opportunities for all children, no matter their background or learning and/or behavioral challenges. The current government policy requires children with special needs, to attend regular primary schools more frequently. This presents a challenge for the school and its teachers. Challenges in classroom management, differentiation, and continuing to provide a great education for each individual learner. Teachers can learn a lot from the good practices of schools in other countries, and also about how to create a challenging learning environment for more highly gifted children.

5. Get inspired by good practices

Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole tries to give time and opportunity for children to explore their interests and develop their talents. The organization of this presents a challenge. Good practices from other schools can serve as inspiration to develop this aim even further.

Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole will continue to look for and invest in opportunities to integrate internationalization within the school in a structural way in close cooperation with its teachers. Internationalization is an absolute necessity to provide good education, in order to inspire children and prepare them to function in the society of today and tomorrow. Therefore, Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole wants to give time and opportunity to its teachers as well, to develop their talents and skillset as educators.

II. Internationalization plan Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole

In the coming years Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole will include the teachers and children in its internationalization activities and work on the goals formulated in the internationalization policy.

In order to achieve this, Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole has composed a task force for internationalization, a team consisting of seven people with various backgrounds, different experience levels in internationalization and experience in foreign language education. One of the members (Gitte Alstrup) will be the Erasmus+ coordinator for the school and coordinate the internationalization activities in the future. She is already the coordinator of Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole in the current KA2.26 project iBUILDIT, where the school is a partner. Gitte Alstrup will manage the task force and will be joined by the head teacher, the vice head teacher, the administrative leader of the school, the international coordinator at Eltang Skole og Børnehave, the language-teaching consultant at the municipality of Kolding and the UNESCO ambassador at Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole. Among other things, this task force will make sure that internationalization becomes a fixed point of the meeting agenda within the school.

From the age of six, in first grade, English is being taught. Some classes use TOEFL YSS assessments as the foundation of their English teaching (from grade 6 and up). The aim is to see how this approach affects current teaching methodologies and if it is possible by working this way to play more into the needs of individual learners.

Internationalization activities with school classes are a wonderful way for the practical application of the English skills of the children. In recent years a few eTwinning projects have successfully been run in some of the classes. Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole aims to execute more of these, especially before and after student exchanges.

Currently, an application for obtaining a KA1 accreditation is being written. It will be submitted before the deadline in October 2022. If approved, this will enable the schools to develop their education and teachers inspired and powered by internationalization activities. This KA1 accreditation will work towards achieving three objectives, which are all three linked to the five goals formulated in the internationalization policy, and have a direct link with the vision on education of the school:

1. To cultivate a sense of global citizenship in our students by making them aware of & understand people with other cultures, engage with issues and concepts from diverse backgrounds (empowered by foreign language education)
2. To support the activities of innovation (among ICT) in schools and spread the expertise wide, and to go, observe and learn about the similar best practices European-wide
3. Obtain and exchange knowledge about teaching to children with special education needs, with a strong focus on inclusivity

Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole seeks an ambitious, but gradual approach in terms of integrating internationalization within and outside its organization. Over the coming years, the school aims to seek intensive cooperation with other schools within the municipality in the field of internationalization. Alminde-Viuf Fællesskole visions to be the lighthouse of internationalization and deliver support, ideas, aid, and assist other schools within the municipality.

The aim is to incorporate as many teachers and children as possible. The emphasis will lie on seeing internationalization as a foundation towards developing high quality education for the children in primary and secondary education and integrating it in the development of education and teachers in schools.

III. Plan

Activities:	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Setting up a task force internationalization	X				
Organize frequent meetings with the task force	X	X	X	X	X
Internationalization fixed agenda point in all meetings	Start	X	X	X	X
(Re)formulating internationalization policy	X		X		X
Deliver yearly work plan plus evaluation of UNESCO schools	X	X	X	X	X
Applying for KA 1 Accreditation	X				X, renewal
No. of schools, involved in KA 1 consortium	2	3	5	7	9
No. of KA 2 projects running within the consortium	1 iBUILD IT	1 iBUILD IT	1	2	2
No. of eTwinning projects within the consortium (yearly)	2	4	8	12	18
No. of eTwinning ambassadors in the KA 1 consortium		1	1	2	4
No. of eTwinning schools in the KA 1 consortium	0	1	1	2	2

