

Universitetspladsen

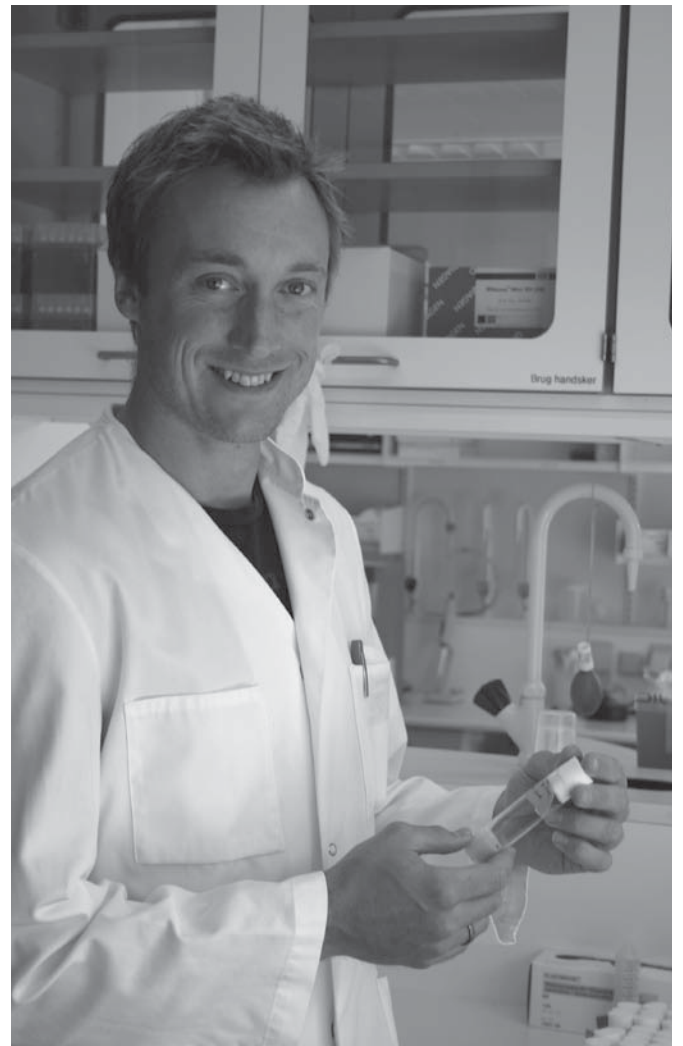
RUglobal

Information and debate from Roskilde University

Number 02 · 19. September – 10. October 2011

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- ▶ “In Denmark, English is always an option”
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Project on hormonal growth regulation receives DKK 5 million grant



Kim Furbo Rewitz.

What happens with the hormones in our bodies when we reach puberty or are diagnosed with metabolic disorders or cancer? New research at Roskilde University will answer these questions

By: *Camilla Buchardt, the Information Office*

Kim Furbo Rewitz, Assistant Professor and PhD at Roskilde University, has received a grant of DKK 5,385,475 from the Danish Council for Independent Research. The grant was given to a new research project on steroid hormone regulation and production in connection with growth, reproduction and development of diseases such as cancer.

Steroid hormone production is a complex process. The research project aims to identify the set of proteins that enable a specific type of cells to produce steroid hormones, and to learn about the interaction between these proteins.

Studies with fruit flies

The research will use the fruit fly as a model organism. The fruit fly shares around 70% of its genes with humans and is one of the most widely used model organisms in genetics and biomedicine research. Thus, an important perspective of the research is that results will have a direct relevance to human diseases for which the steroid production is 'misregulated'. Such 'misregulation' may affect puberty, fertility, metabolism, cancers and other factors.

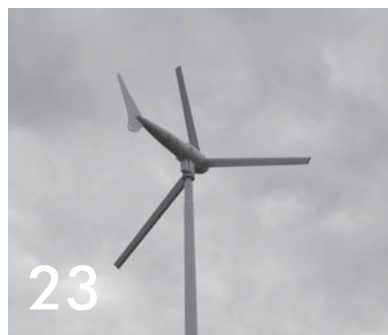
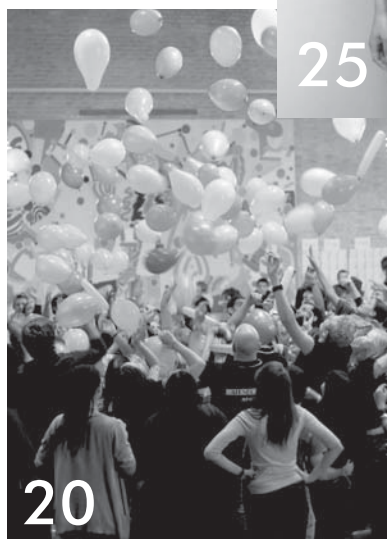
The grant from the Danish Council for Independent Research will be used to initiate research projects in Denmark as a starting point, but with strong international collaboration. More specifically, it means that Kim Furbo Rewitz is given the opportunity to establish his own research group and to a greater extent attract talented researchers and international grants.

This August, the Danish Council for Independent Research offered grants in excess of DKK 250 million to 33 young researchers who are given the opportunity to run their own research groups. The grants are given as part of the council's research career programme, Sapere Aude.

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Publishing information

RUCnyt/RUGlobal is Roskilde University's official magazine for information and debate about the organization of the university. RUGlobal is open to all employees and students at Roskilde University to debate the educational and research organizations at the university, including questioning of common interest for research and education.

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Nr.	Articles	Notices	Publication date
3	22/9	27/9	10/10
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“In Denmark, English is always an option”

Japanese researcher studies the use of Danish and Japanese at international universities

By: Dorte Lønsmann, Academic Assistant, the CALPIU network

Internationalisation of universities is often assumed to be tantamount to the English language. However, English is not the only language spoken among international students: local languages may also play an important role both on and outside campus.

In August, Associate Professor Keiko Ikeda of Kansai University in Osaka, Japan, visited CALPIU. As part of a newly established project funded by the Japanese State, she is examining how international students function in the new language environment when coming to an international university. Her work is particularly focused on the extent to which new international students learn and use the local language. Keiko collects data from both Kansai University and here at Roskilde University,

which gives her the opportunity to compare the practices at the two universities. “There is a major difference between Danish and Japanese universities,” Keiko explains:

“In Japan, Japanese courses are mandatory. You must complete a certain number of courses in the Japanese language and culture in order to acquire a student visa, and the courses in fact take up a large part of the students’ timetables.” International students at Roskilde University are offered Danish courses, but these courses are not mandatory. Thus, a major difference is that the students have different incentives to learn the local language.

Keiko explains that there is another major difference between Denmark

and Japan: “In Japan, you are forced to communicate in Japanese because many people do



About Keiko Ikeda

Keiko Ikeda is 36 years of age and grew up in Osaka, Japan. She moved to the United States when she began high school and completed her full university education in the United States, including a PhD in Japanese linguistics from Hawaii University. In 2008, she was employed as an associate professor at Kansai University, a private university in Osaka, Japan, where she coordinates the international programme and the courses in the Japanese language and culture. Kansai University and Roskilde University are partner universities, involving, among other things, an exchange agreement for students and collaboration among researchers. The project on the use of local languages among international students is a two-year research partnership project.

not speak English. "In Denmark, English is always an option." Nevertheless, an international pilot study has shown that international students in Japan do in fact speak English to a great degree; even with people whose mother tongue is not English.

Keiko will be interviewing international students about their experiences, but the students will also actively contribute to the collection of data. The plan is to give some of the international students an iPod to record some of their conversations over a prolonged period of time.

"I will examine if they communicate in Japanese and Danish in their daily lives," says the Japanese visiting researcher. She stresses that while the current project is intended to collect data on how international students communicate, the long-term goal is to ascertain how

What is CALPIU?

CALPIU is short for Cultural and Linguistic Practices in the International University and is a research centre of the Department of Culture and Identity at Roskilde University. The centre focuses on cultural and language practices, and the researchers thus study the consequences of the growing internationalisation at universities for students, lecturers and lectures. CALPIU explores aspects such as the effect on communication when students and university staff have different language and cultural backgrounds, the consequences of conducting group work in a language that is not your mother tongue and how lecturing in a foreign language affects the lecturer's authority. Generally, CALPIU aims to promote professionalisation of university education in an international context. CALPIU collaborates with researchers from the University of Southern Denmark and Aalborg University and has a number of international research partners in Sweden, Germany, Australia, China and other countries. CALPIU is headed by Bent Preisler, Professor of English and Socio-Linguistics.

to improve the conditions for international students.

"We must provide them with global skills," Keiko says.

Never reveal your password to others!

Someone is trying to trick you into revealing your RU username and password and misuse your account. Read more here:

www.ruc.dk/en/phishingattempt

The screenshot shows the Roskilde University website. At the top left is the RU logo. To the right is a navigation menu with items like Education, Research, Collaboration, Departments, Library, About the University, Job Opportunities, and International Students. Below the navigation is a search bar and a 'Search' button. The main content area features a warning titled 'Never reveal your password to others' with sub-headers 'And never send your password by e-mail...' and 'Someone is trying to trick you into revealing your password so that they can misuse your account. This is called Phishing.' The text explains phishing and provides instructions on how to handle such emails. A sidebar on the right contains a list of links including 'Welcome to RU', 'The History of Roskilde University', 'A Year at RU', 'Organisation', 'Management', 'Departments', 'Administration', 'Campus-it', 'About the department', 'News', 'AV Centre', 'Helpdesk', 'Academic IT', 'List of it-systems', 'It-security', 'Guides', 'Sharing folders on Akira', 'Electronic delivery of project...', 'Find person in Outlook', and 'Hjemmeside på RUCForsk'.

Tips and tricks from Campus-it

Green RU – from good idea to green agenda

In spring, Roskilde University's official policy to save energy by 20% by the end of 2015 was brought into focus. However, what only few people know is that the initiative was borne out of a completely ordinary bachelor report written by students with energy on their brains

Proposed caption: RU's own wind turbine towers proudly above Green RU as a green symbol

*Text by Emil Ryttergaard, RUGlobal
Photo by Eva Lykke Jørgensen, RUGlobal*

«He is simply a very enthusiastic soul». This is a comment by Irene Boese who is responsible for the day-to-day energy affairs at RU and who is one of the project coordinators of Green RU, which is RU's official policy to reduce energy consumption by 20% by the end of 2015. The person she refers to is Tue Damsø, who together with other Technological and Socio-Economic Planning (TEK-SAM) students set up Green RU as a grassroots organisation and who submitted their proposal for energy-saving solutions in the form of a bachelor project in 2008. The basis for Tue's report was in actual fact his frustration that RU had not initiated its own action plan: «Originally, I read an article in HippoCampus from 2007 (*RU's original university magazine, ed.*), which commented on the University of Copenhagen's (UC) initiative called Green Agenda, which is a student organisation working to reduce energy consumption. I was annoyed that RU, which I considered progressive and innovative, could not match the UC's initiative in this field». Tue's bitterness that RU failed to focus on this field was therefore one of the building stones for the initiative to materialise and spread to the senior management offices. At that time, the Danish universities had already undertaken to save 10% of their energy consumption according to a revised circular of 2009, and without any mutual im-

pact, Tue's report became the driving force of the process to make RU a greener university.

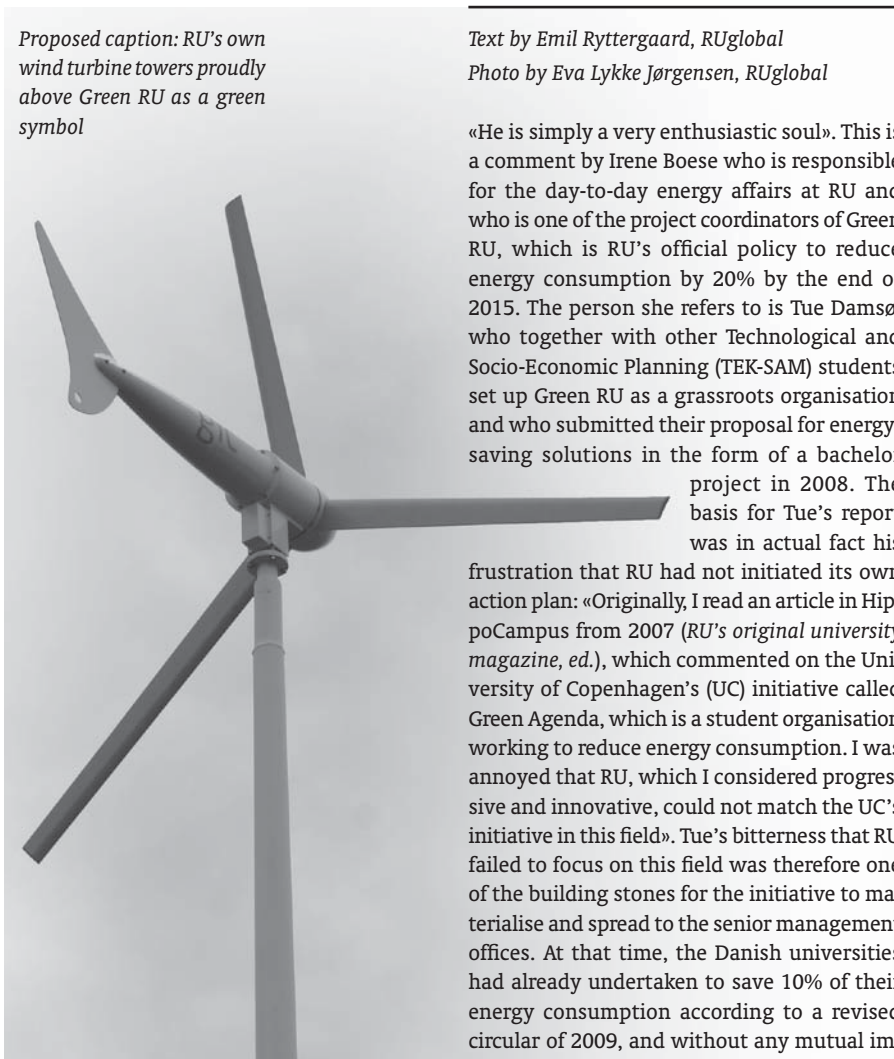
Launching the project

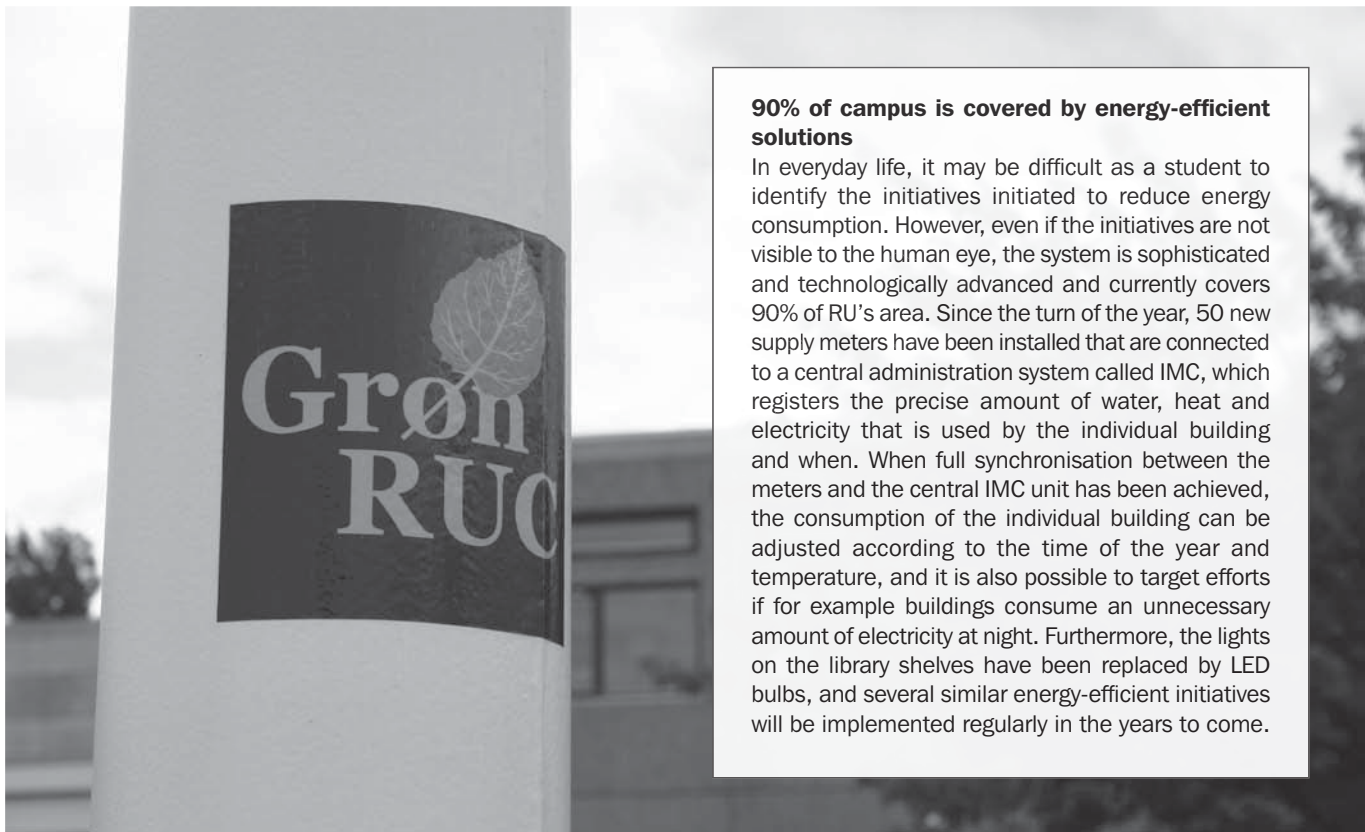
At the meeting with Tue, a strong commitment to Green RU and pride of being part of the now ongoing development was sensed: «We have set the "ship" afloat and now it is moving forward by its own force without our supervision, and it is a wonderful experience to be

«He is simply a very enthusiastic soul».

– Irene Boese, engineer responsible for energy affairs at RU.

able to influence your university that way». Having prepared their report, which, among other things, holds energy measurements of Building 14, Tue and his co-students found it hard to gain a solid foothold and realise their ideals of making campus greener. There was, however, a particular reason for this: «At the time, we couldn't promote our plans since the university had only a temporary rector. Instead, we went from department to department to spread the message, using lots of introductory material. When Ib Poulsen later became Rector, he invited us for a meeting and was very receptive to our ideas. Following that meeting, we found that we had done much better than expected since he announced,





90% of campus is covered by energy-efficient solutions

In everyday life, it may be difficult as a student to identify the initiatives initiated to reduce energy consumption. However, even if the initiatives are not visible to the human eye, the system is sophisticated and technologically advanced and currently covers 90% of RU's area. Since the turn of the year, 50 new supply meters have been installed that are connected to a central administration system called IMC, which registers the precise amount of water, heat and electricity that is used by the individual building and when. When full synchronisation between the meters and the central IMC unit has been achieved, the consumption of the individual building can be adjusted according to the time of the year and temperature, and it is also possible to target efforts if for example buildings consume an unnecessary amount of electricity at night. Furthermore, the lights on the library shelves have been replaced by LED bulbs, and several similar energy-efficient initiatives will be implemented regularly in the years to come.

Green RU is RU's own initiative to reduce energy consumption by 20% by the end of 2015

among other things, in his inaugural speech that RU were to become Denmark's greenest university». Looking back, Tue also points out that this approach was one of the criteria for the successful implementation of their proposal. «When Rector since then communicated with the different departments whether it being in respect of the technical or financial aspects of the project, they had already talked to us and knew of the initiative already, which I presume – one way or another – has helped facilitate the process».

A certain win

One of the problematic issues that otherwise made life difficult for Tue and his like-minded co-students in their work on the energy savings project was to adapt environmentally correct investments to RU's own basic interests. The fact is that the RU administration does not own the buildings on campus since they are administered by UBST, the Danish University and Property Agency. On the other hand, RU is in charge of operations and bears any related costs. In practice, this means that RU has no particular interest in energy upgrading buildings it does not own itself, resulting in the fact that energy savings must be found elsewhere. On the other hand, Tue is certain that even minor investments can and will create value that will reflect on RU's image as well as on its bottom line: «What is fantastic about energy is that it offers so many synergies. RU can save money, the environment will gain from it, and the investment will pay for itself with

added interest and compound interest. We are, however, also pragmatists we students at TEK-SAM, meaning that all the proposals we once prepared would cost a fortune if all of

«We have set the “ship” afloat and now it is moving forward by its own force without our supervision, and it is a wonderful experience to be able to influence our university that way.»

Tue Damsø, master's programme student at TEK-SAM.

them were to be realised. We focus on creating projects that are both extensive, general and feasible and that way bringing about progress and dynamics for this subject».

Future green collaboration

When asked whether RU will itself contribute to creating environmentally correct solutions and implementing them directly on campus as part of Green RU for the future, both Irene and Tue are rather moderate in their response: «I wish I could say “yes” to that question; however, as things are right now, we focus on technologies that have been tested and industrialised so that RU is guaranteed that the technology works and that it will gain from its investment», comments Irene. At the

same time she emphasises, however, that the academic and administrative staff attached to Green RU as green ambassadors are doing a real good job, and Tue and Irene also agree that ideally the collaboration between researchers and Green RU should be even broader and better in the future. «The researchers currently attached to TEK-SAM have the most knowledge about the interrelation between behaviour and technical solutions, and they would be able to help create joint ownership of this project,» adds Tue. For this reason, he would also like to see an advisory panel be set up within the organisation, thus enabling the organisation to draw on some of the knowledge held by the researchers. He also finds, however, that the future for RU's green plan is to present and incorporate RU's own research findings in Green RU: «In a sense, I agree with Irene that to start with we should focus on some of the technologies that have been tested and that we know work well; however, if at the same time the university is to be a driving force for the developments in society, we must demonstrate solutions that are untested. That way, we combine well-known technology with RU research implemented at RU, and even if it would clearly be difficult, synergies from it would help bring the project into focus – also in the future».

Voxpop: What do you think of Roskilde University's green initiative?

Roskilde University's (RU's) ambitious goal to reduce energy consumption by 20% by the end of 2015 is received with enthusiasm by the university students. RUGlobal asked four different students for their opinion on RU's green initiative



**Elisabeth Jensen,
Biology and Chemistry**

The wind turbine is a fantastic idea. The costs incurred in acquiring it are quickly recovered. The new light source in the library is also a good idea. However, we should remind ourselves that the new sources of light must be as good as the ones we have now. But I do think the idea is cool. The light is always on at RU's library, so it is definitely a very energy-efficient solution.



**Cecilie Glavind,
International field of study,
Basic studies in the
Humanities**

It sounds like a good initiative. It makes a lot of sense to me. Saving energy is good since we avoid wasting unnecessary energy. That the light turns off by itself at the library is of course not brilliant. It is, however, brilliant that the light turns off when there is no one there.



**Lauge Bro Lilleås,
the Humanities and
Technology (HUMTEK)**

I think it is an excellent initiative. It is good for RU's reputation and image to focus on that sort of thing at the university.



**Malte Svendsen,
first-year student at Basic
Studies in Social Sciences,
SAMBAS**

It sounds very sensible. It makes sense. And now that you remind me of it, I think I will try extra hard to remember to turn off the light whenever I leave a seminar room, and I will also pay more attention to saving water.

Make your ideas come true

By: Zdenka Pajtasova

It is well known, that the knowledge you obtain at your studies at the university can be insufficient when you finally come to the “real life” and look for job. You get a lot of theoretical knowledge, but the scent of reality is missing. I am a third-year student of Social Science, and even though I work a lot on different projects and have a student job, I still felt it is nothing hands-on I could offer to my future employers. In my opinion, it is important to try things out before money is in the question. And that is where AIESEC UNIC became a playground for me.

The idea behind the organization is smart – you do dozens of Danish and international students a favor, when you and your team help them to be sent and received at internship in Denmark or abroad, in one of the 109 member countries. Working at your local office in coordination with other national and international offices – in total more than 55,000 people worldwide.

AIESEC UNIC is one of the five local committees in Denmark, that is active at RUC, KU and DTU. In the organization, I was a member, a team leader and now I am a head of the committee managing 20 people. My experience so far helped me to get the hands-on experience I always wished for, and besides that, a lot of

practical skills such as, selling skills, leadership skills and making great presentations. I have attended 3 international and 5 national Danish conferences, had meetings with real companies and met people all around the world. AIESEC is a platform to make YOUR ideas come true. Some of the projects we are organizing next term are a national conference, project about clean technology for students from developing countries and events in the Student House.

If you want to hear more about AIESEC or how to become a member, you can find us at www.aiesec.dk/unic.

