

# Sustainable internationalization at home

Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) - points from the symposium in 2022

## Background

Internationalization at home (IaH) and virtual exchange are focus areas, both nationally and internationally. Several Norwegian reports in higher education emphasize the necessity for students to acquire global and intercultural competence. Internationalization is mentioned as a prerequisite for quality in higher education in Norway. The Norwegian student supervision regulations state that degree study programs must have agreements for international student exchange, but not all students have opportunities to travel abroad. To increase students' possibilities to acquire intercultural and global competence, Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills encourages educational institutions to promote IaH. COIL is one of the IaH tools that can be used.

Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (HVL) has been involved in several projects with international partners in the development and research on COIL. Since May 2020, staff at the Bachelor program in nursing at campus Stord have been doing researching COIL together with academic staff from Austria, Italy, Portugal and Madagascar.

In September 2022, the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Education, Arts and Sports arranged a COIL symposium

**WHERE:** Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (HVL), Campus Stord September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> 2022

**WHY:** To discuss how IaH and COIL can impact the quality of education

**WHOM:** International and local participants (31)

**WHAT:** Exchange experiences and research regarding COIL

Tips and advice for planning a COIL project

Building relationships for collaboration

## Conclusion

The COIL symposium was an important meeting arena for the discussion of COIL projects. Sharing of experience, knowledge and research gave insight into developing COIL projects and implementing IaH in study programs.