



Utrikespolitiska
föreningen
Göteborg

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Society of International Affairs in
Gothenburg



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RECAP OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR

The operational year of 2017 has been one of success for the Society of International Affairs. The board has expanded the association's range of activities to include Erasmus+ trips, regular debate forums and quiz nights at the restaurant Salsa & Salsa. The board has also maintained an active presence at recruitment fairs and made some changes to the association's recruitment strategies. These alterations quickly bore fruit: membership has almost doubled, from 233 to 431. Each committee has also been careful not to overspend. Consequently, the association finishes the operational year of 2017 with a small budget surplus (see financial report for further information).

Lecture

In 2017, the lecture committee organized 16 lectures, including 12 evening lectures and 4 lunch time lectures. The lectures have covered events in regions like the Middle East, Central Asia, Latin America, Africa, and the EU. The four most popular lectures during the year were: Lecture with Foreign Minister Margot Wallström (178 visitors), a visit by the British Ambassador David Cairns (76 visitors), lecture with Senior lecturer at Gothenburg University Victor Lapuente (72 visitors) and a panel discussion between the Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy Aiden Liddle and Post-doctor at Gothenburg University Olof Larsson (84 visitors).

Event

During 2017, the Event Committee held 15 movie screenings (including the film festival), 5 Fika Politica, 3 quiz nights and 3 study trips, the first to Skopje in the spring semester, and the second to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem in the fall. The debate café 'Fika Politica' was held for the first time in April, and the quiz nights came into being in September. The number of attendees varied between 2 and 25, for the movie screenings, between 7 and 12 for Fika Politica, and between 20 and 90 for the quiz nights.

Utblick

During the year of 2017 Utblick has released four issues of the magazine, of which two were



released during the Spring semester and two in the Autumn. The legally responsible publisher during the spring semester was Mina Ghassaban, who also was Editor-in-chief along with Axel Christoffersson. Mina Ghassaban chose in the late summer to step down from the position as Editor-in-chief, and was replaced in September by Mikael Lassa. Axel Christoffersson was then appointed as the new legally responsible publisher.

Utblick Radio

Utblick Radio has aired five shows during the operational year of 2017, and the main focus has been on the major European elections of the year; the Dutch, the French and the German.

Model United Nations

During the operational year of 2017, the Model United Nations Committee has regularly arranged debate seminars, prep sessions and local simulations. The Committee also sent a delegation to the international conference in Malmö, where they reaped huge success, winning 4 out of the 8 prizes for ‘best delegate’ up for grabs.

Public Relations (PR)

During the past year, the PR-committee has continued their work on making sure the association is being seen around campus. They have also arranged a couple of kick-offs at the beginning of the year which resulted in multiple new members. The association’s Facebook-page has increased its so called “likes”, whereas the fastest growth was between September and December. The association has received media attention once in 2017; during the seminar with the Finnish-Swedish Chamber of Commerce. Among the media outlets that attended the event were SVT and others.

Swedish Association of International Affairs (SAIA)

During the operational year of 2017, the SAIA representatives of UF Gothenburg were Arash Bolouri (Spring) and Amanda Josefsson (Fall). The entire board of UF Gothenburg has been engaged in issues discussed within SAIA, and has always been thorough in its evaluation of SAIA proposals.



Election night events

Throughout 2017, the board has arranged two election night; for the French and German elections. While the events required a good deal of time and planning, they were popular amongst our member. The two events had between 40-60 participants, and included quizzes, snacks, soft drinks, lectures and more. The board of 2017 recommends future boards to arrange similar events.

Controversy

The board received criticism from a few members for its choice of destination for the study trip of the Fall semester. The destination was Tel Aviv, and the critics felt that it was inappropriate for a politically neutral organization to travel to Israel without visiting Palestine, and equated this with taking a stance in the conflict. The criticism was responded to by President Mikael Hemlin, who explained the intended purpose of the trip. In the end, the trip turned out a success.

Furthermore, the board received multiple anonymous complaints from the participants at the Tel Aviv trip that the vice president of the association, Dijana Mujdzic, allegedly conducted herself in an inappropriate manner during the group's stay in Israel. First and foremost, she unilaterally decided to circumvent the association's process for recruiting participants. This is indefensible, especially considering that around 20 applicants were denied a spot on the trip due to an excess of applications. Moreover, she also stood for several questionable comments during the meetings with different organizations in Tel Aviv. The behavior of Dijana Mujdzic damaged the association's reputation, and was deemed unacceptable by the board, which unanimously considered the actions of the vice president to be a clear violation of her mandate. Consequently, Dijana Mujdzic was asked to formally resign as vice president, a request which she complied with.

Year in numbers

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Members at the end of the year | 431 |
|--------------------------------|-----|



| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Issues of Utblick | 4 |
| Lectures | 16 |
| Film screenings | 15 (+ 5 Fika Politica and 3 quiz nights) |
| Board meetings | 20 |
| Income (SEK) | 170 495 (+6 000) kr |
| Expenses (SEK) | 169 548 kr |
| Net income (SEK) | 947 (+6 000) kr |

Board members during the year

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| President | Mikael Hemlin |
| Vice president | Dijana Mujdzic (until December) |
| Secretary | Rebecca Hartill |
| Treasurer | Mersiha Muratovic |
| Lecture | Matilda Ilander, Elsa Wilhelmsson |
| Model United Nations | Rosalie Ledee (Spring), Liza Rousselle (Spring), Selver Berbic (Fall), Michael Stam (Fall) |



| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Event | Daphnée Roch, Selma Aalachi (Spring), Henri Nyroos (Fall) |
| Public Relations | Seija Veijalainen (Spring), Hanna Buznytska (Spring), Kajsa Dahlenborg (Fall) |
| Utblick | Axel Christoffersson, Mina Ghassaban (Spring), Mikael Lassa (Fall) |
| Radio Utblick | Gustav Nyqvist |
| SAIA representative | Arash Bolouri (Spring), Amanda Josefsson (Fall) |

Election committee

Kübra Coskun

Zozan Ucar

Fatima Sow

Activity auditor

Anna Gavrilova

Financial auditor

Anne Engström

LECTURE

In 2017, the lecture committee organized 16 lectures, including 12 evening lectures and 4 lunch time lectures. The lectures have covered events in regions like the Middle East, Central Asia, Latin America, Africa, and the EU. The four most popular lectures during the year were: Lecture with Foreign Minister Margot Wallström (178 visitors), a visit by the British Ambassador David Cairns (76 visitors), lecture with Senior lecturer at Gothenburg University Victor Lapuente (72 visitors) and a panel discussion between the Deputy Head of Mission at



the British Embassy Aiden Liddle and Postdoctor at Gothenburg University Olof Larsson (84 visitors).

During the year, we have tried different types of lectures; an interactive workshop, two types of panel discussions and a lecture at Ingrid Segerstedts Gymnasium. A possible development area for the next lecture committee is to continue to develop these kinds of lectures but also try different new types of lectures for the sake of variation and to be attractive for the members.

The lecturers have mostly been held by men; 5 lectures have been held by women and 9 by men, two of which have been lectures with the same person. Two of the lectures were mixed with both women and men; one with the majority of men and one with the overwhelming majority of women. The work with gender equality to have lectures held by equally many women as lectures held by men, is still something that the lecture committee needs to work with. During the year a majority of the lecturers have contacted us and not the other way around. We see this as a receipt that the Society of International Affairs in Göteborg has a good reputation by different organizations and lecturers, who wants to use our platform to reach students.

The average audience figure has increased since last year. During the year we had 6 lectures with an audience figure of less than 30 people, and 10 lectures where the audience figure was 30 or higher. The average has been 46 people per lecture.

During the year we have had several collaborations with other organizations when we have planned our lectures. Two lectures have been held together with the Norden Association, two with the Anglo-Swedish Society and two with SCA (Swedish committee for Afghanistan). These collaborations have given us the opportunity to reach another audience, but this audience has had a higher average age than our usual student audience. Our collaborations have also meant that we had to give lectures in Swedish. This year, 4 lectures have been given in Swedish and 12 lectures in English.



The cancelled lecture with Foreign Minister Margot Wallström from autumn 2016, was held in March 2017 and was the most visited lecture of the year. To attend this lecture, the board decided, that you had to become a member which increased the number of members drastically at the beginning of the year; about half of the participants became members just before the lecture with the Foreign Minister. This was an extremely good way to recruit members but also to give the association attention.

During the year we have also collaborated with a group of active members. During the spring we had relatively regular committee meetings with the group consisting of five people including the head of lecturers. They also helped us in conjunction with the lectures with the practical details. This fall we had several people interested in joining the committee, unfortunately only one of them has continued to be engaged and even the active in the committee during the spring has left. Due to lack of active members in the committee, board members have been helping during the lectures.

EVENT

During 2017, there were 15 movie screenings (including the film festival), 5 Fika Politica, 3 quiz nights and 2 study trips, the first one to Skopje in the Spring semester and to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem in the Fall. The debate café 'Fika Politica' was held for the first time in April, and the quiz nights in September. The number of attendees for the movie screenings varied between 2 and 25, between 7 and 12 for Fika Politica, and between 20 and 90 for the quiz nights.

Film club

The event committee has continued to arrange regular documentary screenings throughout 2017. The screenings have generally been held every second week in the Dragonen auditorium in the spring semester, and in the Sappören auditorium for the autumn semester. The screenings were primarily held on Wednesdays but occasionally on Thursdays when necessary. One example is the screening of '5 Broken Cameras' to avoid collision with a lecture held on the Wednesday. In 2017, 14 screenings were arranged. The majority of these screenings were broadcast in cooperation with UF's licensed distributor Cinema Politica. The documentaries for the film festival 'Life In Iran' were shown in cooperation with Parvaz Society.



Some of the documentaries have stood out among the rest of the screenings. Thus was the case for ‘Gulabi Gang’, ‘Land Rush’, ‘Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People’ and ‘Iraq in Fragments’. The two best screenings were respectively the first one of each semester, with ‘Gulabi Gang’ being the best (25), as arranged as part of International Women’s Day (and Margot Wallström’s lecture). Attendance throughout the year varied a lot, with the worst being of 2. As reported last year: ‘these sorts of co-arranged events are probably good for attracting more visitors to the screenings. The worst screening of the year was arranged just before Christmas when a lot of people are either busy with the last assignments of the semester, Christmas preparations or have already left to go back home. It is important to remember that to attract the normal amount of visitors for a screening at this time of the year requires more promotion than usual’. This paragraph still stands true. In addition, timely promotion is also important when it comes to attendance: screenings posted two weeks in advance had a much better attendance than those under one week.

Regarding film festivals, the one in the spring semester was organized by the board of 2016 on 14-15 January, while the Heads of 2017 organized the autumn semester one on November 28-29. It dealt with daily life in Iran and was thus entitled ‘Life In Iran’. The film festival was organized in collaboration with Parvaz Society, for a total of four documentaries. Attendance varied between 4 and 14.

Study trips

During the operational year of 2017, two trips were arranged by the event committee. The trip for the spring semester was Skopje, FYROM and the fall semester’s trip was to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

Skopje

The trip to Skopje took place between the 9th and 13th of May. The trip aimed to look at the peacebuilding and peace education initiatives, as well as the political situation in a Balkan country. The group was composed of a strong group of 14, studying mostly under the Social Sciences faculty. The trip was organized together in the weeks before. However, many tasks were handled by one Head such flight tickets and accommodation. Three meetings per day were arranged on two days: Kvinna till Kvinna, the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Civil (a



NGO dealing with the principle of free and fair elections), the United Nations Development Program, the Embassy of Sweden and the OSCE Mission. All these meetings enlightened us on the impact of independence and peace initiatives, as well as the ongoing political situation. Indeed, at that point, we were one week away from the resolution of a 6 months political crisis. During our time in Skope, we also made the most of our time to discover the city with its political life and history: visiting different neighborhoods inhabited by either the ethnic Macedonians or the ethnic Albanians, and had an organized tour from Skopje to the Canyon Matka.

Tel Aviv - Jerusalem

The project group for the group first came to consist of two people, only the Heads, with the first stating from the beginning that she would be unable to attend and the second dropping out after the participants were selected. As such, the project group came to consist of the chosen participants. Among the participants (and apart the Heads), 4 people dropped out and the final group consisted of 9 participants. The flights and accommodation were partly arranged by the Heads, while the group checked up the organizations to visit, what to do in the spare time as well as the arrangements for moving between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem according to their wishes. The group flew to and from Tel Aviv on November 20th and November 26th. November 22nd and 23rd were spent in Jerusalem. The trip aimed to study and learn more about the ongoing conflict and the multiethnic local initiatives. As such, the group had meetings with EcoPeace Middle East, the UNHCR, Givat HaViva, the Swedish Theological Institute, the Israel/Palestine: Creative Regional Initiatives, Runners Without Borders, B'Tselem, the Swedish Embassy and the Alliance for Middle East Peace.

Throughout the trip, the participants were able to discover life in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, their history and the strong differences between the two cities.

Fika Politica

The idea for a platform for people to discuss about international affairs emerged in the spring semester. As a result, a new event was introduced 'Fika Politica' or UF's debate café. Participants join in for a couple of hours around a topic previously decided upon and relevant to the current news. At the moment, 'Fika Politica' is held about once a month, and is for free.



The number of attendees has varied between 7 and 12, which are good numbers given that the event is still relatively new, and this allows a real discussion between the participants. Those numbers are also good in terms of manageability for the event's moderator.

A collaboration was supposed to take place with Föreningen För Utvecklingsfrågor Göteborg but did not come through in the end due to FUF's unavailability; however, the Committee is hopeful that this collaboration will take place in the future as FUF has expressed their will to hold a joint event.

Quiz night

For the fall semester, a new event was introduced by the Event Committee in order to bring more attention to UF Göteborg to people outside of Social Sciences. The aim is to have a good time, while learning about the world, but not necessarily while restricting oneself to international politics. As such, people would learn about UF Göteborg through a different means than the organization's more formal events, and to gain in notoriety and numbers. It is also a good way to attract to international students studying at the University of Gothenburg as it is one of the few quizzes available in English.

The quiz nights are held once a month and in collaboration with the restaurant-bar Salsa & Salsa. Attendance varied between 20 and 90. It is good to keep in mind at which period the event will be taking place, in particular in regards to exam weeks.

The quiz night in December took place during the 'Musikhjälpen' campaign. As such, it was decided that money would be collected for the campaign during the event. We offered people two ways to donate: by swish or cash (the money was then forwarded to Musikhjälpen by UF). Furthermore, Salsa & Salsa committed to giving 10% of the bar revenue to the campaign.

General information about the Committee

Committee meetings were held irregularly, due to the different Heads' schedules. These meetings have mostly consisted of the two Heads, as active members have lacked until November. From November onwards, the new Head got two active members to join the committee, and they were a great help in organizing the movie screenings and the quiz night in December. The autumn semester saw three Heads, as one decided to resign about one month after being elected to the position.



A sitting (or gala) was supposed to take place at the end of May but was cancelled due to lack of attendees and to the short amount of time given to sign up. The event was to occur in the fall semester instead, but the other events organized by the Committee required a lot of time already as they were given priority. Therefore, the idea for a sitting was delayed for the future.

UTBLICK

During the year of 2017 Utblick has released four issues of the magazine, of which two were released during the spring semester and two in the autumn. The legally responsible publisher during the spring semester was Mina Ghassaban, who also was Editor-in-chief along with Axel Christoffersson. Mina Ghassaban chose in the late summer to step down from the position as Editor-in-chief, replaced in September by Mikael Lassa. Axel Christoffersson was then appointed new legally responsible publisher.

The first issue of the year was released in 1000 copies, which proved to be a little too much. For environmental and storage reasons the edition was reduced to 800 for the coming issues. Of these, approximately 400 have been distributed to members via postal services and the rest handed out to different public institutions, mostly various campuses and libraries across town. The editorial staff has throughout the year consisted of between nine and twelve active writers along with Linn Posse, who has been in charge of the graphical design of the magazine. Visually, attempts have been made to concretize the use of pictures and symbols in the illustration of the articles. During the year, we have had the opportunity of including articles from writers writing from abroad, which despite the hardships of not being able to attend the meetings have worked well.

In the daily work, three deadlines have been used for each issue – one for the article idea, one for a comprehensive article and the last for a final version. The first and second deadlines were followed up by feedback from the editors and by the last deadline, texts should be ready for proof reading. Proof reading has throughout the year been a task of the editors, with the help of Brea Pluta who has generously contributed with her knowledge in the English language for the articles in that tongue.



In the first two issues, it was decided to ease the focus of themes and instead try to include more timely relevant material as well as giving writers some extra freedom in the decision of article subjects. The first issue, called “International Machinery”, contained articles including but not limited to automation, thoughts on the Swedish feminist foreign policy and a perspective on possible Catalan independence. The second issue, named “Capitalism at play”, contained for example a comment on the most important participants in the French presidential elections and a perspective on capitalism’s relation to the issue of climate change. In connection with the release of this issue, a release event was arranged at Kafé Haga at Sprängkullsgatan 25, where the readers had the opportunity to meet up with the editors and some writers over some fika and a quiz. The event was with around 15 participants rather successful but attracted mostly people already connected to the Society.

The choice of foregoing explicit themes for the first two issues had mixed results – content became broader with a wider range of articles but it proved rather difficult to time the release of the magazine with the events covered. A few articles had to be edited shortly before printing for this to work. Both issues were printed with the printing house Trydells in Laholm.

As far as the Autumn semester is concerned, the printing choices were consistent with the ones adopted in the Spring. This means that both the autumn issues have been planned to be printed in 800 copies, each one consisting of 32 pages. Moreover, the printing house to be chosen ended up being Trydells, since they made the most reasonable and professional offer, out of four printing companies that had been contacted. Such choices have so far not proven negative, since the company fulfilled the expectations for the third and fourth issues of the year.

In the beginning of the Fall semester, the editors-in-chief decided for a change in the way the themes of the issues were to be chosen. Together with some of the writers, they decided that the third issue would be centered on utopia and dystopia, while the fourth on the concept of power. The decision followed a vote by the writers and editors on the theme. This means that, contrarily to what was done in the spring, the topic of the issue was decided beforehand. The practical meaning of having a theme for an issue is that the articles need to be explicitly linked to such theme, even in a relatively loose manner. However, the two chosen topics are



deliberately broad areas of discussion, so as to leave as much freedom as possible to the creative inputs of the writers. This has allowed both to give a firmer structure to the magazine itself and to set more precise guidelines for the layout, instead of relying on a rather vague and disaggregated concept.

The work on the third issue started in September and was completed in late October. The official release date was October 31. The title of the issue is “Utopia/Dystopia”, and it features eight articles authored by nine writers, presenting both theoretical and exemplary instances of utopias and dystopias.

The work on the fourth issue was commenced right after the release of the third. The title of the issue is “Power”. It includes seven articles covering issues such as the power of discourses, microfinance, the power struggle in Guatemala and authoritarian state power. At the time of writing, the magazine is complete: all the articles are finished and they have been proofread, and the layout is done as well. It is ready to be sent to the printing house; it is expected that the printed version will be issued before December 15. This is why December 15 is planned to be the official release date, and it is also the date of the planned release event. The event will feature a quiz night and will be located at a room provided by Folkuniversitetet.

During the year, focus has been on the physical magazine. To some extent, a lack of text has left the webpage suffering, which during the year has served as platform for the digital version of the physical magazine. Some attempts to encourage writing for the webpage has been made, but due to respect for the writers we have not applied much pressure. The updating of the webpage with new articles is definitely a possible source of improvement in the coming year.

RADIO UTBLICK

A total of five episodes were recorded and published during the year.

European Union National Elections

During 2017, there was a couple of important national elections in the EU. Radio Utblick has covered three of them, focusing on the candidates/parties, populism and the growing right



wing extremism in European national parliaments. Safe to say, the story is the same in country after country; mainstream parties plummeting, new parties emerge and right wing extremism is the big winner.

Episode 1 covered the Dutch election together with Bo Dohmen a Dutch graduate student in European Studies and Jonathan Polk, associate Professor at the Department of Political Science and the Centre for European Research (CERGU) at the University of Gothenburg.

Episode 2 covered the French presidential election together with Marie Demker, professor in Political Science at Gothenburg university and Dean for the Faculty of Arts.

Episode 3 and *4* covered the German Bundestag election together with Rutger Lindahl, professor emeritus at the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg. Election coverage before the election and a follow up episode.

A planned episode on Brexit could not be followed through due to poor material and the trouble of finding participants so close to the summer break.

World College Radio Day

Episode 5. Radio Utblick was invited to co-produce World College Radio Day, a 24 hour marathon broadcast from the community of student radio around the world. For 2017 the Gothenburg Student Radio K103, was host and asked Radio Utblick to put together the final and closing hour of the day. We invited associate professor Hans Abrahamsson and professor Jan Scholte, current chair at Peace and Development Studies at the School of Global Studies at Gothenburg University, to a live broadcast, where we discussed whether or not the world is getting better or worse.

New publishing platform

All 2017 Episode are available online where podcasts in general are to be found. To better fit today's listening habits of media consumers we have moved to a podcast format on our own



platform, making us available on all streaming services. Previously, our show was only available through K103 Gothenburg Student Radio and their platform which is broadcasted on air and on K103s online streaming service Mixcloud. We will remain with K103. We will however focus on our own platform and brand when publishing and marketing new episodes in order to find new listeners and building our brand.

Finding new listeners

In order to find new listeners, now on our own platform, we have started marketing our episodes on social media through Facebook Ads. We have tried different approaches with the ads and has as of yet not found a preferred method. So much is clear that more money on each ad, add up to more clicks. Facebook is, if nothing else, cheap, and effective to find and target an audience of our profile.

Moreover, we hope to better the volume of “shares” on social media through those who participate in the show and to share the show online where we could find new listeners, i.e. other member associations within UF.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

The MUN committee planned to go on a conference in Maastricht during the month of April, but we had to cancel it due to the fact that members wouldn't confirm their presence and kept cancelling. When it was clear that sending a delegation abroad was too ambitious, we resolved to organize as many local simulations as possible. We set up a mini conference in the beginning of May, in Gothenburg, over a weekend. In this project, we set up a day and a half for a serious subject and a half-day for a fictional committee of Disney villains, on the topic of taking over the world. That was a success for the committee. We regret the fact that we didn't send a delegation abroad, nevertheless that did not stop members from attending conferences on their own, notably NYMUN in New York City.

In November we sent a delegation of 11 people to MUNmö, as this had proven successful in previous years. To prevent cancellations, delegates signed up for the conference on their own and UF facilitated housing and transportation. This year's participation was also a great success, with the UF Gothenburg delegation winning half of the eight available prizes (2 best



delegates, 2 honourable mentions). During both the spring semester and the autumn semester we again organised local simulations and training sessions, totalling 9 and 4 respectively. In the simulations we represented various committees, from the United Nations Security Council to the African Council, discussed various topics, ranging from the Future of Libya to Ending Child Labor. This gave the opportunity for the members to experience different levels and interests throughout the simulations. In the training sessions, we focused on improving debating skills and parliamentary vocabulary.

We maintained the weekly meetings, on Mondays as usual. In these meetings the upcoming events were discussed, but there was also the possibility for committee members to have fika and socialize. Conscious efforts were made to delegate tasks to and work together with multiple committee members, mainly to keep the members involved, though it also had an impact on the workload of the heads of committee. In addition, regular social events were set up, with some of these tied to other events, such as the mini conference or the last local simulation in December. These events helped attract new members and solidified the already existing friendships.

Promotion and public relations

As we rely on member participation, recruiting new members and keeping them active was very important. In general, the MUN committee had an active social media strategy, promoting events via facebook. To ensure participation of new people, we promoted many of our events on the Erasmus Facebook groups and both relevant UF pages.

In the spring semester, we tried to recruit new members by being present at most of the UF socials events. We also put up posters in the various campuses. Unfortunately, the spring semester bringing usually less erasmus members, we mostly brought in Swedish new members. We also had to regret the end of many of our members' stay in Sweden.

During the autumn semester we successfully focused on retaining the newly recruited members. Unfortunately there were not many people active from previous semesters, but luckily we retained nearly all members who visited one of the meetings from October onwards. For promotion, we added people who might be interested to the Facebook group,



using it more as a promotion platform than as an internal committee discussion. In addition, we reactivated the Instagram account to show interested people what the committee does.

Outlook

We are prepared for the next semester and have a continuous dialogue with the expected upcoming chairs and the other members of the MUN committee. Many ideas for what to do next semester have been lifted. We have already suggested conferences to attend for the spring semester and concrete interest has been expressed, we are therefore hopeful to arrange a trip this spring. During the fall, we have established relations with UF Malmö and the UN youth section of Gothenburg, both of whom are interested in collaborating with our committee. This is a great opportunity for our committee to expand our network and exchange knowledge and should be looked into by the next chairs. We recommend the next chairs to look into ways of retaining members between semesters, as we have noted in both semesters that having a core group of active members is essential to the success of the committee. In addition, retaining members for multiple semesters increases the organisational learning capacity and gives the committee the possibility to set up long-term plans. We especially encourage the use of informal communication channels to maintain member activity and keep new members. UF is institutionalizing its high school project in spring, that will also provide the MUN committee with opportunities to recruit long term members.

PUBLIC RELATIONS (PR)

During the past year, the PR-committee has continued their work on making sure the association is being seen around campus. They have also arranged a couple of kick-offs at the beginning of the year which resulted in multiple new members. The association's Facebook-page has increased its so called "likes", whereas the fastest growth was between September and December.

Internal communication:

During the first half of 2017 the PR-committee consisted of two Heads of PR, Hanna Buznytska and Seija Veijalainen, who through meetings could discuss kick-offs and advertising as well as plan future work and campaigns. Kajsa Dahlenborg took over the



position as Head of PR after the Summer, and therefore no internal communication took place within the PR-committee. However, communication took place internally in the association between the different committees.

External communication:

The PR-committees' external communication primary takes place through advertising, newsletters, social media and posters. The PR-committee began the year by arranging three very successful kick-offs which resulted in multiple membership-signups. The committee was also present at various events to promote and talk about the association. An important part of the PR-committee's work is social media, whereas Facebook is the committee's primary platform for advertising and informing members about future events and happenings. In total the association's Facebook-page has just over 2500 "likes", and has grown at a steady pace over past the year, with its fastest growth rate between September and December. Instagram is another social media platform that has been used over the past year, primary to give an insight into the association's work, advertise events and upload pictures from these events. The association's Instagram-account currently has 296 followers and get, on average, around 20 likes per picture. The association's Twitter-account has however not been used during the past year.

The PR-committee has during the past year sent out a newsletter every week to keep members updates about upcoming events. In total, 1914 persons receive the email whereas around 24% open the email. Very few unsubscribed from the newsletter and the number of recipients have increased during the year. The PR-committee is also in charge of making posters for the association's different events and lectures. These posters are made in collaboration with both the lecture- and event committee as well as Göta Studentkår. The process is usually that one of the committees send the necessary information about the event to PR who makes the poster. After an approval from either the lecture or event committee, the poster is sent to Göta Studentkår for printing. The posters are then distributed by Göta's info-group. The posters are a big and important part of the committee's work since they easily can reach students who haven't heard about the association or simply aren't members. The making of interesting poster can result in more people showing up at events as well as becoming members.



High School Project:

During the year, the PR-committee has continued their work with the association's High School Project, but with little progress. The project aims to introduce the association to high school student as well as creating collaborations with high schools around Gothenburg.

During the first half of 2017 the committee was primary in contact with Donner Gymnasium, which has been interested in a collaboration for a couple of years. However, due to the change of Head of PR, the committee was never able to arrange a visit or lecture for the students.

During the autumn, the Head of PR, Kajsa Dahlenborg, was assisted by President Mikael Hemlin with the project. This resulted in both a visit and a lecture at Ingrid Segerstedt Gymnasium. Our contact person at the school has expressed interest in continuing the collaboration next year. The committee hopes that more time and work can be dedicated to this project in the future.

SWEDISH ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (SAIA)

As part of International Committee, Arash together with the rest of the committee, developed a new policy competition with the British Embassy to Sweden. It was a major activity in which all members of SAIA were able to write proposals and participate in a contest, where the winner of the competition, got a mentorship with one of the diplomats from the British Embassy to Sweden, and two round-trip tickets to London.

During the year, SAIA arranged Forum Weekend which took place in Uppsala on the 10th-12th of February. The programme consisted out of different lectures and workshops, with the aim to improve board members skills in administering the organisation.

SAIA was present in Almedalen between 2nd and 6th of July. 50 of the association's members, including the project group and project managers for Almedalen, were accommodated at Södervärnsskolan shortly outside the wall of Visby, and made sure that young persons with an interest for international affairs were both seen and heard during the week. SAIA arranged in total five seminars in Almedalen, all the seminars were full of interested participants. The seminars were:



- Foreign Policy Debate between the Parliament's Youth Organisations - On the EU, NATO, and defence.
- Fact Resistance in Foreign Policy
- All-inclusive or Á la Carte - What should the EU-cooperation look like?
- Our Future Security
- The UN is focusing on youth, peace and security - what are the challenges?

Arash together with the project group arranged a handover weekend for SAIA. Every year SAIA arrange a handover weekend which serves to give the new board general knowledge about working in a board and the responsibilities and commitments that come with it.

The national board together with the policy committee have written new policies during the year. Some of them are listed here:

- Mission statement for election committee
- Mission statement for nation board members
- Policy for equal treatment
- Policy for crisis management
- Grants Savings Policy
- Hand-over Policy
- Bilingualism Policy

And the old policies that were altered during the year so that they coincide with the operations, were Policy for travel and Policy for Per Capsulam - decisions.

SAIA held their Annual Meeting in Uppsala in October. It was a successful meeting with a good turnout. SAIA representative Amanda Josefsson represented UF Gothenburg and voted on behalf of the association. Mikael Hemlin, president, had been consulted beforehand on the issues being discussed.

The Convention on International Affairs was held in Växjö this year. The theme was "Government and Media Transparency" and about 100 members participated in the convention, which was organized very well.



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Two new roles within SAIA was advertised and appointed in November/December. There is now a Press Secretary and Organizational Developer within the association.

As of this year SAIA has a full-time employee. His name is Daniel Kjellén and he is the administrator of the association. One of his first major tasks was to evaluate new member registry systems, which was done together with the treasurer and voted upon by the national board. SAIA will implement a new member registry system (Coachhippo) during the upcoming year. UF Gothenburg will also use this system.

The focus for the SAIA representative (Amanda) has during her time on the board have so far been to further develop strategies to facilitate easier communication between the local and national board. This has been done by trying to present information (related to SAIA decisions) to the Gothenburg board in a more accessible way and thereby gaining a better understanding of how to represent Gothenburg in the national board of SAIA.



FINANCIAL REPORT

| Source of income (SEK) | Income 2017 (SEK) |
|--|----------------------------|
| MUCF grant Spring | 36 983 kr |
| MUCF grant Autumn | 36 983 kr |
| Forum Syd | 35 355 kr |
| Membership and entrance fees | 23 565 kr |
| Erasmus+ | 16 432 kr |
| Folkuniversitetet | 5 505 (+6 000) kr |
| Stiftelsen Paul och Marie Berghaus donationsfond | 10 000 kr |
| Initial balance | 2 556 kr |
| Other | 1 040 kr |
| Total | 170 495 (+6 000) kr |
| | |
| Budget post | Expenditure 2017 (SEK) |
| Central | 25 670 kr |
| Event | 15 708 kr |
| Lecture | 14 260 kr |
| PR | 19 321 kr |
| Utblick | 66 945 kr |
| MUN | 15 307 kr |
| Italy trip | 12 316 kr |
| Total | 169 548 kr |
| | |
| NET INCOME | 947 (+6 000) kr |



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| | Cash | PG/savings | Total |
|-------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|
| End of 2016 | 0 kr | 59 723 kr | 59 723 kr |
| End of 2017 | 2980kr | 59 723 kr | 62 703 kr |

The operational year of 2017 has been financially stable, and the year ends with a small budget surplus. Throughout the year, every committee has been careful not to exceed the limits of their respective budgets, and have also made sure to always get as good deals as possible. Utblick has negotiated printing costs with their printing service, and the Lecture and Event Committees have invented concepts that have been popular, yet either completely free or very affordable.

The year ended with 431 members, which is an exceptional number considering that the grant received from MUCF (73 996 SEK) was designed to reflect the membership number of the operational year of 2015 (233). In 2017, the membership fee was 50 SEK, and 0 SEK for high school students.

Finally, the board of 2017 would like to thank all our lecturers, external partners, members and participants for taking part in making the operational year of 2017 successful.