



Utrikespolitiska
föreningen
Göteborg

Annual Report 2019

Society of International Affairs in Gothenburg



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RECAP OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR

The operational year of 2019 has been a very turbulent one for the Society of International Affairs. Due to a lack of structure, most of the year has been invested in creating a solid foundation for the association to continue on. During the beginning of the year we were met with financial difficulties as we had to pay back a sum of money due to the previous board not accounting for the full amount granted. Furthermore the structural problems led to several documents missing or being extremely hard to find which meant a lot of energy during the first half of the operational year had to be put in finding or recreating said documents, as well as contacting external partners for more information.

During the first half of the operational year the student union Göta that we have been a part of for several years decided to not allow us exemption from a membership requirement that they decided to enforce during the year. Therefore our cooperation with Göta ended during the year, after several months of discussing how to solve the situation and come to a mutual agreement.

During the second half of the operational year we saw a dramatic increase in members, mainly due to our presence during school fairs as well as targeted marketing with FaceBook ads. We also managed to resume a previous cooperation that we have had with Folkuniversitetet which will provide us with additional grants during the operational year of 2020.

All in all, even though it has been a turbulent year, the association still managed to succeed in increasing the number of members, get more active members and develop the work of the committees.

Lecture

During 2019 the lecture committee organizes 15 lectures which were held both during the evening and during lunch-time. The lectures covered regions such as the Middle East, Latin America, Africa and the EU and have been of varied subjects. Our two most visited lectures were the lecture with the Russian ambassador and the lecture with the Chinese ambassador.

Event

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During 2019, the Event Committee held 7 movie screenings, 5 Fika Politica, 2 quiz nights and 2 study trips, the first to Rome in the spring semester and the second to Belgrade in the fall. The number of attendees for the different events varied based on the amount of marketing as well as placement during the semester. All in all, the number of attendees has been quite high, especially on the study trips as we had many applicants and Fika Politica as we tried a new format.

Utblick

During operational year 2019 Utblick published two issues, both were published during the spring semester. After summer new editors were elected to the committee which is the reason for there not being any new physical issues of Utblick. However, during this time a strategic plan has been made for how to develop Utblick and how it can expand long-term.

Model United Nations

During the operational year of 2019, the Model United Nations Committee has regularly arranged debate seminars and prep sessions. The Committee also sent a delegation of 4 to the international conference in Hamburg and one delegate to the international conference in Stockholm. No awards were brought home, however all of the delegates found it to be a positive experience and learned a lot.

Public Relations

During the year PR continued their work of making sure the association is being seen and heard all around the university. The PR committee has mainly worked on marketing on social media through ads on our events as well as updating our social media more regularly. During the year the committee has started designing merchandise. We have also received media attention since the lecture with the Chinese ambassador.

Utrikespolitiska Förbundet Sverige

During the 2019 operational year, the UFS discourse has focused on internal improvements within the organization. Thanks to new committees and a rewarding forum weekend, this operational year has been profitable. Gothenburg's UFS representative has also been a member of the Member Recruitment Committee. The main purpose of the committee is to support the member associations in their recruitment process of new members, which have been effective. The Gothenburg Board has also been involved in important decisions that have been taken and shown great commitment.

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Controversy

During one of the last lectures of the year we invited the Chinese ambassador to come and speak about the relation between China and Sweden. During this lecture, the Chinese ambassador claimed that the Chinese government would impose trade restrictions against Sweden. Seeing as this had not been spoken about before it cause quite the stir. We were contacted by several media outlets that wanted more information about the lecture and the statements made by the Chinese ambassador. This incident did not necessarily shine a bad light on our association, however it did put us in media attention, which in some cases can be stressful. Overall it was an educational experience.

Year in numbers

Members at the end of the year	535
Issues of Utblick	2
Lectures	15
Film screenings	7
Board meetings	16
Income (SEK)	117 682
Expenses (SEK)	69 597,69
Net income (SEK)	48 084,31

Board members during the year

<i>President</i>	Marigona Goxhuli
<i>Vice President</i>	Tamar Khatchadourian (spring), Humaira Peroz (fall)
<i>Secretary</i>	Jasmin Ashkani (until october), Gabrielle Ay
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ebba Frnasén Björn
<i>Lecture</i>	Arad Aslrousta (spring), Victor Rizev (fall), Armin Sakovic (all year)
<i>Model United Nations</i>	Gisella Duro (spring), Salima Ismayilzada (fall), Cressida de Witte (all year)
<i>Event</i>	Dino Vidimlic
<i>Public Relations</i>	Ken Moge kwu (spring), Gergö Berényi (spring), Zerde Sterya Celik (fall), Simona Biskoska (fall)
<i>Utblick</i>	Egil Sturk (spring), Nazifa Alizada (spring), Patricia da Matta (fall), Nathanël Fritz (fall)
<i>Radio Utblick</i>	Gustav Nyqvist
<i>UFS-representative</i>	Anahita Asad-Dehgan

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Election committee

Daphnée Roch (spring)
Mikael Hemlin (spring)
Michael Stam (spring)
Arad Aslrousta (fall)
Tamar Khatchadourian (fall)
May Mosa (fall)

Activity auditor

Anna Gavrilova

Financial auditor

Anne Engström

LECTURE

Lectures

During 2019 the Lecture Committee has arranged a total of 16 events where of 15 lectures and one debate. Two of the events have been held in Swedish and the rest of the events were held in English. The lectures have covered events in regions like the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, North America and the EU. We also managed to recruit coordinators to the committee and develop a good working environment between the Heads of the Committee which has provided with great results during the end of the year.

Attendance

Some of our biggest events were during the fall with the Russian Ambassador (109 attendees) and the Chinese Ambassador (58 attendees), but the biggest part of our events had between 20 and 40 attendees. We had some difficulties with promoting our events and getting the attention we wanted. That is something that needs to be improved in the future. During the fall, the attendance number has gone up significantly, because of highly profile lecturers but also improved promotion from our PR Committee.

Gender equality

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During our 16 events we had 11 male guests (68%) and 5 (32%) female guests. When it comes to our attendees, we had throughout our events 40% females and 60% males despite this during the Q&A sessions both male and female attendees were active mostly equally.

Cooperation with other organizations and lecturers

The Lecture Committee has continued its cooperation with both Föreningen Norden and Anglo Swedish Society. We have also cooperated with the British Embassy, The U.S. Embassy, The South Korean Embassy, Jesper Söder, The Russian Embassy, The Chinese Embassy, Svenska Freds, Leon Poblete, Michael Rubin and Brännpunkt Europa.

The work of the Committee

During the spring the committee had one coordinator which later on became a board member because one of the previous board members chose to leave the board. It was a natural transition because the coordinator was active from the beginning of the year and was familiar with the work. During the fall the Committee found suitable coordinators which contributed to the committee's work during the fall. The Committee had three coordinators which is an improvement from last year. They also stepped in and helped when no board member could be a part of our last event which is a great success.

EVENT

The operational year of 2019 has been an extensive year for the event committee at the Society of International Affairs in Gothenburg. With solely one person as Head filling a position whose workload requires two individuals, the Society has conducted a raft of interesting events for its members.

For the Head of the committee, the priority was initially to carry out the for the UF profiled study trips abroad, and even though there was no possibility to execute a trip beyond the European continent, two study trips were offered for the members during the year: one to Rome and one to Belgrade.

During the spring, a new concept of the so called "fika politica" were subject to a pilot project. The event had begun as a new thing in 2017 having the purpose to gather members in an informal setting to have relaxed conversations about a beforehand chosen subject. Early in

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the year, an independent actor reached out to UF suggesting start watching Al Jazira's "Head to Head"-hearing and discussing the subjects that had constituted the ground for the interview. Five fika politics were held during the spring each gathering, on average, between 5-15 people. Yet in connection with the moderator not having the ability to continue during the autumn, and no additional stepped in as a second Head, there were no possibilities to continue having these successful events during the spring semester.

Instead, the Society started holding movie screenings as a part of its agreement with Cinema politica, which gives us the right to show ten movies from their catalogue during the agreement time of one year. The agreement reached its end in the second half of November, but the head managed to extend it until the end of January so that all entitled movies can be shown. The Society of International Affairs has streamed seven movies during the autumn, which means we three more, each ordered and received via email. It is on the responsibility of the next Head to decide whether or not the agreement should be extended or not. Based on the experience from the autumn, it can be concluded that the interest for the movie nights has been tremendously low for the job to feel fulfilling. On the other hand, its important to emphasize that the movies available in their base are very good and relevant for the profile of our society, and that, if it is extended, there must be some effort on the PR in order to extract the best of what it has to offer.

Lastly, study trips to Rome and Belgrade were executed, where the evaluations sent out to the participants upon the return back home has showed huge content among the participants. Embassies, institutions and NGOs were visited and gave the participants a good understanding of the countries and their political situation from different perspectives.

During 2019, the Society of International Affairs also successfully reestablished the agreement with Folkuniversitetet which will create a direct connection between the events held and income generated, something we are proud to hand over to the next board.

In 2020, the event-committee will be divided into two new committees thanks to the workload, and the Head of 2019 wishes them good luck with carrying on the responsibilities in accordance with the agenda of the Society of International Affairs.

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UTBLICK

In the fiscal year of 2019, two issues of Utblick, the UF Gothenburg's magazine, have been printed and published.

The editors in chief have been Egil Sturk and Nazifa Alizada (also, legally responsible publisher) from January to September 2019. Patricia Da Matta and Nathanaël Fritz then took the positions from October 2019 to January 2020 at least. Both teams have been Board members during the time they served the Utblick Committee.

I. Released issues:

Two issues have been published during the fiscal year by the first Editors-in-chief of Utblick 2019: Egil Sturk and Nazifa Alizada.

The first issue “Turmoil under Heaven” was released on the 15th of April and dealt with China’s place in the World order. It gathered 8 articles from 8 different writers for a total of 17 pages including illustrations, words from the editors and the back page dedicated to the promotion of the MUN Committee.

The second issue “Wither Europe” of 33 pages was released in May the 23rd 2019, just before the European Elections. One also notices that we published 11 writers for 10 articles, including 3 UF’ board members, and 2 other people writing for the second time in 2019 in Utblick.

In total, Utblick published the work of 17 different writers, 18 articles and 50 pages in 2019. Each edition has been printed 350 times.

The new Heads of Utblick, Patricia Da Matta and Nathanaël Fritz, took their position in October, they did not publish any issue by the end of the year.

For 2020, at least 2 issues will be released. However, due to cuts in the budget, we cannot guarantee to publish more magazines for the moment.

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II. Organization with writers (First semester)

In order to introduce Utblick, the first Editors invited potential writers on the 20th of February to a kickoff event of the magazine. They suggested some ideas and received the ones from the people attending the meeting. Then, they proposed to the Utblick potential writers on the facebook group “Utblick staff” different ideas of topical issues. China obtained more votes, so Editors launched the next edition for April. Articles were submitted on a drive and writers received personal feedback from Egil and Nazifa.

Editors in chief also took the initiative to do a feedback session where they invited writers to receive comments on their articles. They recruited a graphic designer for the two issues of 2019 and chose with the Utblick Staff the cover paper of the issue. The issue was released on the 15th of April.

For the next edition, a poll has been made by the editors of Utblick the 3rd of April in order to choose the topic for the issue released in May the 23rd. As an average, it took them around 51 days from the choice of the topical issue to the printing of the magazine.

Transition in September/October between the 2 teams of editors:

It has not been easy for the new team to take the positions. We guess it was not easy too for Egil and Nazifa at the beginning of 2019. However, Egil and Nazifa made themselves available at any time for any question during the transition period and afterwards, which was appreciated. The handover document was useful, although the new team needed some more explanations about its content.

III. Organization with the writers (Second Semester)

Patricia and Nathanaël introduced their way of working during the Utblick Kickstart event on the 21st of November.

A. The choice of the article’s topic

Writers are now asked to write about the topic they want, as long as it deals with international affairs, or events happening outside of Sweden in a specific country. It means that each

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printed issue will gather articles on several topics. However, if contributors do not have ideas about what they could write about, editors created a bank of subjects where writers can find - we hope - a subject they would like to tackle.

B. The website

By asking the writers to choose their own topic, we offer them the possibility to publish their article online, firstly as a single article, and secondly - if possible - in a magazine. The idea is that their article would be easily found on the internet. It would give visibility both to their article and to Utblick. Moreover, in order to get more attractive to readers and visitors, the website has been updated in December.

C. Topical issues - if possible and if desired

If people are attached to the topical issue and if the Utblick Committee has some more time left, then, the editing of a topical issue similar to the previous editions would be made. However, it would not be printed but only published online.

D. Enlargement of the Utblick Committee

Until now, the Utblick Committee was made of the two Editors in chief. Patricia and Nathanaël wanted to achieve several projects beyond the editing work. That is why they recruited 4 Coordinators at the end of 2019, namely: Sebastian Vogel, Cristina Almirall, Puru Adhikari and Anna Ryzhova. They have been recruited thanks to a call made at the kickstart event of Utblick in November 2019 and via their applications on a google form. Their work consists of helping the editors in chief in proofreading articles, contributing to the editing of issues, but also contributing to news tasks of the Utblick Committee (cf. Part VI).

IV. Interviews

Thanks to the call of the Lecture Committee of UF Gothenburg, Utblick could interview 2 ambassadors. The first interview of 9 minutes led by Nathanaël Fritz has been realized the 11th of November with the Ambassador of the Russian Federation in Sweden, Viktor Tatarintsev. The second one of 46 minutes led by Sebastian Vogel and Nathanaël Fritz has been realized the 4th of December with the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Sweden, Gui Congyou.

The Russian Ambassador's interview is shorter than the Chinese one because a short interview of maximum 10 minutes was required from the organizers. However, as the

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Ambassador came earlier than expected, it could have been possible to do a longer interview. The Lecture Committee and Utblick took this element into account. As a result, the second interview was much longer. Both interviews will be published at the beginning of 2020.

Utblick may continue this interview activity during 2020 as long as the collaboration with the Lecture Committee remains open to this.

V. Place of Utblick in UF Gothenburg

As Heads of Utblick, Editors in Chief worked with the treasurer for the bills regarding the website fee, or the printed issues, as well as the Fika provided during the kickstart events organized during the year. They also introduced their projects and gave several feedbacks to the Board.

Some talks are ongoing with the MUN Committee about Covering MUNs. The idea would be that people from Utblick would contribute to MUNs by acting as the Media team which writes some articles about talks ongoing during MUNs.

Talks have also been made with the travel Committee in order to promote Utblick's activities to people who participate in travels. We also talked about the possibility for travellers to interview some people during their travel (ambassadors, members of NGOs, ...).

As stated above, a good partnership has been made between the Lecture Committee and the Utblick Committee in order to interview some guest lecturers before they hold their lecture. we hope this cooperation will last.

VI. New activities of Utblick 2019/2020

Patricia and Nathanaël wanted to develop the activities of Utblick. Editing articles and magazines will remain the central activity of the Committee, but new projects are designed thanks to the enlargement of the Utblick Committee. Therefore in 2020, Utblick will also work on:

- Writing sessions and Conferences based on the work made by the writers of Utblick,

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- A newsletter released every two weeks introducing the 5 big news about current international affairs,
- Interviews of people dealing with international affairs,
- Media covering of MUNs,
- Sponsorship files in order to get more money which would help to print more issues.

UTBLICK RADIO

There were no new episodes published during 2019 of Utblick Radio. There were a few ideas of topics to cover, however, due to time-constraint and lack of resource it was not possible to fulfill these. We hope that during 2020 there will be plenty of resources to make at least 2 episodes throughout the year. We also hope to collaborate with other partners to make the podcast more successful.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

This year, Model United Nations Göteborg experienced some high and lows. It has participated in several conferences this year but did struggle with a constant attendance of members within workshops and weekly meetings.

The participants of year 2018 did fly to London in February 2019 to attend the LIMUN conference. All of them did learn a lot and we were able to bring back one diplomacy award. The new semester, however, started a bit late due to LIMUN and the heads being occupied. The kick-off event was eventually held in March and did attract a big amount of numbers. Yet, the weekly meetings were attended poorly and were cancelled later in the semester. The two heads tried to organise a local simulation in Gothenburg and had a topic and schedule prepared. Due to the low amount of applicants, this local simulation got cancelled as well. The semester of MUN did end with a high note through the representation of Gothenburg in Morocco by chairing a committee at their conference.

After the summer, there was only one head left. Another kick-off event was organised and it did attract many people. In the beginning, the meetings maintained to be visited properly. However, the participation number dropped by time and we maintained a group of four

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people. Also a second head got elected and workshops were organised every other week. The decision to organise the 'weekly' meetings every other week was made to meet people's busy schedules. We hoped that this change would lead to a more consistent participation to the meetings. We ended the semester with two conferences being visited. One delegate visited Stockholm and four delegates went to Hamburg. We did not bring back any awards but did learn a great deal, all the participants felt satisfied and have extended their knowledge.

The challenge for next year is to maintain a consistent participation number and visit several conferences together. Also, we have been thinking and starting to brainstorm about organising a local simulation in Gothenburg to attract more students from Gothenburg as well as around. This will hopefully gain more interested from people who would otherwise not be able to travel to other countries to attend MUN conferences. Yet, this will require some more brainstorming, budget and time and we hope that the next heads are interested in continuing the idea.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

PR for the association has had its obstacles because of the former committee leaving their posts at the last part of the yearly mandate. This has led to new heads for the committee being recruited in the beginning of October. Because of other committees within the society already being set with their areas of work such as lectures and events, the PR team initially fell behind with work tasks such as promotion for events and so on. The goal for starters, was to keep up with other committees and trying to reach the biggest audience possible with the help of Facebook and Instagram. This was a slow process in the beginning, however the PR was able to eventually catch up and a lot more people started to show up to lectures. However the movie screenings were not as successful despite of paid promotion.

Furthermore, a lot of time and energy has been dedicated to Facebook events which has evidently led to Instagram not getting our full attention. It has merely been a platform that reflects off from Facebook. The goal is to make the Instagram page more independent with posts that are not just lectures and events. We saw that a little bit when we posted from the Belgrade trip. It was both posts from the study trips and posts besides that. The general aim is to be able to focus on other platforms such as Mailclip, Twitter and so on,

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after we feel like Facebook and Instagram are working fully extent. After that, we can move on to other tasks that are a part of the PR job.

As mentioned before, the new heads for the positions came in early October. Because of a lot needing to be done, more than two people were necessary. The primary goal was to recruit new coordinators. This was a bit of a challenge in the beginning, because we only had one person we knew was interested and that we could contact. Another problem that came with it, was that we did not know how to share the workload, considering the fact that we (heads) were new to the job as well. But also, we did not have anyone that could work with editing. We got our PR team fully equipped in the middle of November. We have two editors (one of them was a head), two writers, one responsible for posters and printing and one responsible on all fronts such as booking meetings, posting on social media, making sure to share workload and so on (This was a head).

UTRIKESPOLITISKA FÖRBUNDET SVERIGE (UFS)

Unlike UF Gothenburg SAIA's fiscal year begins September 1. Some of the member associations have changed their operational year for the SAIA representative for a more effective work and smoother transition, both for the representative and the member organization. UF Gothenburg has had many discussions to re-establish the SAIA representatives operational year to correspond with the rest of UF Gothenburg. This change may happen in the upcoming future for the SAIA representative, but nothing has been authorized yet. For this reason, the background information for this report, including data collected from meeting protocols and related documents, are made after September 1, 2019.

This operational year started with a vital change within the national board. Previously there had been five committees, who had been static through the years. When the new board was voted, last semester in Linköping, there were discussions regarding changing some of these committees for the upcoming semester. This year, almost all of the committees were switched out. The committees this year are, and will continue to be for the following semester:

- Internal communication committee
- External communication committee
- Member recruitment committee

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- International committee
- NCIA working group
- Forum weekend working group
- Long-term income task force

The reasoning behind why the original committees were switched out and have been replaced by the committees mentioned above are simply that UF:s national board found that the primary focus should be to create committees that would help better the society for the upcoming operational year.

Our SAIA representative is a member of the member recruitment committee. The main purpose of the committee is to support the member associations in their recruitment process of new members, and to help them revise any current membership recruitment strategies that are being applied today. The aim of the committee is to increase the number of members in the UF organisations as well as to increase the ratio of active members. Since this has been a struggle for some associations, and specifically UF Gothenburg. In order to fulfill this purpose this committee, has thus far, started creating a document that will be sent to all the associations as a guideline in order to help expand UF and attract more members. Also a song book is in the making, to further strengthen the bonds within the association, both for board members and active members.

The main focus with the song book is to strengthen the sense of affiliation and community when the board members and active members meet, such as during the forum weekend.

Topics of importance

- Coachhippo was implemented 2017 by Daniel Kjellen-SAIAS full time employee at the time. It has now been used for two years. The program was quite problematic in the beginning and a lot of responsibility was being handed the member associations secretaries. The member associations are getting a better understanding of how to implement the system in their daily work. Some associations have a problem registering since they have member fees, but this has not been a problem for UF Gothenburg since member fees were voted off.
- The first forum weekend was held in växjö in October. The focus of the forum weekend was internal communication and membership recruitment. Different workshops for all of the participants of the associations was the most rewarding for UF Gothenburg. From the Uf Gothenburg board 4 people and one active member

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attended. The next forum weekend is being held at the end of February 2020 in Malmö.

- Every year UF is present during almedalen week in visby. This semester the main focus has been trying to find project coordinators with the responsibility to arrange the project UFS during amedalen week 2020.
- The annual meeting was held between the 21- 24 of november in Umeå. Not many point of discussion during this meeting.

Since the SAIA position had been vacant for a period of time the main focus for the SAIA representative during this period was to act as an intermediate and strengthen the bonds between UF Gothenburg and the national board.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Source of income		Income year 2019 (SEK)
MUCF Grant Spring		34 441 kr
MUCF Grant Fall		34 441 kr
Forum Syd		48 000 kr
Membership fees		800 kr
Income 2019 (SEK)		117 682 kr
Expenses		Expenses year 2019 (SEK)
Central		10 564.38 kr
Event		14 181.38 kr
Lecture		10 804 kr



PR		1 744.07 kr
Utblick		27 597 kr
MUN		7555,86 kr
Expenses year 2019 (SEK)		72 446.69 kr
NET INCOME		45 235.31 kr

The year started of with a bit of financial difficulties since the organisation had been without a treasurer for a while. These issues were mainly due to insufficient handovers from the previous board. This made the work for the board of 2019 harder than necessary and a lot of time was spent trying to clear up everything regarding the new budget and grants previously recieved. Due to this and a lack of active board members on certain positions the spending was lower than anticipated, especially during the first half of the year.

The grant received from Folke Bernadotte Akademin in 2018 was not properly accounted for which resulted in the organisation having to pay back 7 000 kr of this grant instead of 3 000 kr as the previous board expected.

Due to not enough members being under the age of 25 when the MUCF grant received in 2018 was accounted for the organisation will receive a significantly smaller grant in 2020 than previous years. The strain that this will cause can be solved by Utblicks plan to invest more work in online publishing and the 59 700 kr in the savingsaccount that needs to be put to use.

Not all the money received from the MUCF and Forum Syd grants was spent and the organisation is therefore expecting to pay back 28 980 kr of the grant received from MUCF and 15 450 kr of the of the grant received from Forum Syd.

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Since the membership fee was removed in the beginning of 2019 and made the membership free the income from membership fees was a lot lower than previous years.

Note that some expenses for 2019 have been paid in January 2020 since the grants that the organisation receives are accounted for late January 2020. The expenses of January have been included in this financial report since they are part of the 2019 budget.

Although the year started of a bit rocky it ended with a more optimistic look on the future of the organisation. A new collaboration was started with Folkuniversitet that will be of great gain for both parties. The organisation will receive money for the meetings that qualify as study circles as well as events such as lectures. It also means the opportunity to use Folkuniversitetets facilities for certain events.