

Junior VIP: Workshop on the Future of Foulum

Monday 26 November 2018, 13:00 – 16:00 in meeting room 2

Invited Participants: Junior VIP from all departments and sections, coffee and cake will be served.

Agenda

1. Approval of agenda
2. Background and introduction
3. Presentation of discussion points
 - 3.1. Facilities (e.g. gym, social space)

Sports facilities are moving and new space has to be created. This also offers the opportunity to create a new social meeting area. This can also be subject to regular activities. How should the social meeting area be arranged – and for what activities?
 - 3.2. Transport

Today, there are no direct bus transport between Aarhus and AU Foulum. Shuttle-bus options could be a possibility to better connect AU Foulum with the campus in Aarhus. What could be the benefits with a shuttle-bus?
 - 3.3) Housing

There is a plethora of housing opportunities in Viborg (in collaboration with other educational institutions), and in the rural communities surrounding Foulum. There are options for e.g. family accommodation, urban-green community living, etc. Could anything be done to take more advantage of these opportunities?
 - 3.3. Employment options for spouses

It can be difficult for accompanying spouses to get a job in Viborg; especially if you do not speak Danish. What can be done to improve job and integrational opportunities for accompanying spouses?
 - 3.4. Facilities in Viborg

Social and sports facilities, as well as housing options are available in collaboration with VIA University College. Can something be done in order to improve the use of these opportunities?
 - 3.5. Career opportunities (long-term) in Foulum

Could you see yourself in a business career in the local region after finishing your PhD or Postdoc? If yes, what should be done to improve the possibilities?
 - 3.6. Other

e.g. use of gardens, workshops, social activities, etc. What are your ideas?
4. Agro-Business-Park introduction (Agro-Business-Park in Foulum offers career-related services, e.g. the PhD Hub Foulum (PhD and Postdoc) to expand your network.)
5. Workshop activity (groups) on the discussion points
6. Presentation of today's outcomes
7. What comes next? Wrap-up and perspectives

Outcome

1 Facilities & Social Issues: How should the social meeting area be arranged – and for what activities? Which other events can be organised and in which frequency?

- The food quality (e.g. organic, locally sourced, more vegetarian options, gluten free) and availability (e.g. vending machines, options to buy food outside lunch hours) shall be improved. Discussions with the canteen are currently ongoing and a solution to improve food availability could be to involve a coffee-shop or bakery for the supply of food options for breakfast, afternoon or weekends. A casual minibar is also an option.
- Even if the gym moves, the kitchen as well as game availabilities should be kept accessible in the new social area.
- A lounge with couches and board-games shall be established that can also be utilized as a comfortable reading area.
- The volleyball court shall move to the yard area close to the canteen. Further, this should also include the establishment of a basketball and football court, allowing to set up teams which will be beneficial for more social activities (games between departments, sections etc.).
- With the move of the gym, weightlifting facilities should be improved.
- A silent area with beds or couches shall be established in order to allow naps on long working days or even the possibility for night sleep in case of sampling campaigns over night (ANIS).
- The WiFi connection outside shall be improved to allow working outside during summer months.
- The establishment of a community vegetable-garden including a compost-system for organic waste near the core buildings where everyone is welcome to participate. The vegs can be shared amongst the participants (allowing those without own gardens to grow their own food) and excess food be delivered to the canteen or used during other social events.
- More regular and irregular (spontaneous) social activities inside and outside Foulum shall take place. A Network to announce (Facebook) has already been established. This requires the initiative of everyone. Further, more events should be held in English to allow international employees a participation.
- It has been proposed to strengthen the interaction between departments. A possible solution would be to announce lunch seminars, defenses, etc. across departments.
- A 'Foulum Fair' which allows to showcase all activities and research fields going on to the broader public but also companies. Allows to connect with people inside and outside Foulum.

2 Housing: What can be done to take more advantage of housing opportunities in Viborg and the villages surrounding Foulum?

- More and more precise housing options should be discussed with newcomers prior to their arrival and afterwards. This should include the following options around Foulum and Viborg:
 - Families -> city or countryside
 - Single -> apartments or shared housing (with shared garden)
- Further, there should be furnished options for e.g. guest researchers and initial (time-restricted) periods before finding something more suitable
- It has been highlighted that, especially for internationals, an indication about how the Danish housing market works and what potential options are (and where to look for) is helpful prior to starting at Foulum.
- Further, there is a need for more housing options on the campus for long- as well as short-term options. This could involve the use of renewable building materials derived from agriculture (straw bales, reed, typha) and the collaboration with e.g. architectural schools

3 Spouses: What can be done to improve job and integrational opportunities for accompanying spouses?

- Allow spouses and accompanying kids/teenagers to use the facilities (incl. gym) and participate in events, even for a payment or with an external-membership. This also includes the promotion of enabling communicating between partners.
- Establish together with the municipality a career advice or orientation programme for spouses looking for work opportunities.

4 Facilities in Viborg: What can be done in order to improve the use of opportunities regarding sports and social facilities in collaboration with VIA University College, Viborg?

- Better provision of festivals and activities going on at VIA.
- Re-establishment of 'pub-crawling' as a social event in Viborg.
- It has further been proposed to establish a series of science talks, open to the public, potentially in cooperation with other scientific research going on at the Viborg University College. Locations could be alternating and also include local pubs or restaurants.
- The access options to the gym at Landbrugsskole or to the sports academy in Viborg as well as more activities at the studenthouse should be evaluated to allow better possibilities and enhance the connection.
- Further, sport tournaments as proposed under #1 could be extended to include other educational institutions in Viborg.

5 Career: What should be done to improve long-term academia as well as business career possibilities in the area after finishing a PhD or Postdoc?

- Enable long-term employment following Postdoc
- Funding For Innovation Fair (FFIF)
- Obligatory Danish course
- Topic specific Danish course

6 Other: What are your ideas and how to implement them?

- Expand Wi-Fi to garden areas for work

7 Transport: What are the benefits the establishment of a shuttle-bus (Foulum/Aarhus) would bring?

- More environmentally friendly
 - Saves on the number of private cars driving to Foulum
- More students could come to Foulum
 - Courses could be held at Foulum
 - Research projects would be more attractive (BSc/MSc)
 - PhD projects would be more attractive
 - Master projects more attractive and feasible
- More Convenient for people to commute to Foulum
 - They don't have to drive themselves
 - They could work on the bus (with Wi-Fi)
 - They save money for other public transport/fuel
 - It is also social, as co-workers can meet and communicate/chat on the bus
 - More efficient
- More people would come to Foulum every day
 - More lively atmosphere and more social opportunities