

Buddy System - "The First Aid Kit for International Students"

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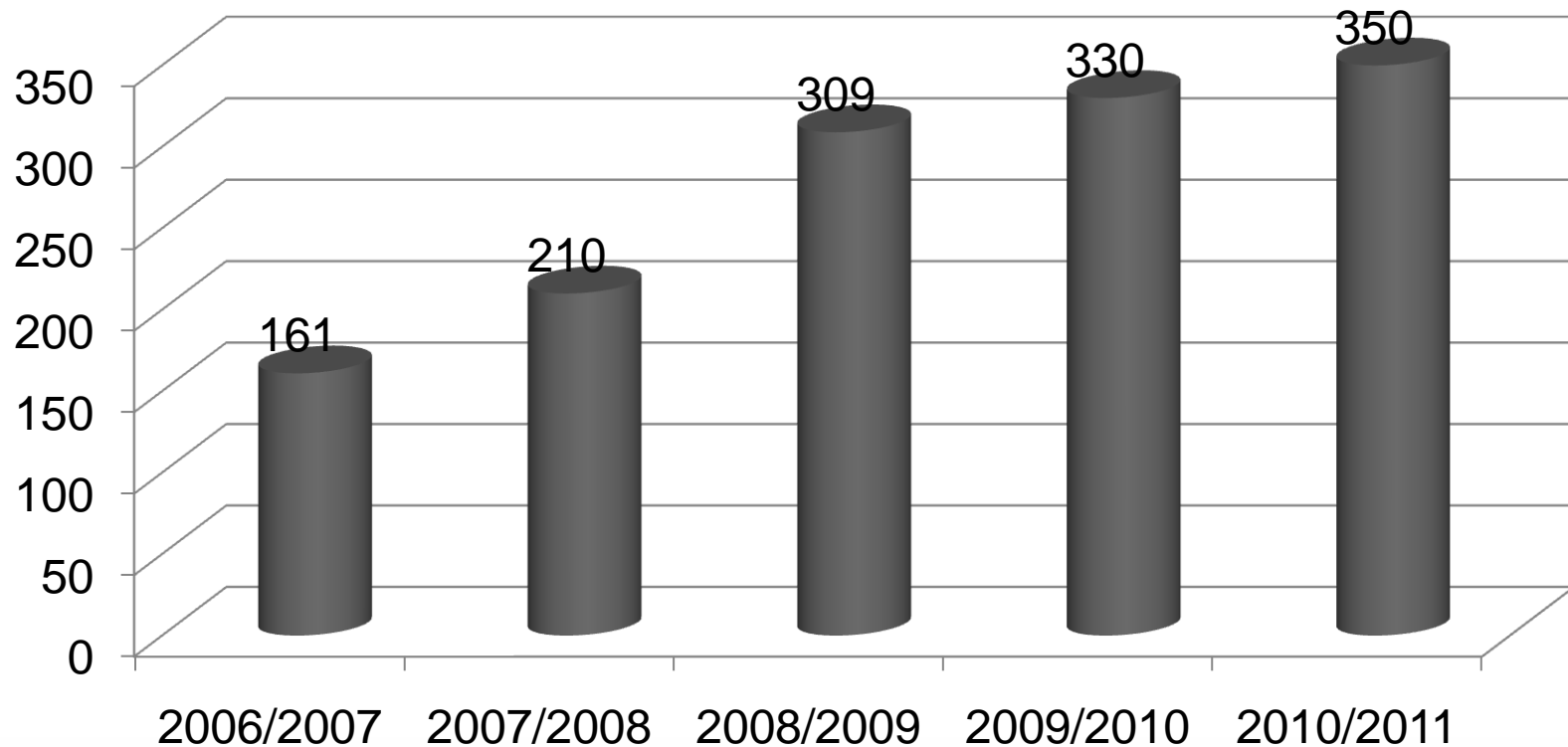


Buddy System

- ▶ Training program is carried out by the International Relations Office
- ▶ Free-elective subject
- ▶ 4 ECTS
- ▶ Aim: professional in advising



International Students at Tallinn University



Buddies (who they are)

- ▶ Local students with recent study abroad experience (recruiting: Erasmus list)
- ▶ Members of International Club
- ▶ Working in pairs (more experienced + newcomer)



Buddies (what they do)

- ▶ Academic and non-academic guidance
- ▶ Helping international students in everyday and university life
- ▶ Organizing events

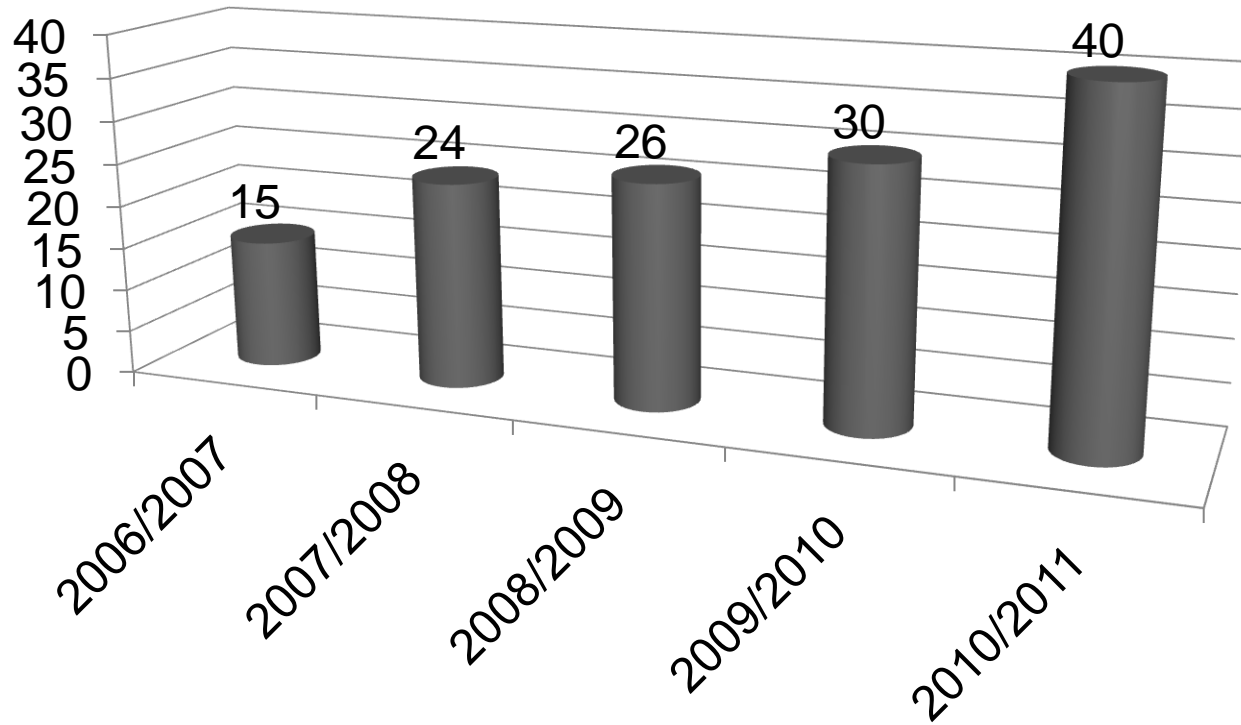


History

- ▶ 2006 autumn semester - first buddies (15) and International Club
- ▶ 2007 autumn semester – Japanese speaking buddies
- ▶ 2009 training at the University of Helsinki
- ▶ 2009/2010 full training program, 4 ECTS



Number of Buddies



Buddy To-Do List (1)

- ▶ Contacting international students prior their arrival
- ▶ Pick-up service
- ▶ Orientation for International Students
- ▶ Registration to the courses, student card, study information system, library



Buddy To-Do List (2)

- ▶ ID-card, public transportation, residence permit, city tour, campus tour, housing
- ▶ Events for the international students



Training Program (1)

- ▶ Twice a year (autumn and spring semester)
- ▶ Newcomers session
- ▶ Case studies and role plays (system of studies, advising skills, practicalities)
- ▶ Special seminars: intercultural communication, public speech, event management, team-building



Training Program (2)

- ▶ Feedback seminar
- ▶ Events to motivate the buddies: exotic dinners, ceramics class, tours



Agenda in Spring Semester 2011 (1)

- ▶ January 26

12:00-14:00 Newcomers session

14:00-16:00 Case studies and role plays

- ▶ January 27

16:00-19:00 Team-building activity

- ▶ February 1-2

Orientation for International Students



Agenda in Spring Semester 2011 (2)

- ▶ February-April: Buddy sessions
- ▶ February: Special seminar on organizing camping tours
- ▶ April 20: Feedback seminar (dynamic workshop)
- ▶ May 23: Deadline for the study portfolio



Bibliography (1)

- ▶ Berne, E. (2008) **Games People Play**
- ▶ Hofstede, G; Pedersen, P. (2002) **Exploring Culture**
- ▶ Peavy, V. (2004) **A Small Book About Sociodynamic Counseling**
- ▶ McKay, M., Davies, M., Fanning, P. (1995) **Communication Skills**



Bibliography (2)

- ▶ **Guide for International Students (2010)**
Tallinn University International Relations
Office
- ▶ **Handbook of Intercultural Training. (2004)**
Third Edition



Challenges and Future Plans

- ▶ How to monitor and motivate buddies?
- ▶ Communication between the buddies?
- ▶ Buddy code of conduct
- ▶ International students will apply for a tutor



Feedback from International Students (1)

- ▶ *My buddies were helpful in the first weeks but afterward we lost contact.*
- ▶ *My buddy did not show up to the airport to pick me up.*
- ▶ *Buddy system works very well and it is very important.*
- ▶ *System of buddies is really helpful, it was really necessary at the beginning.*



Feedback from International Students (2)

- ▶ *I never met my buddy. The system is confusing, I got e-mail from different girls saying they are my buddies and writing lets meet some times but the meeting never took place. But it was not necessary to have a buddy, you will get enough information from the classmates, teachers, coordinators.*



Feedback from International Students (3)

- ▶ *I just talked with my buddy after arrival once and that's it.*
- ▶ *Buddies were very helpful – we were not lost when we arrived.*



Questions, comments

Thank you for your attention!



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