MEGAPROJECTS AT AALBORG UNIVERSITY

GLOBAL CHALLENGES ARE SOLVED THROUGH MEGAPROJECTS

AALBORG UNIVERSITET
It’s no secret that today’s global challenges as defined in UN’s 17 global goals are interdependent. Because of this, it makes sense for Aalborg University to join forces, both inside the university and with external partners. All groups work within their own discipline and gain strong collaboration skills both in working with academic peers and people from other professions. I have great expectations for the results that will come from such ambitious goals for climate and sustainability. Innovative technological solutions will be essential – while always keeping human behaviour and needs in mind.

JAKOB STOUSRUP, PRO-DEAN FOR EDUCATION, TECHNICAL FACULTY OF IT AND DESIGN, AALBORG UNIVERSITY

"AT AALBORG UNIVERSITY WE LIKE PROBLEMS AND WE PARTICULARLY LIKE SOLVING THEM"

And we’re good at it! Therefore, we’re thrilled to start working on megaprojects that involve students, teaching staff and researchers working together on solving major global challenges across faculties, departments, programmes and disciplines. I look forward to seeing the end results, and I’m confident that we will end up with an array of constructive suggestions as to how we may help make the world a better place.

INGER ASKEHAVE, PRO-RECTOR AALBORG UNIVERSITY
What does a computer scientist, a business economist and a techno-anthropologist have in common? At Aalborg University (AAU), the answer is ‘a lot’. At AAU, we know that major problems are often best solved by bringing together different people with different skills. With the new megaprojects, we’re taking our well-integrated project and problem-oriented learning approach to the next level.

GLOBAL CHALLENGES
BEST SOLVED IN MEGAPROJECTS

MEGAPROJECTS

- Interdisciplinary projects across the university with hundreds of students participating.
- All based on the global challenges defined in the UN’s 17 SDGs.
- Students working in disciplinary teams in collaboration with other teams in external partnerships.
- Extend over several semesters, typically two to three years.

DISCIPLINARY SKILLS

By working together across semesters, degree programmes and disciplinary mindsets, students are part of solving the grand challenges. A megaproject consists of a number of subprojects all of which contribute to solving the grand challenge set in the megaproject. In the projects, the students develop disciplinary skills as part of their curricular activities as well as interdisciplinary collaboration skills.
COLLABORATION WITH SOCIETY
The issues addressed in the mega-projects will in most cases be defined in collaboration with external business partners, such as public authorities, private companies or NGOs, who choose specific problems or challenges from their work which they need another take on.
The megaprojects will most likely also involve collaboration partners from other universities. In such cases, AAU will be the ‘owner’ of the megaproject.

STRONG SKILLS IN KEY AREAS
The ability to collaborate – with peers and even more importantly with people outside one’s field as well as outside academia – is increasingly in demand. An added bonus for the students working on megaprojects will be a heightened awareness of sustainability and sustainable development worldwide.

SPECIFIC PROJECTS
The first two megaprojects were initiated in the 2019 autumn semester: Sustainable Living and The Circular Region. Further megaprojects will follow in both spring and autumn semesters 2020.
CONTACT

If you’re curious to learn more or have any questions or ideas, you’re more than welcome to get in touch with us.