Subject for the Development dialogue

Bachelor Business & IT
Master Business Information Technology
University of Twente

'The Jekyll and Hyde role of multidisciplinarity: how to cope with culture differences in a multidisciplinary study'

In this development dialogue, we want to discuss the multidisciplinary character of the BIT programmes in terms of the opportunities and challenges it creates. The programmes have an important societal importance because it prepares the students to cope with the gap between business and IT, concerning both content and cultural differences. We organised the programmes with a 50-50 collaboration between researchers from business areas (Business Administration, Industrial Engineering and Management) and computer science areas, exposing the students to people from these different cultures. Although this is often acknowledged as positive, in the Students Chapters (and talking to students) we identify some criticism that we can trace back to cultural differences between people from the different disciplines (and the different faculties). How to cope with these differences? Is this only a communication problem or is there something deeper that needs to be exploited?

We would like to exchange ideas with the panel concerning this issue.

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