

We are back on track!



After almost two years without meetings, our working group has started again. It does not mean that the network has not been active. Students from the University of Regina, Canada have – through network cooperation – been taking part in a community work courses in VIRCLASS, from North University, Norway. Several colleagues participated in the development and teaching of these on these courses. In addition, students from the Arctic University of Norway completed a BSW field practicum in child welfare in Regina, Canada. Colleagues from the University of Stavanger, Norway, have been successfully editing and publishing the “Journal of Comparative Social Work” (jcsw.no).

On April 25th, the working group met to decide on some plans for the future. On the following pages, some of our ideas are presented. We also point out two documents that may be of interest. You will find these documents at our website:

<http://www.uarctic.org/organization/thematic-networks/social-work/>

The first is our “profile document,” which identifies what frames we want for our activities. The second document describes how we can organize undergraduate and graduate field placements through our network.

Nordic Master Programme in Social Work and Welfare

The University of Stavanger in Norway, Umeå University in Sweden and Aalborg University in Denmark combined their academic strengths to provide a state-of-the-art and tuition-free education. The program is taught in English, within a Nordic equality and diversity context. Students spend one semester at each university and select among the institutions for the final thesis semester. You can read more about this:

<http://www.uis.no/studies/master-s-programmes-in-english/social-work-and-welfare/>

More focus on placements

We want to increase the exchange of students between institutions offering social work education within the Arctic. To achieve this, we have developed a document that defines how to organize this. At the same time, we realize that this will not be sufficient to motivate students to do their placement in the High North. We are considering developing a strategy to increase student exchanges.



Future conferences

Our network had a conference in August 2012 in Reykjavik, Iceland. We have also had meetings as pre-conferences to other international conferences. We think such meetings are important, and plan for another pre-conference to one of the international social work conferences in 2018. We are planning this as a research conference, and we want to offer the possibility to publish articles, based on papers for the conference in a special issue of "Journal of Comparative Social Work" that will come sometime after this conference. The working group will have a new meeting early September. There we want to decide what conference we will cooperate with.

Do you want to share lectures?

Many institutions offer courses in English, and our experience on using technologies like "Skype" and "Skype for business" (former Lync) has improved over the years. This makes it possible to facilitate the sharing lectures in real time. This is also a very easy way to establish contacts between institutions. Here at North University, we will be offering a master course in "Housing and community work" in the coming autumn. If somebody has lectures that they think may fit with these topics, or want a lecture from this course, please contact Asgeir.solstad@nord.no