

## ***THE RESULTS OF OUR “SURVEY”.***

*By: Ass. Prof. Asgeir Solstad, Bodoe University College*

As you remember I contacted the institutions that were gathered at the first meeting in our network in June 2006 in Bodoe. I asked for some information on people to contact in the institution. I also asked for information on what are the main research interests at the institution, and some ideas for what to do within the network.

Four institutions responded on this email. Here I will present what these institutions answers, and my reflections on this.

The four institutions were University of Regina, University of Oulu, Pomor State University and one person – Gunn Tove Minde, who at the time of our meeting was a teacher at Finnmark University College, but who now works for a centre, working on violence, Post Traumatic Stress and suicide prevention in Tromsøe.

### ***Research and research interests***

I will present the information in tables. The first table shows what research interests the institutions report, and who to contact on topics or research more generally:

Institution	Topic	Contact	email
University of Regina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Northern and rural social work</li><li>• Aboriginal social work</li><li>• Social policy</li><li>• Child welfare</li><li>• Diversity and multiculturalism</li></ul>	Doug Durst	doug.durst@uregina.ca
University of Oulu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gendered and sexualised violence and preventing of violence.</li><li>• Globalisation from the point of view of people in Northern periphery – especially from the point of view of schools / schoolchildren, and women.</li><li>• Safety, insecurity among children in</li><li>• Children in protracted crisis in family</li><li>• Equality issues: all the previous persons and additionally</li><li>• Post-colonial approach towards the northern periphery</li><li>• Citizenship, agency</li><li>• Regional development</li><li>• Cultural diversity</li><li>• Women’s Resource Centres</li></ul>	Different researchers are involved, but Vappu Sunnari can establish contact	vappu.sunnari@oulu.fi
Pomor State University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Disability and rehabilitation</li><li>• Gerontology</li><li>• Philosophic basics of social work</li></ul>	Different researchers are involved. But Larisa Malik can	malik.larisa@pomorsu.ru

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family-oriented social work</li> <li>• Social policy and civil society</li> <li>• Ethics in social work</li> </ul>	establish contact.	
Gunn Tove Minde	Comparative research on elderly women among indigenous people in North West Russia and Northern Norway.	Maria Lesonen/ Gunn Tove Minde	Gunn-tove.Minde@fagmed.uit.no
Bodoe University College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comparative social work</li> <li>• Child welfare/ protection</li> <li>• Public Social services</li> </ul>	Siv Oltedal	siv.oltedal@hibo.no

This table shows a broad variety of topics and interests. But there are some similarities. All institutions seem to focus on doing comparative research, either between countries or between different cultural or ethnic groups. One can also see a clear interest for working with vulnerable groups.

This makes me think that the network both may serve its partners with knowledge and experience, and may be establish fruitful cooperation, by developing conferences or courses on scientific methods that focus on research in these fields. If we think of courses, they should be on a master or doctoral level.

In our meeting in Bodoe there were also presented an idea on collecting data that can be used for different research purposes. Johans Sandvin suggested that one could collect autobiographies from youth: How do young people imagine their situation. One could also find what thoughts old people or disabled people have about their future.

If anybody find such ideas interesting, please contact me, and I will try to establish necessary links.

### ***Courses and teaching***

The next table shows what ideas – on both education and research – that the institutions have for our network.

Institution	Topic	Contact	email
University of Regina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northern Social Research Unit – researching northern communities</li> <li>• Social Policy Research Unit</li> <li>• Teaching in Whitehorse, Yukon College.</li> </ul>		doug.durst@uregina.ca
University of Oulu	See table 1		vappu.sunnari@oulu.fi
Pomor State University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students and teachers exchange (bachelors and masters)</li> <li>• Mobility of practice training placement (4-6 weeks)</li> <li>• Research mobility (Master's level students, PHD students, lectors)</li> <li>• Summer and winter schools (History and Culture, Social</li> </ul>		<a href="mailto:malik.larisa@pomorsu.ru">malik.larisa@pomorsu.ru</a>

	policy, Social Care system; each country is responsible for a concrete topics where school is organised)		
Bodoe University College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course in comparative social policy on bachelors level.</li> <li>• Courses in qualitative scientific methods on masters- and doctoral level.</li> <li>• Start working on an international mastersprogram within the network.</li> </ul>		<a href="mailto:siv.oltedal@hibo.no">siv.oltedal@hibo.no</a> <a href="mailto:asgeir.solstad@hibo.no">asgeir.solstad@hibo.no</a>

Here are also a lot of good ideas like student – and teachers exchange, which of course must be have priority in a network like ours. And it is really an interesting idea to establish international research units that apply for money for projects that include projects from different institutions in our network.

But there are two ideas I would like to suggest that we give some priority

1. We should develop – as mentioned above – courses/ conferences on qualitative research methods that can both develop our knowledge and work as starting points for common research efforts.
2. We should work on establishing an international master in social work, focusing on life in the high north. That means focus on indigenous people, small societies and how social work can be performed under the different realities in our part of the world. Such an idea will have broad support within the UA, which on its last council meeting in Archangel gave priority to the development of studies at graduate level.

Finally there is one more idea that I will mention. Pomor State University and Bodoe University College last year gave a 10 credit course in comparative social policy with ten Russian students and five Norwegian students. The students were satisfied with this course, which included one week course in Archangel and one week in Bodoe.

Now we want to change this course into a course that is focusing more clearly on the special needs on the social policy field in the high North. This means an indigenous perspective, a small society perspective and a focus on the link between social policies and the environmental development. We also would like to change it so that students from all institutions in the network can join, and we will reduce to one week course, and the rest will be given as an online course. It would be nice if others found this interesting, and want to participate in the development of this course. Please contact me.