

MINUTE FROM MEETING ON THEMATIC NETWORK IN SOCIAL WORK.

Background:

In the network meeting in January there were pointed out five different activities:

- Share experience from the Pomor Projects with members of the network and organize a network seminar 14th – 15th June 2006 in Bodø, Norway.
- Make research networks in the field of Social Work
- Plan joint courses focus on Social Policy and youth in the North (online)
- Develop student and staff exchange programs
- Send applications for funding the network and activities within the network.

Bodø University college was appointed to coordinate the network.

Status from Universities.

Kemi Torneå University of Applied Sciences, Finland. Lena Leväsvirta.

This university wants the network to focus on social work with elderly people. They are in a network with other insitutions on this, and will have a meeting this autumn in Arkhangelsk

Pomor State University, Larissa Malik

Social work with families and children
Social work management
Social work with disabled

Social work in prisons
Gerontology
Social Politics/ Ethics
Courses of gender perspectives/ feminology

Cooperating with to NGO's: Rassvet (disabled) Bridges of mercy (crisis centre for women/
phone service for battered women)

Prepare a book on concepts in social work, so that we know what the words mean in different cultural contexts.

Bodø University College, Siv Oltedal

Child welfare and gender in a comparative perspective. Establish a network on research.

1. Women in difficult circumstances.
2. Work with children in vulnerable positions.
3. Different systems of welfare distribution
4. Community based rehabilitation

Create areas for development of social work practice where practice, research, and teaching work together.

Youth in the North: Make a research project and develop courses on this topic.

Share of best experience. Mediation as method/ technology, like family conference groups. Work going on in Arkhangelsk, Murmansk and Bodø. Restorative justice is another idea in this field.

Johans Sandvin:

It may be difficult to start research. So I would like to introduce a simple idea:

Ask young people to describe their future. Collect autobiographies from youth. How do young people imagine their situation. We could also find how old people, disabled people what thoughts they have had about their future: Images of Northern life. It can be linked to Images of Southern life and indigenous people. It must drown other ideas. It will give a starting point for a concrete research.

Oulu University, Finland Vappu Sunnari

We should have a more proactive perspective: Focus on social work outside, and establish overlapping/ well being to health and wellbeing. This is described in the "Circumpolar Health and Wellbeing".

Indigenous perspectives

Have contact with researchers in Canada, Sweden, Finland and Russia. Indigenous researcher need to make comparative projects. The projects must be given back to the societies. Within this network we need an indigenous network and use this to apply for money for research. We can initiate a project on elderly women and mental health, comparing sami and nenet people.

A project on youth should also be developed.

Finnmark University College

Specialized courses that cross professional topics. Elderly, what one can do to be kept healthy. We want to have a multiprofessional perspective.

UiT: Gry Paulgaard

Barents youth research network – sleeping. Focus on research and student exchange.

“Youth in the Barents region.

Youth and identity research.

Conference: In Tromsø/ Kirkenes: Focus on youth and ethnicity.

Research on dropout from secondary school.

Prevention on children and youth mental health/ Health promoting activities.

It is also useful to link northern and southern perspectives on social work.

Centre for international health in Tromsø, Trine Utkilen Sørensen

Have cooperated with Arkhangelsk in 12 years. Focus on children and emergency medicine.

Luleå university of Technology

Topic: Disability

Medical University in Arkhangelsk

Social work faculty in this university – as a result of cooperation with univ. of Umeå. One topic: Social work in mental health, also included topics concerning indigenous people.

Social work, alcohol and drug abuse.

We need to think of how to develop the network – not only the institutions.

Petrosavodsk

Topic: Youth research. Conference in Petrosavodsk in September. Dept. of Social Pedagogics.

Link youth network together with this network.

Outcome from the work in the groups.

Education/ colleague and student exchange program.

As part of practical placement on bachelors level: Best practice: Four weeks are students from Bodø in Arkhangelsk. The placement has been organised along defined topics. Child care, prison, preventive work, NGO. Visits/ information on voluntary work.

A placement that is more dominated by information. Interpretator necessary.

Facilitate possibilities for master students to make field studies for their thesis on every university.

“Comparative social policy” will be opened for the whole network.

The project must include a work that secures that the involved institutions accept some of each others courses as part of each others degrees, on both bachelor and masters level.

Investigate the possibilities for making multiprofessional courses in fields like rehabilitation, elderly, sexual abuse, drug/ alcohol abuse and mental health.

Exchange of part time positions (10 – 20%) for teachers. Can also be linked to research.

Research and development

Answer: How to develop strategies in research. Draw on different institutions specialities in research method. Russians want to learn more of qualitative research methods. This may be a subject for a seminar.

Identify students attitudes during their education – especially focus on those attitudes we don’t want them to develop.

Child and family policy

Discussed implementation of family conference as a common project. The network have especially good resources to develop this through Sveinung Horverak, and the experiences from Murmansk.

Have a meeting in Arkhangelsk to discuss evaluation and research on this method. Sveinung will. One week courses in Russia, Finland and Germany.

Gender culture and politics.

Active citizenships. How to live in the north in face of global market, neoliberalism, how to be active etc. Focus on genderaspects in this field.

Methods: Life stories, narratives.

Practical steps: Make a list of articles that all could read together, establish a network and a website with book reviews, discussion, finding partner etc, where students, teachers and others can be users. Establish courses.

Disability and rehabilitation

The group discussed Johans idea further. Gives room for valuable comparison. One could compare between groups cross countries, and compare between countries.

Collect stories from parents with disabled children.

	Gender	Disability	Policy	Culture	Education
Children					
Youth	x	x		x	x
Family		x	x		
Elderly					

Youth in the North

Discussed organising the project of Johans. How to choose the right age group to compare? It can be difficult to compare 17 yrs old people in Russia and Norway? What do we do with those who cannot write?

What kind of method is this? Russians are not familiar with qualitative methods, which are necessary to perform this project.

What are we going to use this for?

Discussed how mix up with the north/ south perspective.

Organising

Activities must be financed by external money, but we can use the network to argue for money.

- The network is open to all institutions that offer social work within the University of Arctic.
- All courses open to every institution in the network.
- Research projects should be registered by the coordinating institution.
- Coordinating institution spreads information, mediates contacts and arrange conferences etc.