



University of the Arctic:
Thematic Network Social Work
Newsletter, September - 2012

Thematic Network Conference 8th of July 2012 in Stockholm



TNSWUA arranged the 8th of July 2012 a research seminar on “Social Policy in the High North” and “Social Work with Families” (SWF). The social policy theme will probably be developed and presented at a steering committee meeting in 2013.

Within the SWF project there have been developed a vignette to be used in focus group interview with social workers. There are now collected focus group material from Finland, Russia, Canada, Cuba, Chile, Sweden and Norway. Within the end of October 2012 each researcher will be asked to sign an agreement regarding how to use the collected material.

Next Thematic Network SW seminar: Melbourne 7-8 July 2014 as a pre-seminar to the “Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education & Social Development” 9-12 July 2014 (www.swsd2014.org)



The Social Work Virtual Campus – VirCamp - www.vircamp.net and TNSWUA are collaborating in a task force group to establish: *Contextual Social Work (30 ects) – a new online VirCamp master course from 2013*. If your institution is interested to collaborate please email: Siv.oltedal@uin.no within the 10th of November 2012.

In spring 2012 students from Canada, Russia and Norway got their exam paper from University of Nordland for attending VirCamp bachelor course “*Community Work from an International perspective*” (15 ects). Application deadline for the next course in 2013: 15th of Oct 2012. To be sent to UNordland: service@uin.no

The Sustainable Working Group Meeting



Gunn-Britt Retter Head of Delegation Saami Council Norway and Helena Omma Vice Chair SDWG from Sweden

The Sustainable Working Group (SDWG) regular meeting took place in Reykjavik, Iceland, September 17-19. The areas under the heading „sustainable development“ that are addressed in the group are: a) health issues and the well-being of people living in the Arctic, b) sustainable economic activities and increasing community prosperity, c) education and cultural heritage, d) children and youth, e) management of natural, including living resources and g) infrastructure development.

Thorhildur Egilsdottir, from TNSW, participated on behalf of the University of Arctic. In the meeting new research proposals were presented and updates provided for ongoing projects. As always participants attending the meetings were energetic and enthusiastic.

TNSWUA has been in contact with SDWG regarding “Social Work with Families”.

About the newsletter:

This is a newsletter for “Thematic network on Social Work” within University of the Arctic.

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How to make SW Thematic Network sustainable?



Lidia Kriulya and Siv Oltedal (coordinator till mid-2013) are discussing future plans for the TNSW

The Thematic Network on Social Work was established the 15th of June 2006 at a conference at Kjerringøy, Norway. Today members of the steering committee come from: Canada, USA, Island, Greenland, Russia, Finland, Sweden and Norway. The annual Thematic Coordinators meeting will be held in Arkhangelsk in 2013. Lidia Kriulya, NArFU, will represent TNSWUA at this meeting.

In the TNSWUA we need to define and agree upon what tasks we want to maintain or develop in our thematic network. Current work tasks are: A coordinator function, 4 online steering committee meetings, 4 newsletters, a biannual seminar related to a social work world conference, maintaining the relation to the Journal of Comparative Social Work, meeting at annual Arctic thematic meetings, contact with the Arctic University, coordinating educational programs, student exchanges and research networks.

The challenge is: *How to divide the tasks between TNSWUA representatives?* Please communicate your opinion about cooperation and work share at the FACE Book group TNSWUA (a group initiated by Thorhildur Egilsdottir in July 2012).