



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

Memorandum of understanding signed 1st of May 2012 between:



UNIVERSITETET I
NORDLAND



University
of Regina



HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Social Work

Partners in the Arctic were invited to develop collaboration. This resulted in the following signed agreement between universities from Russia, Canada, USA, Sweden and Norway:

“All institutions will make every reasonable effort to encourage direct contact, educational, and research cooperation between their constituents, including students, faculty members, departments, and research institutes, and will endeavour to cooperate in the fields with which both institutions are concerned. Within spheres that are mutually agreed to, these institutions agree on the following general forms of cooperation:

1. Joint educational and research activities;
2. Cooperation regarding Master in Social Work

3. Exchange of academic materials and academic publications;
4. Exchange of faculty members for research, lectures, and discussions;
5. Exchange of students for study and research.

Themes of joint activity and the conditions for utilising the results achieved and arrangements for all forms of cooperation including visits and exchanges will be negotiated for each specific case. All institutions understand that all financial arrangements will be negotiated and identified in an agreement prior to the commencement of the associated activities.”

Other universities within the thematic network are invited to be part of a reference group and may develop collaboration where this is relevant.

About 15 participants will attend seminar - 8th of July - in Sweden

Program Thematic Network Seminar:

9- 9.15 Opening.

Presentations and discussions on the following themes:

9.15 – 10. 30:

Multiculturalism in the Arctic: Challenges for Social Work.

Presentation by Eva Wikström, Sweden

10.45 - 11.45:

“Defining Family: Diverse Canadian Perspectives”

Presentation by Randy Johner, Canada,

12.00 - 13.00: “Social Workers as Change Agents: case studies from Russia”.

Presentation by Elena Iarskaia-Smirnova and Pavel Romanov, Russia

Parallell sessions: 14.00 – 17.00

“Social Work with Families”

“Challenges for Public Policy and Social Work Practices in the Arctic”.

17 -18: Annual meeting in TNSWUA; discussing further work in the network.



The Task force group between VirCamp and Thematic Network met in Geel, Belgium 4- 5 June 2012 to develop “Contextual Social Work” (30 ects) as an online master course

Participants:

Lars Nordlander & Anna-Lena Per Dahl, Umeå,
Lidia Kriulya, NArFU, Arhangelsk,
Remmelt Veenkamp & Wim Wouters VirCamp,
and Siv Oltedal, University of Nordland

The meeting agreed upon establishing a pilot master course at the University of Nordland, Norway, for the academic year 2012-2013 using the VirCamp platform. The course will be implemented as a VirCamp course on “Contextual Social Work” (30 ects) from the academic year 2013-2014 (September-June). The task force group got permission to use the case “Green Park” in this master course.

The VirCamp course will be organised as a flexible course with four integrated courses. All courses will be assessed by eportfolios.

5 ects on Welfare provisions and welfare system (autumn)

5 ects on Ethics (autumn)

5 ects on Social Work Theories (spring)

30 ects Contextual Social Work (Welfare, Ethics, SW Theories and Essay. The essay will account for 60 % of the final exam).

Within the end of November 2012 the task force group will have completed a weekly plan and a task plan for the VirCamp course. The complete course will be decided upon in the steering committee TNSW and VirCamp Consortium meeting.

All VirCamp member institution can then offer this course at their home university from the academic year 2013-2014.



The Social Work Virtual Campus – VirCamp - www.vircamp.net – offer online courses. Through the UiN membership students from Arctic universities can apply for intake at: Eped course (self-study) “Community Work”- 10 ects- autumn 2012 “Community Work from an International perspective” – 15 ects - spring 2013. If you are interested send an email to: siv.oltedal@uin.no for more information.



Inga Zashikhina from Russia completed a course in June 2012 and gives the following recommendation:

«Community Work in an International Perspective» is a course that makes a lot of changes for the one who dares to take it.

First, it is really an international perspective and you get into the atmosphere of variety and difference which is philosophically «right».

Then you are given loads of information that is interesting enough to stop speaking about time limits and start reading and learning.

And last but not least, you deal with fine professionals who teach you how to feel good in the virtual world of studies.

Perfect!

Thanks to Douglas Durst, University of Regina, Canada for editing a special edition of Journal of Comparative Social Work Issue 2012:1 on the Canadian North; <http://www.jcsw.no/>

About the newsletter:

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

Email: siv.oltedal@uin.no **Website:** <http://www.uarctic.org/singleArticle.aspx?m=281&amid=1143>