



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

**Russian - Finnish collaboration on Master's degree program (BCBU) in Comparative Social Work**

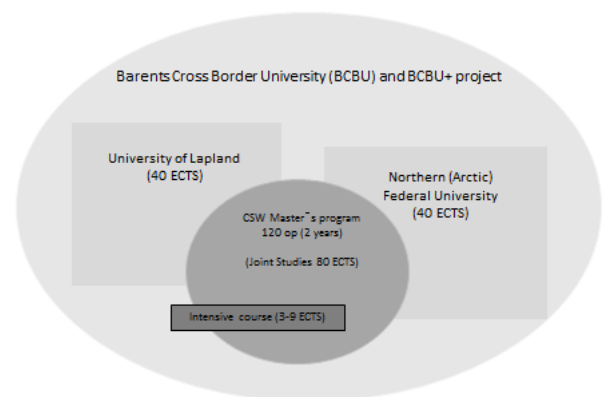


*Winter school students 2012 at the course Social Policy and Human Rights. The course got good feedback.*

Department of Social Work at the Institute of Pedagogy, Psychology and Social Work, NArFU, Arkhangelsk, Russia organized a winter school for the students of BCBU Master program in Comparative Social Work. This Russian – Finnish master collaboration was organized for the first time in January 2009.

The winter school was organized by Ass. Professor Elena Golubeva (NArFU) and Professor Tarja Orjasniemi (ULapland). The intensive course was lectured by professors Alexey Feldt (NArFU), Andrey Soloviev (NSMU) and Tarja Orjasniemi.

CSW in BCBU context



There were 22 MA and BA students from University of Lapland (UL), Northern state Medical University (NSMU), Petrozavodsk University (PetrU), Murmansk Humanities State University (MSHU) and Northern (Arctic) Federal University (NArFU).

Lectures and seminars were held on-line for the students from UL. This new and unusual form of collaboration made the discussions very productive. Participants of the school discussed burning issues of social politics in Russia, Finland, Nepal, and Spain, and learned about social work in the context of these countries.

Learning outcomes were: 1) to learn the cultural, mental and social factors, which have effected on development of social policy of each country, 2) to understand different social policies and their challenges in the global context, 3) and to learn about the social policy as a frame of social work.

*(Text written by Tarja Orjasniemi, Finland)*

### **Members of Thematic Network on Social Work in the UArctic meet in Arkhangelsk**

Associated professors Randi Haugland and Eva Carlsdotter Schjetne from the Faculty of Business and Social Work at Finnmark University College, Norway, visited NArFU, Arkhangelsk from February, 28 till March, 8.

They met with colleagues from the Institute of Pedagogy, Psychology and Social Work, to get acquainted, to discuss the current educational, social and research projects, to share common interests, to evaluate the current collaboration and to discuss future contacts and possibilities of collaboration.

The meeting was organized by Maria Lvova, UArctic Research Office (NArFU), and Lidia Kriulya, deputy director for

international cooperation at the Institute of Pedagogy, Psychology and Social Work, who also represents TNSW in the UArctic.



*Schjetne and Haugland with the VirCamp students Inga Zashikhina, Olga Sergeeva Tatiana Bogacnenko and Polina Golomidova*

Randi Haugland met 4 students of VirCamp Bachelor Course “Community Work in an International Perspective” (15 ects) and gave 4 hours workshop for them. The students commented that it was very useful to meet Randi in Arkhangelsk and to discuss face-to-face Community work issues.

There was organized a field visit to the kindergarten for children with special needs. It was meaningful to see the differences and commonalities in the approaches to Social Work with children.

Eva Carlsdotter Schjetne gave 20 hours of lectures on “Family Therapy” for the Bachelor level students of the Department of Social Work. Both, the teacher and the students were very inspired working together. Besides, the new knowledge that was given to the students, it was a great experience for them to practice their English language skills.

*(Text written by Lidia Kriulya, Russia)*

## **Thematic Networks Meeting in Iceland, 2012**

The annual meeting of the Thematic Networks took place at the University of Akureyri in Iceland during January 11th - 14th, 2012. It was a joint meeting of Ma-Mawi, UArctic's Strategic Area leaders, and Thematic Network leaders.

Representatives from all the 21 Thematic Networks attended and each gave a presentation on activities in 2011 and focused on the plans for 2012. Variety of activities take place through the different networks, conferences, research, publications and projects. The process of sharing information was very stimulating and useful.

All the networks can use the Arctic council working groups for fundraising. Tom Barry gave a talk about Arctic council working group (CAFF) and how the Thematic Networks can contribute to it. It seems like the Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG) could be relevant for our thematic network on social work.

A seminar on building the fundraising capacity in Thematic Networks was presented. Maria Lvova UArctic Research Office (NARFU), Russia, gave an introduction to the new UArctic's Research Office role. The goal is threefold, i.e. to 1) give the University of Arctic members access to information about research opportunities and initiatives in the Arctic, 2) develop and follow up overall UArctic fundraising initiatives, and 3) follow up implementation of UArctic agreement with external research partners. Furthermore, the goal is to include UArctic Thematic Networks, UArctic Institutes, as well as UArctic members' competency into the work of other Arctic organizations.

Alexander Seryakov from Syktyvkar State University briefed on Russian funding. Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR) supports initiative of projects by

small scientific groups or researchers. Russian Foundation for the Humanities (RFH) finances different projects, i.e. 1) research projects carried out by research teams or individual researchers, 2) creation of IT system projects, 3) organization of scientific events, 4) publication of scientific works, 5) project expeditions and other field studies, 6) experimental laboratory, 7) scientific and restoration work. Seryakov advice to the networks is to start planning/actions/reporting early, combine EU and Russian funding and use a twin or zigzag funding scheme.

Øyvind Paasche from University of Bergen, Norway, gave an introduction to philanthropic fundraising. To be successful in that area his advice was that institutions should connect with people in new fields and learn to think "from outside-in". This approach will help fund research that otherwise wouldn't be funded.

Next meeting will be at Kilpisjärvi, Finland, in January 2013 and again in 2014 at a location yet to be decided.

*(Text written by Thorhildur Egilsdottir, Iceland)*

### **New Russian network member from Syktyvkar University**

Elena Tonkova, director of the Social Technologies Institute at the Syktyvkar State University, will become a new Russian member of the steering committee.

At the university there are students of social work, students of psychology and students of sports. The idea of mixing those branches is to create the interdisciplinary environment for study and research and, thus, to broaden the "angle" of the scientific outlook.

Elena Tonkova holds a PhD in philosophy of culture, and is now involved in projects and courses on political philosophy and social justice. She will be the mediator between the network and her institute.

## Remember to sign up for the 8<sup>th</sup> of July Conference in Sweden:

Thematic Network Conference will be arranged in conjunction with the Conference on Social Work and Social Development in Stockholm, Sweden (9-12 July 2012)

*Program:* (9-18) 8<sup>th</sup> of July:  
Multiculturalism in the Arctic:  
Challenges for Social Work.

- Eva Wikström

“Social Care of Elderly in Russia: Actors and Issues”

- Elena Iarskaia-Smirnova,  
“Social Workers as Change Agents: case studies from Russia”.

- Pavel Romanov

Parallel sessions: 14.00 – 17.00

1. “Social Work with Families”
2. “Challenges for Public Policy and Social Work Practices in the Arctic”.

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

Registration at the conference; send email before 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2012 to:

[siv.oltedal@uin.no](mailto:siv.oltedal@uin.no)

## Social Work with Families

Session One will start with a general discussion on how to obtain knowledge about how social workers work with families in child welfare and protection services in different national contexts. How do social workers construct family in professional practice within child welfare and protection services?

We will discuss how to describe and analyse different forms of contact; as working with the family to support the child/youth, support to other members of the family, work with the whole family or with their relationship to different welfare providers as the community and other networks. These child welfare and family policies and practices will be studied

within gendered, generational and ethnic perspectives.

Proposed research methodology: Using a focus group interview based on an international developed vignette with three situations covering a time-span for a client.

*(text edited by Siv Oltedal, Norway)*

## Challenges for Public Policy and Social Work Practices in the Arctic

Session two will start with a focus on social problems in the Arctic and we ask what characterizes the policies and what are the implications for social work. Thereafter we will discuss a possible collaboration about a research project focusing discretion in professional social work related to centralized/decentralized decision-making/social work practices. We will ask how much difference in the name of diversity and how much inequality in the name of local self-governance can be accepted without violating profound social work values.

One possible design could be to develop *vignettes* and establish different *focus groups* who should be asked to reflect upon different themes deriving from the vignettes. The challenge would be to design vignettes that are relevant in different contexts and at the same time designed in a way that makes comparison possible. Potential participants in the focus groups should be working at central as well as local level. The challenge will be to find participants who are familiar with the issues. In the workshop we will discuss the themes as well as methodology  
*(text written by Rolv Lyngstad)*

## About the newsletter:

*This is a newsletter for “Thematic network in Social Work” within University of the Arctic. Edited by coordinator Dr. Siv Oltedal, U Nordland, Norway*

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