

## **International Social Work and Social Development – Teaching and Learning for a Globalised World**

The two disciplines of social work and social development have long co-existed, sometimes uncomfortably, in practice contexts across the world. They offer distinct models and professional identities. This interactive workshop takes as its' starting point the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development which promotes education and practice standards that enable workers to facilitate social development outcomes. The workshop is based on the tools, techniques and curricula from two international social work Masters programmes from two countries in Europe. The Masters in International Social Work and Social Development at the University of Bedfordshire in the UK and the Masters in Social Work and Human Rights at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden. We will share our experience and approaches for teaching students from diverse countries, disciplines and professional backgrounds, about social work across the globe.

The aims of the Workshop are threefold:

- To share our knowledge and experience of teaching the subjects of international social work and social development framed within human rights perspectives. We will explore the benefits and challenges of bringing together these two inter-related professional and academic activities, both in European contexts and in countries across the world.
- To present our approaches to integrating knowledge of theoretical and ethical underpinnings for social professionals with the skills needed for good practice and cultural competence.
- To share practical tools and techniques for teaching our subject matter.

Both Masters programmes require our students to consider ethical dilemmas and to challenge their own and others' cultural assumptions, especially when working with people from other cultural contexts or in different countries. . The Workshop will provide a space to reflect on the broader implications for social work pedagogies arising from our experience as we consider what 'international social work and social development' means in our own teaching contexts.

Methods for the workshop will include reflections from the contributors on the main issues raised above, audio visual material and exercises for participants to experience some of the tools and techniques employed in the two Masters programmes. Participants will be encouraged to bring and share their own examples of good practice and challenges in teaching international social work and social development topics. Key exemplars in the workshop will be drawn from student poster assignments for World Social Work Day and other areas of course content from the two programmes such as practice skills workshops and teaching academic writing. The Workshop aims to facilitate both discussion and practical exercises. We also aim to encourage future collaborations in the development of pedagogical methods and ways of bringing students together across institutional and country boundaries.

Between us the two Masters programmes have a range of experience, teaching students from over a dozen countries. While the University of Gothenburg programme was established almost twenty years ago the University of Bedfordshire programme is relatively new and is now in its' third year. Both programme teachers agree that it is essential for social work students to have a deep understanding of social development perspectives. This workshop provides practical examples and discussion of the methods and challenges for supporting students in acquiring this knowledge.