

Service-learning as platform for co- creative collaborative learning and partnerships in community development. Is it worth the challenges involved?

Lecturers Gordon Vincenti & Gitte Nielsen, and 2 students VIA University College, Aarhus Denmark.

The aim of the workshop is to present the concepts of and context of Service-learning as a form of co-creative learning within a framework of partnerships for community development (Henriksen ...) and then to work together to develop and expand how to strengthen co-creative Service-learning as an integrated student activity within social educations.

Service-learning partnerships between Socials of Social Work and neighbourhood communities is a well-established practice in the US (Butin 1996, 2006 and Furco 2011). Research point towards some forms of service-learning as being valuable to students learning and the creation of sustainable social capital in vulnerable communities. (Haski-Leventhal, Lucas & Meijs 2009). But there are only a few examples of Service- learning projects in a European context and where Service-learning is not tied to University decided ECTS points.

VIADEM in Aarhus, Denmark is one of the few and has for the last 6 years provided a platform for both social work student learning and sustainable bottom-up led community development (Vincenti & Andreassen 2016).

Based on our research into the establishment of and support of VIADEM, and the experiences of the co-presenting students participating in Viadem, the workshop will examine and discuss the challenges and results of our work focusing on the motives and partnership models of the different partners and the outcomes achieved as perceived by students and local communities.

Building on Furco (2011) and Butins (1996 & 2006) and Vincenti and Andreassen (2015 & 2016) understanding of Service-learning and using the characterisation of ideal types of motives for cross-sector partnerships developed by Mackintosh 1992 and the concept of social capital (Svendsen & Svendsen 2006) the workshop will discuss whether Service-learning can support the development of engaged and dedicated social work and students from other Professional disciplines, including Nursing, Physiotherapy, Occupational behavioural Therapy, Teaching, Social Administration and Social Educators to mention a few of those involved, with an understanding of and practice developed in collaboration with user groups.

The workshop will be led by a collaborative team of 2 lecturers and 2 Students from Viadem.

Amongst the areas to be work with in the workshop are:

Types of partnerships and Service-learning.

Student ownership and Service-learning.

Motives amongst institutional partners for entering into Service-Learning experiments.

Students outputs and gains from participation in Service-learning experiments.

Can students develop local social capital and how?

The workshop will be co-creative and collaborative in its form and it is expected that the participants are prepared to engage themselves in an exploration and development of the issues sharing experiences and

reflections and looking for areas of possible synergy and areas of shared interest and further development between social work educations, local organisational partners, vulnerable citizens and students across boundaries and within a European context.