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Themes: Prospects, methodology, research and innovatory practice in social work education

People with user experience supervising social work students during their work placement.

During the last five years, the social work education at the University of Agder has hired people with experience from being a dependents or user of the welfare system, to supervise our social work students during their practical placement. This project has been developed in cooperation with two local user organizations.

In this presentation we will discuss the supervisors experience based upon a qualitative study. Data will be collected during a focus group interview with eight of the supervisors. We want them to share and discuss with each other what they have experienced as good and bad methods and strategies in the sessions with the students, and what the role of being a supervisor has meant for them.

Some of the supervisors have been supervisors for four and five years, some of them only once.

The interview will be taped, and the researchers will transcribe and analyze it. A summit of the text will then be given back to the participants, and will be further discussed and analyzed in the group. In this way, we hope to gain information about the supervisor’s experiences, and the supervisors will get the opportunity to further develop their role and share their knowledge with each other.

The data will be discussed in our paper and theory from supervision and from user involvement will be used. The data also gives us a platform to further develop user involvement in social work education.

We would like to give this presentation in the same session as VID Specialized University, authors Marianne Sætrang Lunde.