EASSW-UNAFORIS 2017 European Conference
Social Work Education in Europe:

Challenging Boundaries, Promoting a Sustainable Future

People with user-experience supervising social work students during work placement:

*We need PUNKS in social services!*

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

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We need PUNKS in social welfare

“What do you think is most important in your work as supervisors?”

“The main message is to create punks in the system”

“Agree, that’s one of the elements; to move some of our conceptions” (“Rokke ved noen forestillinger”)

“Yes, if it wasn’t for the punks in the system way back in the sixty's, we would have continued to lobotomize people”
A short presentation of the project

The Project started in 2011
Developed in cooperation between users, students, user-organizations and University of Agder
Students are being supervised by people with user-experiences in groups, during their practical placement.
Groups started in 2012.
The aim of the project

- to learn from the users' experience in supervising students who are in client-oriented practice
- to strengthen the user involvement in education and at the same time acknowledge the users' competence
- develop an arena for dialogue and meetings between students and people with user-experience from different parts of the welfare-system
Method

Former publications are based upon students assignments and focus group interview and student evaluations. This time we wanted to focus on the supervisors experiences from supervising students.

We arranged a focus group interview and 8 of 9 supervisors attended. The transcribed interview was analyzed by us, and a short version was sent to the supervisors, together with the full version. We then had a meeting and talked about our analyze of the interview with some of the supervisors.
Findings from the interview

The first meeting
  How to establish confidence in the groups?

Personal competence in social work
  How to develop sensitivity?

Openness about own experience
  How much of their own stories should be shared with the students?
From the second meeting

The students vulnerability:
«Tears are words from heart, which we never will be able to express with words»

The supervisors vulnerability:
«I will never loose, either I win, or I learn»
Thanks for listening to us