

FINAL REPORT

Cross-European Blended Learning of Part-time Students

Adult Life Long Learning in Social Work – A European Network for Social Work as Adult Education and Blended Learning

The project : Cross-European Blended Learning of Part-time Students, with Partners:; University of Jyväskylä, Kokkola University Consortium Chydenius, Finland, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, University of Petrosani, Romania, University of Hradec Kralove, Institute of Social Work Czech Republic; ISCTE – University Institute of Lisbon Portugal.

MARCH 2019

An executive summary:

This report describes and analyses the activities carried out in the framework of the Cross-European Blended Learning of Part-time Students project developed by the ALLISW network: Adult Life Long Learning in Social Work– A European Network for Social Work as Adult Education and Blended Learning. The network is coordinated by the University of Jyväskylä, Kokkola University Consortium Chydenius), Finland with the following partners, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, University of Petrosani, Romania, University of Hradec Kralove, Institute of Social Work Czech Republic and SCTE – University Institute of Lisbon Portugal. The project ran from 01-10-2017 to 30-09-2018.

The need for internationalization of education in social work should respond to the different profiles of students enabling different international mobility options. The project was aimed to students who are unable to access traditional forms of mobility accomplish to establish an international context of joint lifelong learning of cross border/international/global SW issues for the students and train the teachers to use blended-learning methods, i.e. ICT-supported in combination with face-to-face interactive forms of teaching and learning.

The project created an opportunity for internationalization for the partners both through the preparatory work of the students via ICT but also in person through the intensive seminar

Rationale and purpose of the project

Adult Life Long Learning in Social Work – A European Network for Social Work as Adult Education and Blended Learning has the purpose to strengthen the European Social Work education by offering new type of short-time participation and internet-based internationalization of social work education, especially for the students who are not able to take use of the conventional mobility options for internationalization. The particular needs of social work students in adult or continuing education have not been addressed at European level, although the increasing of the number of students that are studying social work besides working in the field. The ALLISW network undertaked significant steps in developing professional education of social work offered as adult studies according to the concept of Life-Long-Learning. This calls for particular pedagogical solutions and opens new options for direct practice research. The concrete aim of the ALLISW is to develop international learning options for MA-level adult students in work-and-study situation to match their particular situation.

The project included 5 universities from 5 countries that worked together to create a training module about education in social work in international context and this network has already 3 experience years of work between them, and it is looking now for new partners in different countries to enlarge the experience. The students and teachers worked in international co-operation, using distance learning but also face-to-face, during the intensive week.

We stimulated the students to co-operate in the virtual platform using ICT forms of learning and of project group work to enlarge the formal education but also the critical reflection.

Description of the process of implementation

The aim of the project was to hold an intensive seminar to enable students from the different partner countries to make a mobility experience, completing all the preparatory work they had done in their countries, with their teachers, but also with colleagues, especially international colleagues with whom they had worked via ICT. The description of the process of implementation presents the different phases of preparation for the seminar, in each country and crosses students and teachers of the different countries.

1. Kick off meeting (online meeting) to discuss and confirm the role of the partners and decisions concerning the development of the project, 2nd November 2017. Attendants: Tuomo Kokkonen, Lea Šugman Bohinc, Jan Hloušek, Felicia Andrioni, Jorge Ferreira e Maria João Pena.

This meeting decided the location of the seminar, the date and the theme: Slovenia, 18-20 April, "Social Work in International context: political issues, the media and communication"

It was also discussed the publication of the book, to be written by members of the network and the proposed title "Social Work Education in International Context"

2. Each network partner selected the participating students, the beginning of the preparation of individual and group-work, in order to prepare the contents to be presented. This work was supervised by the teachers of each country.

3. During the time from February to April, the students from each country made contact with each other via FB and then started to work together in international project groups with the final aim to give their presentations at the Intensive seminar at the end of the joint module. These sessions gained interest on the part of students initiating the promotion of pre-networks on their initiative. The students created 3 different group-projects, related with the topics of the seminar, integrated students from the different countries and developed oral presentations, workshops in the perspective of co-creation of knowledge but also in personal and social development – communication and relational skills.

4. Online lectures 2018 as introduction to the ALLISW-seminar in Ljubljana:

Tuomo Kokkonen, University of Jyväskylä, Kokkola University Consortium Chydenius: Citizenship as an approach to social work <https://connect.funet.fi/pdspzhmv7r45/>

Kati Turtiainen, University of Jyväskylä, Kokkola University Consortium Chydenius: Respecting human rights or implementing "nationalistic" policies? <https://connect.funet.fi/ppbffi2jfq7/>

Felicia Andrioni, University of Petrosani: Romanian strategy on social inclusion and poverty reduction between 2015-2020 <https://connect.funet.fi/p2e4x1gip58/>

5. During one semester we held virtual exchange sessions between teachers from partner universities focusing on the general theme of the meeting held in April 2018 at the University of Ljubljana - Slovenia. We discussed the joint module, the organization and schedule of the Ljubljana intensive seminar.

6 International seminar at the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia):

- SOCIAL WORK IN INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT, INTENSIVE SEMINAR, APRIL 18-20, 2018
HOST: FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK, UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA
TOPNIŠKA STREET 31, LJUBLJANA, CLASSROOMS 14 AND 1

PARTICIPANTS:

- ISCTE – University Institute of Lisbon (Portugal)
- Faculty of Social Work - University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)
- University of Petrosani (Romania)
- University of Hradec Kralove – Institute of Social Work (Czech Republic)
- University of Jyväskylä, Kokkola University Consortium Chydenius (Finland)

TEACHERS

- Felicia Andrioni (Romania)
- Mihaela Camelia Schmidt (Romania)
- Jan Hloušek (Czech Republic)
- Tuomo Kokkonen (Finland)
- Kati Turtiainen (Finland)
- Maria João Pena (Portugal)
- Jorge Manuel Ferreira (Portugal)
- Lea Šugman Bohinc (Slovenia)

5 SLOVENIAN STUDENTS

4 PORTUGUESE STUDENTS

2 ROMANIAN STUDENTS

1 FINNISH STUDENT

3 CZECH REPUBLIC STUDENTS

Topics:

A) COMMUNICATION IN INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT (Teachers and students presentations).

B) CURRENT POLITICAL ISSUES (teachers and students presentations).

C) MEDIA & SOCIAL.

Work Methodology

-Oral presentation;

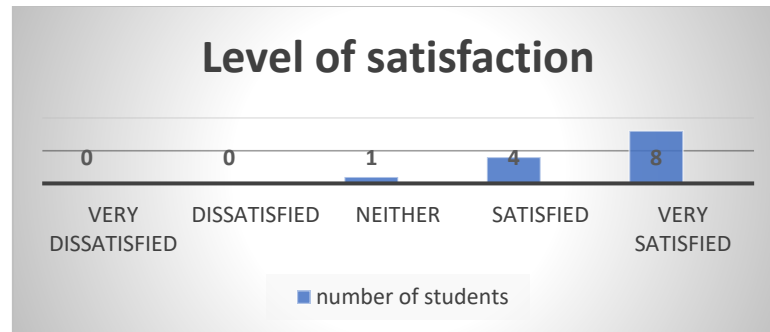
-workshop;

-round table;

- Debate /Group discussion;
- Field visit.

Intensive seminar evaluation session

The students evaluate the seminar in a scale from 1 to 5 and the results were:



Some testimonies:

Overall satisfaction with the module Social Work in International Context (2018)

Good to expand the knowledge with international seminar; different practice gives one great ideas ...

- Liked the interaction between different countries and nationalities during the seminar
- Liked it because of many different workshops and topics and e did something together
- The theme of the course could have been more cohesive, too many aspects seemed improvised
- I am really happy to be here and have learnt more about social work in an international context because this experience has 100% enriched me as a professional and a person
- I enjoyed it a lot, all the discussion of the several topics, I also liked the interaction between the teachers and the students from all different countries
- It was much more than I had expected
- This is a very important learning for my professional skills
- I liked the experience because it was interesting how different cultures can meet in one context
- I am satisfied with this module as it is very usefull for teh students and it is a great opporunity to earn new experiences
- Quite a lot of criticism regarding the pre-information delivered by the teachers in some of the countries
- Not satisfied with some of the teachers' engagement and collaboration with the students

- Different evaluations regarding the pre-recorded lectures: quite a few of the students didn't watch it at all, some watched only one, some more and found some of the lectured boring, some liked them and found them very informative and precious

7. Book Edition

The book «Social Work Education: co-creating a innovative model for international context» will be published in November 2019 by Mundos Sociais – ISCTE-IUL publisher

The book aims to reflect on the Social Work Education in an international context by deepening the ethical and epistemological dimensions as well as methods and skills in its operationalization

We intend to develop an critical reflection of the use of blended learning in international context discussing the ALLISW network as a collaborative network using ICT forms of learning

The topics are defined according to the table that we present, and also the abstracts are already elaborated.

Title	Author
Epistemology of social work Education	Jorge Ferreira and Maria João Pena
Social Work in international context: innovative blended learning collaborative approach	Lea Šugman Bohinc
<i>Juridical and institucional framework of social work education in international context</i>	Jan Hlousek
Transforming European Welfare States as a New Context of Social work Education	Tuomo Kokkonen
Models and Practices to Support LEARNING Outcomes and Competences in Social Work Education	Andrioni Feliciia
Ethical issues in social work education in international context	Kati Turtiainen

A discussion of outcomes and/or feedback to the project

The project allowed students and teachers to develop content in the epistemology dimension of the global social work agenda, deepening knowledge and establishing comparative studies in the different social realities involved.

The project favours the learning of students and teachers in a collaborative environment and using ICT, developing theoretical skills but also in terms of communication and relationship.

Through online lectures, international student groups and the face-to-face seminar, a critical reflection on social work became possible, from an international and multicultural perspective,

and actions were also taken to strengthen individual competencies related with the participation and autonomy of students.

About the presentation and dissemination of the project the Portuguese students wrote about the meeting in social networks related to school – students association and in some events about student's mobility, this experience is one example of good practices.

The Slovenian students were very engaged in both the project group work encouragement as well as the intensive seminar organization. In addition to that, they wrote a longer seminar paper each in which they introduced and elaborated their project work and intensive seminar topic, the workshop they had led along with its outcomes. They presented their experiences at informal and some formal occasions within the Faculty of Social Work (University of Ljubljana), one of them chose the topic of intercultural communication competences of social workers as the topic of her master thesis, and they took charge for continuous project (topics and outcomes) dissemination on the FB group page. As. prof. Lea Šugman Bohinc presented the joint module to her colleagues at their regular pedagogical and management meetings during the Academic year 2017-2018 and in September 2018 she presented the joint module at one of the committees of the University of Ljubljana as an example of good practice of international collaboration between different European universities and its faculties or departments for Social Work.

The evaluation of students and teachers emphasizes the learning of new knowledge, but above all the methods of this learning, valuing the debates, workshops as a possibility of interaction between different nationalities and a truly transnational learning. The working in international groups of students and online lectures can and should be improved, with a greater development that allows the in-depth study of the topics to be addressed. It is also important to point out pedagogical methods based on collaborative learning methods, with incentives for participation and appreciation of student interventions; understanding of the student's perspective in a shared construction of knowledge, "co-creation".

Conclusions. (The concluding sections should address the possibility of implementing the same project in other settings)

In Ljubljana we decided that ALLISW 2019 seminar would be organised from April 24-26th in Kokkola. The co-operative planning process between partners started in November 2018 to finalise seminar topic and program.

This network project represents the potential for a global model of Social Work Education, giving it an international nature and contributes to a deepening of Social Work literacy both in the field of learning (student) and in the field of Education (Teacher), strengthening a more theoretical, scientific and universal language in this area of knowledge.

We believe, teachers and students, this is a practice that can be replicated successfully in other educational environments, creating a different internationalization opportunity.

An account of expenditures

In the kick off meeting it was agreed that each partner would use the money for the travel costs of students and / or teachers. In the case of Slovenia, it was used to organize the seminar. ISCTE's funding included the payment for publication of the book

Grant form EASSW	6 000,00 €		
Already paid	ALLLISW project	31.12.2017	4 200,00 €
Spent			
ISCTE-IUL	2448,85 €		
Payment to University of Ljubljana	700,00 €		
Payment to University of Petrosani	700,00 €		
Payment to University of Hradek Kralove	700,00 €		
Payment to University of Jyvaskyla	700,00 €		
Total spent	5 248,85 €		
Committed upon next EASSW payment			
Payment to University of Ljubljana	185,00 €		
Payment to University of Petrosani	185,00 €		
Payment to University of Hradek Kralove	185,00 €		
Payment to University of Jyvaskyla	185,00 €		
Total committed	740 €		
Not spent by ISCTE-IUL	11,15		

Responsible person:

Jorge Ferreira & Maria João Pena

Position:

PhD and Bachelor Degree in Social Work coordinators

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