



Mid Term Report 31st December 2020

Nordic Baltic Regional Resource Centre (NBRRC) in Social Work

<https://www.nbrsocialwork.com/>

Professor Chaitali Das and I are pleased to present the midterm report for the IASSW NBRRC.

1. Introduction

The proposed IASSW-NBRRC aims to promote the internationalisation of social work education and research across the partner universities through annual meetings and workshops, a common website and the facilitation collaborations in teaching and research. The working aims of the centre are to; identify and share best practices (in teaching and field work); discuss education and research priorities in view of the contemporary global issues; identify convergences and divergences and develop further cooperation; and link local and regional priorities and activities with IASSW initiatives.

The expected outcomes are as follows:

- Documentation of practices as well as teaching and field work efforts that reflect engagement with contemporary issues.
- New and extended partnerships in teaching
- Collaboration in research (on social work education, field work and social issues)

Outcomes and activities will be presented as part of social work conferences such as the EASSW, German Association of Social Work (DGSA), Nordic Social Work Conference and on the SOSNET website. Furthermore, a special issue feature in the Journal of Social Work Education, and entries in the IFSW journal, Social Dialogue journal will be considered.

Background to the NBRRC in Social Work

The MOU agreement between the University of Eastern Finland, Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences and the IAASW was signed in December 2019 and an initial 2,000 USD was transferred to a UEF account in early 2020. The Nordic Baltic Regional Resource Centre represents a new and exciting network of university-based schools of social work, educators, and practitioners across Nordic and Baltic countries such as Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greenland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden. There are similar regional centres funded by the International Association of Schools of Social Work in other regions

of the world i.e., China and the Oceania region. Our network of university partners is committed to exchange across participating countries for the promotion of global social work education (with a particular emphasis on practice education) and the recognition of examples of innovative and transformative social work research and practice. The centre offers new opportunities for active partnership in teaching and research on the contemporary issues such as sustainability, diversity, inequality, migration and promote the regional professional profile of social work education and research. The centre is coordinated by the University of Eastern Finland, Finland and Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, Germany. The current Directors of the centre are Professors Chaitali Das, (FUAS), Janet Carter Anand (UEF).

2. Description of the process of implementation

a. Recruitment

A letter of invitation to join NBRRC was published across our networks and with key Nordic and Baltic organisations i.e., FORSA, German Association of Social Work. Current membership details are listed below.

Table: Current Membership List, December 2020

Name	Email	University /Organisation	Country
Janet Carter Anand	janet.anand@uef.fi	University of Eastern Finland	Finland
Chaitali Das	Chaitali.das@fb4.fra-uas.de	Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences	Germany
Lähteinen Sanna	sanna.lahteinen@ulapland.fi	University of Lapland	Finland
Анастасия Владимировна	KarpuninaAV@rgsu.net	RGSU	Russia
Stefan Borrmann	stefan.borrmann@haw-landshut.de	Landshut University of Applied Sciences	Germany
Virpi Lund	Virpi.Lund@laurea.fi	Laurea University of Applied Sciences	Finland
Guðbjörg Ottósdóttir	gudbjoro@hi.is	University of Iceland	Iceland
Bagga Bjerger	bb.crf@psy.au.dk	Aarhus University	Denmark
Tomi Toikko	timo.toikko@uef.fi	University of Eastern Finland	Finland
Nathalie Joubert	natalieljoubert@outlook.com	Social Work Practitioner	Denmark
Ingo Stamm	Ingo.Stamm@chydenius.fi	Chydenius	Finland/Germany
Alexander M. Fedorov	fedorov.mpgu@yandex.ru	Moscow Pedagogical State University	Russia
Ulrika Järkestig-Berggren	ulrika.jarkestig-berggren@lnu.se	Linnaeus University	Sweden
Reeli Sirotkina	reelisir@tlu.ee	Tutu University	Estonia
Emme-Li Vingare	emmeli.vingare@lnu.se	Linnaeus University	Sweden
Sofia Rönkkö	sofron@student.uef.fi	University of East Finland	Finland
Sergey Golubev	s.golubev@soc-invest.ru	Фонда социальных инвестиций	Russia

International Associate Members			
Lynette Joubert	ljoubert@unimelb.edu.au	University of Melbourne	Australia
Ceren Şengül	csengul86@gmail.com	Centre Maurice Halbwachs (École Normale Supérieure) Research Institute	France
Ayat J. J. Nashwan	ayat.n@yu.edu.jo	Yarmouk University	Jordan
Lena Robinson	lana_robinson@hotmail.com	Charles Sturt University	Australia

b. Outcomes of the First Network Meeting

The first NBRCC meeting was held as a two-day webinar on the 5th and 6th October 2020 (2 to 5pm).

the webinar program included an introduction from Annamaria Campanini, President IASSW, and an update from RRC representatives and NBRCC Directors. The members of the NBRCC introduced each other and the ideas that led to the initial application were presented (please see attached presentation). Prof. Campanini also outlined the ideas behind establishing regional centers. NBRCC is the third world center. The first was a Regional Centre between cooperating Schools of Social Work from the Pacific Islands and the second, a regional center in China which sought to build partnerships between universities across China, including Hongkong. Issues of membership for Nordic Baltic Centre were discussed, and it was decided to actively recruit new members from Greenland and Faroe Islands. The Centre still seeks membership from Poland, Latvia and Lithuania as well. Members were requested to publicize the center through existing networks and recruit new members from the listed countries within the Network. Members also introduced their research interests and presented some ideas for possible joint working (Please see outline of interests). Finally, issues of visibility of the center were discussed, and Prof. Campanini suggested that there are possibilities to link the regional centers as well as make them more visible on the IASSW websites. Furthermore, there are possibilities for the members to further network through different upcoming conferences in the region, starting with the EASSW conference in Estonia and the FORSA Conference in 2021 in Iceland. **Link to Recorded Webinar Day 1**

(https://media.uef.fi//GetMP4.ashx?ppID=2&file=62196_5~EskTIZSnrq.mp4&source=8&bb=0&bt=0&po=0&pi=0&ds=8433.96&so=4&st=0&tf=0&cs=p~smuCVVzntnfoDvglEvclS84vIKSQGf3sNpJo8gB7XDXgfAcsDqs8y uREClGirHJrSYpVN7LDSIO~n6V7pJA) **(NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION)**

Present members agreed that the key to this was getting to know each other, either by working/teaching together, reading each other's publications and meeting each other through conferences. There was also a suggestion of creating short video inputs, which the NBRCC could make available on the website. A range of ideas as to how this could be achieved were discussed and the following measures were agreed upon:

- The network creates a list of members with contact details that is circulated among the members
- Create a catalogue of the topics, interests and expertise to member shared and jointly developed as well as resources (presentations) to be jointly shared across universities. Members may be encouraged to contact other members and invite them to provide lectures/teachings/discussions. Each member identifies and sends two articles that highlight their interests and orientations to their themes/topics. These may be shared with other members of the network (and uploaded if copyright issues permit). Each member is also requested to provide a high-quality Photo and their contact details for the website.
- Members will explore the possibility of meeting through the following events:

During the International Week mid-May 2021 at Frankfurt (hosted by the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences)

During the IASSW conference in Estonia mid-June 2021

During the FORSA conference in Iceland in Nov 2021

It was also discussed that a date in March for another online meeting would be useful. The Network will organize a doodle poll to identify which dates suit best. **Link to Recorded Webinar Day 2**

https://media.uef.fi//GetMP4.ashx?ppID=2&file=62207_5e~Wli2rHrWij.mp4&source=8&bb=0&bt=0&po=0&pi=0&ds=2709.12&so=4&st=0&tf=0&cs=P1gv4o0IS8dAi6oQTLhuNNIUDHZoHHg6q34h7fvS1M8ohj~ArV7wZhQd7qdgHwXShZakmJd2qllclbis_Zdkkg (NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION)

c. NBRRC Member Priorities for January 2021 to June 2022

The diversity of the Nordic-Baltic region also brings with it a diversity of issues that are central to social work. Members are particularly interested in sharing ideas, discussing, and developing social work with the following issues:

Fields of Practice in Education

Ageing: Janet Anand (Finland), Reeli Sirotkina (Estonia), Emme-Li Vingare (Sweden)

Children & Families: Natalia Joubert (Denmark), Карпунина Анастасия Владимировна, (Russia) Ingo Stamm (Germany, Finland), Virpi Lund (Finland) , Ulrika Järkestig-Berggren (Sweden)

Youth: Stefan Bormann (Germany)

Disabilities: Карпунина Анастасия Владимировна, (Russia), Ulrika Järkestig-Berggren (Sweden), Guðbjörg Ottósdóttir, (Iceland)

Environmental issues: Ingo Stamm (Germany/Finland)

Migration and Integration: Natalie Joubert (Denmark) , Virpi Lund (Finland), Guðbjörg Ottósdóttir, (Iceland), Janet Carter Anand (Finland), Chaitali Das (Germany)

Poverty & Unemployment: Ingo Stamm (Germany/Finland), Guðbjörg Ottósdóttir, (Iceland)

Resistance in social work: Chaitali Das (Germany), Janet Carter Anand (Finland)

Methods: The Nordic Baltic region not only has a history of diverse pedagogical methodologies but is also social workers are keen to develop and adapt other methodologies to address various issues of increasing urgency and require innovative responses. This network boasts members that cover a variety of praxis as well as research methodologies that have a direct impact in social practice, social work education and research.

Community Development: Virpi Lund (Finland), Chaitali Das (Germany)

Mediation: Reeli Sirotkina, (Estonia)

Practice Research : Janet Carter Anand, (Finland) Lynette Joubert (Australia)

Co-creation, Social Entrepreneurship, Social Marketing : Janet Carter Anand (Finland) , Chaitali Das (Germany), Natalia Joubert (Denmark)

Virtual Reality: Карпунина Анастасия Владимировна, (Russia)

Social Pedagogy and Digitalization: Александр Михайлович Федоров, (Russia), Chaitali Das (Germany)

Qualitative methods including Narrative and Biographical methods: Ingo Stamm (Finland/Germany) , Guðbjörg Ottósdóttir, (Iceland)

Professional Social Work: The arguments and debates around professional social work and ascertaining the future directions of social work remain key issues of discussion in the Nordic Baltic region. Our members are interested in further discussion the following:

Diverse social professions, welfare systems and transnational professionals: Reeli Sirotkina, (Estonia) , Chaitali Das (Germany), Guðbjörg Ottósdóttir, (Iceland)

Multicultural social work, Cultural Competence: Natalie Joubert (Denmark), Guðbjörg Ottósdóttir, (Iceland), Janet Carter Anand (Finland)

Service User Involvement: Natalie Joubert , (Denmark)

Boundaries in Relationships: Карпунина Анастасия Владимировна Anastasia (Russia), Chaitali Das (Germany)

Global-regional-local dimensions: Alexander M. Fedorov (Russia) , Janet Carter Anand (Finland) , Chaitali Das (Germany)

Statutory and non-statutory social work - international expertise, sharing best practices in social entrepreneurship-two-way exchange (social model for business): Janet Anand

Human Right: Ingo Stamm (Finland/Germany)

Decolonizing Social Work: Chaitali Das (Germany), Janet Carter Anand (Finland)

Table 2 NBRRC Pories for 2021-2022

Activity	Description	Responsibility	Deadline
1. Recruitment	Emphasis on Greenland, Faeroe Islands, Norway, Lithuania,	Project Assistant	June 2022
2. Website	Upgrade & populate with content, catalogue, photos	Project Assistant	June 2021
3. Bi-annual NBRRC Meetings	Specific Agenda)	Project Assistant	March 2021 October 2021 March 2022
3. Access to teaching and learning resources	SOSNET – Global Perspectives Course material available online via website	Project Assistant	

	NBRRC centre recorded webinars – available online		
4. Erasmus Mobility	Staff & Student Mobility to Russia & Social Entrepreneurship	Janet Anand & Александр Михайлович Федоров	December 2021
5. Join Research & Publications	1. Fieldwork Education Research Project (UEF) & Publications 2. Cultural Competence draft of possible Publication (FUAS) -	Janet Anand Chaitali Das	December 2021
6. Field Education Mobility	1. Project with the Nordic Centre India	Janet Carter Anand & Cristobel Roy (NCI)	
7. Conferences & Symposium	Ensure representation 1. FUAS International Week/Summer School 2021 2. ECSSWE Conference, Tallinn, Estonia – April 2021 3. FORSA Conference- Reykjavik, Iceland, 2021 Links with other Regional Resource Centres	All Members Janet Carter Anand	December 2021

d. Employment of a Project Assistant

The centre is currently in the second stage of the development (see original proposal). The new website has been launched and is currently under development. We have recently employed a UEF PhD student (Project Assistant), Ms Sofia Rönkkö, on a 6mth part time contract to undertake the following tasks:

- to further develop the contents and catalogues of the website
- extend centre membership to the Faeroe Islands and Greenland and other eligible countries and establish a recruitment process
- facilitation of the bi-annual meetings 2021 (March, October 2021)
- initiate the coordination of two education-based research projects - see below.

e. Collaborative Teaching Activity- Student Webinars (State University Moscow, FUAS and UEF)

A series of webinars (SUM, FUAS and UEF) were run in November and December for students from at the participating universities and recordings of the events are available through the State University of Moscow, Russia.

A UEF Webinar for Nordic Baltic students on Migration and Inclusion will be delivered in March 2021 and will be student led.

f. UEF Ethics permit granted for Nordic Baltic Audit on Fieldwork

The study will be undertaken in 2021 and aims to consider the different ways in which professional field-placements are organised and managed throughout the Nordic Baltic region and internationally. This research is both topical and needed given the impact of Covid-19 on the delivery of field work education. The research eventually aims to consider the diverse and different forms of placement models and to further pedagogical practices and theory in social work, in international field work. Information on these issues is relatively unsystematic and understudied in social work research and education thus far. This research will also contribute to the identification of best practices and a deeper consideration of the role of placements in social work. The research is a pilot project aimed to explore the different models of field placement in social work education internationally.

g. Planned Erasmus Application for Post Graduate Education

A combined submission *Practice Research in Action* (PRIA) is planned for March 2021 by UEF and FUAS and for the development of post graduate social work education across European countries.

3. A discussion of outcomes and/or feedback to the project

The current pandemic has meant that we have adopted a more flexible and innovate approaches to delivering our strategies and achieving our initial objectives. The first of a series of bi-annual meeting have established a network of committed academics, students, and practitioners together with a list of regional priorities for social work education. Links with existing regional centres and the IASSW have been established. The recent social work student webinars have facilitated new teaching partnerships between members and a sharing of online teaching practices. Teaching material on global perspectives in social work will be shared by SOSNET and UEF on the centre's webpage. Collaboration in research is evidenced in proposed studies on fieldwork education and cultural competence. The centre proposes to have representation at key European social work conferences and organisations and publications are planned based on the proposed research and teaching collaboration.

4. Conclusion

Over the last 18 months the centre has made significant progress in working towards NBRRRC goals and has established a robust plan involving key priorities for the remainder of the project. We would like to thank the IASSW and committee for their support with this project.

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