

## Master's degree programme (BCBU) in Comparative Social Work



## CSW-students at the University of Lapland

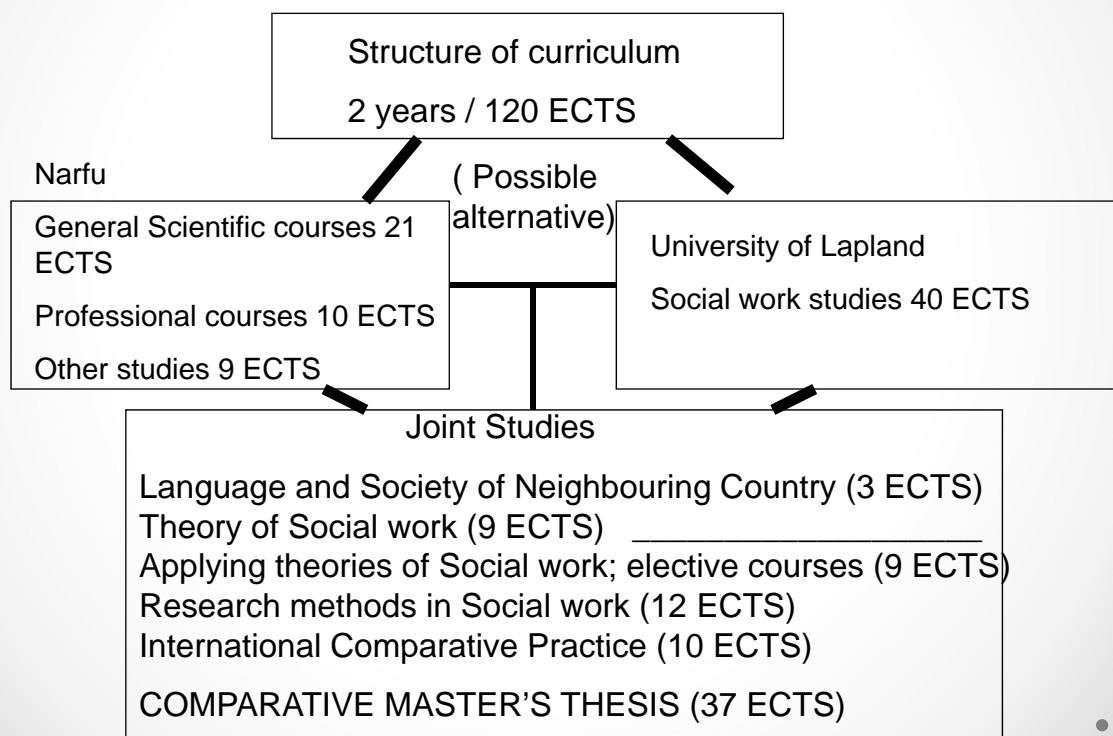




## CSW: Partner Institutions and Responsible Units

- Full partner: Faculty of Social Sciences, Social Work at the University of Lapland
- Full partner: NArFU (Northern Arctic Federal University)
- Karelian State Pedagogical University, Petrozavodsk State University, Northern State Medical University, Murmansk State Humanities University, Murmansk State Technical University and the University of Oulu

# Implementation of CSW 2011-2013



NarFu	International Joint Studies	University of Lapland
40 ECTS	80 ECTS (43 + 37 ECTS)	40 ECTS
For students graduating from NarFU	For all CSW-students	For students graduating from UL
	CSWB1 Language Society of Neighboring Country (3ECTS)	
	CSWB2 Theory of Social Work (9ECTS)	
	CSWB3 Applying Theories in the Practice of Social Work (9ECTS): ( <i>Elective and Specialized Studies</i> CSWB3-1 – CSWB3-7	
	CSWB4 Research Methods in Social Work (12ECTS)	
	CSWB5 International Comparative Practice (10 ECTS)	
	CSWB6 Comparative Master's Thesis (37 ECTS)	

- There are courses on web environments, intensive courses by visiting lecturers, a Summer and Winter School, student visits, and a period of practice training abroad to acquire experience on multicultural social work in the neighbouring country
- The programme courses and supervision are conducted in English, and Master's thesis research projects will have jointly organised supervision.

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- If there is only 5 budget places and no open call in Narfu in social work, how the students from other partner universities can apply to the CSW program?
- Structural obstacles?
- Benefits to partner universities?
- Internal evaluation is carried out next year - what about external evaluation, is this program ready for that?
- We have to update our CSW –agreement, how concrete it can be?
- First students are graduating!

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# Evaluation of first CSW-program 2009-2011

- According to the responsible teachers: insufficient support from the Pomor State University (teacher's workload and salary, expenses of practise fieldment, no working places to teachers and students, problems with high-speed internet, lack of distance courses)
- Unclear responsibility issues
- Unclear status of CSW? – there is no official status? WHY?
- In practice: Students have done more studies than 40 credits at PSU and they have written their thesis in Russian, and some them have got their grades in July, and now they are writing their thesis in English
- Unknown of the BCBU in partner universites; lack of information
- Lack of collaboration at the universities and between universities
- => We need more teachers who can give lectures in English, more students who can study in English, more distance courses, virtual campus, more collaboration in conducting courses together

## Proposals

- create conditions for improving MA teacher's work :
- grants, fellowships to partner universities, language courses, research courses (qualitative methods)- BCBU+-project; Summer school and Winter school are open to teachers too
- preliminary student selection (in advance) for the MA program and improving language competence during the year = more English courses to students
- Spreading information in mass-media abroad, using website
- Strengthening individual scientific resource of teachers and student

# Programme 2011-13

- Intake in 2011 10 students: 7 has started their studies, 2 of them in November
- Students are from Spain, Russia, Nepal, Iran, Pakistan and Bangladesh. There is no Finnish students
- First programme started in 2009, now first students of CSW are graduating from the ULapland
- Narfu? There was no open call in 2011, there was no marketing, => no possibility to students from Russian partner universities to apply



In the Barents region, social problems and welfare issues have and continue to change, which presents new challenges. Therefore, the need for comparative and international social work has increased in the region. The mobility of labour force presupposes understanding of cultural backgrounds and multicultural social work skills

## Comparative Social Work

-a programme for students with a prior academic degree in social work or related field and interested in acquiring

- advanced skills for different carriers
- right for PhD studies

- focuses on acquiring a better understanding of national and global social work, through a comparative approach

### Work prospects:

- in different positions in international projects and tasks, as well as social workers.

- the need for experts who have skills to understand international contexts of social issues, as well as a perspective with a comparative approach to different cultural context has increased.

Therefore, work prospects not await graduates only within the region, but also in international tasks round the world.

- Graduates will also have the possibility to continue studies for a PhD and to perform comparative research. In so doing, graduates will be in the front line of promoting scientific research.

# Challenges

- Shared understanding of
  - structure (40//40 + 80 + 120 ECTS)
  - collaboration in joint courses; finance, teachers
  - working language
  - thesis; supervision, language; students have told that they have to do more than 40 credits and they have to write their thesis in Russian and they have got the grade for their thesis
  - collaboration between Russian partners

# Challenges in Collaboration

- Shared understanding of Social Work
- Shared understanding of doing research (methods, qualitative/quantitative, rules of scientific writing)
- Finance and resources (universities, Kolarctic ENPI, extra funding for development work)
- Commitment (staff changes, English language requirements for teachers, no extra salary)
- Confidentiality ("from speeches to action")
- Full partners/Associate partners; position, responsibilities and benefits of collaboration

- Updating of the Agreement on the Collaboration for planning and implementation of Joint Master's programme in the field of Social work
- BCBU+ -project and CSW: working on-line (virtual courses) is a requirement for development of Joint programme => challenges for teachers

## Next Steps and Challenges

- Evaluation and Quality (consolidation of study requirements, master's thesis, grades)
- New, II programme 2011
- Stronger role of associate partners
- Optima (CSW and BCBU+ -project)
- Adobe Connect Pro – link to give lectures to CSW partner universities
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# BCBU+ goals

- To harmonize, expand and integrate the BCBU Master's degree programmes to regular activities of participating universities
- To develop models of good practices for implementation and cooperation for cross border master's programmes
- To strengthen and institutionalise a cross border campus for implementing the master's degree and later for the PhD degree education

# Virtual Campus

- 1. In order to reduce the impact of geographical distance and travel times upon academic cooperation and the spread of knowledge, the partner institutions will be linked under a common platform to create a '**Virtual campus**'.
- 2. Two of the partners (UL and UO) already utilize eLearning packages to support most curricula, and this will be extended to link all of the institutions involved. This will allow the fast and easy exchange of academic materials, the delivery of parallel and combined courses across borders and simplified planning through a web conferencing facility.

# Virtual campus

- – Establishment of common eLearning and web conferencing platform
- – To increase availability of academic and research material

Translation of selected material into English or Russian and dissemination of them via the Virtual Campus

- – To publish the **Cross Border Cooperation handbook**

Model to promote quality assurance in cross border degrees

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# eLearning tools

- **E-learning** comprises all forms of electronically supported learning and teaching activities, both online and offline.
- There is an increased use of virtual class rooms for online presentations delivered live.
- There are numerous tools available to support eLearning. In the BCBU+ -project and BCBU programmes we use Discendum OPTIMA
- eLearning is to be supported by web conferencing, video conferencing and social media tools as well as digital learning materials.

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