



BARENTS
Cross Border University



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

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Aims of Comparartive Social Work

- To educate Social work professionals who understand cultural diversity and the special characters of Barents area
- A programme for students who are interested in
 - national and global Social Work through a comparative approach
 - multicultural understanding
 - advanced skills for different careers
 - research work in social issues
 - right for Ph.D. studies in Social Work

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First Master's Degree in Comparative Social Work : A Pilot Programme (2009-2011)

- The university of Lapland: The intake of the students was 10, 5 approved and 4 started to study, in 2010 3 is still studying (1 from Pakistan and 2 from Russia)
- The Pomor State University: all the Russian students are from Archangelsk area, no students from Murmansk or Petrozavodsk, the intake was 10, in 2010



Agreement Approved

- Agreement on the Collaboration /Co-operation for planning and implementation of Joint Master's Programme in the field of Comparative Social work was signed at Rector's meeting on 11th of March 2010 in Rovaniemi
- an unique master's degree based on comparative view

CSW: Partner Institutions and Responsible Units

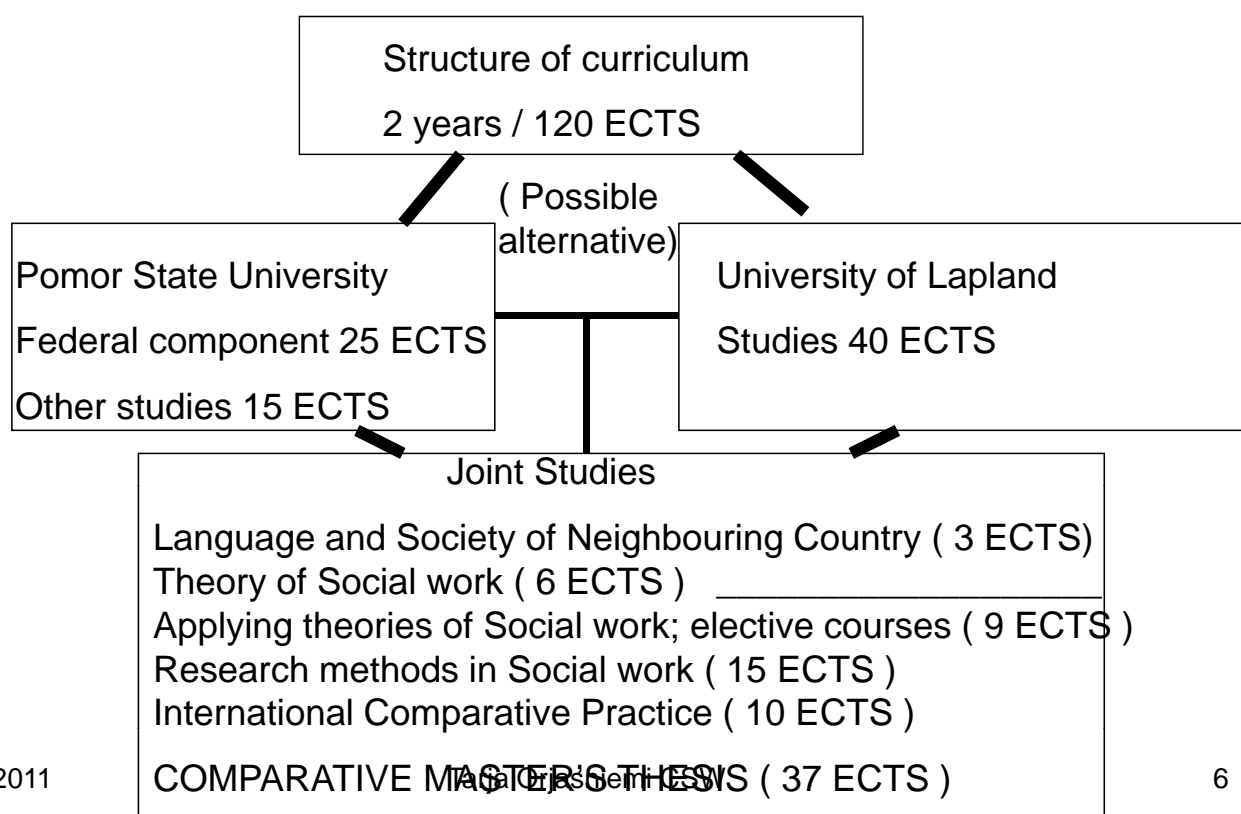
- Full partner: Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Lapland;
- Full partner: Faculty of Social Work at the Pomor State University (NArFU= Northern Arctic Federal University);
- Karelian State Pedagogical Academy, Petrozavodsk State University, Northern State Medical University, Murmansk Humanities Institute, Murmansk State Humanities University, Murmansk State Technical University and the University of Oulu;
- Hope to get more full partners in network

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Implementation of CSW 2009-2010



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Next steps: A new programme 2011-2013

- The second call for application in Finland was opened 1.12.2010. This application round closed 18.2.2011
- In Russia the PSU will open the application to CSW in summer 2011
- The selection committee at the ULapland will select 10 students. The Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences will approve the selection in the spring in 2011
The selection criteria for CSW is BA in social work or equivalent
- The selection criteria for CSW students at the Pomor State University (PSU) will be accepted in the spring 2011
- The number of students of Russian partners will be confirmed later during 2011
- The course planning is continuing together

Some Activities in 2010

- Theoretical Winter School on Social Policy and Human Rights, held in Archangelsk in January 2010
- Methodological Summer School was held in Rovaniemi in August 2010
- Training in Social work practice was carried out first time in 2010, on the whole the practice courses succeeded well; Students gave positive feedback about the practice places and the supervising social workers were satisfied with the performance of the students
- Most Russian students (6) had their practice in the non-profit organisation of Friends of Youth in Oulu

Challenges in Collaboration

- Shared understanding of Social Work
- Shared understanding of doing research (methods, qualitative/quantitative, rules of scientific writing)
- Finance and resources (Kolarctic ENPI, First Tempus, extra funding for development work)
- The importance of the partner universities to support financially the programme. At the moment the support is not enough. We have to ensure that we will have funding in the future for carrying out the programme
- Commitment (staff changes, English language requirements for teachers, no extra salary)

Challenges (1)

- The funding was seen as a biggest and most acute problem at the moment, which means that the students and teachers in social work do not get enough funding resources from the universities.
- the Russian partners should co-operate much more with each others. At the moment they see or discuss with each others only in BCBU meetings, which is not enough.
- The situation of all Russian universities is now unstable because of the big national changes in the universities. This makes it difficult make future plans for developing the education.

Challenges (2)

- The eligibility criteria for CSW programme have been unclear for partner universities. It was cleared up that the Russian students who have the degree “specialist in social work” can apply to the programme.
- At the moment there are not enough students in the CSW programme, which makes studying and teaching challenging.
- In the future the number of students should be big enough to ensure the efficiency of programme and sufficient number of graduates

Next Steps and Challenges

- BCBU+ -development project: learning material, online courses, information technology, mobility of students, teachers, supervising staff, professionals, Intensive training in language, cross-border working, teaching skills
- A high-grade Master’s programme is a base for PhD studies

Some Suggestions

- On the base of the experiences of the pilot programme the students need more supervision and support in their studies
- Russian partners will organise own network to collaborate
- We have to develop the Practise training, together with supervising social workers and social work units



Thank you!