CURRICULUM PLAN
COMMUNITY WORK FROM AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE 2022

Name course	Community Work from an international perspective
Responsible	Higher Education Institutions, partners in the SW-VirCamp Consortium.
	The leading institution coordinates the course: Complutense University Faculty of Social Work Madrid - Spain
	Each of the SW-VirCamp partner institutions sending applicants to the course has a local contact person responsible for the intake procedure and accreditation of the ECTS credits. For more information go to www.vircamp.net
Language	English
Period	16/01/2023 – 19/05/2023
Credits and level	15 ECTS European qualification structure: level 6
Introduction	Community work from an international perspective is an online course, that offer social work students, living and working in very different situations the opportunity to learn from each other and to share information and knowledge important for their work. Community work is a planned process to mobilize communities to use their own social structures and resources to address their own problems and achieve their own objectives. Community work focuses on participation and fosters empowerment, emancipation and change through collective action. Community work is closely related to work for human rights. The community work process is about people in communities creating opportunities for growth and change. Community can be understood in different ways, as geographical areas, interest groups, organizations or institutions. Community work rests on a basic democratic ideal, anti-oppressive practice, equality and solidarity with the affected individuals. It aims to generate and communicate new insights with a view to effecting change. As community work is an ideological, theoretical and practical approach to social life and the risk of social exclusion, it is ideologically sustained by a basic trust in people's ability to improve their life chances. Society is the outcome of collective action and is perpetuated and/or changed by action.
Learning Outcomes	<u>Knowledge</u> - The student is able to describe, analyze and compare community work theories and methods. - The students is able to develop a project plan for a community work project

	Skills • The student is able to collect and analyze relevant information about communities and is able to report the findings. • The student is able to see opportunities on macro-, meso- and micro- levels in communities and is able to create a plan for a community work project, including aims, participants, approaches, cost, and evaluation. • The student is able to reflect on the understanding of a specific situation and is able to justify the chosen methods for community work. • The student is able to work together with students and teachers from other countries in the virtual campus and take an active part in developing and evaluating their learning process. • The students are able to give and share information about their own community and compare commonalities and differences with those of others. • The student is able to reflect critically on the relevance of community work in society. General Competences • The student is able to cooperate in changing interdisciplinary national and international networks to achieve expected learning outcomes. • The student is able to manage, justify and control his/her own educational development.
Content	This course focuses on theories, methods and approaches in community work from an international perspective. The course consists of several parts. One part focuses on concepts, community work theories. In the next part students are introduced to a virtual community work case and learn methods of mapping, different approaches, mobilization and participation. In the last part, students collaborate and develop a project plan based on their virtual research. The students will learn about community work and its historic background and come to understand the risk of manipulation when community work is worked out from a top-down level. Students will learn about the advantages and power in approaches carried out from a bottom-up perspective.

Admission Requirements	• Second year Bachelor and upward students in social work • English language skills • Internet access
Learning and teaching approach	Throughout the study program students will work on a case with a solution-oriented focus. By working on assignments, they will reflect on situations concerning community work from a social work perspective and compare with the situation in other countries. They will work both individually and in groups. During the course students will cooperate with a buddy for supporting

	and feedback. In the second part of the course the students work on a project plan in a project group. The course will start with an introduction to the e-learning platform and the virtual classroom and will be acquainted with the international group of students and teachers they will be working with. The course is divided in time periods of one or two weeks. Each period, students will receive new learning material such as literature, lectures, triggers, discussions and assignments to work on, both individually and in the group. The assignments are related to the objectives of the course. Students who deliver their tasks on time during the program receive feedback and guidance from the teacher. Online conferences among students and teachers are arranged during the study period. All elements in the course will be organized and administrated through a common learning management system.
Examination	The examination in this course exists of course requirements and a portfolio. Course requirements Before students can deliver their portfolio, they need to deliver the required assignments. - Presentation of the own community Drawing, picture - Community Work and participation/or empowerment Paper: 1.200 words (+/- 10%) - Mapping the Green Park Community Paper: 1.200 words (+/-10%) - Applying theory to practice Paper: 1.000 words (+/- 10% - Searching for existing projects and writing a short outline with URL to the described projects in the theme discussion - Planning a meeting with stakeholders for a project Preparation note – group work - Evaluating the stakeholders meeting Evaluation note – group work - Presenting the project idea in the European magazine Article for a newspaper: 300 words – group work - Project plan Project template – 4.000 words (+/- 10%) – group work - Theoretical perspectives for the project plan - Paper: 1.200 words (+/- 10%) - Evaluation of group collaboration Minutes of group conference – group work Portfolio assessment There will be a check on all the required assignments before the

	students can deliver their portfolio. This portfolio consists of: • A number of assignments that students worked on during the course and – if delivered before the deadline mentioned in the program – have got feedback. As a result, students will have an opportunity to improve their initial assignments before delivering the final portfolio. 8.400 words (+/- 10%) • A reflection on the learning process. 1.000 words (+/- 10%) Some of the presented tasks are delivered as group tasks. The group mark counts 40% of the total mark. Final marks from A+ / Fx <u>Re-examination</u> The deadline for the re-examination will be 31/08/2022 Students need to fulfill the course requirements and have to deliver an improved portfolio.
Literature	Larsen, A.K., Sewpaul, V. & Hole, G.O. (eds) (2014) *Participation in community work, International perspectives,* London and New York: Routledge Henderson, P. & Thomas, D.N. (2013) *Skills in Neighbourhood Work*, 4th edition, London and New York: Routledge Additional readings will be provided in the course as pdf-files.