

**CURRICULUM PLAN
COMMUNITY WORK FROM AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE 2025**

Name course	Community Work from an international perspective
Responsible	<p>Higher Education Institutions, partners in the SW-VirCamp Consortium.</p> <p>The leading institution coordinates the course: Complutense University Faculty of Social Work Madrid - Spain</p> <p>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</p>
Language	English
Period	<p>The course consists of three parts. Each part can be taken on its own or you can combine parts.</p> <p>Each part is 5 ECTS. The timing is as follows: Part 1 Analyzing communities 13/01/2025 - 28/02/2025 Part 2 Methods in community work 03/03/2025 - 17/04/2025 Part 3 Global challenges in local communities 22/04/2025 - 02/06/2025</p>
Level	European qualification structure: level 6
Introduction	Community work from an international perspective is an online course, that offers 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 involves mobilizing communities to use their own social structures and resources to address their own problems. It fosters relationships, organizes additional resources from outside, and collectively fights against structural inequalities. Community work focuses on participation and fosters empowerment, emancipation and change through collective action.
Part 1 Analysing communities 5 ECTS	<p><u>Content</u> This part of the course focuses on defining communities and community work. The position of community work within broader social work and the underlying concepts and theories of community work are covered. More specifically, this part also goes into ways to analyze a community, including understanding what a community is and how it defines itself as a community—often by distinguishing itself from others. You will choose a community in your own country and analyze it, based on the models and theories and compare your findings with fellow students.</p> <p><u>Learning outcomes</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student is able to analyze and compare communities on the basis of theories • The student is able to collect and analyse relevant information about communities and is able to report the findings • The student is able to reflect critically on the role of communities in social work. <p><u>Final assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A presentation based on a comparative paper about theories and concepts presented in the course (2.000 words +/- 10%) • Reflection on your learning process (500 words +/- 10%)
<p>Part 2 Methods in community work 5 ECTS</p>	<p><u>Content</u> This part of the course focuses on the methodological approach. ABCD (asset-based community development) is used as a basis approach in this part. While ABCD emphasizes leveraging internal community resources, it is also important to critically examine the external barriers and inequalities that may hinder communities from achieving their goals on their own. In this sense, communities should not be expected to solve all problems alone but should be empowered to demand additional resources and support from outside to address structural inequalities. Working in a participatory and empowering way will be main topics. At the end of this part, you will interview a community worker and compare its way of working with the concepts you were taught in the course. You will compare the result with the interviews fellow students had in their countries.</p> <p><u>Learning outcomes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student is able to describe and reflect critically on how different methods are used in a community work <p><u>Final assignment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of your findings related to the interview with the community worker and compare this with other students • Reflection on learning (500 words +/- 10%)
<p>Part 3 Addressing global an local challenges in community work 5 ECTS</p>	<p><u>Content</u> Although community work naturally focuses on the local community, global challenges also have an impact at a local level and vice versa. This part examines how community work can support local communities in dealing with global challenges and sustainable development goals (SDG). Giving voice to all stakeholders and experts by expertise is key in this part. At the end of this part, you will be challenged to work together with students on a global topic like climate change, digital inclusion or migration. You will look into the impact on local communities</p>

	<p>and come up with ways to deal with this, based on project approach.</p> <p><u>Learning outcomes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student is able to transfer individual problems and solutions to a community and global level • The student is able to recognize the importance of the global level in addressing local issues • The student is able to facilitate different voices in a community in a process of solution finding. <p><u>Final assignment</u></p> <p>Group work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project plan related the presented topics in the course and case studies (4.000 words +/- 10%) • Presentation of the project <p>Individual work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection on learning (500 word +/- 10%)
<p>Admission Requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second year Bachelor and upward students in social work • English language skills • Internet access
<p>General points of attention regarding examination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each part will end with a final assignment (exam). • In this course the final exam will be valuated with marks according to the scale proposed by the Bologna declaration. Marks will be given from A-Fx, where F and Fx is failed - not passed • In case students take more than one part of the course, the home institution will inform the students before the start of the course whether the final mark will be a sum of each part of the course or the student has to pass for each part separately. • Re-examination is possible for all parts and will take place at the end of June.

<p>Learning and teaching approach</p>	<p>Throughout the study program students will work 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.</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <p>Students who deliver their tasks on time during the program receive feedback and guidance from the teacher. All elements in the course will be organized and administrated through a common learning management system.</p>
Literature	<p>Henderson, P. & Thomas, D.N. (2013) <i>Skills in Neighbourhood Work</i>, 4th edition, London and New York: Routledge</p> <p>Additional readings will be provided in the course as pdf-files.</p>