

Fakultät für
Angewandte
Sozialwissenschaften



Report:
“Global Sessions in Stockholm 2017”

Studienarbeit an der Fakultät 11 für angewandte Sozialwissenschaften
der Hochschule München
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Veranstaltungstitel: 0697 Integration as Challenge for Social Work in Europe - Global
Sessions in Stockholm
Veranstaltungsleitung: Prof. Dr. Nicole Pötter, Prof. Dr. Angelika Iser
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Global Sessions in Stockholm 2017



Image 1: Sunset in Stockholm (© 2017 Victoria Orlovskaja)

Every year Ersta Sköndal Bräcke University College invites students, scholars, teachers and lecturers from different countries and universities, as well as representatives of various social networks, organizations and projects for common exchange, reflection and action on very important social and health issues concerning our society nowadays. The topic of the Global

Sessions 2017 was “Migration & Equality. Looking for Sustainable Development in Stockholm and the world of today” with the leading idea “Equality as a major contributor to wellbeing.”

The aims of the Global Sessions were:

- Comparison of International views, analysis and approaches towards Migration and the Migration Policy regarding to the Social Work
- Sharing of local perspectives to the topic Migration from different countries participating at the Global Sessions
- Subject-specific exchange and communication in English
- Critical discussion and reflection of the social issues in the international group
- Discussions of the relation of social and health problems to Sustainable Development
- Looking for analysis and appropriate solutions of the important social problems the world is facing nowadays.

The University of Stockholm offered an enabling environment for mutual reflection, practices, learning, sharing experiences, methodologies and theoretical perspectives in the fields of social and health care sciences (program). The participants had an opportunity to visit lectures, reports, seminars and field-visits to the challenging topics of today with a focus on migration as the challenge for the Social Work and Health Care.

This year the Global Sessions took place as usual in Stockholm at Ersta Sköndal Bräcke University College on May 8-12. The representatives of the following universities were invited: Glasgow Caledonian University, University of Applied Sciences Munich, University of Kerala (Loyola College of social sciences), Technological Educational Institute of Athens, University College Lillebaelt (Denmark) and singel persons form Iraq.

Our Munich University of Applied Sciences has got a unique opportunity to take part at the Global Sessions. Prof. Dr. Angelika Iser and Prof. Dr. Nicole Pötter, the lecturers of the Munich University of Applied Sciences, supervised the 16-member group of students from different semesters of the BA in Social Work at Faculty 11. As well our group was very international: we had two students from France, one from Finland, one from the USA, one from Korea and one from Ukraine.



Image 2: Our group together with our Swedish fellow-students walking in Stockholm

This is a short overview of the Agenda/Program of the Global Sessions 2017:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<i>Morning</i>	MIGRATION, WELFARE & HEALTH PERSPECTIVES Presentation, Key note lecture Student panel & presentation	INTEGRATION & EQUALITY Key note lecture Student panel & presentations	VULNERABILITY Seminar with City of Stockholm	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT Key note lecture Student panel & presentations	ACTION Student panel & presentation Conclusion & Evaluation
	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
<i>Afternoon</i>	Field visit	Field visit	Field visit	Field visit	Free afternoon
<i>Evening</i>	Dinner student association	Open lecture (Intercultural forum)	International forum, student presentations, dinner	Free evening	

The conference started with an Introduction of Dr. Johan Gärde, the organizer of the Global Sessions, who introduced the Global Sessions and the University of Stockholm, where the Global Sessions took place. After that every participant of the conference had an opportunity to get acquainted with other members in a form of mutual introduction. After a short coffee break we heard reports to the topics Migration, Equality and Sustainable Development from a Northern European perspective and Health Model in Sweden. Then we had an opportunity to visit Rinkeby, a city district of Stockholm with a high rate of inhabitants with so called „foreign background“. Today Rinkeby has a bad reputation for the rioting and violence taking place in the district from time to time. Johan Gärde told us about the Social Work and its challenges in such a rather criminal city area of Stockholm, where he started his



Image 3: Field visit at the Culture Unit of Stockholm

career as a street worker.

Then we visited a work shop at the Culture Unit of Stockholm with a general theme „The dimension of culture as a communication tool“.

The following three topics were presented at the workshop: Music project for children “El Sistema Stockholm”, a library project and a project about

cultural development in socio-economic disadvantaged areas.

So after the first hard “working” day full of new information the participants of the Global Sessions were awarded with a nice vegan supper prepared by the host Swedish students.

There we had a great possibility for an acquaintance and a relaxed and friendly exchange with our fellow-students from other countries and universities. It contributed to the pleasant productive learning atmosphere during the whole week.

The main topic of the second day was Integration and Equality. This day was very special for our Munich group, because on this day our lecturers Prof. Dr. Angelika Iser and Prof. Dr. Nicole Pötter presented country and case studies to the topics “Migration and integration – a German perspective” and “Chances of Participation in vocational education and training for young refugees with a perspective of unlimited residence in Germany”. The students of the Munich University of Applied Sciences prepared workshops for the Global Sessions with following topics:

- Inclusion of traumatized refugees
- The situation of guest workers in Germany
- Germans migrating to other countries
- Integration concepts and activities at the Munich University of Applied Sciences.

In the afternoons there were always possibilities to go to the field visits in social projects or institutions. But in some cases the number of attenders of the field visits was limited, so only a part of each group had a chance to go there. So in the afternoon of the second day some participants visited the Stockholm City Mission, where the topic was dedicated to the Social Work with vulnerable EU-citizens and Third-country citizens. Other participants

took part in the second field visit with the theme “Raise awareness on reproductive rights and sexuality for newly arrived migrants and refugees in Sweden”. In the evening we heard a couple of reports on various social and political issues in a so called "Intercultural forum". So



Image 4: Presentation about the Swedish Health Care System at the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions

we got Intercultural to

know something about Social Work with refugee children in Greece, the Middle East, Iraq and Lesbos; Social Work with displaced people in Iraq; financial crisis and social welfare for vulnerable populations in Greece and experiences of nursing students, who made their semesters abroad.

The central topic of the third day was „Vulnerability in the city of Stockholm“.

It was a very long day with a lot of exciting presentations about:

- The Roma community in Stockholm and life of Roma in Europe
- Challenges in the social policies towards vulnerable European EU-citizens
- Approach of the City of Stockholm towards homeless people
- Concepts of poverty reduction schemes, sustainable development goals with a focus on migration and equality.

Wednesday’s field visit took place at the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, a government agency, whose mission is to reduce poverty in the world. In the evening there were reports and presentations about the Global Sessions partner universities, as well as about some international programs and networks.

On the fourth day the most discussed topic was poverty in the world and its eradication. The Scottish group prepared a very informative case study presentation about poverty, community and social work in Scotland. After this report the participants from India took the floor and told us about poverty eradication as a national welfare policy in India.

As usual several students had an opportunity to take part in the afternoon field visit at the European Social Fund. The goal of the ESF is to create more and better jobs in Europe.

The last day of the Global Sessions started with the field visit at the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, where the Swedish Health Care System was presented. After

this informative and enriching report the group had a short excursion about the city of Stockholm followed by the evaluation of the Global Sessions 2017.

Conclusion:

During the whole Global Sessions the students were given the opportunity to establish contact



Image 5: Presentation about Social Work with refugee children in Greece and the Middle East

with students and lecturers from the various participating universities and to communicate with each other. These experiences were very enriching. The exchange took place not only within the framework of the program, but also during the leisure time. All visited reports, presentations, discussions and exchanges took place in English, so the subject-specific communication in this language was intensively trained. Due to many discussions and exchanges to the cultural-specific political and social work issues the participants enhanced their outlook and got new knowledges and competences, which they can use in their future profession and other cultural areas. Moreover it was a nice possibility to explore the amazing capital of Sweden and get acquainted with its friendly citizens and original culture. Summing it up the Global Sessions event was a great experience that leaves much to be desired.