

# International Summer School 2023: Transversal Skills and Competencies Promoting Sustainable Social Work (Helsinki, Finland)

<b>Code</b>	BA401
<b>Modultyp</b>	minor
<b>Niveau</b>	specialised
<b>Kategorie</b>	Wahl
<b>ECTS-Credits</b>	3
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<b>Methodik und Didaktik</b>	Vorlesungen, Workshops, Gruppenarbeiten
<b>Leistungsnachweis</b>	Posterpräsentation
<b>Empfehlung</b>	Bachelor- und Master-Studierende
<b>Voraussetzung</b>	Das Modul wird in englischer Sprache gehalten, deshalb sind gute Englischkenntnisse Voraussetzung für die Teilnahme.
<b>Literatur</b>	Wird abgegeben.
<b>Bemerkungen</b>	Die Summer School 2023 findet auf dem Campus der Metropolia University in Helsinki, Finnland, statt. Die Reise- und Übernachtungskosten (ca. 650 Franken) werden von den Studierenden übernommen. Reise und Unterkunft werden von den Studierenden individuell organisiert.
<b>Durchführung</b>	Minimale Anzahl Studierende: 1 Maximale Anzahl Studierende: 40 (Hochschule für Soziale Arbeit FHNW)
<b>Leitidee</b>	The current and future challenges facing modern societies (e.g. economic, climate and social changes and developments) are at the forefront of discussions in welfare states and in social work. Post-COVID-19 recovery requires efforts on the part of social work but also multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and interprofessional approaches, in order to tackle increasingly unpredictable life situations and to integrate transformative practices. The support needs of social and healthcare service users can be very diverse due to volatile circumstances and inequality.  The manifold challenges confronting the structures of welfare states demand social and healthcare services to be highly responsive and flexible. COVID-19 has impacted the world beyond reasonable expectations, with the pandemic strongly affecting physical, mental and economic stability. It has also surfaced and deepened social inequalities and injustices. The pandemic has weakened social cohesion and resulted in social discontent (UN 2020). However, such a crisis, and the complex situations and systems to which it gives rise, can also create new opportunities. Over the past two years, global challenges and climate change have stimulated dis-

cussions about responsibility. In 2021, the European Commission pointed out that «the COVID-19 pandemic has been a stark reminder that our well-being depends on the health of the planet, and the recovery strategies offer a once-in-a-century opportunity for a genuine paradigm shift towards a society that respects planetary boundaries» (European Commission 2021).

## Modulinhalte

Resolving the new situations and questions requires communication, dialogue and collaboration not only between social workers but also between and across different disciplines. According to the WHO (2010), interprofessional work involves two or more (health) professions learning about, from, and with each other so as to foster effective collaboration and to improve outcomes and care quality. The legislation of some welfare states demands professionals to collaborate in order to achieve the best solutions and results for service users.

Therefore, working in social and healthcare services requires not only professional competences but also transversal skills. UNESCO defines transversal skills as ones that are typically considered as not specifically related to a particular job, task, academic discipline or area of knowledge but as skills that can be used in a wide variety of situations and work settings (IBE2013). These skills are increasingly in high demand for learners to successfully adapt to changes and to lead to meaningful and productive life.

Transversal skills are often also called soft skills, key skills, core skills or transferable skills and generic skills. Examples include:

1. Critical and creative/innovative thinking
2. Interpersonal skills (e.g. communication, organizational skills, teamwork)
3. Intrapersonal skills (e.g. self-discipline, enthusiasm, perseverance, self-motivation)
4. Global citizenship (e.g. tolerance, openness, respect for diversity, intercultural understanding)
5. Media and information literacy (UNESCO 2014)

The importance of the development of generic or transversal skills is recognized worldwide in politics and education.

Key questions:

- What are transversal skills, how are they understood and how are they relevant or significant for social work and interprofessional work?
- How can conceptions of transversal skills help create new practices amid the ever-changing environment of social work?
- How can transversal skills help promote sustainable social work, as well as contribute to fostering sustainable working environments and a livable society?
- What significance do transversal skills have in the digitalization of social work?
- How are transversal skills linked to the values and ethics of social work?
- Which models of and approaches to transversal skills have already been implemented and evaluated in social work or in social work education?

## Professionskompetenz

### Fachwissen

Discursive engagement with the aspects, issues, questions and theoretical concepts of transversal skills and competencies

### Fach- und Methodenkompetenz

Critical reflection on the topic and discussion of current challenges to social work concepts and approaches

### Selbstkompetenz

(Self)-reflection and self-regulated knowledge extension

Semester	Ort	Tage
FS	Helsinki, Finnland	05.06.2023–09.06.2023