

## Module E. Conflicts and Social Work (15 ECTS)

### Period

16. April – 30. June

### Contents

People and communities served by social work are increasingly affected by conflicts caused by e.g. poverty, inequality, international crises and local disasters. Social workers and related professionals meet conflicts when working with promoting social and economic equality, ensuring the dignity and worth of the person, promoting wellbeing through sustainable human relationships and communities (The Global Agenda for Social Work 2012).

With a focus on conflicts in various contexts, levels and cultures, the course gives students the opportunity to expand their repertoire and competencies by studying conflict perspectives, theories and concepts, how to analyse conflict contexts and identify relevant models of conflict resolution.

The module is taught for a mixed group of international and Danish students of Social Work and related professions in order to facilitate cross-national and cross-disciplinary comparison throughout the course.

Independent of the broad target group the course content is anchored in social work.

The course contains the following themes taught full time over 10 weeks:

- Perspectives, theories and concepts
- Contexts: Causes, welfare systems, cultural diversity  
and levels: individual, family, group, community, organisation and society or between the citizen(s) and the social worker's organisation.
- Action/intervention/resolution
- A written assignment

**Student profile**

Students of Social Work and related professions, e.g. Nursing, Social Pedagogy, Social Education, Teaching, Law, Human Resource Management, Public Management and Economics.

Students with a particular interest in cross-national and cross-disciplinary approaches to conflict resolution in various contexts.

Incoming students who wish to spend a full semester in Aarhus may add the 10 weeks module G to their course plan: Module G. Children and Families in the Aftermath of Disasters – Social Work Responses (15 ECTS).

**Learning outcomes**

Knowledge of	Skills in	Competencies in
Examples of conflicts	Identification of what kind of knowledge is relevant to understand and analyse conflict(s) before taking action	
Perspectives, theories and concepts of conflict relevant to social work. (E.g. conflict affecting social work or inherent in social work).	Analysing different aspects of the context of conflicts, e.g. by using comparison and/or theory-based analysis	
Tools for assessment and analysis of conflict in various contexts and levels	Analysing conflict in terms of levels and contexts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the different levels on which a given conflict unfolds (individual, group, and societal levels).</li> <li>• Reflect upon the different levels and phases within a conflict.</li> <li>• To analyse and identify the importance of the context of any given conflict.</li> </ul>	
Relevant perspectives on and types of actions which are or could be used in dealing with conflict situations. Examples of concrete action in social work related to conflicts (on an individual, group, and societal level)	Reflect upon social workers' options in choice of action.	Identifying relevant tools and plans of action in conflict intervention or resolution.
Assessment format	Assessment	
A written assignment of max. 5 pages. Students identify a conflict example of their own choice for the assignment.	The assignment is assessed by a teacher from the module. The basis of the assessment is the module learning outcomes and the fulfilment of these. International students will receive the grade for the assignment (and the transcript of records) by e-mail from the exam administration by 15. August the latest.	

Themes	Content	Learning outcomes
1: Examples of conflicts	3 cases related to conflicts are presented; - conflict on an individual, group, and societal level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of what kind of knowledge is relevant to understand and analyse conflict(s) before taking action.</li> </ul>
2: Perspectives, theories and concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Various theoretical perspectives.</li> <li>• Contextual impacts on application of approach, e.g. conflicts as they appear in different welfare regime contexts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge of perspectives, theories and concepts of conflict relevant to social work. (E.g. conflict affecting social work or inherent in social work).</li> <li>• Ability to analyse and reflect upon the relation between context and perspective.</li> </ul>
3: Contexts and levels	Tools for assessment and analysis of conflict in various contexts and levels.	<p>Ability to analyse conflict in terms of levels and contexts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the different levels on which a given conflict unfolds (individual, group, and societal levels).</li> <li>• Reflect upon the different levels and phases within a conflict.</li> <li>• To analyse and identify the importance of the context of any given conflict.</li> </ul>
4: Action	Examples of concrete action in social work related to conflicts (on an individual, group, and societal level)	<p>Ability to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify relevant tools and plans of action in conflict intervention or resolution.</li> <li>• Reflect upon social workers' options in choice of action.</li> </ul>

### Learning formats

Full time study throughout the 10 weeks.

A mix of learning formats are applied, e.g.

- Introductory lectures supported by reading of text materials and articles
- Guest lecturers engaged within the field of conflict resolution
- Individual studies and group work
- Written assignment

### Place

Socialrådgiveruddannelsen i Aarhus  
 Department of Social Work, Aarhus  
 VIA University College  
 Ceresbyen 24  
 DK - 8000 Aarhus C  
 Denmark

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### **Entrance criteria**

Bachelor and master students. Practitioners with a similar degree.  
Applicants must have sufficient oral and written English language skills.

### **Application**

**Students from partner universities:**

A student application for an exchange must be forwarded by the International Coordinator or The International Office of the student's home university. Prior to the student's arrival in Aarhus, the home institution must have approved the exchange visit, as well as reached a decision on merit and credit transfer.

**Free movers:**

Students from other universities are strongly advised to seek approval within their home university before applying for entry to the course.

**Practitioners:**

Social Work practitioners as well as related professions, e.g. Nursing, Social Pedagogy, Social Education, Teaching, Law, Human Resource Management, Public Management, Economics, etc. are most welcome to apply.

**Application deadline: 1. November.**

Application form at en.via.dk. (<http://en.via.dk/programmes/education-and-social-studies/working-in-the-context-of-disaster-or-conflict-exchange>)

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