Teaching Gerontology
Experiences from the Nordic Countries

Concerted Actions
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Need for Gerontologists

**WHY?**

- Increasing share of old and very old people in the population
- Growing pressure on society – many professionals need more knowledge on ageing and the needs of older people
- Few university curricula with a major in gerontology in the Nordic countries

**HOW?**

- Integrate gerontology in health and social sciences curricula
- Concerted actions
- Emphasize and make use of gerontology as an interdisciplinary field
Gerontology in Nordic Countries

- At Graduate level there are altogether 8-10 programmes in the Nordic countries
- One of them is the Nordic Master in Gerontology, NordMaG
- There are a number of doctoral programmes
- There is a national graduate school in Finland
The Bologna Agreement

- Basic Level (First Cycle)
- Advanced Level (Second Cycle)
- Research Level (Third Cycle)

- Is there agreement?
Challenges

- Retirements
- National laws and regulations
- Admission dates
- Admission criteria
- Teaching in English
- Gerontology as an interdisciplinary field – cutting through traditional disciplinary boundaries
Avenues for Success

• Start new programs (obvious)

• Use researchers in gerontology as teachers

• Grant opportunities to foster mobility

• Support teaching in English

• Inform employers of the benefits of academic competence in gerontology among health care and social services staff
Nordic Master of Gerontology

- Three universities – Lund, Iceland & Jyväskylä
- Three Specialities in Gerontology – Environmental, Social, and Health
- Local ‘mother’ programmes
- Introduction 5 ECTS
- 3 Intensive courses 10 ECTS each
- 3 Electable courses 10 ECTS each
- Thesis in gerontology 30 ECTS
- 30 ECTS at other university
- Total of 15 students per year

www.jyu.fi/sport/laitokset/terveys/en/Nordplus/nordmag
Nordic Master of Gerontology
First 3 years

- Recruitment too low
- Graduation OK
- Problems with pace of studies
- Mobility successful
- Teaching in English shaky
- Agreement very good

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Nordic Master of Gerontology

- Joint degree
- Agreement between partners
- E-learning & Skype
- Mobility
- Vulnerability
- New partners?

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Roads to take

• Local initiatives or concerted actions?

• A national graduate school will be started in Sweden

• NGF provide Education or not?
Post-conference to 21 NKG

• After the 21 NKG in Copenhagen 2012 there will be a conference on ‘Higher education on gerontology and geriatrics’ to be held in Lund.

• Book June 13-14, 2012 in your calendars!
Tak fordi I ville lytte til mig!

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