

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 C SE

- 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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- www.jyu.fi/sport/laitokset/terveys/en/Nordplus/nordmag



Nordic Master of Gerontology C SE

- **Joint degree**
- **Agreement between partners**
- **E-learning & Skype**
- **Mobility**
- **Vulnerability**
- **New partners?**
- **www.jyu.fi/sport/laitokset/terveys/en/Nordplus/nordmag**



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 calenders!**



Tak fordi I ville lytte til mig!

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