WP1: International Specialization

TOWARDS AN INTERNATIONAL SPECIALIZATION IN SOCIAL WORK ON BA LEVEL

This online questionnaire is related to Workpackage 1 deliverable 1.1 and is meant to collect relevant information from all SW-VirCamp partners in order to define and sign an agreement about the realization of a joint/common International Specialization on BA level in social work that basically implies that:

- It is mutually executed through SW-VirCamp.

- Teachers of all partners participate in providing it.

- Students of all partners can choose to follow the international specialization if they fulfill the enrolment requirements.

- A successfully completed specialization in their BA program will result in officially recognized credits for the students.

- The international specialization will be available/viable for each partner.

To be able to fulfill our aims, it is important to be aware of the different rules and regulations and other relevant characteristics of the Higher Education Programmes within Social Work in Europe.
The international specialization must fit into the organizational and educational structure of each partner. The aim is to create a new specialization which can be integrated into each partner institution's curriculum. Our questions are meant to make the ground for such a result. Therefore, we relay on your help to achieve this knowledge by answering this questionnaire. We expect that the information given with this form will be reliable, and is provided with the approval of the organization.

Before starting to fill in the form: Open and print the survey. Read through all the questions and find the information you need. It is not possible to partly fill in the form then return later to complete. Please make sure you have the time needed to complete the work. Remember to press the button FINISH when the work is done.
If a particular question is not applicable to your institution, please, leave it blank.

Deadline for response is 14 January 2009

Thank you for your effort, help and information

The SW-VirCamp headquarters

WP1: International Specialization

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PART I. QUESTIONS ABOUT ORGANIZATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL STRUCTURE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Please present the following information:

Official Name of your institution:

Your name (as respondent):

Your position at the University:

2

The level of Social Work curriculum in your institution is:

☐ A Bachelor programme
☐ A Master programme
☐ A PhD Programme
☐ A Diploma Programme

3

How many years is the Bachelor Programme / Diploma Programme in Social Work?

○ Less than 3 years
○ 3 years
○ 3.5 years
○ 4 years
○ 4.5 years
○ 5 years

4

How many hours of student's work is one ECTS credit in your institution?

○ Less than 25 hours
○ 25 hours
○ 30 hours
○ More than 30 hours

5

How many ECTS credits is the Bachelor Programme / Diploma Programme in Social Work?

6   **In what units is your programme undertaken (e.g. Courses, Modules, Themes)? Please indicate the minimum and maximum number of ECTS credits that can be offered in each of the units.**

7   **Is your social work curriculum competence based?**

○ Yes
○ No

8   **How is your Bachelor Program / Diploma Program structured in periods?**

You have received the form below in a seperate file. Please fill in that form and send the word document by e-mail to remmelt.veenkamp@inholland.nl and astray@trs.ucm.es

	Number of terms	Duration of terms	Practice placement (number of weeks & ECTS)	Study abroad	BA thesis (number of credits)
First year					
Second year					
Third year					
Fourth year					
Fifth year					

9   **If community work is part of your BA programme in social work, please state how many ECTS credits it is worth**

10

Is practice oriented research (for example, action research) part of the Bachelor Curriculum / Diploma Program?

○ Yes
○ No (Please go to question 13)

11

If practice oriented research is part of your BA programme in social work, please state how many ECTS credits it is worth

12

In which semesters and in which years does practice oriented research take place in the Bachelor Programme / Diploma Programme?

	I semester	2 semester
1. year	○	○
2. year	○	○
3 .year	○	○
4. year	○	○
5. year	○	○

13

QUESTIONS ABOUT SOCIAL WORK SPECIALIZATIONS

Does your educational programme offer an INTERNATIONAL specialization at the moment?

○ Yes
○ No

14

If yes, could you please indicate name, content and ECTS credits?

15

Does your Social Work School/Faculty/Deparment offer another social work specialization?

○ Yes
○ No (Please go to question 20)

If yes could you please name content and ECTS credits of each specialisation?

17 Is there a compulsory minimum number of ECTS credits for a specialization?

18 If you have a specialisation please indicate how each specialization is composed (lecturing, practice, thesis, etc.) and how many credits each component has?

19 Do social work specializations have specific enrollment requirements?

☐ No
☐ Yes, compulsory completion of preliminary courses
☐ Yes, compulsory number of obtained ECTS credits

20 QUESTIONS ABOUT PRACTICAL ORGANIZATION

Which periods are usually non-working weeks in your academic year? (that is, periods in which students and staff cannot take part in courses). Please, indicate precisely.

21 How many full time students do you have in the Bachelor Programme / Diploma Programme?

22

How many part time students do you have in the Bachelor Programme / Diploma Programme?

23

What is the minimum number of students allowed per module / course in the Bachelor Programme / Diploma Programme?

24

What is the maximum number of students allowed per module / course in the Bachelor Programme / Diploma Programme?

25

Do students pay for their education in the Bachelor Programme / Diploma Programme? If yes, please state how much students pay per ECTS credit?

26

In which period can the student be enrolled in a specialization in the Bachelor Programme / Diploma Programme?

27

What is the usual starting and ending dates of the terms for students at your University?

28

In your country, what is the usual time to...

	07:00	08:00	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00
Start the classes	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
End the classes	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Have lunch	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Have dinner	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
End the working day	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

29

PART II: QUESTIONS ABOUT A FUTURE INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK SPECIALIZATION AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION
Background:
To define a joint international specialization we need to know your intentions/decisions about such a specialization and the institutional settings you have to follow (according to your national/university rules). This is the basis to define the common grounds for an international specialization.

To give you an idea of a model for an international specialization in SW on BA level we would like to give you the following information:

VIRCLASS partners have for many years been discussing the construction of an international specialization in SW on BA level. A model that has been presented is this:
Part 1 The first 1.5 years of study, (or 2.5 years if the BA is 4 year) students will study at their home university
Part 2 After this students who register for the international specialization participate in international e-learning courses (30 ECTS credits)
Part 3 Students who have started on the international specialization continue the next semester with study abroad/placement abroad at one of the partner institutions/countries (30 ECTS credits)
Part 4 Students will return to their home university and participate in the national programme but will end their education by writing their BA thesis on a comparative international subject on social work in English

Will it be possible in future to organize an international BA in this way?

○ Yes
○ No

30

Please, give your opinion about this model and the possibilities for realizing this idea?

31

If this model cannot be implemented, what changes would be needed for your institution to participate in an international specialisation? Or please present your ideas for an alternative model.

32

What should be the content of the modules for a future international specialization?

33

Will an international specialization at your social work school/faculty/department consist only of SW-VirCamp modules?

○ Yes
○ No (Please go to question 36)

34

Please, specify the minimum number of ECTS credits for a specialization

35

Does your International specialization target ...

○ Full time students?
○ Part time students?
○ Both, full - and part time students?

36

If your answer to question 33 was "No", please specify which other programmes / courses / specializations you will include in addition, and with how many ECTS credits?

37

What will be the total duration of your International specialization? Please give your answer in both months and ECTS credits.

38

Will there be special enrollment criteria for the international specialization in your institution, please specify

- [ ] There are no special enrollment critieria
- [ ] Command of English language
- [ ] Preliminary courses
- [ ] Other

39

If your answer to the previous question was 'other', please specify these other enrollment criteria

40

QUESTION ABOUT THE ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF A FUTURE INTERNATIONAL SPECIALIZATION:

How will the future international social work specialization be financed at your institution?

- [ ] By students paying for ECTS credits
- [ ] By state payments
- [ ] By department/school/faculty budget
- [ ] By university/college budget
- [ ] By other means (please, specify them in the next question)

41

What other means can be used by your institution to finance international social work specialization?

42

How much money, per student, do you have available for the implementation of ECTS specialization modules?

43

Does your faculty have a budget for ICT support and maintenance?

○ Yes
○ No

44

What is the minimum number of students needed to offer international specialization at your university?

45

Questions about conditions:

Is a quality assessment part of the implementation process of an International specialization?

○ Yes
○ No

46

If a quality assessment is part of this procedure, who is/are carrying out that procedure?

☐ Internal faculty experts
☐ Internal faculty and university experts
☐ External experts

47

When an outside, external approval is required, what are the criteria?

48

When an outside, external approval is required, what is the duration (in months) of passing the applicable procedure?

49

QUESTIONS ABOUT FACILITIES AND CONDITIONS

Background

To realize an international specialization via SW- VirCamp (as an international class) it is clear that we will need special facilities and conditions because of feasibility and viability. The following questions explore these issues.

Questions about facilities

Please, indicate whether the following facilities in your university are sufficient or should be improved

	Are enought	Should be improved
Necessary quality of computer facilities (broadband/software/hardware) for staff	○	○
Necessary quality of computer facilities (broadband/software/hardware) for students	○	○
Access to necesary computer in the evening/week-ends for the students	○	○
ICT maintenance and servicing staff for helping teachers	○	○
ICT maintenance and servicing staff for helping students	○	○

50

What procedure is required to realize at the initial stage the international specialization at your School /Faculty / Department

	Yes	No
It is a completely internal faculty affair	○	○
It is a joint faculty and university affair	○	○
An outside, external approval is required	○	○

Finish

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ANNEX II: POINTS OF ATTENTION

POINTS OF ATTENTION FOR THE SW-VirCamp partners

The Working Group (WP1 group) presents points of attention as a result of the analysis of the presented data. The points of attention are of different natures, and presented in the table 9 at random:

Table 9
Points of attention for the SW-VirCamp partners

	Implementation Specializations	Definition Specialization	Organizational structure	Bologna criteria	Tuning	Definition Action oriented research	Economic viability	Time schedule for implementation	Practical placement	ICT facilities for students in weekends	e-teachers competences	Number of students	Language problems at Placement abroad
P1 BERGEN		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
P2 INHOLLAND		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
P3 COMPLUTENSE	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
P4 JÖNKÖPING	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
P5 MIQUEL TORGA		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
P6 MANNHEIM		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
P7 SWANSEA	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
P8 MITTWEIDA		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
P9 LIEPAJAS		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
P10 BODØ		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
P11 LUSOFONA		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
P12 KHKEMPEN		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X

ANNEX III: SWOT ANALYSIS

SWOT Analysis Template

Situation being analysed: **From VIRCLASS to Virtual Campus**

Strengths	Weaknesses
✓ Long time experience with e-learning from the VIRCLASS project ✓ A staff of dedicated e-teachers in the Consortium ✓ 15 teachers with competences in e-pedagogy ✓ Good and strong partnership ✓ A common understanding of the e-learning philosophy ✓ A visionary project idea ✓ VIRCLASS is known outside the consortium partners through other international networks ✓ Already developed e-learning courses in VIRCLASS ✓ Virtual learning material for e-pedagogy ✓ www.virclass.net/eped ✓ New module in community work ✓ Developed interesting and innovative learning material for community work ✓ Offer students an online learning arena ✓ Offer students an online international Social Work network/ community of practice ✓ Develop a new international specialisation for social work BA students ✓ Develop the international perspective on social work ✓ Open possibilities for labour exchange ✓ Offer a learning arena for development of new knowledge and intervention methods in social work ✓ Yearly evaluation of the courses by students and teachers ✓ Good evaluations from students and teachers in the past ✓ Sufficient ICT competences and facilities among partner institutions ✓ High competences in development of new virtual learning material ✓ High quality and diversity in virtual learning material in Virtual Books ✓ ICT staff from different partners agreed on VirClass standards for development of virtual learning material ✓ Long time research experience on e-learning in social work. ✓ A strong European identity has been created among partners.	✓ Lack of English language skills among students and teachers ✓ Lack of e-teacher competences in some partner institutions ✓ Too few teachers involved in the project in some of the partner institutions ✓ The financial situation for the future Virtual Campus is not clear ✓ The administrative model is not clear ✓ The project is not well funded in some of the partner institutions ✓ The project demands too much work from too few people ✓ Focus on WP1, WP2, WP3, WP4 has taken resources from development of WP6 Quality Assurance Guide for the Virtual Campus ✓ Only one eastern European partner ✓ Too few students applying for the courses ✓ Promotion of the courses in some institutions has not had enough impact ✓ In some partner institutions students do not get recognition of the ECTS credits from the VIRCLASS courses in their ordinary BA program ✓ Students do not have a representative or a direct voice in the Steering committee. ✓ The impact of the project on some of the Universities' managers has not been strong enough.
Opportunities	**Threats**
✓ Opportunity to develop a new learning arena for social work in Europe on BA level through a SW-Virtual Campus ✓ Opportunity to offer a unique international specialisation in social work on BA level ✓ Increase the digital competences in partner institutions ✓ Develop new teaching methods ✓ Opens the possibilities for international perspectives on social work ✓ Offer a learning arena for development of new knowledge and intervention methods in social work ✓ Offer possibilities for labour exchange ✓ Give students and teachers contact with colleagues in other European countries ✓ Offer insight into curriculum development – competence based ✓ Offer insight into social problems and social work in other European countries ✓ To develop a good Quality Guide for a Virtual Campus ✓ Opportunity to offer students placements abroad and study abroad ✓ Opportunity to offer students internationalisation from home ✓ Through course content opportunity to strengthen social cohesion and reduce ethnocentrism ✓ New research opportunities in the fields of e-learning and social work are possible among researchers, students and teachers. ✓ New comparative and international courses on different social work topics can be developed. ✓ The project offers an appropriate arena to test new ICT tools. ✓ Opportunity to give an international dimension to the academic career of the staff involved in the project. ✓ Opportunity to create a space in which new international projects in the field of social work can be developed.	✓ Different economic situations in the partner institutions might cause problems for a good financial model for the new Virtual Campus ✓ At the moment no clear administrative model has been developed ✓ Lack of students interested in the new learning possibilities might be a problem when institutions demand a certain number of students for arranging courses ✓ National regulations for development of new learning possibilities can be a hindrance for participation and integration of the courses in the CP in some partner institutions ✓ Loss of key staff can make the project vulnerable ✓ Too much work on too few people might cause delay in the development of the project ✓ IRCLASS may be seen as an expensive resource for institutions, in terms of staff time input balanced against student outcomes ✓ Administrative/economic regulations for the project set by EU might cause problems for the working process. ✓ Changes in present partner representatives and managers can threaten the level of involvement of some HEIs in the project.