Project title: Protecting Children’s Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights by Future Professionals in Finland and South Africa

Coordinator

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This project develops short-term student and staff mobility, an intensive course, curricula content and cooperation with working life between North-West University (NWU, Potchefstroom campus) and Tampere University of Applied Sciences (TAMK). The aim of the project is to strengthen young people’s ability to assess, strengthen and protect their own sexual and reproductive health based on correct information in South Africa and Finland. This ability will prevent sexual abuse, unwanted pregnancies and protect the young people’s fertility for a later time when they want to start a healthy family. The aim is also to develop social work, nursing and midwife students’ efficacy and willingness to bring up and educate youth in sexual and reproductive health issues and to give them material, tools, and skills in how to concretely execute it as a future professional. Additionally, this project aims to develop curricula content in both Universities to answer these needs.

The main activity of the project is to execute an intensive course for NWU and TAMK students in how to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) with sexual education. Intensive course students come from different degree programs: Social services, Health care and Teacher education from both Universities. The intensive course takes place both remotely online, and onsite in Finland and in South Africa during the autumn of 2023. Teachers and students from both universities jointly develop, design, and implement curricula content and an intensive course in working life cooperation.

As a result of the project students’ sexual education intention, efficacy, and skills enhance. Evidence-based material has been developed and used together with success. Both partners’ HEI’s include sexual and reproductive health in their curricula. This project enhances the innovative, concrete, and practical execution of this curriculum content. Students and their lecturers will be equipped with tools to promote the sexual and reproductive health of children and youth. This will impact and benefit the society which struggles with sexual abuse and violence. Efficient sex education can protect children from sexual abuse and harmful choices.

The most innovative aspect of this project is that it will deepen teamwork and collaboration between social, nursing and midwife education in both countries, cultures, and universities. The project will develop working methods, such as collaborative learning and teaching, that will be put in place during the project and continue as course implementations in the future.

Partners

The North-West University