

Syllabus Course description

Course title:	Community engagement and outreach in social work (optional course)
Course year:	1st Bachelor in Social Work 2nd Bachelor for Social Education
Semester:	1st
Course code:	51110
Scientific sector:	SPS/08
Lecturer:	Dott. Franca Zadra
Module:	No
Lecturer other module:	/
Credits:	4 ECTS
Total lecturing hours:	30
Total Hours of availability for students and tutoring:	12
Office hours:	from Monday to Friday on request
Attendance:	according to the regulation
Teaching language:	English
Propaedeutic course:	none
Course description:	
Specific educational objectives:	<p>1. EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES:</p> <p>To acquire specific knowledge about methods of community engagement, as well as outreach methodologies in low-threshold settings, gaining a toolbox of strategies, resources and instruments applied in preventive or supportive outreach interventions towards disadvantaged persons and communities, as well as basics of community organization.</p> <p>2. METHODOLOGY:</p> <p>The course will entail some introductory theoretical and empirical elements. However, its focus will be to develop outreach work methodological capabilities through applied knowledge in the form of case studies, workshops, and co-construction of potential intervention designs in some given settings.</p>
List of topics covered:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to street work and outreach intervention towards hard-to-reach populations and disadvantaged groups: general strategies and methodological approaches. 2. The non-linear stages of outreach work: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Contacting populations at risk b. Joint assessment of needs and resources c. Establishing a service agreement d. Bridging with local services: creating facilitated pathways e. Formal and informal evaluation processes f. Referral processes to other structured pathways 3. Strategies and methods of community development and participative methodologies. 4. Boundaries, non-judgemental / non-violent communication, bias awareness and other relational strategies in low-threshold contact. 5. Privacy and safety measures for low-threshold contact in the digital era. 6. Local, national and transnational networking, for the co-construction of knowledge and interventions: case study on multiagency work.
Teaching format:	In presence, but with occasional online guests
Learning outcomes:	<i>Dublin descriptors:</i>

	<p>3. KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquire knowledge related to the issue of human trafficking, sexual and labor exploitation (definitions, data, enabling or contrasting structural factors). Gain a toolbox of strategies, methods and instruments applied in outreach interventions towards disadvantaged persons and communities. Reflect on basic strategies and approaches to outreach work (centrality of the person's agency, goal-setting processes, relational boundaries, risk and expectation management, digital awareness, etc.) Be aware of the (often non-linear) stages of outreach work: a. contacting populations at risk of trafficking or exploitation; b. joint assessment of needs and resources; c. establishing a service agreement; d. bridging with services; e. formal and informal evaluation processes; f. referral processes to other structured pathways. <p>4. APPLYING KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revisit past experiences with hard-to-reach populations, and gain more specific awareness of the effectiveness of the applied methodologies. Through (voluntary) drills, practice approaching hard-to-reach populations. Draft potential interventions in a variety of fields (e.g. domestic work, seasonal harvest, indoor prostitution, enforced criminality, etc.). Discuss hypothesis with peers in order to co-construct potential intervention designs. Discuss such co-designed interventions in a workshop setting with experienced anti-trafficking workers. <p>5. MAKING JUDGEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain awareness of complex and intersectional factors of vulnerability which might influence a person's exposure to trafficking or exploitation; Discern structural factors that might enable or contrast exploitation in a local context; Enhance capabilities for boundary- and risk-management in outreach work. <p>6. COMMUNICATION SKILLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn basic communicative strategies for low-threshold contact. <p>7. LEARNING SKILLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify national and international anti-trafficking networks, as sources of updated data, guidelines and methods. Enhance context-analysis capabilities
<p>Assessment:</p>	<p>1. WRITTEN INTERMEDIARY ASSESSMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual question-based commentary on assigned methodological reading Valued optional: contribution to a collective GLOSSARY on outreach social work and community development. <p>2. PROJECT WORK – WRITTEN AND ORAL FINAL ASSESSMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-construction of a potential intervention design in groups, written project and oral discussion.
<p>Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written assessment: ability to extract relevant information from reading material and critically assess its applicability in the field of outreach work. Project work: adaptation of conceptualized strategies and methods to an outreach intervention targeting a specific context. Valued content features will be: critical reflection, reflections on own experience when relevant, creative solutions, attention to collaborative processes, centrality of target's agency and choice in intervention design, awareness of relational asymmetries, risks and structural factors when discussing targeted interventions. Valued formal features will be: respect of deadlines, accurate definition and representation of the studied phenomenon, appropriate use of technical language, active participation in collaborative work.
<p>Required readings:</p>	<p>Björn Andersson (2013) Finding ways to the hard to reach—considerations on the content and concept of outreach work, <i>European Journal of Social Work</i>, 16:2, 171-186, DOI: 10.1080/13691457.2011.618118</p> <p>Elsen, S. (20) Community—based economy and ecosocial transition. In: Aila-Leena Matthies and Kati Närhi (eds) <i>The ecosocial transition of societies. The contribution</i></p>

	<p><i>of social work and social policy</i>. Routledge.</p> <p>Zadra, F., & Elsen, S. (2022). Preventing and redressing exploitation. Methods of anti-trafficking social work outreach in Northern Italy. <i>European Journal of Social Work</i>. https://doi.org/10.1080/13691457.2022.2139665</p> <p>Grymonprez, H., & Roose, R. (2022). Towards a clearer understanding of the transformational potential of outreach work. <i>European Journal of Social Work</i>, 25(1), 26–40. https://doi.org/10.1080/13691457.2019.1567468</p>
<p>Supplementary readings:</p>	<p>INSSW and Dynamo, 2008, International guide on the methodology of street work throughout the world.</p> <p>Hill, D.J., Laredo, E. (2019) First and last and always: streetwork as a methodology for radical community social work practice. <i>Critical and Radical Social Work</i>, DOI: 10.1332/204986019X15491042559682</p> <p>Elsen, S. (2014) Soziale Innovation, ökosoziale Ökonomien und Community Development. In: Elsen, S./Lorenz, W. (2014): <i>Soziale Innovation, Partizipation und gesellschaftliche Entwicklung</i>. Bozen University Press, Bozen</p>