Children, Youth and Participation

Course Code: MEM100_1, Credits: 15 ECTS
Offered by: Department of Social Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences
Semester tuition start and duration: Spring, 1 semester
Exam term: Spring
Language of instruction: English

Course staff
- Elisabeth Enoksen (Course coordinator)

Introduction
This module has its basis in the new perspectives of children and youth, based on updated research in sociology, psychology and social work. It focuses on children and youth, as competent parties in the construction of their daily life and in decisions concerning their everyday life. These perspectives can also be found in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and will have consequences for the practice of social work and social policy.

Learning outcome
Knowledge
At the end of the module the students shall have knowledge about

- State of the art in the field of social work with vulnerable children, youth and marginalized families,
- theoretical concepts such as empowerment, user participation, partnership and democratic processes related to Human Rights and The Right of the Child,
- participatory principles in social work and practical tools for its application

Skills
At the end of the module the students shall be able to practice

- Cultural and ethical sensitivity in dealing with children and youth
- Research-based skills and methods within the theory and practice of mastering-focused social work and to analyze how various theoretical perspectives are reflected in social work practice.
- A balanced approach to social work practices that explores the strengths and assets of children, youth and families
- Communication with children and youth

General Competencies
The module aims to give the students basic knowledge of:

- New child perspectives within sociology, psychology and social work.
- New paradigms related to strengths perspectives and skills in building solutions in social work with children and marginalized families for keeping kids safe
- Factors concerning vulnerable children rights and competences to participate in decisions and solutions concerning their everyday life.

Content
The module will focus on strength perspectives, mastering perspectives and solution-oriented perspectives within social work with vulnerable children and marginalized families. It will also take up issues of non-oppressive practices in child protection, skills in dialogue with children and youth and child and youth research.
Field placement is compulsory. Field placement adds an important value for the students; addressing the central question of how ideas on children’s rights, theoretical perspectives and research-based knowledge are operationalized and practiced. Students will have placement within social work agencies addressing refugee- and asylum seeking children and families, children and families affected by domestic violence, prostitution or severe conflicts and crises. The placement will be at the end of the module.

**Teaching methods**
Lectures, workshops, student presentations, seminars groups, field placement and tutoring.

**Required prerequisite knowledge**
Passed 1st semester of the study program

**Exam/assessment**

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The written home exam is an individual exam. **Word count:** 3 000 words (+/- 10 %) including table of contents, notes, references and bibliography. **Reference style:** APA 6th.

**Course assessment**
Field placement - Presentation in class
Professional performance in field placement
Written field placement report
Professional performance in field placement, in-class presentation from field placement and a written field placement report. All coursework requirements need to be passed before delivering the written home exam.

**Open to**
European Master in Social Work with Families and Children

**Exam**
Standard evaluation in accordance with Faculty and MFAMILY guidelines

**Literature**
Indicative bibliography
Main Texts