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Master's Degree Programme in Community Development and Conflict Resolution

TO BE OFFERED

BY

Diaconia University of Applied Sciences (Diak), Finland University of Iringa (UoI), Tanzania

Course titles and credit

Title of Module and Study Unit	Credits	Code of Study Unit	Semester	Module
Foundations of community development, human rights and conflict resolution	**10**	FOU0010Y17S		**Module 1**
E-learning and information study skills	2	FOU1002Y17S	1/autumn 19	Study unit 1
Theories of community development, human rights and conflict resolution	4	FOU2004Y17S	1/autumn 19	Study unit 2
Globalization and international community development	4	FOU3004Y17S	1/autumn 19	Study unit 3

Title of Module and Study Unit	Credits	Code of Study Unit	Semester	Module
Sustainable community development	**20**	SUS0020Y17S		**Module 2**
Socio-economic approaches to community development	5	SUS1005Y17S	1/autumn 19	Study unit 1
Sustainable development and environmental issues	5	SUS2005Y17S	1/autumn 19	Study unit 2
Asset-based community development and empowerment strategies	5	SUS3005Y17S	1/autumn 19	Study unit 3
Management in community development	5	SUS4005Y17S	3/autumn 20	Study unit 4

Title of Module and Study Unit	Credits	Code of Study Unit	Semester	Module
Human rights in communities	**10**	HUM0010Y17S		**Module 3**
Human rights concepts and theories	5	HUM1005Y17S	2/spring 20	Study unit 1
Human rights enforcement and Monitoring systems	5	HUM2005Y17S	3/autumn 20	Study unit 2

Title of Module and Study Unit	Credits	Code of Study Unit	Semester	Module
Conflict resolution, counselling and mediation in communities	**10**	CON0010Y17S		**Module 4**
Conflicts and Conflict Management in Communities	5	CON1005Y17S	2/spring 20	Study unit 1
Conflict Mediation, Counselling and Strength-based approach in communities	5	CON2005Y17S	2/spring 20	Study unit 2

Thesis project

Title of Module and Study Unit	Credits	Code of Study Unit	Semester	Module
Research methods and Master Thesis	35	MAS0035Y17S		**Module 5**
Community research methods	5	MAS1005Y17S	2/spring 20	Study unit 1
Master Thesis	10	MAS2030Y17S	2/spring 20	Study unit 2
Master Thesis	20	MAS2030Y17S	3/autumn 20	Study unit 2

Elective Studies

Title of Module and Study Unit	Credits	Code of Study Unit	Semester	Module
Elective Studies	5	ELE0005Y17S	1/autumn 19	**Module 6**

Module descriptions

Module I: Foundations of Community Development, Human Rights and Conflict Resolution (10 ECTs/20 Credits)

Study unit 1: E-learning and Study Skills (2 ECTS/4 Credits)

Study unit aim:
This is an introductory study unit for online and blended learning education. The course is aimed at building students' capacities and developing students' specific study skills required for online learning. Students learn how to use online platforms and study in international study groups, use information services, seek information systematically and use electronic library services.

Expected learning outcomes:
After completing this study unit the students will be able to:
- use online and e-learning platforms and facilities
- study and collaborate in international groups
- follow and conduct online studies
- use electronic information-seeking and library services.

Contents:
- online and e-learning platforms and facilities
- introduction of the study programme and groups of students
- online study skills and methods
- electronic information-seeking and library services

Study unit 2: Theories of Community Development, Human Rights and Conflict Resolution (4 ECTS/8 Credits)

Study unit aim:
This is an introductory study unit in the Master's programme. The aim is to introduce students to specialized areas of community development, theoretical concepts of community development and issues of human rights and conflict resolution in the context of community development. The study unit will provide a theoretical basis for a critical analysis of current community development policies and models. The students will understand the development of policies, principles and models of community development in a global context.

Expected learning outcomes:
After completing this study unit the students will be able to:
- apply the concepts and theories of community development to solve global community problems
- apply the concepts and theories of human rights and conflict resolution in the context of community development
- critically analyse the theoretical perspectives and evolution of community development
- identify community development policies and models in a global context.

Contents:
- theoretical perspectives of community development
- human rights and conflict resolution linked to community development
- evolution of community development in a global context
- historical development of policies and models of community development

Study unit 3: Globalization and International Community Development (4 ECTS/8 Credits)

Study unit aim:
This study unit focuses on the impact of globalization on community development. Students will learn the impact of poverty, exclusion and humanitarian crises on communities and how community development can rebuild community capacity. Students will learn to identify the different systems of social policy and civil society and their impact on community development. The study unit introduces international and comparative perspectives on various global contexts and practices of community development.

Expected learning outcomes:

After completing this study unit students will be able to:

- critically analyse the impact of globalization on communities' development
- explain and analyse the impact of poverty, exclusion, migration and humanitarian crisis on communities
- describe and analyse the role of social policy and civil society in community development
- develop in-depth policies and practices of community development at a global contexts.

Contents:

- globalization, vulnerable communities and challenges of community development
- prevention of poverty, exclusion and humanitarian crises

- social policy, civil society and governance systems

- economic and cultural globalization and migration

Module 2: Sustainable Community Development (20 ECTS/40 Credits)

Study unit 1: Socio-economic Approach to Community Development (5 ECTS/10 Credits)

Study unit aim:
This study unit builds a foundation for economic interventions and socio-economic approaches and shows how economic and social aspects of community development are linked in community development. The students learn about the latest international and national community development activities which focus on economic interventions; they also learn how to promote socio-economic activities in communities. Students become equipped with skills and methods to identify needs and assets, and learn to plan and assess socio-economic interventions in communities. The study unit introduces community-wide and regional collaboration and integrated action for building economically sustainable communities.

Expected learning outcomes:

After completing this study unit the students will be able to:

- explain the main international actors, policies and interventions in the sector of economic development as well as the impacts of these on community development

- analyse the main economic approaches to community development and to utilise them in planning and implementing development interventions

- identify needs and assets, plan and assess socio-economic interventions in communities

- design and implement relevant regional economic integration activities in a community development process

- identify and respond to the needs of vulnerable groups in communities and to recognize gender-specific needs.

Contents:

- International organizations and interventions in economic development in international community development (ILO, UNDP etc.)

- Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) development as an approach to community development and to individual, community-based and cooperative-based Micro Credit Systems (Crameen Bank, Women´s Bank, Community Banks etc.)

- Needs and assets assessment and plan of intervention in economic interventions

- Integrated psychosocial, legal and economic support for vulnerable community members (families, orphans, young people, single mothers, widows, the disabled)

- Gender-specific economic community development activities

Study unit 2: Sustainable Development and Environmental Issues (5 ECTS/10 Credits)

Study unit aim:

The aim of this study unit is to introduce the concept of sustainable community development as a multidimensional concept including economic, social and environmental aspects. Students will identify concepts and approaches of eco-social, green social work and environmental issues in local and global contexts. Students will learn about environmental issues as an important element in sustainable development in communities and the opportunities and challenges of sustainable environmental development in urban and rural contexts.

Expected learning Outcomes:

After completing this study student will be able to:

- clearly describe the concepts and theories of sustainable development

- identify and explain social approaches and concepts of green social work and environmental issues in community development

- analyse opportunities of and obstacles to sustainable development

- apply the ideas of sustainable development in community work practices

- conduct community participatory environmental impact assessments (EIA) in communities.

Contents:
- concepts and theories of sustainable development

- eco-social/green social work/environmental approach and practices in community development

- opportunities and challenges present in sustainable development

- sustainable community development practice

- methods of participatory environmental impact assessment (EIA)

Study unit 3: Asset-based Community Development and Empowerment Strategies (5 ECTS/10 Credits)

Study unit aim:
The focus of this study unit is on building the assets of a community as a means for sustainable community development as well as on facilitating students' learning and the development of their professional identities in the field of asset-based international community development. The aim is to enhance students' competence in the theory and practice of asset-based community development as well as to enhance their understanding of community empowerment strategies. The study unit also enables students to gain experience of asset-based community development practice in order to build positive communities. The course also equips students with knowledge of participatory approaches to community development (Participatory Rural Appraisal – PRA).

Expected learning outcomes:
After completing this study unit the students will be able to:
- explore and analyse the concept of *Asset-Based Community Development Approach* (ABCD) within the history of community development

- identify asset-based community development theories and methods

- analyse empowerment strategies in community development

- apply asset-based community development methods in practice

- analyse and evaluate participatory approaches to community development.

Contents:
- art- and asset-based approaches within the historical context of community development
- theories and methods of asset-based community development and capacity building
- core values and principles that underpin arts- and asset-based empowering community development
- asset-based community development practice
- participatory methods and participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tools

Study unit 4: Management in community development (5 ECTS/10 Credits)

Study unit aim:
The focus of this study unit is on management and leadership in the context of community development. Students will be able to understand the management of change as well as financial and strategic management in facilitating community development. They also learn how to analyse community development processes and their outcomes taking into account the top-down and bottom-up perspectives. The specific emphasis is on leading and coordinating partnerships, networks and multi-agency approaches within the context of communities; the study unit also emphasises the importance of diversity and intercultural communication skills for managing community development.

Expected learning outcomes:

After completing this study unit students will be able to:

- apply change management measures in community development

- explain the importance of strategic and financial management in community development

- identify and assess processes and outcomes of community development

- manage partnerships, networking and multi-agency work in communities

- compare top-down and bottom-up models in the implementation of development interventions.

Contents:

- management of change in community development

- strategic and financial management in community development

- processes and outcomes of community development

- partnerships and networking in community-based interventions

- the top-down and bottom-up models in community-based interventions

Module 3: Human Rights in Communities (10ECTS/20 Credits)

Study unit 1. Human rights Concepts and Theories (5 ECTS/10 Credits)

Study unit aim:

This study unit will explore the concepts, theoretical underpinnings and categories of human rights as well as the procedures and practices of human rights at international, regional and national (community) levels. Students will be able to analyse a number of selected issues related to

contemporary human rights as applicable in different communities. The study unit will examine the relationship between human rights and certain selected concepts e.g. conflicts, globalization, development, poverty, good governance, democracy and environmental justice. The focus is to compare human rights in Europe and Africa and learn how different systems reflect the universality and cultural relativity of human rights in community contexts.

Expected learning outcomes:

After completing the course, students will be able to:

- apply the various concepts, principles and theories of human rights in addressing community problems
- analyse the history, origins and developments of human rights in the regional, national and international context
- explain how the main institutional human rights framework contributes to the protection of human rights in local, regional, national and global communities
- identify different regional human rights policies, implementations and practices
- explain the relationship between human rights and other socio economic concepts.

Contents:

- key concepts, principles and theories of human rights
- historical development and main aspects of the human rights discourse: categorizations, applications and relativity of human rights
- civil/political rights and social/economic/cultural rights; human rights and corresponding duties; selected human rights conventions, CRC and CEDAW
- contemporary human rights issues as applicable in different communities
- human rights and socio economic concepts

Study Unit 2: Human Rights Enforcement and Monitoring systems (5 ECTS/10 Credits)

Study unit aim:

This study unit provides a foundation for human-rights-based work in practice and institutional frameworks that enforce and monitor human rights in different countries. The international, regional and national (local) systems of human rights enforcement will be examined as well as the roles and interventions of the various human rights actors in the field, e.g. international and national Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). In addition, violations of human rights and the protection mechanisms against such violations are identified regarding different societies. At the practical level, the study unit identifies the roles and actions of advocates, activists, social workers and volunteers in promoting the human-rights-based approach through their work.

Expected learning outcomes:

After completing the course, students will be able to:

- critically assess international, regional and local mechanisms intended to protect human rights as well as other means intended for enforcing human rights in different regions

- assess the roles, actions and successes of different human rights actors, including national and international human rights NGOs, in promoting human rights
- identify and analyse the types of human rights violations in local communities
- promote the protection of human rights among the most vulnerable groups in communities
- develop the practices of human-rights-based approaches in the work with different vulnerable groups in societies and local communities.

Contents:

- international, national and local systems of human rights monitoring and enforcement
- international and national NGO´s in human rights promotion
- identifying human rights violations and protection mechanisms at the local and community levels
- a human rights-based approach in community work
- contemporary human rights issues as applicable in different communities

Module 4: Conflict Resolution, Counselling and Mediation in Communities (10 ECTS/20 Credits)

Study unit 1. Conflicts and Conflict Management in Communities (5 ECTS/10 Credits)

Study unit aim:

This study unit provides the theoretical foundation relating to conflicts and conflict resolution taking place in large and small communities and between cultures and religious groups. The study unit will examine the stages and processes of conflicts and the respective communication methods as well as the role of the media in conflicts, studying also the rise of violence and aggression in conflicts. The study unit provides frameworks and tools to analyse inter- and intra-group conflicts in different cultural and political contexts and in rapidly changing communities in urban and rural settings. The students will also learn perspectives and good practices in conflict mediation and conflict management.

Expected learning outcomes:

After completing the course, students will be able to:
- apply the different theoretical frameworks in proper order to the analysis of the backgrounds of ongoing conflicts
- identify the stages, processes and communication methods in ongoing conflicts
- understand cultural, religious, social and political perspectives to conflicts
- identify and evaluate existing conflict management interventions in communities
- plan conflict management and mediation interventions based on good practices used in a variety of conflict areas.

Contents:

- theories and perspectives to conflicts and conflict analysis
- stages and processes of conflicts; communication and media: use of media channels, communication methods, use of stereotypes, use of language in conflicts
- cultural, religious, social and political perspectives to conflicts
- process of planning and implementing conflict mediation in communities
- good practices in conflict mediation during conflicts and post-conflict periods (truth committees etc.)

Study unit 2. Conflict Mediation, Counselling and the Strength-Based Approach in Communities (5 ECTS/10 Credits)

Study unit aim:

The purpose of this study unit is to enable students to apply theory into practice and for them to acquire practical hands-on skills in conflict management and mediation in intra/inter community and intra/inter family conflicts. The study unit enables students to identify potentialities and strengths in communities in order to build positive and sustaining solutions in conflict-ridden communities. The students will learn skills and tools to identify, plan and assess conflict mediation in the contexts of small and large groups and in inter-group conflicts. The students will also learn to apply these skills in culturally diverse communities; they will gain an understanding of the processes and methods for building community-based psychosocial and mental health support resources for families and local communities.

Expected learning outcomes:
After completing this study unit the students will be able to:
- develop and demonstrate competence in conflict mediation and management in intra/inter community and inter/intra family conflicts in different cultural settings

- identify needs, plan conflict management and mediation interventions, and assess conflict management interventions
- identify and mediate conflicts in local communities or families in different cultural settings
- utilize strengths-based practices and approaches to resolve conflicts and issues related to power, diversity and difference

- establish community-based psychosocial and mental health support resources for families and local communities.

Contents:
- negotiation and mediation skills in community-based conflicts
- identifying needs and resources; assessing community-based intervention and conflict mediation activities
- methods of conflict mediation in culturally diverse conflicts; community-based counselling practices
- building on resources and support mechanisms in communities and applying creative methods as a means to resolve conflicts
- principles and aspects of community-based psychosocial and mental health support (CBPS)

Module 5: Research Methods and the Master's Thesis (35 ECTS/70 Credits)

Study Unit 1: Community Research Methods (5 ECTs/10 Credits)

Study unit aim:

The aim of this study unit is to facilitate students' use of their advanced research skills and capacities as they apply participatory research methods as their methodological framework in community research. Students will acquire the necessary skills to design a research project and to define a research problem; they will also learn to apply appropriate methods to solve the research task.

Expected learning outcomes:
After completing this study unit the students will be able to:
- apply the methodological framework of community research in conducting community development and human rights research

- apply participatory research and participatory action research strategies

- apply the ethics and principles of research

- describe the different data collection methods used in community development

- design a community-based research proposal.

Contents:
- research methods in community research

- participatory research/action research, participatory research methods

- research ethics in participatory research

- data collection methods in a community-based RDI-project

- research proposal and a strategy for change

Study unit 2. Master's Thesis (30 ECTS/60 Credits)

Study unit aim:
The aim of the Master's thesis is to demonstrate the student's research skills in community research and to develop projects. The thesis enables students to show their knowledge of theoretical approaches and to apply community-based research methods when conducting a small-scale research and development project. The aim of the thesis is for the student to plan, devise and implement a community-based RDI project related to community development, human rights and conflict resolution. The students learn to collect and analyse data and present, report and disseminate their findings and to involve participants at different levels in their community-based RDI project.

Expected learning outcomes:

After completing this study unit the students will be able to:

- conduct community-based RDI projects

- apply appropriate research and develop methods in RDI projects

- complete their Master's theses

- analyse and present their results

- disseminate the results of their theses.

Contents:
- conduct and report a community-based RDI-project

- apply community-based research methods in an RDI project

- devise an RDI project in collaboration with a community, an NGO or an organization

- analyse and present the thesis project results

- report and disseminate the thesis project results

Module 6: Elective Studies (5ECTS/10 Credits)
A number of modules is available for students as elective studies. Elective studies can cover theories, concepts, interventions and methods in the field of community development, human rights and conflict resolution. Elective study modules can be selected for relevant master's level courses provided by Diaconia University of Applied Sciences, Iringa University and Sekomu University, or other relevant universities. Alternatively, active involvement in a research or development project linked to the operational field of the study programme may be accredited as elective study.