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Education and Culture

Leonardo da Vinci

The Knowledgeing Work-Shop

*A model in up-grade
and
further education*

In the pilot project

Stories enhancing Skills

2006 – 2008

What is The Knowledgeing Work-Shop?

In its essence, The Knowledgeing Work-Shop is a constructive meeting taking place between practice and theory. A meeting during which the practitioner and the researcher work jointly on methodically developing their knowledge and understanding of practice.

Practitioners tell stories – narratives of actual situations – and thus present their knowledge based on experience. After which the stories are being methodically investigated and dialogically reflected upon. The reflecting process will remodel the stories, alternating between oral narratives and transcripts, between concrete and theory. The subject matter of the stories are being elucidated in various aspects, letting ethics, philosophy, art – as well as professional theory contribute to different angles of approach. Thus, experience from practice becomes a source of deeper insight and understanding.

Why - The Knowledgeing Work-Shop?

The conducting of professional social work requires theoretical as well as practical, practice based knowledge. Social workers have to develop their judgement skills and use their discretion in order to handle a wide range of changeable situations. Experiences as well as traditions developed within the practice field are in their own sources of knowledge. But they require methodical investigation through critical reflection. This way knowledge can be passed on in a shape of its own, through stories in which room has been made for nuances and variations. Such forms of competence and wisdom are the concerns of The Knowledgeing Work-Shop.

The Knowledgeing Work-Shop in up-grade and further education.

The model includes six gatherings with an instructor during a twelve month period. During the time in between each meeting, practice material and narratives are being revised. This work requires the use of literature as well as written reflections.

The dialogical process has a particular focus on situations of dilemma, many of which will be systematically reflected upon through:

- * Narratives and transcripts
- * Concrete reflection
- * Theoretical reflection

This process is one of step by step as well as a circular one. For the purpose of education, it is vital that the social workers concentrate on written reflections. This work shall lead up to an essay, written from a personal angle. Essential subject matters of the story should be elucidated and discussed as well as theoretically reflected upon throughout the essay.

The pilot project “Stories Enhancing Skills”

The pilot project is based on knowledge and methodology from a Norwegian doctor treatise. The pilot project introduces The Knowledgeing Work-Shop as a model for further education and competence training in the Nordic countries, Spain and Estonia. This provides a European dimension to the project in the area of experience exchange as well as an opportunity to explore practice in relation to various traditions and structural framework. External evaluation accompanies the project.