

Thursday 22 October 2009, 13:45-15:00, three parallel seminars

Room: K31

**WATCH – Preventive and Support System.**

Methods aimed to support individuals while participating in groups.

This presentation introduces a preventive and support system that many schools and institutions in Europe have used, to reduce as far as possible, the numbers of students dropping out of secondary and vocational education in order to tackle the problem before it actually arises. The support system is called **WATCH** What Alternatives? Thinking, Coping, Hoping and is for counsellors and other specialists to use when assisting at-risk learners.

Presenters:

**Anna Sigurðardóttir**, School of Education, University of Iceland

Anna has a MHR, from the University of Oklahoma. Anna is employed as an educational/vocational counsellor at the University of Iceland, School of Education. She has for many years been active within the Nordic association for counselling and has been a project partner in two LdV projects; Spiderweb and Personal Profile and Support for Learners.

**Björg Birgisdóttir**, Iceland Academy of the Arts

Björg has an M.Sc. in School counselling from California State University, Northridge and has directed counselling services at university level for many years. She has been a coordinator for two LdV projects; SPIDERWEB and Personal Profile and Support for Learners. She works as a Director of Academic Affairs in the Icelandic Academy of Arts.

**Sigríður Hulda Jónsdóttir**, Director of Student Services at Reykjavik University

Sigríður has been working in the field of counselling for twenty years and directed several prevention programmes for students at risk of drug abuse for The Ministry of Education in Iceland and The Public Health Institute of Iceland. She has been a project partner in two LdV projects; Spiderweb and Personal Profile and Support for Learners.

Room: K34

**If They Don't Learn the Way You Train, Train Them the Way They Want to Learn!  
Methodology for every Learning Style**

Why are some instructional methods efficient for some students but not for others? It is all about *Individual Learning Styles Preferences*. This workshop will focus on Learning Styles methodology for different student and especially for those not doing so well in school. Learning Styles methodology means to match instructional methods to students' preferences. It is also about creating conscious systematic variation. This workshop will examine concrete methods from upper secondary school built on international research.

Presenters:

**Lena Boström**, Ph. D. Mid Sweden University, one of the foremost experts and researchers in Learning Styles in Scandinavia.

**Ellinor Dyne/Clarita Artursson**, teachers at the Child- and Recreation Programme at Burgårdens Education Centre, Gothenburg

Room: The Theatre

13:45-16:45 (Please note: double seminar)

### **How can the society help preventing dropouts from education and training?**

Moderator: **Michael Carey**, Careers Europe, Bradford, UK

Presenters:

**Sissel Berglien**, Norway

Sissel Berglien is working as a guidance counsellor at Vennesla Upper Secondary School, in the south of Norway. She is also working part time in the Follow Up service where her main task is to help early school leavers back to school or training or provide them with work. She has led several Leonardo da Vinci projects, among them the LdV pilot project “Dropouts Back on the Track”. She has also participated in the Project Management Committee in the LdV pilot project “PPS”.

“The Core Group Model” / “The Flexible Prevention and Support System”

In the LdV Pilot project: “Dropouts Back on the Track” a model for preventing youngsters from being early school leavers and help those who have left school “Back on the Track” was developed. The model, called “The Core Group Model” is building on a holistic approach and cooperation across section borders. This model has been further developed in the LdV project “PPS” under the name “The Flexible Prevention and Support System”. The model has been implemented in all the municipalities in the south of Norway.

**Laura Uixera Cotano**, Valencia, Spain

Ms. Laura Uixera works as a project manager at Florida International Relations Department. She has been involved in the design and development of international projects since 2005, within several fields such as: ICT, education and training (especially in the field of dropouts), tourism, and diversity. She has a Diploma in Computer Science, and a Pedagogical Qualification Certificate by the Polytechnic University of Valencia. She has also collaborated as co-writer of various project handbooks.

Florida Centre de Formació, C.V. is a training centre providing education at different levels: Secondary Education, Vocational Training, Training for Unemployed, Continuous Training, University Studies, Masters and Seniors University.

Florida has always been aware of the issues of dropouts, especially in compulsory education and therefore has collaborated in many international projects in order to find solutions.

Catarroja town council has also been active to reach methods to prevent and alleviate the problem of dropouts and absenteeism. In this context, the Department of Education in Catarroja, created a holistic approach, based on the FPSS model to tackle these issues. A commission has been created and meets regularly to monitor and help youngsters in compulsory education in a problematic situation.

**Kojo Ansah-Pewudie**, Gothenburg, Sweden

Kojo Ansah-Pewudie is working as a Systems Analyst employed with Gårdstensbostäder AB. He is responsible for Labour Market and Housing issues within the collaborative project Young and Safe which is a partnership between the City of Göteborg, the Police Authority, the Public Prosecutor and the city's Housing Companies.

The presentation will give you a conceptual background description of why the collaboration was initiated in the first place. He will also give a short presentation of some of the joint initiatives that have been taken by the partners involved to prevent juvenile crime which often starts with truancy. Some of the initiatives include a special cooperation between the School, police and Social Services (SSP). He will also mention some projects that motivates young people who do not want to stay in the classroom to get involved in other practical work with the aim of cutting down or avoiding truancy.

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**WATCH UP - the students are coming.**

Implementing the WATCH method in career counselling training at Malmö University

Presenters:

**Ann-Christine Ringström**, senior lecturer at the Teachers Education, Malmö University

**Leif Andergren**, lecturer at the Teachers Education, Malmö University

Room: K34

**A Flexible Learning Environment: A Personalized Program. Learnings from a Case Study of a Small Icelandic Secondary School**

Icelandic secondary schools have had a prevalent dropout problem, with a continuous dropout rate of 20–30 percent. Discussion about the reasons for this have been limited, though some have pointed out a possible connection with an irrelevant curriculum and the prevailing teaching methods; often emphasizing lecturing, note-taking and seatwork, putting students in very passive roles. Teachers in some of the secondary schools, especially the smallest schools, have recognized the problem and are searching for ways to enrich the curriculum and personalise their programmes.

This presentation portrays a case study of one of these schools, Laugar Comprehensive, a small rural secondary school, where the teachers have been developing a project based on cutting formal lessons down to half and offer instead workshop time where students can learn at their own pace. Emphasis has also been put on providing a variety of teaching methods, project work and closer student-teacher relationship. The key behind the success of the project may, more than anything else, lie in continuous efforts to listen to student voices.

Presenter:

**Dr. Ingvar Sigurgeirsson**, Iceland

Dr. Ingvar Sigurgeirsson is a professor of Curriculum and Instruction at the School of Education, University of Iceland. Ingvar is, and has been, involved in various school development projects in Iceland, mainly projects focusing on differentiated instruction and formative assessment.

Room: The Theatre

Cont.

**How can the society help preventing dropouts from education and training?**

Friday 23 October 2009, 09:00-10:15, three parallel seminars

Room: K31

**Personal Profile - Interview schema for specialists to use while assisting learners at risk.**

The *Personal Profile* is a method developed when assisting individuals and is aimed at meeting the diversity of the dropout population. This presentation introduces the *Personal Profile*, an interview schema for specialists designed to systematically assist at-risk individuals to examine their strengths and weaknesses and learning environment so they can define their needs in order to better fulfill their educational and personal goals.

Presenters:

**Anna Sigurðardóttir**, School of Education, University of Iceland

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**Admission-Adult dyslexia; motivational interview strategies on the internet**

Admission is a counselling system for adults with dyslexia which includes training for counsellors in basic counselling skills as well as advanced counselling methods of motivation and cognitive behavioural strategies. Adults with dyslexia are on a different level of awareness of their dyslexia and strength and abilities. Admission is based on the process of change model, motivational interview strategies and cognitive behavioural action plan, where individuals with dyslexia are met on a different level of need for counselling. The focus is both on the functional and the psychological symptoms of dyslexia as well as on self efficacy, strength and abilities of the adult with dyslexia. The products of Admission is provided on: **dyslexia-adult.net**

Presenter:

**Auður R. Gunnarsdóttir**, psychologist and project coordinator of Admission, University of Iceland.

Room: The Theatre

**A coaching Attitude in Education**

In this seminar we will show you a way of preparing learners for the challenges in the society of today and tomorrow. We suggest giving them core competences for life long learning by

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- using a dialogue where you listen and share thoughts for reflection instead of discussing, trying to convince, prove or defend your point of view
- developing the attitude where you expect that the individual has the resources to solve their own problems
- helping learners to discover their strengths and aptitudes, develop their individual potential and give them the opportunity to find their motivation and driving forces in a self-inventory with the help of a coaching attitude in your communication.

Presenters:

**Britt Söderström**, Kraftsamlarna, B.A with solid further education in behavioural science, Career coach and leadership trainer with certificates

**Pia Hylander**, Kraftsamlarna, B.A and Executive MBA in international leadership, Communication and team skills trainer with certificates

Kraftsamlarna is a Swedish private company focusing on management and personal development training. Our starting point for all coaching or training activities is the individual's own level of personal leadership - based on the belief that strengthening your self-knowledge and degree of personal leadership will increase your ability to lead other people!

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Room: K31

### **Vocational Mentor – a way to prevent dropping out of education**

This is a programme with extended practical training combined with studies in theoretical subjects in school on an individual basis. A vocational mentor provides the work placement and is responsible for monitoring and grading. Learning difficulties teachers support when needed.

Presenters:

**Marianne Persson**, Principal, and **Annika Westlund**, Learning difficulties teacher, both from Ester Mosessons upper secondary school in Gothenburg.

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### **The Preparatory Project**

During the school year 2005/06 the Education Authority in Gothenburg ran a project with four Upper Secondary Schools called the Preparatory Project.

The objective was to support low achievers from compulsory school during their first year at Upper Secondary level. The everyday aims in the schools were to reduce the number of students dropping out and to support the students in a way that enables more of them to achieve the Pass grade in the different courses.

Presenters:

**Karin Asplund**, co-ordinator, Education Authority, Gothenburg  
**Ellinor Dyne**, Teacher at Burgårdens Education Centre, Göteborg

Room: The Theater

## **C-Xtra**

The workshop will provide a background to C-xtra as an online tool to improve student retention. The workshop will report on the progress of the C-xtra EU project and the development of the tool with partners in Sweden, Portugal, Austria and the UK. There will also be a live demonstration of C-xtra.

Presenter:

**Rebecca Hall**, Consultant (Occupational Psychology) CXL, Leyland, England.

Rebecca has worked at CXL in the role of Consultant (Occupational Psychology) since November 2008.

As a psychologist, Rebecca has conducted research, presenting her findings back to organisations. She is the researcher on the C-xtra EU project.