

Workshops

We are seeking accounts of case studies of community work projects that are drawn from practical experience and practice-oriented research work on the following topics:

Topic 1: Global Development and its Local Ramifications in Europe

The effects of globalisation require the strengthening of campaigns for social justice at a local level and infuse efforts to promote participation with a fresh sense of urgency. European nations have introduced a large number of participatory initiatives with the aim of promoting social cohesion within the population to reduce poverty, social exclusion and social injustice. Despite disparate local and national social contexts, it is possible to find comparable principles and approaches across Europe that aim to strengthen social relationships and networks among those affected by globalisation.

- Participatory development methods: socio-cultural animation and community development
- Opportunities and significance of local projects
- Community-oriented developments in eastern and south-eastern Europe

Topic 2: Globalisation and Social Cohesion

The rapid changes caused by global developments are increasingly in danger of marginalising economically and socially weaker groups. The threat of social segregation calls for new and effective concepts and projects. Migration flows, together with the growing importance of the information society as an element of globalisation, present new dangers of exclusion from modern society. Social cohesion is central to the future development of society, and as such emerges in current projects and in the debate on social capital.

- Global developments and social segregation
- New technologies and e-integration
- Social cohesion and social capital
- The structure of social capital and sustainable development

Topic 3: Education and Globalisation

Access to information and the exchange of information are key to development and represent a basic prerequisite for combating poverty. New information and communication technologies (ICT) acquire a wholly new significance in a globalised world. These new technologies are also making inroads into the field of education on the one hand new dimensions in the global exchange of knowledge are emerging and on the other hand, obstacles and difficulties are impeding access to new technologies to support learning. Consequently, disparities of opportunity arise between groups within populations and between countries.

- The ramifications of globalisation and the growing importance of ICT: opportunities and risks for education
- Ways and means against exclusion of access to ICT
- Access to knowledge and its significance in the fight against poverty

Topic 4: Civil Society

The solidarity of a society and its democratic coexistence are dependent on the presence of a functioning civil society; the latter is characterised by a plural collectivity of associations, organisations, institutions and social groupings. Such voluntary commitment is grounded in a socio-political context and is not present (or is present only weakly) in many countries due to complex historical developments. This has resulted in a lack both of mutual trust and supportive networks.

- The importance of civil-societal activities in marginally democratic or non-democratic state structures
- The importance of civil-societal activities as an alternative and complement to newly developed state structures
- The encouragement of societal developments through community-based approaches
- Voluntary activity as a contribution to the development of a civil society

Topic 5: Gender

Among the structural causes of poverty are the unequal participation of women and men in political and economic decision-making; unequal access to education and the inequality in income-generating opportunities. That is why fighting poverty is often tackled first by dismantling the imbalance between the sexes to usher in social justice. The international women's movement is devoted to improving access to resources and increasing participation at a local level.

- The ramifications of globalisation on gender relations at a local level
- Globalisation as an opportunity for tackling social justice between the sexes
- Globalisation and the danger of heightened discrimination

Topic 6: Transculture

Political, economic and social development is dictated by cultural values, symbols, norms and attitudes. Globalisation can lead to a homogenisation of local cultures, but it can also open perspectives for new stimuli and cultural diversity. Despite the opportunities, the national identity and cultural self-confidence of countries in the south and east are, in this epoch of globalisation, more important than ever. Issues of transcultural competence occur increasingly in the local/global continuum – no longer just in the context of diverse societal cultures.

- Boosting an autonomous and diverse cultural development
- The local culture/global development continuum
- The significance of transcultural competencies

Topic 7: Urban District Development

Urbanisation is a global trend. The world's population is moving off the land into the cities, which are growing ever more rapidly and becoming ever more cosmopolitan as a result of global migration flows. The prevailing urban movement is conspicuous even in Switzerland. Urban life is very much in evidence in neighbourhoods containing a variety of socio-cultural and economic structures. Under the twin banners of "neighbourhood revitalisation" and "neighbourhood management", locally focused social work approaches have been enjoying an upturn in the last ten years. The revitalisation of disadvantaged urban districts is being tackled using a range of community development initiatives.

- Neighbourhood revitalisation and activation, and the participation of disadvantaged groups and people – forms and practices of local democracy
- Neighbourhood revitalisation processes as drivers of the local economy
- Neighbourhood revitalisation and housing policies
- Neighbourhood revitalisation and integration

Topic 8: Regional Development

Globalisation has led to a revaluation and reinforcement of 'the region'. The term "Glocalisation" is commonly used to describe the two seemingly conflicting phenomena of globalisation and localisation. While globalisation transcends and dismantles national borders and territories, localisation represents the opposite tendency. Where globalisation is primarily a movement of economic liberalisation, localisation by contrast encompasses a social dimension. Localisation accommodates those who cannot and will not live as "global nomads"; identities continue to be created at the local level. Regions, however, are also under threat from migration and attrition.

- Regional development and the "learning region" approach
- Regional development as a means of resisting migration and attrition
- Forms of regional democratisation
- Promoting the regional economy as a contribution to regional development

Topic 9: Migration and Integration in European Cities

Europe's cities and, in particular, buoyant metropolitan regions act as magnets for migration flows from various parts of the world. European cities are becoming showcases of rapid economic development, as a result of which social conflicts acquire new dimensions. These cities are coming under increasing pressure to come up with and implement effective strategies that aid migrants to integrate and participate. They also act as early warning systems in the event of a failure in integration processes in specific areas of community life. The youth dimension in this context presents a particular challenge. Integrated solutions and projects here are showing promising and sustainable approaches in societies.

- Urban development and integration
- Participation and integration projects
- Integrating young migrants
- Integrated approaches and urban projects
- Sustainable urban development