

# International project on human rights

Karolinska Institute has received EU funding to participate in a project to assure the quality on European education on human rights. The project is led by the Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ).

”This opens new opportunities to expand our international work. We also hope to inspire higher education institutions to further develop their education in the human rights field”, says Kristina Tegler Jerselius, project manager at UKÄ.

In addition to Sweden, Croatia and Portugal also participate in the project. Work began in September this year and the project will run until 2019, ending with a big international conference in Brussels.

The project focuses on human rights from different perspectives. Since the quality of education on human rights varies within and between European countries, the project seeks to develop common tools for evaluation and quality assurance.

”It is important that graduates have the competence and skills required in their professional life. Among those skills is the ability to intervene when human rights are violated. Therefore the quality of human rights education is essential”, says Kristina Tegler Jerselius.

## A gender perspective on human rights

The Swedish project led by UKÄ also includes Karolinska Institutet and the European Students’ Union, ESU, an umbrella organisation for Europe’s national unions of students. ESU will highlight issues related to student participation and student-centred learning. The Swedish team will apply a gender perspective on human rights by studying how educational programmes in medicine and social care address gender-based violence and violence against children.

”It will be a further deepening of the mapping that UKÄ did last year on behalf of the government. The study showed that there are big differences between the institutions and between different programs in terms of education on gender-based violence”, says Kristina Tegler Jerselius.

The project also involves Croatia and Portugal. They are working in separate teams that include a higher education institution, an organisation that works with quality assurance of higher education, and ESU. In Portugal, the team will assure the quality of education in intercultural skills within the country’s engineering and geography courses, and in Croatia the team will focus on teaching about democracy and civic rights within the country’s teacher education programmes.

## Erasmus +

The international cooperation will entail new challenges:

”Higher education in the participating countries differ, which means that there are different starting points. But that is also what makes it interesting. It is valuable for us to change perspectives”, says Kristina Tegler Jerselius.

The project is called MEHR, Modernity, Education and Human Rights, and is funded by the EU program Erasmus +. It has been awarded with 320 000 EUR.

The following organisations are involved in the project: Sweden – Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ) and Karolinska Institute (KI); Portugal – Agency for Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Education (A3ES) and Instituto de Geografia e Ordenamento do Território (IGOT); Croatia – Agency for Science and Higher Education (ASHE) and Faculty of Teacher Education at the University of Rijeka (UFRI); and the European Students’ Union (ESU).



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