

SUPSI

# International Course

## Participation: Beyond Good Intentions Inspirations, Approaches and Actions

18-20 April 2024

Cinema Iride, Lugano

SUPSI-DEASS, Stabile Piazzetta, Manno

Cinema Lux, Massagno



**HSLU** Lucerne University  
of Applied Sciences  
and Arts

 **OST**  
Ostschweizer  
Fachhochschule

**n|w** University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland  
School of Social Work

**Hes**·SO

**zh  
aw** Soziale  
Arbeit

  
Bern University  
of Applied Sciences

  
HAUTE ÉCOLE DE TRAVAIL SOCIAL FRIBOURG  
HOCHSCHULE FÜR SOZIALE ARBEIT FREIBURG

## **Participation: Beyond Good Intentions – Inspirations, Approaches and Actions**

### *About this course*

The active and meaningful participation of minority groups, including those from diverse backgrounds and/or with disabilities, is a key concern in the quest for a more inclusive society. This international course aims to explore the theoretical, methodological and professional aspects of participation beyond good intentions. Keynote speakers will explore the theoretical underpinnings of participation, analyzing key concepts such as empowerment, social justice and recognition. They will also explore and showcase innovative methods and tools that promote genuine and equitable participation by people from diverse backgrounds.

In workshops, experts will share their experiences, successes and challenges, focusing on collaborative strategies and inclusive approaches that promote the co-creation of solutions. The impact of participation on social transformation and the political, economic and cultural implications of this approach will be considered together. Participants will be encouraged to co-develop new ideas. In essence, this international conference provides a dynamic platform for exploring the complex dimensions of participation, with particular attention to audiences from diverse backgrounds. It motivates future professionals to examine their practices, cultivate new skills and promote innovative approaches to cultivating a more inclusive and equitable society. Beyond theory and methodology, the central focus of the conference raises a fundamental question about the kind of society we want to live in.

### *The target groups are*

Students enrolled in a Social Work program at one of the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences and students at their international partner universities. All lectures and workshops will be held in English (an intermediate level is therefore required).

## Program

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### 18 April 2024 Cinema Iride, Lugano

5.45-8.00 p.m. Documentary film "To Whom It May Concern" and discussion with Collettivo Viole Spinatte at Cinema Iride in Lugano

8.00-8.30 p.m. Aperitif

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### 19 April 2024 SUPSI-DEASS, Sala polivalente, Stabile Piazzetta, Via Violino 11, 6928 Manno

8.30 – 9.00 a.m. Welcome & Introduction  
*Prof. Luca Crivelli*, DEASS Director

9.00 – 10.00 a.m. Panel on Participation: Beyond Good Intentions – Inspirations, Approaches and Actions  
**Theories and models of participation: analysis of participatory practice**  
*Alessandro Tolomelli*, Professor at University of Bologna, Department of Education Studies  
**Political participation of children and teenagers in Switzerland**  
*Michele Pizzera*, Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Dep. Social Work

10.00 – 10.20 a.m. Break

10.20 – 11.00 a.m. **Access to higher education for refugees: Challenges and issues of participation from an inclusion perspective**  
*Marie Christine Ukelo M'bolo-Merga*, Responsable relations internationales HETS Fribourg

11.00 – 12.00 a.m. Conference: experts with the public

12.00 – 1.15 p.m. Lunch break

1.15 – 3.30 p.m. Workshops\*

3.30 – 4.00 p.m. Break

4.00 – 4.30 p.m. Workshop summary

4.30 – 4.45 p.m. Observer's conclusions

4.45 – 5.00 p.m. Closing

\*Parallel sessions, participants will choose two workshops

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### 20 April 2024 Cinema Lux, Massagno

9.15-9.30 a.m. Welcome & Introduction

9.30-10.30 a.m. World Café

10.30-10.45 a.m. Break

10.45-11.45 a.m. Forum Theater

11.45 – 12.00 a.m. Closing of International Course

## Parallel workshops sessions:

Organisers	Title
<b>Alessandro Tolomelli</b> , University of Bologna <b>Leonardo Da Vinci, Francesca Maci and Fabio Lenzo</b> , SUPSI Dipartimento economia aziendale, sanità e sociale	Participation of Children and Youth living in minority educational institutions: <i>il Progetto VIVA VOCE</i> .
<b>Marit Cremer</b> , University of Applied Sciences Potsdam, Germany <b>Rebekka Ehret</b> , University of Applied Sciences Lucerne, Switzerland	Critical reflection on the tension between complicity/paternalism and possibilities of empowerment: Social workers' scope for participation within administrative structures.
<b>Moritz Reisberger</b> , MCI Innsbruck, Austria <b>Michele Pizzera</b> , Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland	Participatory Research: Research is often designed, led, and executed by academics and adults. In social sciences and social work, it is getting increasingly more important to include the target group of the research into the whole process of the research.
<b>Andreas Schauder</b> , University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland <b>Agapi Kandylaki</b> , University of Thrace, Komotini, Greece	Creating positive encounters between School Social Work and conditions of vulnerability through art work, play and fairy tales.
<b>Marie Christine Ukelo M'bolo-Merga</b> , University of Applied Sciences Fribourg University partner TBD	
<b>Ian M Cook</b> , Phd, Researcher in Hungary	How do European universities enable and/or discourage the participation of students with experiences of displacement (such as refugees or asylum seekers)? What could be the scope of social work in this context?
<b>Shkumbin Gashi</b> , BFH Departement Gesundheit, Switzerland Prof. Dr. <b>Eveline Ammann Dula</b> , BFH Departement Soziale Arbeit, Switzerland Dr. <b>Clara Bombach</b> , BFH Departement Soziale Arbeit, Switzerland University Prishtina, Kosovo	Participatory Action Research: Participatory Action Research (PAR) is an approach emphasizing participation and action by members of communities. They evolve and address questions and issues that are significant for those who participate as co-researchers.

**Course registration**

Detailed Information on the registration process, program and the online link will be sent to the partner universities and participants prior to the course.  
Deadline for registration: tbd

**Registration fee**

The international course is free of charge.

**Organisation & contact**

The international course is a joint project of all seven Swiss University of Applied Sciences with Social Work programmes.  
Contact for further questions:  
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