



## **The six pillars of internationalisation:**

### **a) Student exchange and b) Teacher exchange: Mobility and sustainable cooperation?**

Student mobility shall continue to take place in cooperation with existing partners and within the established exchange programmes. Our aim is for a certain increase in the number of outbound students, along with a considerable increase in teacher mobility. In future, students shall undertake longer exchange periods, which means taking more courses during their stay abroad. We are working on building up networks and creating more sustainable forms of cooperation, which should lead to mutual benefits for both sides.

### **c) The Bologna Process:**

In recent years our education programmes have all been completely adapted to the Bologna system in terms of pedagogical goals, intended learning outcomes and actual activities. More courses will be offered in English within the social work and the nursing programmes.

### **d) Thematic academic collaboration:**

We have pin-pointed four key areas for a more comprehensive cooperation in education and research that connect to our goals and competence in the fields of social work and the caring sciences, see below.

### **e) Social and health oriented cooperation on development aid:**

ESUC supports efforts that promote international social work such as the building up of “Social Workers without Borders”; we also plan to work with international aid projects involving students, teachers and researchers.

### **f) Field practice:**

Studying in a foreign country is a beneficial as well as an enjoyable experience. Part of ESUC’s internationalisation work is to integrate experiences from other countries and cultures into the different education programmes. Students are encouraged to pursue part of their studies or to undertake field practice abroad.

## **Four key areas are suggested as of interest for ESUC from an internationalisation perspective:**

### **Key area 1. Care and services for older persons**

Key area 1 is a field in which ESUC presently is carrying out extensive education and research. Several of our teachers are members of national and international research networks focusing on the elderly, for example, The International Network for Studies Concerning Older Adults (INSCOA), which has members



from Sweden, Finland, Great Britain, USA and Japan, and that carries out international comparative studies as well as organizing recurrent conferences. The coordinator for this network is an ESUC employee.

### **Key area 2: Civil society, welfare & well-being**

Key area 2 is foremost focused on civil society studies, but also studies dealing with trust, social work within the public sector, and social and economic disadvantage. ESUC plays a leading role in research on nonprofit organisations and third sector volunteering in Sweden and is seeking constructive, long-term relations with research units at other universities.

### **Key area 3: Ethics, outlooks on life, care and social work**

Ethics, outlooks on life, care and social work are three important ESUC profiles. Research in this key area is carried out in larger interdisciplinary projects involving collaboration with other national or international research organisations. Here may be mentioned that ESUC researchers in these fields will be represented at the planned Nordic School of Research on outlooks on life, care and social work. In parallel, individual projects will also continue to be carried out.

### **Key area 4: Palliative care research**

In this key area, research is mainly focused on what it means to live close to death seen from a life cycle perspective along with patient, family/close relation and personnel perspectives, with focus on the dying and death of the older person. This research aims at gaining deeper knowledge of the culture surrounding terminally ill and dying persons and the important values evoked; the situation of the patients' family/close relations and their participation in the patient's care; the situation and roles of the personnel, and the importance of the organisational culture of the caring institution for good palliative care and a death in peace and with dignity.