



COMPETENCES FOR POVERTY REDUCTION (COPORE)

STUDENT PROJECT COMPETITION

Dear students,

Let us join the solidarity actions in Europe for combating poverty and social exclusion! The COPORE project offers you the opportunity to develop a student project on poverty reduction. You are challenged to work in interdisciplinary groups and with local communities. The five best projects will be invited (and receive financial support) to present their projects at the COPORE conference on the 23rd and 24th of April in Amsterdam.

Introduction

Following the decision to dedicate 2010 as the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, the Commissioner Vladimír Špidla said: "Europe is one of the richest regions in the world and yet 78 million people live at risk of poverty. This is completely unacceptable." Poverty and exclusion of one individual amounts to the poverty of society as a whole. Europe can only be strong if each individual's potential is realised.

COPORE is a unique interprofessional project, initiated by a consortium of Health, Educational and Social Science networks with the aim to draw attention on health inequalities, related to disadvantaged groups and to develop new competences and approaches in higher education focusing on affordable health care, health literacy and empowerment of the clients and their community.

The following actions will be undertaken:

- Identification of projects of good practices in social inclusion
- A conference to disseminate and discuss the value of those projects for education
- Recommendations defined for the competences of health, social and educational workers
- **Student projects concerning poverty reduction**

Student groups from all European countries from the networks participating in the COPORE project are invited to develop **multidisciplinary** projects on poverty reduction, in **collaboration with disadvantaged groups** from local communities. Following selection by a committee, descriptions of the fifteen best projects will be placed on the COPORE website. Five of the best projects will be selected for presentation by project members at the COPORE conference.

Participants

Your group must consist of students from a **variety of disciplines** (at least two), and at least two students should be from institutions/ networks who are participating in the COPORE project. Your group should work together with people from your local community, **disadvantaged groups**, so that the whole project is planned and developed around the needs of the people of your local community.

Project activities

You can develop any project you wish around the theme, but here are some ideas:

- Awareness actions on: What is poverty and how to combat it
- Exhibitions on: The voices and narratives of vulnerable groups
- Projects with the community: Action research in order to address the needs of those who experience poverty
- Actions to improve access to health and social care
- Engaging local communities in all their diversity in plans and strategies to fight poverty
- Present good practice of empowerment projects
- Development of key messages (You-tube) and logo's with the involvement of disadvantaged groups on:
 - the multidimensional dimension of poverty;
 - the hidden character of poverty
- Any other good ideas or actions

Projects can involve any age group from small children to the eldest elderly, and in any setting – schools, community centres, the street, residential homes... depending on the needs of the local community. Find out what is needed!! Find out what will make a difference!!

Projects can involve many media – photography, dance, theatre, play, sports, graffiti, and many more – have fun and be creative!

Projects, the web-site and the COPORE Conference

All the projects are important, but we can only include a limited number on the web-site and at the conference. So a selection committee of three persons will review the project reports that you submit, and the fifteen best projects will be selected according to the quality criteria below. Descriptions of these fifteen projects (including some visual material) will be presented on the COPORE website. Five projects will be shortlisted and two members from each project will be invited to the COPORE conference to present their projects. At this time the winner of the student's project will be announced and the award presented.

Timetable

Projects may be implemented at any time over the coming year. However by the 1st of March 2009 student should send the following documents, electronically, to Liliya Todorova (litod@ru.acad.bg):

- Project Report (using the template below), completed in Word. This may be
 - a) A plan for a project that has not yet started
 - b) A progress/ half way report, for a project that is ongoing
 - c) A final report for a project that has been completed
- Abstract of proposed presentation (see template below)
- If you wish you may send related attachments (maximum of 20 photos and/ or 6 minutes of recorded material)

NB! All documents must be completed in English. For audio materials that are in another language, please, provide a written transcript in English.

*Selection of 15 best projects by **10 March 2010.***

*The 15 best projects should send an update (progress) report by **25th of March 2010.***

*Nomination of 5 Best projects for presentation at COPORE conference by **30th of March 2010***

*Selection and award to the best student project – **23 April 2010** (during COPORE conference).*

*Article regarding the project completed by **1st of June 2010.***

Address for submission:

Liliya Todorova: litod@ru.acad.bg

Student COPORE prize

An award will be presented at the COPORE conference to the best project as selected by the selection committee..

Quality criteria

When you are writing your project report, please consider the following which are considered criteria for the demonstration of quality in the student projects:

- Quality of the methods used. You can demonstrate this by using multi- and interdisciplinary approaches, that is that at least two disciplines participate in the project and that local community members are involved.
- Clarity and consistency of the methodology of the project. Make sure you:
 - clearly define your aims, including a description of the local community with which the project will take place and what are the needs that you hope your project will assist.
 - clearly identify the process for the development of the project (what are you going to do/ or what have you done, who is going to do it/ who did what, etc)
 - clearly identify your outcomes (qualitative and quantitative) including the perspectives of all involved (what have/will you achieve for the community and for yourselves, how will you/have you shown this)
- What's New? Don't forget to mention anything that you think is creative and innovative in your project
- Reflection. Please reflect on how the project developed, was/will be implemented, how it was to work as a team. Consider especially what the project achieved for all involved, what were the difficulties, what would you do differently in the future etc)
- Quality of written report. Make sure that you write in English and that it is clear for an international audience, within the word count (maximum 2000 words) and includes all sections of the template.

An abstract should also be submitted on how the project will be presented (poster, oral presentation, picture exhibition, performance etc.), should it be selected for presentation at the COPORE conference.

Contact Information

Should you require any further information please contact us at:

Liliya Todorova: litod@ru.acad.bg

Sarah Kantartzis: skanta@ath.forthnet.gr

Attachments:

1. Template for Project Report
2. Template for Abstract (for presentation of project at COPORE conference)

Template for Project Report

Please complete a project report for each project. The number of words should not exceed 2,000 words.

Title of Project:

Name of Participants and Affiliation:

(For each participant please state your country, the name of your department and institution, your level of education and primary discipline. If appropriate please provide information of the organization or service involved in the project)

Brief Description of Project:

(Please include: short description of the local community, the problems identified, the aims of the project, and the methods and materials used/you will use.)

Description of Outcome of Project:

(Please state here the specific results achieved by the project related to its aims. Please also mention those aims that were not achieved, as well as the unexpected outcomes. If your project is still in the planning/early stages, please state where you are in the process)

Reflection on Project:

(Include some reflection on the project development, implementation and interdisciplinary practices. Explain for example how you involved and collaborated with other students, partners and stakeholders.)

References:

Contact details:

Please provide full contact details for two of the projects members

Institute:

Country:

Students

Name:

e-mail:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

Attachments and external links:

Please mention here any materials which accompany the report (optional). Please do not submit more than 20 photographs and/or 6 minutes of recorded material.

*** The Project report should be sent in by 1st of March 2010 (the project does not have to be successfully completed by this date).**

Template for Abstract

Please complete the following abstract. This abstract refers to the presentation of the project that will be part of the COPORE conference if selected

Title of Project:

Name of presenters and affiliation:

- 1.
- 2.

Type of Presentation:

(Poster, Oral presentation, Exhibition, Performance etc)

Summary of Presentation (Max. 250 words)

(Please provide a brief description of the proposed presentation, to include: introduction, aims, method, outcomes, and conclusion – appropriate to the stage of the project you are at)