



**MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND SPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
LITHUANIA**

**ORDER  
ON APPROVAL OF THE DESCRIPTOR OF THE STUDY FIELD OF SOCIAL WORK**

24 March 2021 No. V-440  
Vilnius

In accordance with Paragraph 11 of Article 53 of the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania:

1. I approve the Descriptor of the Study Field of Social Work (enclosed).
2. I determine that the higher education institutions have to adjust their study programmes to the Descriptor of the Study Field of Social Work approved by Clause 1 hereby until 01 September 2022.
3. I recognise Order No. V-820 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania of 23 July 2015 “On Approval of the Descriptor of the Study Field of Social Work” as invalid.

Minister of Education, Science and Sport

Jurgita Šiugždinienė

APPROVED  
by Order No. V-440 of the Minister of Education,  
Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania of 24  
March 2021

## **DESCRIPTOR OF THE STUDY FIELD OF SOCIAL WORK**

### **CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. The Descriptor of the Study Field of Social Work (hereinafter – Descriptor) regulates the special requirements for the study programmes in the study field of social work (J04) that belongs to the group of study fields of social sciences (J). The Descriptor regulates the study field of social work (hereinafter – field of social work) in the scope not covered by the General Requirements for the Studies approved by Order No. V-1168 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania of 30 December 2016 “On approval of the General Requirements for the Studies.”

2. The Descriptor was prepared in consideration to the Law on Social Services of the Republic of Lithuania, Order No. A1-92 of the Minister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania of 5 April 2006 “On Approval of the Descriptor of Procedure of the Professional Competence Improvement of Employees in the Field of Social Sciences and the Descriptor of the Certification Procedure of Social Workers”, Order No. A1-141 of the Minister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania of 29 March 2018 “On Approval of the Descriptor of Case Management Procedure”, Order No. A1-487 of the Minister of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania of 13 October 2014 “On Approval of the List of Jobs for Employees in the Field of Social Sciences”, Order No. V1-135 of the Director of the Qualifications and Vocational Education and Training Development Centre of 2 July 2019 “On Approval of Professional Standard in the Sector of Social Services”, the Global Work Definition approved by the General Assembly of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) and the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) (<https://www.ifsw.org/what-is-social-work/global-definition-of-social-work>) in 2014, and the Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training (<https://www.ifsw.org/global-standards-for-social-work-education-and-training/>; <https://www.ifsw.org/global-social-work-statement-of-ethical-principles/>).

3. The Descriptor shall be applied to the college and university studies of the first cycle and the second cycle in the study field of social work (hereinafter – field of social work) conducted as full-time or part-time studies.

4. There are no special requirements established in the Descriptor for the structure of study programmes.

5. There are no special requirements established in the Descriptor for the persons, who want to be admitted to the study programmes of social work.

6. Upon completion of the studies in the field of social work, the professional bachelor's or bachelor's /master's degree in social sciences that is in conformity with the sixth/seventh level of the Lithuanian Qualifications Framework and the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning, and first/second cycles of the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area attested by the diploma of professional bachelor or bachelor's/ master's degree and the diploma's supplement issued by the higher education institution are awarded.

7. The purpose of the study field of social work is to prepare the specialists of social work, who would be able to practice social work at micro-, meso- and macrolevels:

7.1. the social work of microlevel is directed to individuals and families. It includes such activities as psychosocial consulting of families and/or individuals, mediation, case management, etc.;

7.2. the social work of mesolevel is directed to neighbourhood, small groups and institutions (organisations). It covers such activities as leadership, service administration, service organisation, and coordination. In some cases (for example, in the case of case management), the intervention of social work covers micro- and mesolevels;

7.3. the social work of macrolevel is directed to communities and systems and is focused on social changes, planning and development of social policy. It covers such activities as community planning, community organisation, community development, advocacy, impact on social policy, etc.

## **CHAPTER II CONCEPT AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY FIELD**

8. The Descriptor provides the general guidelines, how to achieve the learning outcomes of the study programmes of social work, and defines the most important aspects of the Lithuanian and international practice in the studies of social work.

9. Social work is defined as a profession that enables individuals, families, groups, communities and society to solve their interrelation and social problems through inducement of social changes and improvement of life quality, solidarity and social justice. In order to overcome the life challenges, to create welfare and to assure human rights, social work mobilises humans and structures. The profession is based on the theories and context of social work, social sciences and humanities, and applies a unique system of knowledge, skills and values, in pursuit of harmonious interaction between human and his/her environment.

10. Social work covers a wide scope of interdisciplinary theoretical and practical knowledge, so when the content of the studies is defined, not only the international and national researches in the field of social work or examples of foreign good practice should be used, but also the discussions with stakeholders and other interested parties should be conducted. The peculiarity of the study programme's profile is formed by historical, political, economic, social, cultural, demographic and other factors, the resulting needs in the social area, and the priorities defined in the Lithuanian and the European Union's strategic documents. New knowledge, technologies and ideas that may affect modern and future development of science and practice of social work should be also included into the modelling strategy of the programme's content.

11. With regard to Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training, the following elements should be reflected in the study programmes of the field of social work of the first and second cycles:

11.1. the theoretical area of the social work profession that covers theories of social work, social welfare and other social theories, variety of analysis of social problems and individual situations, critical thinking, empowering strategies, etc;

11.2. the area of the methods of social work profession that covers social work interventions of different levels, process of social work and its constituents;

11.3. knowledge, application, etc. of field research methodology of social work profession;

11.4. professionalisation of social work that covers preparation of the practitioner, who would think critically and reflect practical activities, who would be able to apply the acquired theoretical knowledge in practice and to act as a leader;

11.5. the paradigm of social work profession that covers the principles assuring ethics, social justice and human rights.

12. The graduates of the study programmes of the field of social work may work in the areas of social security, education, health, law enforcement, other areas, in non-governmental, public or

private sectors. Social work is performed on the levels of an individual, family, group, community and society.

13. Upon completion of the college studies in the field of social work, the graduates will be able to continue the studies in the second cycle in accordance with the requirements established by the university. Upon completion of the studies of the second cycle in the field of social work, the graduates will be able to continue the studies in the third cycle.

14. The national and international field researches of social work profession are important for formulation of the aimed learning outcomes of the study programme. The training of social work professionals is related to the needs of the labour market and society. It is important that the study programmes would create preconditions for further development of the social work profession.

### **CHAPTER III GENERAL AND SPECIAL LEARNING OUTCOMES**

15. The studies in the field of social work have to create conditions for integration of knowledge, skills and values. While studying the study programme in the field of social work, the student develops the personal, social, applied research and special abilities that will be needed to provide social services to the individual, group or community, to develop, administer and manage the social services, to initiate the changes in social policy and other related political areas, and to improve continuously own profession.

16. The learning outcomes in the field of social work are distinguished with regard to the Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training, where it is stressed that critical understanding of how socio-structural inadequacies, discrimination, oppression, and social, political, environmental and economic injustices impact human participation in society. The focus is on the interaction between the social, psychological, educational, structural and cultural factors that form the human development and behaviour, expand the social welfare policy and social work practice.

17. The professional activities of the specialists prepared in the study programmes in the field of social work are based on totality of knowledge, skills and values; however, the profiles of the specialists with the degrees of professional bachelor, bachelor and master differ a lot:

17.1. the college studies are more directed to training of the competences needed for the field of social work. The specialists of social work are trained in the course of these studies for practical social work in various institutions providing social services and in communities;

17.2. the university studies of the first cycle are directed to theoretical training and top-level professional skills. The social work specialists are trained for work in broader practical scope of social work; they will be aiming at positive social changes in the individual, group or community, and they will be performing the functions that need deeper (universal) knowledge in social work and universal theoretical training;

17.3. the studies of the second cycle are intended to get ready for performance of independent scientific work that needs scientific knowledge, analytical skills, and advanced professional competences in social work. The professional activities of the trained social work specialists are based on development of the latest expert knowledge, innovative social work methods and their application in practice, understanding of social policy, coordination of social help activities, leadership competences, and supervision or readiness for academic work.

18. Upon completion of the college studies, the following learning outcomes have to be achieved:

18.1. knowledge, its application. The person:

18.1.1. knows the theory and methods of social work, evolution of social work profession in the country, theories about the human behaviour and its changes, social problems and their expression in the social environment, principles of professional ethics, methodology of applied researches, human

rights and social justice, national social policy, organisation of social work, interprofessional cooperation, information, communication and assistance technologies and principles of sustainable development, and applies this knowledge in order to determine the need for social services, to provide social services to clients, and to conduct the applied researches;

18.1.2. knows the basics of humanities, social and other sciences, and applies them when providing social services to the clients;

18.2. research skills. The person:

18.2.1. performs the practice-oriented applied researches of social work and interprets their results within the contexts of the activities of institutions providing certain social services and within the context of social policy;

18.2.2. applies the results of applied researches for solution of certain social problems, development of professional activities and introduction of social work innovations;

18.3. special abilities. The person:

18.3.1. recognises, analyses and evaluates the needs and strengths of the individual, family, group, or community (hereinafter – client), acts in compliance with the normative legal acts and the institution's documents, trains the person's social, hygienic and work skills, forecasts possible appearance of social problems in the community, plans, provides and documents social problems and assesses their impact on the client, applies various methods of social work in order to create the relations with the client based on mutual trust, represents the clients' rights and interests using the internal and external resources, motivates and empowers the client for self-aid;

18.3.2. prepares and implements the plans for help to the client, social projects on the levels of the institution, regional and national levels, distributes the resources properly, and assesses the effectiveness of social services and programmes;

18.3.3. cooperates with the representatives of various institutions, organises and provides social services in order to empower the clients, hence contributing to the social welfare;

18.3.4. analyses and explains the impact of social policy on consolidation of human rights and reduction of social isolation;

18.3.5. follows the principles of social justice, human rights, values of social work and professional ethic in the practical work, and provides insights, how to improve their implementation;

18.4. social abilities. The person:

18.4.1. communicates and cooperates effectively with the clients, colleagues, team members and other specialists, politicians, press, scientists, follows the principles of mutual respect, understanding and agreement, as well as ethical norms;

18.4.2. expresses own thoughts orally and in writing smoothly and suggestively, communicates effectively in the professional environment and community in the Lithuanian and foreign languages;

18.4.3. discusses relevant professional issues in order to develop and strengthen the social work profession;

18.5. personal abilities. The person:

18.5.1. reflects, analyses and assesses critically own professional activities and understands the importance of life-long learning;

18.5.2. makes independent decisions when it is necessary to act in the defined situation, and applies the professional knowledge;

18.5.3. collects and systemises information from national and international sources, uses the information, communication and assistance technologies, and handles the confidential information responsibly;

18.5.4. endeavours at learning and improving own personality, improves professional qualification, spreads good practice, and creates an image of social work profession;

19. Upon completion of the university studies of the first cycle, the following learning outcomes have to be achieved:

19.1. knowledge, its application. The person:

19.1.1. analyses critically and systemically and applies the latest knowledge of the theory and methods of social work, evolution of social work profession, theories about the human behaviour and its changes, social problems and their expression in the multicultural environment, ethical principles, various methodologies of applied researches, human rights and social justice, national and international social policy, management of social work, interprofessional and inter-sector cooperation, social development and welfare of society, information, communication and assistance technologies and principles of sustainable development, in the practice of social work with an individual, family, group, community, and organisation;

19.1.2. knows the theories of humanities, social and other sciences, and applies them in practice of social work or in the course of researches, hence inducing social cohesion and empowering of people;

19.2. research skills. The person:

19.2.1. performs independently the researches directed to development of practice of social work and interprets their results within the context of social work and social policy;

19.2.2. applies the research results to assess the need for complex social services, demand for social services, to model solution of social problems, and to develop professional activities through introduction of innovative social services;

19.3. special abilities. The person:

19.3.1. evaluates the client's situation systematically, selects and applies the solution or other appropriate model, how to solve the client's problem, applies various methods of social work and help strategies, advocates the client's rights and interests, and applies networking with the help of internal and environmental resources, selects and applies various empowering strategies;

19.3.2. prepares and contributes to implementation of the plans, programmes and projects of social services, evaluates quality of provided social services and efficiency of social work;

19.3.3. coordinates the activities and cooperates with the representatives of various institutions and interest groups, organises social help and endeavours at social changes;

19.3.4. analyses systematically and critically the models of national and foreign social policy, recognises its impact on consolidation of human rights and reduction of social isolation, and makes suggestions, how to improve social policy;

19.3.5. follows the principles of social justice, social responsibility and human rights, values and ethics of social work in practice, and provides insights, how to improve their implementation;

19.4. social abilities. The person:

19.4.1. communicates and cooperates effectively with the clients, colleagues, politicians, press, scientists, exchanges the information necessary for effective process of social work and qualitative interpersonal interaction in the professional work; is able to work in team, to initiate and organise the team work;

19.4.2. expresses own thoughts orally and in writing smoothly and suggestively, communicates effectively in the professional environment and community in the Lithuanian and foreign languages;

19.4.3. suggests innovations in practical activities and adjusts to new situations;

19.4.4. discusses relevant professional issues in the professional and interdisciplinary environment, participates in public discourse using correct professional terms in the Lithuanian and foreign language; assumes responsibility for development and strengthening of social work profession;

19.5. personal abilities. The person:

19.5.1. assesses critically own and colleagues' professional practice, reflects systematically own professional growth, and understands the importance of life-long learning;

19.5.2. makes independent decisions in difficult situations, has self-confidence, and is studying continuously;

19.5.3. finds and uses the national and international sources of information, uses the information, communication and assistance technologies, and handles the confidential information responsibly;

19.5.4. creates an image of social work profession and takes care about the profession's status.

20. Upon completion of the university studies of the second cycle, the following learning outcomes have to be achieved;

20.1. knowledge, its application. The person:

20.1.1. applies creatively the latest knowledge of the theory and methods of social work, global evolution of social work profession, theories about the human behaviour and its changes, social problems and their expression in the multicultural environment, ethical principles, various methodologies of scientific researches, human rights and social justice, national and international social policy, management of social institutions, changes and diversity, cooperation, social development and welfare of society, information, communication and assistance technologies and principles of sustainable development, in the practice of social work and scientific researches;

20.1.2. creates new social work knowledge;

20.1.3. applies the theories of humanities, social and other sciences in practice of social work or in the course of researches, hence consolidating and developing own profession;

20.2. research skills. The person:

20.2.1. initiates, organises, and performs independently the researches directed to various groups of social work clients and their groups, methods of social work, practical culture and ethics, processes of practical work, management of social organisations, social policy, etc., and interprets their results in the interdisciplinary approach, taking national and international perspective into consideration;

20.2.2. applies the research results to model solution of social problems, to develop professional activities through creation and introduction of innovations, and contributes to development of sustainable social policy;

20.2.3. analyses systematically, compares and evaluates critically the foreign experience in creation of social welfare and organisation of social work, searches for the best solutions under the always changing, undefined and complex conditions;

20.3. special abilities. The person:

20.3.1. organises, coordinates, implements and evaluates the social help process and its results, applies the specialised methods of social work, therapy, social help strategies, instils innovations, acts in compliance with the interdisciplinary approach, international experience, and research results;

20.3.2. creates strategic plans, how to develop social services, programmes and projects of prevention of social problems, supervises their implementation, evaluates quality and efficiency of social help, initiates and instils innovations;

20.3.3. coordinates the activities, cooperates on the national and international level, develops the cooperation models between the departments and institutions when the social help is organised and its effectiveness and importance to the individual, family, community and social welfare are substantiated;

20.3.4. assesses critically the strategies of different social policy models used to solve the social problems, applies the holistic approach to evaluate the impact of social policy measures on reduction of poverty and social isolation and harmonious development of society, and initiates the changes in social policy;

20.3.5. follows the values and ethics of social work to observe and assess the implementation of the principles of human rights, social justice and social responsibility in the organisation, community

and while forming the social policy, and gives recommendations, how to improve the implementation of the aforementioned principles;

20.4. social abilities. The person:

20.4.1. communicates and cooperates effectively with the clients, colleagues, politicians, press, scientists, is able to work in team, organises the team work and creates the atmosphere of team work, and demonstrates the leadership skills assuming the social responsibility;

20.4.2. expresses own thoughts orally and in writing smoothly and suggestively in the Lithuanian and foreign languages, participates in the discussions when representing own work, organisation or profession in public space;

20.4.3. discusses relevant issues of theory and practice of social work in the professional and interdisciplinary environment, on the national and international levels, and uses the scientific researches and practical experience as arguments;

20.5. personal abilities. The person:

20.5.1. assesses critically own and colleagues' professional practice, social processes in the society, reflects systematically own professional growth, and assumes responsibility for own and other persons' professional development;

20.5.2. makes independent decisions in difficult and undefined situations;

20.5.3. assesses critically and uses responsibly the national and international sources of information, the latest information, communication and assistance technologies, and confidential information;

20.5.4. creates an image of social work profession, and takes care about the profession's status and significance in the society;

20.5.5. takes care about learning of own personality, its development, professional excellence, and forms personal style of work.

## **CHAPTER IV TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT**

21. Teaching has to be based on the content of the latest achievements in the studied field and to safeguard the possibility for the students to train their critical thinking, to improve the reflective skills based on the cooperation perspective, to encourage to reconsider the values, to recognise the tensions arising in the process of studies and practical work, and to learn to control them.

22. Studying should help the students to gain the professional motivation of social work, to form the professional identity, to create opportunities for the students to achieve the aimed learning outcomes of social work through actualisation of the harmony and relation between theory and practice; and to encourage the objective of life-long learning.

23. The didactic conception of teaching and studying has to cover a flexible application of various study methods while searching for integrated didactic solutions and helping the students to acquire experience-based knowledge that would link training, practice and personal development. It is recommended to apply a model of reflective training in the study process, where the student's experience and knowledge would interact with the newly acquired ones, and where the study process would be followed by reflexions and supervisions (practical seminars), while linking the autonomous learning with responsibility for achievement of the learning outcomes.

24. The selection of the teaching and learning methods has to assure the possibilities to train (acquire) the competences in the study field chosen by the student. The active, individualised and diverse teaching and learning methods should be applied in the studies of social work:

24.1. The gnoseological methods are directed to development of cognitive skills and conveyance of knowledge (conveyance of cognition and knowledge through academic practice), perception of knowledge (narrative, conversation, illustration, demonstration, observation, learning

through cooperation, situation modelling, integration of expertise of personal experience). These methods may be implemented in the course of theoretical sessions.

24.2. The habituating methods are directed to development of special, social and personal abilities (discussion, researches, individual or group works (projects), imitation, brainstorming). These methods may be implemented through workshops and seminars in small groups.

24.3. The methods stimulating independent studies (folder (portfolio), reflexion (self-reflexion, reflexion after reflexion), case analysis, problem solution, imitation, learning games, learning by teaching others, learning from experience, supervision (practical seminar), individual search for problem solution, control, and self-control methods).

24.4. The methods of exploratory character (search for information, reflexion, information analysis and synthesis, performance analysis, application of particular research method, data interpretation, etc.) have to be used as a ground for independent studies.

24.5. The control and self-control methods guarantee a feedback on professional preparation to the teacher and students. These methods enable the student to perform more thorough applied researches described in the course and final works (projects).

25. The studies have to be linked to scientific researches and their dissemination through scientific-practical seminars, researches performed by students in the practical training institutions (participation in the institution's projects, preparation of the final works (projects), presentation of the results of final works (projects) in the places of practical training, and joint publications and reports of the students, teachers and practitioners in the scientific conferences.

26. The studies have to assure preparation of future social workers, who would satisfy the needs of the changing society and labour market; training of the reflective skills in the study programmes creates a possibility to develop the link between the theory and the practice (theoretical courses supplemented by workshops, supervisions (practical seminars) or reflexions intended to consolidate the feedback, and integration of the expert knowledge based on personal experience); and to spread good practice (the students make public presentations of the performed projects in the conferences and places of practical training, give suggestions, how to organise professional practical training for students, and report the professional expectations and achievements; the graduates share their professional experience, make suggestions, how to improve the study process; the professional social workers and other stakeholders take part in the discussions about improvement of the content of professional practical training of the students and conformity of its quality with the needs of the labour market).

27. The assessment system has to cover diverse assessment methods enabling to observe the student's professional and personal growth, achievements with regard to the aimed outcomes, and to assess the theoretical knowledge and practical skills in the coherent mode. An important aspect of the assessment system are assessment criteria and their thorough and substantiated preparation.

28. In order to assure active work of the students in the course of the entire semester, the ability to apply theoretical knowledge in practice, and objective evaluation of the learning outcomes, it is recommended to apply a cumulative assessment. When the assessment criteria are formulated, the threshold criteria are defined that describe the minimum compulsory learning outcome to be evaluated positively.

29. The feedback between all the participants of the teaching and learning process provides an opportunity to create a creative environment for studies, to analyse and consider continuously the effectiveness of cooperation in the teaching and learning process (in the lecture hall and in the place of practical training), and to foresee the perspective of the studies' improvement. In order to monitor the quality of the studies and to encourage the natural desire of the students to learn, the feedback and reflexion are very important as they enable the student to self-assess own learning achievements.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF STUDY PROGRAMMES**

30. The requirements imposed for the teachers teaching the study programmes of professional bachelor, bachelor and master are the following:

30.1. the subjects of the study programmes of the first and second cycles may be taught by the persons, who have at least the master's degree and the qualification in higher education that would be in conformity with the field of studies or researches of the taught subject. All the teachers in the study field of social work have to link the taught subject to the problems of social work, and to illustrate the theoretical knowledge with the examples from practical social work;

30.2. at least half of the teachers teaching the subjects in the study field of social work shall have at least the master's degree in social sciences (field of social work), and the remaining part – at least the master's degree in other social sciences;

30.3. the teachers teaching the subjects intended for deeper specialisation in the field of social work and necessary for acquisition of competences for the work with the individual, family, group and community must have at least the master's degree in social sciences (field of social work) and experience in researches or practical work in the field of social work;

30.4. the teachers may coordinate the professional practical training of the students in higher education institutions if they have at least the bachelor's or professional bachelor's degree in social sciences (field of social work) in case of colleges, and at least the master's degree in social sciences (field of social work) in case of universities. It is recommended that the teachers coordinating the practical training of the students at higher education institutions would have the experience of teaching of the subjects in the study field of social work and/or practical social work experience of at least three years.

31. In case of the college studies, at least 10 percent of the volume of the subjects in the study field should be taught by the scientists with the doctoral degree, who would be conducting researches in the field of social work and publishing their results in the scientific publications, and participating in the national and international scientific and practical events on social work. At least 50 percent of the teachers of the study programme should have the experience of practical work and/or voluntary work in the area of taught subject of at least 3 years.

32. In case of the university studies of the first cycle, at least half volume of the subjects in the study field should be taught by the scientists with the doctoral degree, who would be conducting researches in the field of social work and publishing their results in the scientific publications, and participating in the national and international scientific and practical events on social work.

33. In case of the studies of the second cycle, at least 80 percent of the volume of the subjects in the study field should be taught by the scientists with the doctoral degree, where the field of scientific researches conducted by at least 60 percent of the teachers of the subjects in the field should comply with the subjects they teach. Other teachers may be practitioners, who would have acquired at least 3-year professional practical experience in the last 7 years in compliance with the taught subjects. At least 20 percent of the subjects in the study field should be taught by the teachers, who hold the professor's office.

34. The studies of the first and second cycle in the field of social work end in the final work (project).

35. The professional bachelor's final work (project) of the first cycle has to be based on independent applied researches, to manifest the student's ability to analyse the cases of social work practice, and to foresee the expansion possibilities of social services in the institution or community. The final work (project) has to be based on the knowledge and skills acquired in the course of studies, and to manifest the capacities complying with the programme's aims. The student should use the final work (project) to show his or her level of knowledge and skills, ability to analyse the selected topic, to

take the results of earlier researches in the field of social work in consideration, to study independently, to carry out the empirical researches oriented to the practice of social work, to describe the performed practical research work, and to formulate clear and reasoned conclusions and recommendations, how to improve social work. The final works (projects) shall be prepared according to the requirements approved by the higher education institution.

36. The final work (project) of the studies of the first cycle has to be based on independent scientific researches and application of the knowledge, or prepared as the project that discloses the abilities in conformity of the programme's aims. The student should use the final work (project) to show his or her level of knowledge and skills, ability to analyse the selected topic, to take the results of earlier researches in the field (or branch) of social work in consideration, to study independently, to carry out the researches in the field (or branch) of social work, to describe the performed research work, and to formulate clear and reasoned research conclusions and recommendations according to the requirements of the higher education institution.

37. The final work (project) of the studies of the second cycle has to be based on independent scientific researches and application of the knowledge, or prepared as the project that discloses the abilities in conformity of the programme's aims. The student should use the final work (project) to show his or her level of knowledge and skills, ability to analyse the selected topic, to take the results of earlier national and international researches in the field (or branch) of social work in consideration, to study independently, to carry out the researches in the field (or branch) of social work, to present interpretations of the research results, to describe the performed research work, and to formulate clear and reasoned research conclusions and recommendations according to the requirements of the higher education institution.

38. When the final work (project) of the college studies of the first cycle is assessed, at least one member of the assessment and defence commission of final works (projects) must have a doctoral degree. At least one member of the commission has to be from another higher education institution that prepares specialists of social work, and at least one member has to be a representative of stakeholders. When the final work (project) of the university studies of the first cycle is assessed, at least 50 percent of the members of the assessment and defence commission of final works (projects) must have a doctoral degree. When the final work (project) of the studies of the second cycle is assessed, all the members of the assessment and defence commission of final works (projects) must have a doctoral degree, save for one member – representative of stakeholders, who must have at least the master's degree in social sciences. It is recommended for the chair of the commission to hold the professor's office.

39. The higher education institution shall choose the defence method of the final work (open, closed).

40. The professional practical training is an integral and compulsory part of the study programme.

41. It is recommended that the volume of professional practical training in the study programmes of the first cycle would amount to 30 study credits at the most. Depending on the character of the study programme, the professional practical training in the study programme of the second cycle (scientific research practical training, practical training of social work management) would amount to at least 5 study credits.

42. The professional practical training in the study programmes of social science is organised in accordance with the procedure prepared by the higher education institution for professional practical training.

43. It is recommended to give at least 15 percent of the time of professional practical training for individual and group reflexions or supervisions (practical seminars) in case of studies of the first and second cycles.

44. The conditions for experience-based learning have to be created in the course of the organisation process of professional practical training by linking the professional activities, teaching and development of personality:

44.1. the professional practical training in the college studies has to be followed by supervisions conducted by the supervisor (a person, who has completed the supervision training programmes) or the teacher, who would have certain consulting competences. During the supervisions (practical seminars), the students reflect practical cases, share their experience, and consider critically the process of critical training with regard to the contexts of studies and practical training in the organisations. It is recommended to conduct the supervision (practical seminars) for the groups of students not exceeding 12 persons;

44.2. the professional practical training in the university studies of the first cycle has to be followed by group workshops of analysis of practical cases conducted by the teacher, who has been trained as a supervisor (a person, who has completed the supervision training programmes) or the teacher, who would have other experience of group work, consulting, coaching, etc. During the supervisions (practical seminars), the students reflect practical cases, share their experience, and consider critically the process of critical training with regard to the contexts of studies and practical training in the organisations. It is recommended to conduct the supervision (practical seminars) for the groups of students not exceeding 12 persons;

44.3. the professional practical training in the studies of the second cycle has to be followed by individual or group supervisions (practical seminars) conducted by the teacher, who has been trained as a supervisor (a person with the master's degree in social work, who has completed the supervision training programmes) or the teacher, who would have consulting experience. The purpose of the supervisions (practical seminars) is consulting on practical training with the focus on practical situations, their structural and institutional preconditions, and the crucial interaction of participants in practical training in these situations. During the supervision (practical seminars), the dynamics of relations, professional, organisational and field dynamics are taken into consideration. The supervision (practical seminars) has to be conducted for the groups of students not exceeding 12 persons.

45. The process of organisation of practical training shall be implemented in cooperation with the stakeholders:

45.1. the tutors of practical training supervising the professional practical training of the students in institutions or organisations shall be involved into the process of improvement of the content of practical tasks and organisation of practical training;

45.2. the tutors of practical training supervising the professional practical training of the students of college studies in institutions or organisations must have at least the professional bachelor's or bachelor's degree in the study field of social work and at least three-year practical work experience of social work;

45.3. the tutors of practical training supervising the professional practical training of the students of university studies of the first cycle in institutions or organisations must have at least the master's degree in the study field of social work and at least three-year practical work experience of social work;

45.4. the professional practical training of the students of the studies of the second cycle in institutions or organisations has to be tutored only by the university's professor who has the doctoral degree in the field of social work, whose researches would cover the field of practical social work and/or who would have at least three-year practical work experience of social work.

46. The tasks of the professional practical training shall be prepared aiming at professional growth and linking the academic preparation with the competence of practical activity. The professional practical training in the college and university studies of the first cycle shall be organised in such a way so that the student would get familiar with the institutions providing various social services and would be able to train the professional competences starting with the observation and

ending with independent performance of functions under supervision of the tutor of practical training in the receiving institution. The tasks of the professional practical training of the second cycle shall be presented in such a way as to enable the students to develop their managerial, scientific research and other skills, depending on the field of social work practical training selected by the higher education institution. It is important to create conditions for sharing the professional experience and getting ready for innovative creation of social work under the conditions of systemic changes and transformations.

47. The student should be encouraged to take part in various voluntary activities in different social institutions and projects from the very beginning of the studies, hence encouraging the students to improve their practical skills.

48. The unit implementing the study programme of social work should have sufficient material and information resources to carry the study programme out qualitatively. The following material facilities are recommended for successful study programme:

48.1. the lecture halls have to satisfy the requirements of hygiene and work safety and they must have modern audio and video equipment;

48.2. special premises (with adjustable equipment, furniture) are recommended for group work, development of communication skills, etc;

48.3. sufficient number of computers with text, qualitative and quantitative data processing and innovative teaching software;

48.4. the libraries and reading rooms must have sufficient number of scientific literature needed to implement the study programme, textbooks, methodical publications, manuals and other publications in the Lithuanian and foreign languages. The libraries must have computers with Internet access to international databases;

48.5. the information related to the studies (curricula, descriptors of subjects, timetables, etc.) shall be made publicly available on the website of the higher education institution;

48.6. the programmes adjusted to the students with special needs (persons with vision, hearing or mobility impairments) have to be available.

49. The higher education institution shall conduct the continuous improvement of the study programme of social work by updating the study programme in accordance with the latest legal acts; by developing purposefully the teachers' qualification; by participating in the exchange programmes of teachers and students, and by organising the internships.

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