

# Higher Education's responsibility for developing research mindedness – University and Local Partner Perspectives

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# Agenda

- Presentation – presenters and context
- Introduction – arguments for research collaboration in higher education
- The concept of research mindedness
- Research mindedness and service learning
- An arena to develop research mindedness – “The Research Marketplace”
- What’s in it for practice?
- What’s in it for university?
- Questions and discussion



# University of Stavanger

## Ullandhaug Campus



# Faculty of Social Sciences

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- Norwegian School of Hotel Management
- Department of Business Administration
- Department of Media, Culture and Social Sciences
- **Department of Social Studies**
  - Master of Applied Social Science
- **Department of Health Studies**
  - Master of Health Science



# Introduction

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- Arguments for research collaboration in higher education (HE)
  - make education and research more accessible to the general public
  - utilize and implement research in practice
  - ensure that education and research are useful to society
  - promote human rights values for society



# The concept of research mindedness <sup>(1)</sup>

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New understanding of expertise as networked expertise in terms of higher-level cognitive competencies, that arise from sustained collaborative efforts to solve problems and build knowledge together



# The concept of research mindedness (2)

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HE: research based education

Practice: research based practice

Research as the core of collaboration

Mutual developed research activities



# Research mindedness - Service learning

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- Service learning
  - a teaching strategy that provides immediate opportunities to apply classroom learning, enrich students' outcome and enhance the work of local agencies.

(Florida Department of Education)
  
- Research mindedness
  - A unifying concept which implies "an ideal of a reflexive expert and a researching-practitioner and practice research"

(Karvinen-Niinikoski 2005:259).



# "The Research Market Place"

- A meeting place between
  - University – researchers
  - Health- and Social Services – practitioners
  - Civil Society Organisations – CSO's
  - University – master students



# The Research Market Place aims to

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- introduce students to meaningful research questions, relevant to society
- use students' research resources to strengthen the University's service to society by means of research relevant to societal needs
- contribute to strengthening research mindedness within the health and social services.

# Implementation strategies

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- An annual seminar
  - where representatives from CSOs and welfare services present and discuss themes and questions they would like explored. The seminar serves as a meeting place between CSO representatives, students and supervisors.
- A website
  - to provide information about research questions, ongoing and completed projects, contact persons, etc.
- A part time coordinator
  - to moderate the activities.

# What's in it for practice?

## Example: Stavanger Shelter

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- Very inspiring to have researchers working on "our" questions
- Students research has a direct influence on our work, which benefits those in need of support and services
  - Two master projects have been accomplished and contributed to develop useful knowledge within our area of work on two important topics:
    1. how persons with ethnic minority backgrounds experience domestic violence, and what they do in order to survive and escape a violent relationship
    2. violence during pregnancy

# What's in it for practice?

## Example: Stavanger Shelter

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- Understanding research methods makes it easier to evaluate empirical publications and our own practice
  - employees have become more aware of new research and the importance of this
- New issues and discussions have been raised that might lead to improved quality of services
  - new knowledge means improved help and support to our clients; (Ex. sleep after trauma)
- Collaboration with university helps to identify and reflect on interesting questions and undertake small projects

# What's in it for university? <sup>(1)</sup>

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- Support the university's role of service to society
- Encourage collaboration with local/regional partners
- Establish university as a meeting place for combining research – education – practice for knowledge production and nett working
- Offer education close to the practice context/area



## What's in it for university? <sup>(2)</sup>

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- Generate interesting master projects for students which are relevant for societal needs
- Make it easier to recruit practice placements and create conditions for service learning
- Develop students' research mindedness
- Contribute to improving services

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