

Example: Embedding LOCUS in a 6-credit course on ‘Professional Development’

This attachment to the LOCUS Project Result 5 shows the information and instructions 1st Bachelor students received at the start of the semester at the AP University College of Applied Sciences in Antwerp Belgium.

1. The Assignment in 2023-2024

What?

It is an international (European) project with two central questions:

- How can social workers gain a good understanding of the experiences, needs, and preferences of urban residents, and how can they engage these citizens and their knowledge in a more collaborative and inclusive way?
- How do we prepare social work students to contribute to social inclusion and community building in the European cities of the 21st century from an investigative stance?

How will we answer these questions?

We will send you into a socio-economically disadvantaged urban neighborhood to talk with residents and gather data. This data will be processed, and your findings will be discussed with fellow students, neighborhood residents, and social professionals. In other words, this is your first research experience. You will get a taste of what research entails and utilize methods from the research field. For LOCUS, this involves both qualitative and quantitative research.

This project runs simultaneously in several European cities, allowing us to compare data from different countries. The partner cities are:

- Madrid, Spain
- Oslo, Norway
- Tallinn, Estonia
- Amsterdam, Netherlands

The project is not only an international collaboration but also a partnership between AP University College and a partner from the field. For Antwerp, SAAMO is our partner. The

material you collect will be processed and provided to SAAMO, which will use this data to further develop its operations. Your contribution thus has significant added value.

And within Professional Development?

We define Deurne North as the area to be surveyed. We divide the neighbourhood into three sub-areas (each learning group is assigned an area).

You are tasked with conducting at least 7 interviews (per person) with residents of Deurne North. You will work in pairs in the neighbourhood. Using a survey and questionnaire, you will try to gain insight into how residents view their neighbourhood. Based on the collected material (interviews, neighbourhood walk, and your own impressions), you will collectively depict the neighbourhood.

During a closing moment, the data from all groups will be presented to neighbourhood residents, SAAMO community workers, and other professionals in the area. Each learning group will also present their perspective on the neighbourhood to all involved.

How will we proceed concretely...

1. The First Meeting

During the first meeting, we will review all the information and introduce the LOCUS project. After this meeting, you will go through a learning path and review the questionnaire for the first time.

2. During the 3-Day Event

During the 3-day event, one day we will be hosted by SAAMO at community center Dinamo. SAAMO will introduce itself and delve into the project. You will learn which sub-area you will be responsible for with your learning group. Additionally, you will assign different roles within your group for the project.

The ambassadors will go out with the neighbourhood coordinator to get to know the area. These students will participate in a neighbourhood walk and report back to the rest of the group.

Other students will meet some volunteers from the community center. After an informal introduction to the volunteers, you will practice conducting an interview for the first time. Finally, you will make arrangements within your group for the next steps.

After the 3-day event, you will be ready to head out and conduct interviews BEFORE April 15.

3. **Going Out in the Neighborhood**

After the neighbourhood walk, you can start going out in pairs.

Each time you go out, we ask you to write a brief reflection as a duo. A template for this is available on Digitap. This reflection helps to depict the neighbourhood.

4. **Follow-Up Meetings (Week of April 21)**

During this meeting, you will work with your group. You will need to work independently as there will be simultaneous follow-up meetings. You will reflect on your experience and your view of the neighborhood, using your reflections.

During the meeting, you will compile all this information and process it into a paper for SAAMO. You will present the content creatively during the closing moment. Additionally, you will work on a poster (in both Dutch and English) to introduce the neighborhood to students from partner schools.

5. **Final Meeting (Week of May 20)**

Together with SAAMO, we will organize a closing moment for LOCUS in Deurne North. All collected data will be presented to students, neighborhood residents, SAAMO colleagues, and other partners in the area. In addition to general information about the neighborhood, each learning group will present their perspective on the area.

After the presentations, we will organize conversation tables to discuss the results. Neighborhood residents and professionals will engage with you and your group about the findings and results.

6. **Practical: The Different Roles within P-ONT**

- **Interviewer and Reporter:** The reporter enters the data immediately so that the interviewer can focus on the conversation. Everyone will go out in pairs to interview at least 14 people. You will conduct a minimum of 7 interviews and take notes for 7 of them. Make sure to have a smartphone, as you will input the answers via a digital tool. You and your partner will choose when to

conduct the interviews. We do ask that after each outing, you write a brief reflection using the provided template, which you will post on Digitap. This reflection will also serve as your preparation for the follow-up meeting.

- **Ambassadors (3 per learning group):** These ambassadors will participate in the neighborhood walk during the 3-day event. They will share their insights and experiences with the rest of the group.
- **Visual Thinkers:** Together with a few students, you will be responsible for depicting the neighborhood. You will present the group paper during the closing moment and create a poster of your conclusions in both English and Dutch.
- **Reporting:** Students who want to sharpen their writing skills can take on this role. Together with fellow students, you will be responsible for documenting the outcomes of the follow-up meeting and delivering them to the professionals at SAAMO.
- **Speakers:** Together with a few fellow students, you will present the results during the closing meeting.
- **Process Coordinator:** Together with a fellow student, you will take the lead overall. You will motivate your peers to conduct their interviews and shape the follow-up meeting.

2. The First Meeting:

Students will receive information about the project using the 5W+1H method. In a few slides, the following questions will be answered:

- What is LOCUS?
- Where (Deurne North + distribution of neighborhood plans)
- When
- Why
- Who is SAAMO?
- How? Street interviews => What is your contribution?

3. During the 3-Day Event

Objective:

Learning Goals (with relevant information):

- You demonstrate insight into the field of social work (getting to know the workings of SAAMO).
- You contribute constructively to group collaboration (making agreements within the group).
- You relate experiences regarding concrete social work practice to your professional development as a social worker (learning more about the social worker as a critically investigative professional).

Lesson Goals:

- The assignment of LOCUS is clear.
- Students have made initial agreements within their groups.
- The neighbourhoods have been explored (either physically or through interviews with Dinamo volunteers).

Preparation:

- Students received a general introduction to LOCUS during the first P-ONT meeting.
- The neighbourhoods have been divided among the groups.
- They have received the link to the survey.
- Students have viewed the knowledge clips in the learning path.

In preparation for today:

- Students have thoroughly reviewed the questionnaire.

Materials:

- Maps of Antwerp North with neighborhood boundaries (1 neighborhood per learning group).
- Agreement template (on Digitap).
- Reconstruction materials (for each group).

Timing and Content:

10:00 or 14:00

Kick-off: Reconstruction

Students will receive the LOCUS process in separate components (these are mixed up). They will be tasked with reconstructing the process.

The group that finishes first will call a facilitator to check their work.

Solution:

1. Project presentation
2. Preparation for street interviews / Neighborhood walk with SAAMO
3. Street interviews
4. Reflection on the interviews
5. Reflection on experiences
6. Depicting the neighborhood
7. Writing the group paper
8. Feedback of results to neighborhood residents and professionals in the area

After this warm-up, the groups will come together to make their first agreements (using the template). It is especially important to identify who the ambassadors will be. (This is with 2 or 3 groups together)

10:30 or 14:30

Presentation of SAAMO

by Joke Verlaet from SAAMO

Presentation of the Deurne North neighborhood:

What is specific? What is important to know? ...

With space for student questions!

(This is with 2 or 3 groups together)

11:00 or 15:00

The ambassadors will go out with Ignace Bruggeman, neighborhood coordinator of Deurne North, to get to know the area.

Other students will meet volunteers from the Dinamo community center.

11:15 or 15:15 Let's Get Started!

Depending on the number of volunteers, students will divide themselves.

Students will work together with the volunteers. They will get to know each other by:

- Students sharing where they live.
- Students sharing their impressions of Deurne North (noting this on paper).
- Volunteers sharing where they live in Deurne North.
- Volunteers responding to the initial impressions (whether they agree, what students might not see, etc.).

After the introductions, students will practice conducting an interview for the first time. They will agree on who will interview and who will take notes (in the digital questionnaire).

After the interview, each party will share their experiences:

- Volunteer (interviewee)
- Interviewer
- Note-taker

Together, they will look for points of attention or tips to improve street interviews.

If time allows, this exercise can be repeated (but do not register results in the digital tool).

However, also allow time to discuss with the volunteer to list good locations in the neighborhood.

12:30 or 16:30 Session Wrap-Up

- Brief exchange between ambassadors and other students.
- Students finalize agreements using the agreement template.

13:00 or 17:00 End (and return to campus)

4. Follow-Up Meetings

Content of the Meeting

During this meeting, you will work with your group on the LOCUS project. You will compile individual reflections into one group paper. During the meeting, you will receive guidelines and guiding questions to work with. This group paper will be submitted to the project's field partner.

In addition to this paper, you will work on depicting the neighborhood. You will gather the collected material, select it, and ensure it forms a cohesive whole. In the final meeting, you will present these findings to residents, the field partner, and other interested parties. Finally, you will create a poster that visually summarizes the key information at a glance. This poster will also be translated into English, allowing students from other universities to gain insight into Deurne North.

During the meeting, go to the following link/sway. There you will receive all the information regarding LOCUS.

Approach:

a) LOCUS – Group Paper (50 min)

You will pair up (with a different partner than the one you went out with) and exchange your individual reflections (10 min).

- What stood out to you?
- What is notable about the neighborhood?
- How would you describe the neighborhood?

After this first round, you will sit down with another pair. You will share the answers to your questions and work on: (15 min)

- What answers did you receive to the open questions (not the questions on the phone)?
- Are there similarities? What does this say about the neighborhood?

Now you will meet with the whole group and formulate answers to the following questions (25 min):

- Who did you see in the neighborhood? Who did you not see?
- How does time determine who is present?
- What is a livable place for you?
- If you were the mayor, what would you focus on, and what would the neighborhood look like?
- What do you see as the strengths and challenges of the neighborhood?
- Where do you see potential?

You will make agreements about who will write the paper (or which parts), who will proofread, who will submit the paper to the facilitator, etc. These agreements will be posted in your group's Teams environment.

b) LOCUS - Visual Material (30 min creativity + 1 hour concrete work)

The other product is 'something' to depict the neighborhood. These 'videos/narrated PPTs, etc.' must be in English so they can be shared with partners in other countries. Students will review the assignment.

Before students start working on the assignment, there will be a mini creativity session.

Exercise 1: Set a timer for 3 minutes. Each student has a sheet with circles (see attachment at the bottom).

Set your timer for three minutes and start sketching. What then? Whatever you want! As long as they are somewhat recognizable objects.

Discuss your results in pairs.

Now that the brain is warmed up, let's get to work on the assignment, but not just any way... Divide the group into 4, and with your group, choose 1 way (agree not to look at the problem the same way) to approach the issue:

- Think about how your grandmother would carry out the assignment.
 - Think about how you could fail to depict the neighborhood.
 - Think about how you could depict the neighborhood very small.
 - Think about how you could make the assignment very large.
 - Think about how you could depict the neighborhood in 1 minute.
 - Think about how you would present the neighborhood to people who cannot see.
 - ...
5. Brainstorm and select your 3 best ideas. After 15 minutes, share these ideas with the group using the nominal technique. After step 4, you must decide as a group how to proceed.

Now continue working on the assignment for the rest of the time. But make a task division, agree, communicate, and work constructively together.

5. Final Community Meeting

See script (different document).