


# International Summer School 2027 SUINSO

## "Sustainability, Innovation and Solidarity in the fields of New Work, Future Health and Zero Emissions"

## Overview

How will we work in the future—and how can working life become more sustainable, innovative and solidaric? This International Summer School 2027 SUINSO invites students to explore these questions from interdisciplinary and global perspectives. It focuses on the future of work and examines both the opportunities and the challenges involved in shaping sustainable, innovative and solidarity-based forms of working life.

#### What participants will do

Students work in international teams on current 'glocal' challenges, identified and specified by companies and organisations in the fields of New Work, Future Health and Zero Emission. The module combines research-based learning with practical collaboration: participants analyse real-world problems, explore them in depth, and develop, test and implement concrete solutions together with practitioners.

#### Why this module matters

The module looks at working life not only in standard employment settings, but also in many different other contexts shaped by new individual and social challenges related to health and illness, difficult access to the labour market, or the need for further training and qualification due to the transformation of the labour world. Proposed solutions are examined through the connected lenses of sustainability, innovation and solidarity, helping students link these dimensions systematically and apply them to real-world questions. In this way students contribute to real change in companies and organizations with a local and global – glocal – impact!

#### What students gain

Participants strengthen their intercultural competence, deepen self-reflection in an international context, and contribute to innovative solutions for new challenges related to the transformation of the world of work by developing new professional competences in innovation, sustainability and solidarity.

#### Context

This module is part of the FHNW School of Social Work and FHNW ChallengeEU initiative. It is conducted in collaboration with the FHNW School of Business, FHNW Basel Academy of Art and Design, FHNW School of Life Sciences, FHNW Basel Academy of Music, Mid Sweden University (Sweden, ChallengeEU), University of Warmia and Mazury (Poland, ChallengeEU), Aydin University Istanbul (Turkey), University of Applied Sciences Neubrandenburg (Germany), University of Gdansk (Poland), Babeș-Bolyai University (Romania), Saphir Academic College (Israel), University of Applied Sciences htw saar (Germany), Schewchenko University (Ukraine), Kenyatta University Nairobi (Kenya), South African College of Applied Psychology (South

Africa), Trent University (Canada), Berlin School of Economics and Law (Germany), University of Education Freiburg (Germany).

## Module content

This module addresses and discusses topics related to solidarity in social work and beyond from an interdisciplinary perspective. The focus is on work areas and activities, examining their contexts regarding current challenges related to new work, future health, and zero emissions. These topics serve as a foundation for linking theoretical and empirical perspectives on social practices of solidarity within local, regional, national, and global contexts. Solidarity is examined in relation to challenges associated with social modernization, the transformation of the world of work, and the welfare state. The various levels are systematically linked, with a particular emphasis on the global level and its connection to local challenges and approaches to action.
The module will present concrete forms of international cooperation developed and implemented at the HSA FHNW within the framework of sustainable global (social) work. The module will be conducted in English, and colleagues from international partner universities will be invited to participate. The module will be offered in a blended learning format to enable access for students from partner universities, especially those from the Global South. Additionally, students and practice organizations will be involved in developing a sustainable, innovative, interdisciplinary course.



## Didactic concept

During the Exploration Week, we will further develop, and supplement established teaching and learning formats that contribute to the development of professional competence based on the acquisition of specialist knowledge, technical and methodological skills, and social and personal skills. To this end, the module will focus on creating spaces for experimentation, where new approaches to selected future fields can be developed and experienced innovatively. This will be achieved by challenge-based-learning: initiating collaborative group processes in which students work with university partners, practitioners, and international guests on real-world issues. Specific didactic formats, such as dialogue-based settings, and low-threshold creative approaches (e.g., mapping and visual work), will help identify and address intercultural and interdisciplinary "limits to learning" (Mergner) and overcome them to broaden perspectives. To this end participants can learn about and from their different personal, social, and cultural experiences and backgrounds.

## Key facts

**Initial Competencies:** None

**Requirements:** It is important that you accept the MS-Teams invitation from the module coordinator in good time and regularly check your messages on MS-Teams and Mailbox. All materials and results will be uploaded to MS-Teams. During the block week, you must have access to a laptop or tablet to be able to work.

**Module Language:** English

**Competence Acquisition:**

- **Social competence:** Students develop the ability to act interculturally.
- **Self-competence:** Students strengthen their ability to reflect on themselves and expand their knowledge in an international context in a self-regulated manner.
- **Professional competence:** Students apply their knowledge to innovation, sustainability and solidarity in the working world.

**Module Duration and Dates:**

- **Preparation:** 14 June and 16 August 2027, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CEST, online (MS-Teams) and on-site in Muttenz, Switzerland
- **Main course:** 6 to 10 September 2027, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CEST, online (MS-Teams) and on-site in Muttenz, Switzerland
- **Follow-up:** 20 October and 3 November 2027, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CEST, online (MS-Teams) and on-site in Muttenz, Switzerland

**Module Scope:** 3 ECTS

**Grading:** pass/fail

**Transcript of Records:** compulsory attendance (online or on-site), preparatory literature, a learning diary and presentations

**Module Coordinators:** Prof. Dr. Thomas Geisen, Maria Jastrzebska, M.A. Social Work

**Contact**: thomas.geisen@fhnw.ch; maria.jastrzebska@fhnw.ch

**Involved Lecturers and Students:** Prof. Dr. Thomas Geisen (co-module director, School of Social Work FHNW, Switzerland), Maria B. Jastrzebska (co-module director, School of Social Work FHNW, Switzerland), Dominique Zehntner (MA student and research assistant, School of Social Work FHNW, Switzerland), Pierrine Theiler (BA student, School of Social Work FHNW, Switzerland), Kamar Alhuzail (BA student Sapir Academic College, Israel), Maria-Ecaterina Tarniceru (BA student Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, Romania), Sara Rybakowska (BA student University of Gdansk, Poland), Sesihle Mathebula (MA student South African College of Applied Psychology, Johannesburg, South Africa), Prof. Dr. Guy Ochsenbein (School of Business FHNW, Switzerland), Prof. Pieter J. Perrett (School of Business FHNW, Switzerland), Lena Breitenmoser (School of Life Sciences FHNW, Switzerland), André Affendranger (EcoSolidar, Basel, Switzerland), Michèle Fehlmann (Oeko Service GmbH, Zurich, Switzerland), Prof. Dr. Neşe Şahin Taşğın (Maltepe University, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Istanbul, Turkey), Ass. Prof. Dr. Öğretim Üyesi Nurdan Bürüngüz (Maltepe University, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Istanbul, Turkey), Prof. Dr. John Selander (Mid Sweden University, Östersund, Sweden – ChallengeEU), Dr. Poppy Masinga (South African College of Applied Psychology, Johannesburg, South Africa) , Prof. Dr. Nuzha Allassad Alhuzail (Negev Sapir Academic College, Hof Ashkelon, Israel), Roshini Pillay (PhD, Lecturer, Department of Social Work, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa), Dr. Daniel M. Muia (Lecturer, Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya), Prof. Dr. Marcin Boryczko (University of Gdańsk, Gdańsk, Poland), Prof. Dr. Júlia Wéber (University of Applied Sciences Neubrandenburg, Germany), Prof. Dr. Viorela Ducu Telegdi Csetri (Babeș-Bolyai University, in Cluj-Napoca, Romania), Prof. Dr. Ulrike Zöller (University of Applied Sciences htw saar, Germany), Prof. Dr. Oksana Boyko (Schewchenko University, Ukraine), Prof. Dr. Bharati Sethi (Trent University, Canada), Prof. Dr. Uwe

Bittlingmayer (University of Education Freiburg, Germany), Prof. Dr. Dr. Aylin Yildirim Tschoepe (Basel Academy of Art and Design FHNW, Switzerland), Dr. Lena Bloemertz (University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland FHNW, Switzerland), Dr. Marta Sliwa (University of Warmia and Mazury, Poland, ChallengeEU).

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