

## Introduction to Teaching Resources

Before you start working with the cases, we recommend that you consult the *Urban SOS framework for value-based social work in an urban environment*. You can find the text either under the title 'research' at the front page of the platform or use the 'introduction to the urban sos framework'-theme under the title 'training courses for social work professionals.'

Our cases and stories are constructed in a way where the readers are introduced to an empirical context, which is observed and analyzed according to the Urban SOS framework. The questions and exercises accompanying each case and story are designed to facilitate an open and holistic discussion where students are encouraged to become more aware of the assumptions and values that underpin their understanding of the themes they are working with.

The cases and stories can be used in educational activities as they are, but each of them is also accompanied by suggestions for further exploration into the topic, for example, podcasts or further reading.

In the Urban SOS project, a total of 8 research based cases and 7 stories have been developed. They are all based on anthropological fieldwork carried out in the participating work field organizations in 2019, 2020, and 2021: CAW in Ghent, Kalliola Settlement House in Helsinki, Combiwel and Arkin in Amsterdam, Kofeods School, the Men's Home and the Homeless Unit, Social Services, Municipality of Copenhagen in Copenhagen. In the cases you become familiar with the organizations; the work they do and the dilemmas and urban issues they face. The cases and stories are a product of a close collaboration between the researchers and the social workers who have been involved in the research. The concrete fieldwork has been carried out differently in the four cities, but qualitative methods such as participant observation, observations, interviews, and conversations have been used by all researchers.

While the themes and style of the cases and stories vary across the contexts in which they have been produced, they were all constructed and analyzed by asking the same questions four value rational questions:

- Where are we going?
- Is this development desirable?
- What, if anything should we do about it?
- Who gains and who loses and by which mechanisms of power?

The *Urban SOS framework for value-based social work in an urban environment* constitutes the foundation of all research and analytical activities carried out in the Urban SOS project. Thus, when you read and work with the cases and stories, the perspectives, theories, and concepts that are brought together in the framework should resonate with your reading. In essence, the framework and project rests on the roots of emancipatory and critical social work. In addition, the framework draws on components from multiple academic disciplines, such as geography, philosophy, and anthropology.

As described in the framework text, none of these disciplines are fully realized in the project. Rather, we have been eclectic and singled out the perspectives and methodological principles that we find most useful to identify and analyze the challenges and changes caused by current processes of urbanization. Our interest is directed specifically towards the effects of these processes on the social work profession and vulnerable citizens. We hope you will enjoy working with the materials!