

TISSA 2006

Serving Citizens.
Sustaining Civil Society as Social Work Issue

4th TISSA Plenum
August 27 to 30, 2006

&
PreConference of
PhD-Network
August 24 to 26, 2006

in
Kaunas, Lithuania

Host Institution:



Institute of
Educational Studies
Kaunas University
of Technology



"Serving Citizens. Sustaining Civil Society as Social Work Issue" raises the question of the roles, tasks, and capacities of social work with respect to the social, cultural and political struggling for civil society.

The general focus is on the quest to establish and enhance spirited democratic civil societies. This implies the necessity to analyse current societal formations in order to identify structures and dynamics being conducive or constraining to a vibrant realm of the public. To deliver the conditions of possibility for a substantially democratic public realm are fundamental issues of social and political justice. They are essentially cashed out in the removal of structural barriers with respect to a democratically significant public realm implying a socially secured parity of participation. This presupposes publicly warranted opportunities which are to be reconciled with individual capabilities to perform what the idea of civil society may promise.

Recognising that the quality of the relations of public institutions and agencies to the citizens, they are assigned to serve, is an important feature of the quality of civil society, implies that especially social services are demanded to reflect their relation to service users as citizens. In this respect the organisation of social services, the quality of service production and consequently professionalism in social work might be considered as not only 'technical' but highly political aspects of civil society.

To meet the requirements of this substantial topic for current social work, three subject areas are defined for the discussion during the **TISSA Plenum 2006**:

- the social and political framework for sustaining civil society,
- the organisation, quality & professionalism of serving citizens,
- the challenges for social work education and research.

Social work is deeply enmeshed in shaping the potential meaning and substance of a future civil society as well as an agent within the political arena of its current reality. The coactions of social work practice, education and research are indispensable to encourage the active participation of citizens and social professions in the sustaining development of civil society.

***** If you don't go to Chile — join TISSA in Lithuania! *****

CALL FOR PAPERS

The **PhD-Network of TISSA** aspires to establish a broad international cooperation of PhD-students in the field of social professions. Within the structure of TISSA an active participation in current professional debates is promoted and supported. Emergent scholars get the opportunity to present their dissertation projects in a broad international context and to enlist contacts which are relevant for their research topic.

Each year, international professors and experts are attached to the PreConference as 'supervisors' for the PhD-students. Thus a new generation of professionals can acquire and exercise those skills, which are necessary to cope with contemporary challenges of societies in transition and their impact on social services.

Active Participation

Pursuant to last years feedback the PreConference is enlarged up to three days. Thereby a broader variety of settings for the concentrated working process is intended.

Besides the presentations of ongoing doctoral research projects (ODR) during the plenary sessions, there will also be the opportunity to prepare the dissertation project for the poster session.

Supervisors will give short morning lectures about international social work research and education.

In addition, four thematic working groups will allow all participants to prepare for an advanced TISSA Plenum debate.

According to participants' response, the working groups will be based on selected literature and empirical studies. This shared knowledge base will facilitate a common clearing process and thus enhance the analysis of the TISSA topic.

The PreConference will be credited.

TISSA 2006 Executive Board

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All institutions which are interested in **supporting TISSA** are very welcome to become a member of the steering committee. The steering committee will supervise the program and realisation of the symposium. Please contact us directly for further information and suggestions.

TAKE ONE
TO TISSA !!