



EUSW Annual Meeting Maastricht 18, 19, 20 September 2008

State of the Art of Social Work in Europe: in dialogue with the world

Parallel Sessions, Friday 19 September 2008

09:00-09:30 Welcome and introduction EUSW - Room: BR 1.21 (= Auditorium)

09:30-11:00 I. Key Issues in European Social Work

Room: BR 1.26

Session 1 Social Work Education in Europe

Led by Liz Frost, University of West England, Bristol, UK

Social work education in Europe is the focus of the whole thematic network, and the bread and butter of most of the members and their institutions. Everything we are about, but also strangely invisible in many ways. Book 3 from our Thematic Networks (Frost, E, Freitas, MJ and Campanini, A (eds.) (2007) *Social Work Education in Europe*, Rome: Carocci) addressed a range of issues in social work education, and this seminar offers the chance for participants to open up the content of this volume and the subject generally for further discussion.

The session will initially summarise some key themes in the book, then offer some comments on what seem to be over-riding priorities in European Social Work education debate today. The participation of all group members will be elicited to produce an agenda for the session's discussion of core issues in European Social Work Education. Some example core issues include: What works in social work education and how do we know? Life long learning and how to give it meaning in European Social Work? Postgraduate work and European student mobility. Core issues will be examined, summarised and any agendas for action identified.

Room: BR 1.24

Session 2 Restructuring Social Welfare by the Exclusion of Social Work

Led by Günter Friesenhahn, Koblenz University of Applied Sciences, Germany

In complex modern societies, social work is part of the political and administrative systems. It has roots in different cultural traditions and political movements. As a part of a political system, it is affected by the impact the political system is confronted with. And as a result of the development of Social Work in the last ten years is marked by enormous changes. The changes have an international dimension; we observe these at different levels, and there are external and internal motives, rationales and reasons. The changes have ethical issues and economical ones; they are grounded in politics and in the process of professionalisation of social work.

According to its self-image as defined through international expert discussions, social work has a stake in social change and in the creation of a 'more just' society. However, social work must, through critical self reflection, acknowledge that it is not politically strong, hindered by processes of professional deconstruction and the widening of its responsibilities and diffusion of its professional competences. The effort of social work to re-frame 'the social' according to the given conditions is not always achieved.

This session, based on the EUSW book by Fortunato, V, Friesenhahn, G, and Kantowicz, E, (eds.) (2008): *Social Work in Restructured European Welfare Systems*, Rome: Carocci, will start with a summary of the book's key issues and then move on to give participants the opportunity to voice their experiences and ideas. Discussion questions concern the direction of welfare system reform, the focus of reform, finance, the future structure of welfare and the role of social work; the role of the market, the state and the citizen.

Room: BR 1.25

Session 3 Migration and Responses in Different European Countries

Led by Gaby Franger, Coburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Gabriela Melania Ciot - Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Mirka Nekasova, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic

Christine Bon, École Supérieure de Travail Social, Paris, France

Nearly 4% of the total population of Europe - about 18.5 million people - consists of migrants residing in the EU. Social work has always had to deal with the European migration policy and since this policy was formulated as a European task of communalisation back in 1999, social work needs to refer to these principles when responding to the needs and rights of those it addresses.

This session will begin with a look at key issues covered in the EUSW network book: Franger, G., Ne asová, M.(eds.) (2008) *On the Move! European Social Work Responses to Migration*, Rome: Carocci). It presents a history of the development of integration programmes, the treatment of immigrants and minorities in different European regions and social work(er) approaches resulting from the complex processes involved. The second part of the session consists of a general discussion about the necessity of the claim for new European legislation based on the UN-Human rights conventions, the institutional opening to multicultural approaches and how the debate on the discourses in society on culture, structure and individuality can be deepened both in social work institutions and in social work education, i.e., interaction, process and change.

Room: BR 1.23

Session 4 Research Synergies in Social Professions

Led by Maria Michailidis, University of Nicosia, Cyprus

Silvia Fargion, University of Trento, Italy

Robert Sanders, Swansea University Wales, UK

This EUSW book titled *Research Synergies in Social Professions* (Maria P. Michailidis, Silvia Fargion and Robert Sanders, eds.) offers a fresh outlook into research in social professions in a very unique and interesting way. It has attempted to harmoniously integrate socio-cultural factors synergistically, giving special consideration to multicultural and multiethnic issues which are of increasing importance in the New Europe and beyond.

The EUSW book emphasizes that the concept and application of synergy have become increasingly important in social work and other areas of professional practice. By highlighting synergy, we hope to signify that research contributes to knowledge development when there is dialogue and interaction. In this way various research projects have an impact, as they build on each other towards a greater potential, thus actualizing the gestalt psychology maxim, 'the whole is greater than the sum of the parts'. This session will provide the opportunity for further discussion on the issues addressed in this volume.

The session is divided into four parts: (1) Reflection on Research in Social Work (2) Researching Families (3) Vulnerable Subjects (4) Good Practice followed by discussion and conclusions based on a brainstorming session on the potential for a follow-up book and possible funding sources.

11:00 Break

In front of auditorium (= BR 1.21)

11:30-13:00 II. Gaps and Opportunities in Social Work Education in Europe

Room: BR 1.24

Session 1 Competence-based learning in Social Work Education

Led by Jan Agten Katholieke Hogeschool Kempen, Geel Belgium

Remmelt Veenkamp, INHOLLAND University of Applied Sciences, Haarlem, the Netherlands

This session focusses on Competenced Based Learning (CBL) from the perspective of Belgium and the Netherlands. The focus on these two perspectives has to do with the relatively long time CBL is practiced in the curricula of Belgian and Dutch universities of applied science offering social work education.

In the first part of this session four topics will be presented (1) Competence based learning, (2) Assessing competencies (3) Tension field professional competencies and (4) educational competencies & new teaching methods. The second part of this session takes that shape of a joint seminar and concentrates on current educational themes dealing with the further development of CBL in the practice of Social Work education.

Room: BR 1.25

Session 2 Supervision in Social Work Education

Led by Staffan Höjer, University of University of Gothenburg, Sweden

The first part of this session takes the form of an introductory lecture by Staffan Höjer to provide a general outlook on Social work supervision including issues of administration, education and support. A description will be provided about research on supervision and the experience of 20 years of educating supervisors in social work at the University of Gothenburg. The session will go on to depict different supervision systems inside social work education with examples from a Swedish research study about supervision with voices from social workers, managers and supervisors. Lastly, a comparison is provided on Scandinavian and English supervision models for practitioners.

The second part of the session is a joint seminar around some topical themes dealing with supervision where participants are welcome to share their experiences, e.g., problems and successes with social work supervision in Social Work Education.

Room: BR 1.32

Session 3 New Technologies in Social Work Education

Led by Anne Karin Larsen, Bergen University College, Bergen Norway

Klas-Göran Olsson, School of Health Sciences, Jönköping University, Sweden

Robert Sanders, Swansea University, Wales, UK

The use of ICT in Higher Educational Institutions (HEI) has been going on for a long time in many professions. In social work education this process has been slower – but changed through the EUSW educational cooperation. Since 2003-4, the EUSW VIRCLASS (Virtual Classroom for Social Work in Europe) task force has worked hard to develop creative, high quality courses in Comparative Social Work in international e-learning classes. Students all over Europe have learned together in a virtual classroom and through cooperation learned about social policy, social work theories, methods and how social workers tackle discrimination and oppression.

The development of e-learning studies for students and e-pedagogy course for teachers has shown the importance of increasing the e-teacher competences and created interesting didactical discussions. New e-teachers have developed new e-learning modules that may, in the future, be part of a new international specialisation at the BA level in social work. New funding from the ERASMUS LLP-VIRTUAL CAMPUS programme has provided the opportunity for developing a Social Work – Virtual Campus (SW-VirCamp).

This session will initially present the different aspects of VIRCLASS and the new VirCamp. Research findings and experiences gained during the 5 years of work will be given by partners in the VIRCLASS project. The second part of the session is meant to trigger discussion about teaching and learning online as part of the social work programmes, competences needed in e-teaching and learning, future plans for an international specialisation in Social Work on a BA level and visions for a Virtual Campus in Social Work.

Room: BR 1.23

Session 4 Research in Social Work Education

Led by Silvia Fargion, University of Trento, Italy

Jose Maria Moran Carrillo, University Pablo de Olavide Spain

Gabriela Melania Ciot - Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Carla Moretti, Polytechnic University of Marche, Italy

Maria Michailidis - University of Nicosia, Cyprus

This session looks at the different perspectives on research and particularly the different understandings of "research mindedness" which has been defined as (1) a faculty for critical reflection informed by knowledge and research; (2) an ability to use research to inform practice which counters unfair discrimination, racism, poverty, disadvantage and injustice, consistent with core social work values (3) an understanding of the process of research and the use of research to theorise from practice. (SCIE).

Research mindedness requires us to be sympathetic towards research, able to find and critically understand research relevant to social work, to have a heuristic approach, being able to identify research questions from practice. The main goal of the session will be to address the question of how social work education can support students in developing such a complex disposition.

The session explores and discusses EUSW member experiences, courses and projects related to developing the research mindedness of social work students by way of short presentations and guided discussion.

13:00 Lunch

Room: BR B.13