

NEWSLETTER

EUROPEAN SOCIAL WORK

- Commonalities and Differences -

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THEMATIC NETWORK PROGRAM



Realized by:

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INTRODUCTION

International co-operation in social work and social work education has been always treated as an important activity in the European Union Community.

Its role has been changing over the last few years. It would be difficult to overestimate the contribution of international scientific collaboration to the quality of research and teaching in social work, during the times when our contacts with the international social work community were limited due to political and economical reasons. This last decade has brought major changes to the candidates for membership of the EU and as a result, many new areas of international relations have been opened with countries from Central and East-North European countries.

Today, many universities and other academic institutions in Europe, are deeply involved in fruitful co-operation with our long-term partners and friends, involved in social work research and training. In addition to this there are EASSW Seminars, which are held bi-annually in a different European countries.

International programs such as EUSW creates unique opportunities for exchange, not only for the members and staff, but especially for students.

On November 3rd, 2002 Parma University became the Coordinator of *the European Social Work – Commonalities and Differences* Thematic Network. This thematic network involves social work institutions from over forty European countries, for a three –year period . This period of time is expected to be especially interesting and challenging for the whole community of social work institutions. Three years of cooperation within the Network had given us important experiences for projecting new possibilities of the exchange, sharing information and developing research and training in social work between EUSW members. One of the most important task has become the organization of a summer school on 16-30 July 2005 in Parma. This is really a great challenge, but essential for further development of master degree programmes in social work, at all participating institutions.

Ewa Kantowicz

About EUSW TN

The EUSW TN – European Union Social Work – Commonalities and Differences is a non-profit-making organization formed by the participating Universities and Associations.

EUSW LEGAL SEAT

The legal base of the Network is in Parma at the following address:

Università degli Studi di Parma
Laurea in Servizio Sociale
Via Università 12
43100 Parma - Italia

The official language adopted for the Network is English.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims of EUSW are:

1. to increase student and staff mobility in order to widen experience in social work education and increase mutual understanding;
2. to improve teaching quality in terms of curriculum organization, contents, methodologies and evaluation;
3. to co-operate with European social work institutions and professional associations in order to promote lifelong learning and better meet social work demands;
4. to promote the production and dissemination of information.

The objectives of the Network are:

1. to increase mutual knowledge of different social work educational systems;
2. to develop knowledge of the diversity in social needs across Europe;
3. to establish and promote inter-Faculty networking across European social work institutions, Faculties and professional associations within an integrated network;
4. to promote lifelong learning by self-directed learning at all stages of social work education;
5. to provide information and reference to other practices (e.g. distance learning), other realities (i.e. the challenges raised by a multi-lingual Europe) and other opportunities relevant to social work education inside and outside Europe;
6. to identify and disseminate Social Work education objectives at European level.
7. to create and develop an International Summer School in Social Work for graduates and practitioners in Social Work.

DURATION

The Network has a one-year duration for a maximum of three (3) years. After each year, the network and the present bylaws are automatically renewed. One year notice, in writing, is required in the event of a partner wishing to withdraw.

MEMBERS

All institutions of higher education and associations participating in the project having signed the agreement are members of the project.

COMMITTEES AND ACTORS OF THE NETWORK

The Committees and actors of EUSW are:

1. Direction Board;
2. Administrative Committee;
3. Working Groups;
4. Network members.

An invitation to partnership in: EUSW - European Platform for Worldwide Social Work

Dear colleague,
Dear friend,

the **EUSW** has been a Thematic Network supported by the European Union, funded and supported to encourage a comparative approach within Social Work education, research and practice. Through the involvement of academic and professional bodies across Europe, this network succeeded in establishing a European platform for comparative studies in relation to social work, social problems, theories, methods, ethics and related issues.

After almost three initial years of set up work the EUSW network is ready to open to new partners including professional associations and institutions, local governmental bodies engaged in social work, non governmental organisations for social work, academic and research centres. Also other related Thematic Networks are invited to participate.

What has been done so far?

During its first two years, the EUSW has managed to involve over 50 partners from 27 European Countries, undertaking many different activities that improved bilateral and multilateral contacts within the network. The outcomes achieved have among other things been the production of two anthologies; one about European social work in 24 different countries, its history, welfare and educational systems, the current situation of the profession etc.: *European Social Work – Commonalities and Differences* (2004)

(ed. A.Campanini, and E.Frost), Carocci Rome pp.222 and the other comparative studies of social work with young people and families in a European context: *Children, Young People and Families – Examining Social Work Practice in Europe* (2005) (ed. M.J.Freitas, G.J. Friesenhahn and al.) Carocci Rome, pp.223.

Other outcomes have been arranging three conferences (in Italy, Austria and Hungary), the creation of a website with information about social work in different countries (presently www.eusw.org, but next-to-come: www.eusw.net) and few newsletters focusing on the different activities carried out within the network. At this moment a European Educational program in Social Work is being introduced for students and social workers from all European countries. It includes a self-study course, starting in January 2005, an e-learning course and a residential summer school in Parma in July 2005. The themes for this education programme include among other things comparative approach to social work across Europe. Among them - European perspective on core issues of social work such as: a anti-oppressive Social Work, Poverty as a phenomenon in Europe, Ethnic diversity, social work methods and welfare systems in Europe. The total credits given for these courses are 20 ECTS.

This work has been achieved through a working group model involving partners all over Europe.

Why should you become a partner of the EUSW? Future plans.

For the next three years the network wishes to be a European platform for world wide social work, in order to develop new activities and offer its partners many possibilities to find new companions for projects and to discuss matters of common interest. This means the EUSW wants to share experiences with, and to be enriched by, partners outside Europe.

In practice this could mean:

- creating conferences about social work research, practice methods or other fields of interest;
- developing curricula for Social Work academic education for three levels (Bachelor, Master Degree courses and doctoral studies), in accordance with the principles of Bologna Declaration;
- producing core texts for example approaches in social work; ethics, methods, theories, common social problems, case studies etc.; Improving interaction between Social Work research and education;
- E-learning courses that cross national borders;
- Common projects in relation to social work issues.

How you are asked to contribute:

As a partner you will be expected to take part in some of the activities, as suggested above: as an organizer and/or as a participant. We need some of your time to help us to develop interesting and important Social-Work-related issues, outcomes and activities, and of course also to benefit from them. An application proposal had been prepared and presented on 1st November 2004 for approval under the Socrates Programme - Thematic Networks.

How to become partners of the EUSW

If you and your institution are interested in contributing and representing the EUSW Network, please:

1. contact the EUSW administration at the University of Parma, Italy, in case you need further information (see below);
2. fill and send the here-enclosed endorsement letter to the address indicated below (also by fax)

Please allow us to thank you in advance for Your attention and we sincerely hope to have both you and your institution as EUSW partners!

If you have any questions – do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

The EUSW Direction Board
Annamaria Campanini, Elizabeth Frost, Staffan Hojer,
Anne Karin Larsen, Gudrun Ehlert, Ewa Kantowicz

New applications are accepted until 1st September 2005!

Contact person: Prof. Annamaria Campanini

Postal address:

**EUSW Headquarters c/o Servizio Scambi Culturali Università degli Studi di Parma
Via Università 12 - 43100 PARMA**

Phone: +39.0521.034289

Fax: +39.0521.034353

E-mail: socrates@unipr.it

WORKING GROUPS TASKS AND CO-ORDINATORS**Working Group One (WG1)**
Organisation of meetings and conferences

✓ *Membership, functions and responsibilities.*

The members of this Working Group are: Staffan Höjer (chair, Sweden); Answin Weissenborn (Austria); Maria Michailidis (Cyprus); Gudrun Ehlert (Germany); Zsofia Musci (Hungary); Gabriela Ciot (Romania); Agnese Geslere (Latvia).

The responsibilities for working group one concern mainly the organization of annual meetings (and to some extent coordination and help to other working groups). The group had scheduled meetings at three different times during the conference. During these meetings a lot of decisions, concerning the ongoing conference and coming activities, are taken. This report is summing up some of these activities.

Report from Working Group 1 during the annual meeting in Hungary, 5-8 May 2004

Participating members: Answin Weissenborn Austria, Gudrun Ehlert Germany, Zsofia Musci Hungary, Levante Ist van Fruttus Hungary, Staffan Höjer Sweden, Maria Michailidis Cyprus. Extra participants: Ewa Kantowicz. Absent members: Agnese Geslere Latvia, Gabriela Ciot Romania.

1. The conference process in Hungary, activities and lessons learned

All working groups did carry through working group meetings in the morning, before the conference had its opening ceremony. The groups also met for two hours on Friday and one and a half hour on Saturday. At last years conference it was a demand from some of the groups to have more time for group meetings, since the annual conference is an opportunity when everyone is gathered. This is also a way to save money for the network, since we use the occasion.

Most of the registration activities were conducted by the Hungarian staff. However the working group did help the participants to fill in some of the material. At the registration everybody's photo was taken (thank you Anna Karin's husband, photographer for the help!) and the participants filled in a "declaration of competence and skills" This "declaration", half serious half humorous, is a way to present everyone in a more personal way. The declarations together with the photo was placed at a screen in the conference hall. The participants also filled in cards with "offers and demands" at the market place where they could ask for more bilateral or multilateral cooperation related to the education of social workers.

The working group one suggests these declarations and cards of offers and demands should be published in the EUSW newsletter and/or at the EUSW website. (Everybody was asked if they would allow their photo and text to be published on the website).

During the opening ceremony four different speeches were held to greet the conference and to hope for a fruitful annual meeting. Afterwards the reception was in the Dining hall. All of this was coordinated by the Hungarian staff.

Staffan Höjer

Working Group Two (WG2)
Production of the book about social work in Europe

✓ *Membership, functions and responsibilities.*

The members of this Working Group are: Liz Frost, England (chair); Gunther Friesenhahn, Germany; Tomaso Banez Tello, Spain; Salvatore Rizza; Gérard Moussu, France; Maria Papathanasiou, Greece; Maria José Freitas, The Netherlands; Ewa Kantowicz, Poland.

The function of this Working Group is to prepare written materials, handbooks, anthologies etc. for social work education and to share information about theoretical and practical paradigms of social work, which can be applied for creating better understanding of traditions, welfare systems and social problems in different countries.

Working Group three (WG3)
Production of newsletters

✓ *Membership, functions and responsibilities.*

The members of this Working Group are: Ewa Kantowicz, Poland (chair); Fabio Capello, Italy; Answin Weissenborn, Austria; Lidia Sapouna, Ireland; Dick Herweg, Netherlands; Tiiu Mason, Denmark.

The functions of this Working Group are to act as a link between the Working Groups; provide information to Network members about the progress of the Working Groups; provide a forum for disseminating information regarding social work education and training in member countries; provide a forum for discussion and debate of issues of concern to social workers; provide a forum to identify, discuss and debate issues of concern to users of social and welfare services; provide member institutions with opportunities to advertise and report upon conferences and related events.

Working Group four (WG4)
Website Production

✓ *Membership, functions and responsibilities.*

The members of this Working Group are: Gudrun Ehlert (Germany), Kyosti Urponen (Finland), Jurgen Novak (Germany), Paulina Chiwangu (Ireland), Maria Lorenzoni (Italy).

The function of this group is to set up and maintain a web site for the Thematic Network. Congratulations are due to the Working Group as the web site is now on line. A very big thank you to all of you. The site is available on www.eusw.org

Working Group Five (WG5)
Student related activities and the International Summer School in Social Work

✓ *Membership, functions and responsibilities.*

The members of this Working Group are: Anne Karin Larsen, Norway (chair); Carsten Otte, Germany; Nootens Danielle, Masoch Rina, Marques Eduardo, Portugal; Fortunato Vincenzo, Italy; Serrano Manuel, Spain; Julija Viciote, Lithuania; Malgorzata Giedziun-Ciczowska, Poland.

The function of this group is to plan, organize and hold a summer school to offer participants to learn and widen their educational portfolio in a European context and to contribute to the expansion of knowledge and expertise through a life long learning process.

EUSW Summer School in Parma 17-30 June 2005 ***Social Work in Europe: Commonalities and Differences***

- Would you like the opportunity to learn about how social work in your country compares with social work practice and education in other European countries?
- Would you welcome the chance to participate in a European accredited programme that will allow you to exchange views about how different European countries face similar and different challenges, and the common and diverse means used to address them?

The European social work thematic network (EUSW) is developing a unique opportunity for professional social workers and students to share their experiences across European borders and thus contribute to a better, and shared, understanding of social work.

The Programme

There are three modules:

Module 1	Social work as a subject and profession in Europe (3 ECTS)
Module 2	<p>Module 2 Options (9 ECTS)</p> <p>1. Anti-Opressive Social Work - Ethics, theories, methods and working principles in social work</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">A. Discrimination and Oppression as a phenomenon in Europe, or B. Poverty as social exclusion as a phenomenon in Europe, or C. Ethnic diversity as a phenomenon in Europe</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>2. The Welfare Systems in Europe - consequences for social work</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>3. Social work education, skill training and professional competence.</p>
Module 3	The Summer School (3 ECTS) 17—31 July 2005, in Parma, Italy.

The core of the programme is the Summer School. This two-week course will provide an opportunity to meet with colleagues and students from other European countries to consider the diverse causes of social problems that are both unique to, and shared between, the various European nations. The role of social work as a profession dealing with these shared and unique problems, and the knowledge, skills and values required by social workers to address them will be the main focus.

The Summer School will include lectures, small group work, and field trips to local facilities. But it is not all work, and participants will also be provided with an active social programme, furthering the opportunities to engage with colleagues in other countries and to develop and sustain professional links across European borders after the Programme concludes. To deepen the level of engagement with issues, there will be an entry requirement—that participants will have read and demonstrated their understanding of *Social Work in Europe – Commonalities and Differences and Children, Young People and Families: Examining Social Work practice in Europe*, books developed by the EUSW, which will be core texts for the Summer School.

In addition, for those who are interested, the Programme is including an innovative learning opportunity, the Virtual Classroom of Social Work in Europe using an e-learning platform. Modules 1 and 2 have been delivered in this way. Participants were able to engage in discussion groups and dialogues about crucial social work issues, from their own computer. This part of the programme commenced in February 2005.

The total Programme will attract 15 credits (ECTS). To gain credits, participants are asked to complete the assessment tasks associated with each module. The various modules can be combined in different ways. Individuals may participate in modules without undertaking the assessment tasks, but this is not recommended. The programme is delivered in English.

Thoughts and ideas about the summer school were an important subject in many meetings of WG 5, and the discussions went about: where will it be situated, how long duration, at what time of the summer period, the number of students and teachers, the pedagogical ideas, cultural activities and so on.

Every members of EUSW TN were expected to participate active and to bring in ideas about every theme (not only the one they are directly responsible for). Anne Karin has tried to figure out how much time that will be needed for the participants connected to the e-learning and Summer School part.

The programme of Summer School has been recently developed. All students received a suggestion for study programme and progress in the course when they started. They were not obliged to follow this week by week, but they were expected to do the compulsory part and to be in contact with their contact teacher for supervision in some degree. In the final assignment of part “self study” students were expected to make comments on the way they have managed to be a self-study student, both to express difficulties they might have and how they had managed the process. What had they learned from doing this course, by reading the literature, by searching for other information?

The work of assessors included a short written supervision twice during the study period in addition to mark the final assessment. This part is implemented now and the final part Summer School with lectures, discusses and intercultural activities of participating students of social work from many European universities is coming soon!

Summer School Programme Coordinator
Anne Karin Larsen, e-mail: a-karin@online.no

NEWS FROM PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

Dear EUSW Friends and Colleagues,

During the next week, you will all be receiving some information folders about our new English language semester. **The Social Work Studies Course** will be fully incorporated into the 3.semester of our Intercultural/International Bachelor of Social Work Programme. Apart from the 5-week introduction period, both our Danish students and the exchange students will all be taught in English. The semester runs from 15 August 2005 – 31 January 2006. The first 2 weeks and final 5 weeks of the semester will be taken via e-learning in the home country.

The deadline for applications is 01 June 2005.

Further information about the course and the application form can all be accessed on our website www.dsk-k.dk under the link with the British flag.

Tiiu Mason
 International Coordinator
 The National School of Social Work
 Copenhagen, Denmark
 Tlf. 0045 38144631
 E-mail: tiiu.mason@dsh-k.dk

Dear Once and Future EUSW Thematic Network Member

Writing a new book (book 3), on social work education in Europe

Our 2nd book '*Children, Young People and Families: Examining Social Work practice in Europe*' has been already published, so I thought we could begin to make the next book happen.

There were some very good ideas expressed at Keshkemet about a book on social work education and the board and the last group of editors agree we should proceed even though we do not know if we will have funding (though as you know the preliminary proposal has been accepted). If there is no money we will look for independent international publishers this time, though this will mean that the overall time-span will be longer.

I would like you now to submit your proposals for chapters for a book with a (undecided) working title of something like '*Social Work Education in Europe: Theory and Practice.*'

Education, then, is the central theme, and within that all kinds of issues connected with education would be relevant. For example you could write about some aspect of theory or ethics for education, or education for a particular kind of practice or for a particular client group. Curriculum development aspects would be interesting, or the development of the students. Professional training would also be important:- really anything that connects to the education of social workers in Europe. As in our previous books, our main target readers/users are social work students and teachers.

If you are interested in writing a chapter for this book, these are the instructions:
 Write a proposal of approx. 250-400 words (about a side of A4 paper), clearly identify yourself and co-authors and send it to Liz Frost (don't forget to include your e-mail addresses in this letter) before 1st April.

Elizabeth Frost

If you are a new member of the proposed network EUSW European platform for World Social Work and you are interested in this, please e-mail Elizabeth.Frost@uwe.ac.uk

EUSW THEMATIC NETWORK

In 2002 a Network had been established among the following Universities:

I	PARMA01	Università degli Studi di Parma (Co-ordinating institution)
A	BREGENZ01	Akademie für Sozialarbeit des Trägervereins Voralberg
A	DORBIRN01	University of Applied Sciences Vorarlberg
B	ANTWERP59	Karel de Grote Hogeschool
B	BRUSSEL85	Haute Ecole Libre de Bruxelles Ylla Prigogine
CY	NICOSIA014	Intercollege Cyprus
D	BERLIN05	Alice Salomon Fachhochschule Berlin
D	KOBLENZ01	Fachhochschule Koblenz
D	MAGDEBU04	Hochschule Magdeburg Stendal
D	MANNHEI04	Fachhochschule Mannheim
D	MITTWEI01	Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Mittweida
DK	KOBENHA15	Den Sociale Hojskole kobenhavn
E	MADRID03	Universidad Complutense de Madrid
E	ZARAGOZ01	Universidad de Zaragoza
EE	TALLIN05	Tallinne Padagogikaulikool
F	BORDEAU27	Institut Regional du Travail Social Aquitaine, Bordeaux
G	ATHINE34	Technologiko Ekpedeftiko Idrima, Athinas
HU	BUDAPES10	Karoli Gaspar Reformatus Egyetem
IS	REYKJAV01	Haskoli Islands
IRL	CORK01	National University of Ireland, Cork
I	COSENZA01	Università della Calabria
LV	RIGA01	Latvijas Universitate
LT	KAUNAS01	Vytauto Didziojo Universitetas
LT	VILNIUS01	Vilniaus Universitetas
N	BERGEN05	Hogskolen i Bergen
NL	AMSTERD05	Hogeschool van Amsterdam
NL	MAASTRI11	Hogeschool Zuyd, Maastricht
PL	OLSZTYN01	Unwersytet Warminsko-Mazurski w Olsztynie
P	COIMBRA05	Instituto Superior Miguel Torga
RO	ORADEA01	Universitatea din Oradea
SI	LJUBLJA01	University of Ljubljana
S	GOTEBOR01	Goteborgs Universitet
S	JONKOPI01	Halsohogskolan i Jonkoping
S	STOCKHO01	Stockholms Universitet
SF	ROVANIE01	Lapin yliopisto
SF	HELSIK19	Diakonia-ammattikorkeakoulu, Helsinki
UK	BRISTOL02	University of the West of England Bristol
UK	SWANSEA01	University of Wales Swansea

EUSW THEMATIC NETWORK

In 2002 a Network had been established among the universities and the following associations:

[Council of International Fellowship Italia](#)

[Ente Italiano di Servizio Sociale](#)

[Associazione Italiana Docenti di Servizio Sociale](#)

[Società Italiana Laureati in Servizio Sociale](#)

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FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Dates for 2005 events:

May 22-26, 2005 Congress of EASSW , Nicosia Cyprus: "Social Work Challenges for Social Cohesion", (www.congresswise.com)

August 29-September 1, Gdansk, Poland, The International Social Work & Society Academy, TISSA 2005, (melanie.abeling@uni-bielefeld.de)

September 21-24, 2005, Paris , France: "Troubled Children in a Troubled World" 9th EUSARF International Congress, (<http://netx.u-paris10.fr/eusarf/>)

October 11-13, 2005, Łódź, Poland, CERTS Seminar joined with Confernce of Polish Association of Schools of Social Work; "Researches in Social Work – Achievements and perspectives", (www.uni.lodz.pl; spolecz@uni.lodz.pl)