

Meeting summary by Prof. Annamaria Campanini

From 30th October to 2nd November 2002 the first EUSW Annual Meeting took place in Parma with the participation of 43 partners, many of them meeting for the first time.

It was a very intensive experience that saw a relevant commitment by everyone and that was warmly welcomed also by local authorities, such as the Regione Emilia Romagna, the Province of Parma and the Municipality of Parma. These authorities did not only contribute with a financial support but also brought a significant scientific contribution through the presentation of social policies adopted at territorial level.

The meeting started with the presentation of each participating institution: while HEIs partners put into evidence their teaching and learning experiences, their academic structure and their curricula, the other organisations participating defined their objectives and their structure.

After this introduction, the participants were divided into groups and then the action plan for the coming months was drawn.

The meeting came to an end with the approval of the lines of intervention proposed by each sub-group and with the definition of the methods to adopt in order to guarantee the work progress.

The next Annual Meeting will take place in Dornbirn, Austria, the next June 2003 and it will be organised by Answin Weissenborn, who is also member of the EASSW (European Association of Schools of Social Work) Direction Board.

The first output to achieve is, by September 2003, the publication of a Social Work book that may serve both as a basic textbook for educational purposes and as a support for Social Work professionals by developing a more adequate knowledge about the evolution of Social Work in Europe through a compared approach.

At the same time, a EUSW newsletter will be issued: the newsletter will help to keep contacts among partners by offering updated information about the work in progress in each institutions as well as within the different EUSW working groups. A EUSW network web site will be developed during the next months to facilitate a view both on the project activities and to the status of Social Work in Europe.

Last but not least, our main objective is to develop an International School as a concrete sign of the project achievements as well as an opportunity for students and professionals to acquire a European perspective on Social Work.

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Annamaria Campanini