

**EASSW Report of Activities**

*Date 8/7/2015*

*Vasilios Ioakimidis, Sue Lawrence and Nino Zganec*

**1. EASSW Conference and General Election**

The EASSW bi-annual conference in Milan was a great success (July 2015). The conference entitled “Social Work education towards 2020” brought together more than 700 delegates from 43 countries. Keynote speakers included Professor Iain Ferguson, Professor Jan Fook and Assistant Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction Margareta Wahlstrom. The first EASSW Honorary Lecture was delivered by Prof. Walter Lorenz.

On Tuesday the 2nd of July, EASSW members also attended the bi-annual General Assembly. The General Assembly elected a new Executive Committee (see below). Given that the General Assembly had taken place only few days before this report was prepared, minutes will be sent to the President of IASSW after the Meeting in Medellin.

The newly elected Officers of the EC are

President: Nino Zganec (Croatia)

Vice President: Vasilios Ioakimidis (UK)

Secretary: Sanela Basic (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Treasurer: Robert Bergougnan (France)

Members of the Executive Committee

Anke Beuck, Denmark

Violeta Gevorgianiene, Lithuania

Ronny Heikki Tikkanen, Sweden

Aila-Leena Matthies, Finland

Clara Cruz Santos, Portugal

Andrés Arias Astray, Spain

Hakan Acar, Turkey

Teresa Bertotti, Italy

Raymond Kloppenburg, The Netherlands

Marion Laging, Germany

Marika Smirnova, Latvia

The Executive Committee has decided that EASSW will be represented at the IASSW Board of Directors by the President and Vice President.

2 **World Social Work day at UN Geneva 17 March 2015**

Vimla Nadkarni, President of IASSW, Klaus Kuhn UN Geneva representative for IFSW, David Chipanta of UNAIDS and Sue Lawrence, organized the WSWD event.

120 people attended the event with Nino Zganec, Robert Bergougnan, Anke Beuck also represented EASSW. A full report is available on the EASSW website.

A proposal for the 2016 WSWD event is being negotiated with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva – suggested date 8 March (International Womens Day) as ILO have regular meetings mid March.

**3. ENSACT Meeting 18 March 2015 in Geneva**

Robert Bergougnan, Anke Beuck and Sue Lawrence attended for EASSW. ENSACT was chosen to host the European Observatory and congratulated by the Global Agenda Committee for a very robust bid, which has been used as a template for other regions.

Brief minutes from the ENSACT meeting are below.

4. **Meeting with UNAFORIS, Paris 7 May 2015.**

Sue Lawrence attended a meeting with Robert Bergougnan to discuss the UNAFORIS bid for the 2017 conference to be held in Paris, partnered by UNESCO. It is now confirmed that the next EASSW conference will take place in Paris.

**5. Proposal submitted for a Special Issue of EJSW from the Milan 2015 conference.**

A special Issue of EJSW has been approved by the editorial board. Sue Lawrence and Alessandro Sicora will co-edit and a call for papers from the conference is on the EASSW website

**6. EASSW Honorary Lecture 2015**

Funding of €700 was given by EJSW to support the lecture to be given by Walter Lorenz at the Milan conference. The EC needs to decide whether to continue to have such a lecture in future.

**7) Campaigning work**

The political developments that followed the announcement of the Greek referendum on austerity politics overshadowed the Milan conference. Delegates extended their solidarity to Greek colleagues and approved the statement below

*“We, the participants at the conference of the European Association of Schools of Social Work (EASSW) gathered in Milan have listened to the research that has identified the appalling conditions under which the Greek people live. This is unacceptable in a continent that contains among the most wealthy individuals and corporations in the world. As social work educators we urge the heads of the States of the European Union to show solidarity with the Greek people on the part of the peoples of Europe to prevent a humanitarian crisis from occurring in one of the richest part of the world. This situation is likely to occurs in other countries being subjected to austerity programmes throughout the world and we urge the European heads of States to show solidarity with them also.”*

Also, EASSW continued working with academics in the UK and supported the campaign against criminalisation of social workers and indirect privatization of services. The statement below was endorsed by EASSW and uploaded onto the website.

*“The British government have restated their intention to draft legislation to imprison social workers for what they term ‘willful neglect’. Such a measure demonstrates that the Conservative Government does not fully grasp the complex nature of social work, or the increased pressures experienced by social workers as a result of ‘austerity measures’ and globalisation. The EASSW, following its 2015 conference in Milan, calls for the Conservative Government to cease this attack on social workers and instead calls for a recognition of the contribution made by the social work profession to reduce individual and family distress and promote social cohesion.”*

Finally, following the successful collaboration between EASSW and service user organization Power Us, both organizations decided to formalize their partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding.

**Minutes ENSACT meeting 2015-03-18 in Geneva**

Present: Thea Meinema (President ENSACT), Sue Lawrence (EASSW), Cecilia Heule (PowerUs), Jolanta Pivoriene (FESET), Arnoud Simonis (FESET), Hakan Acar (IFSW Europe), Phil Birkenhäger (FICE), Kerstin Svensson (Lund University), Robert Bergougnan (EASSW), Anna-Lisa Murakami (ICSW), Anke Beuck (EASSW)

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| Item | Decision | Action |
| Welcome |  | Cecilia Heule offered to take minutes  |
| Minutes from last meeting |
| Minutes from meeting 26 September 2014Thea apologised for not making a film for the WSWD due to time limitations. |  | Thea to send repeat mail to Social Dialogue with copy to Sue. |
| The minutes say that ENSACT should approach the European Social Work Research Association in 2015 | The decision is to ask them to join ENSACT.  | Thea will write to Silvia Fagion in April and formally invite EASWR.Sue will discuss with them during the Milan conference. |
| We discussed ENSACTs role, and whether to organize joint conferences | Everyone agreed that ENSACTs role is in joint action. ENSACT is the only regional umbrella organization of its kind. Other regions do not have an equivalent organisation. Each organization arranges its own conferences for the time being. |  |
| World Social Work Day 2015 |
| Next year World Social Work Day takes place on 15 March. It will focus on social protection and will be held in a UN building (ILO?). The event is co-organized by IASSW and IFSW global. We discussed how ENSACT could make an impact in this event. Many appreciated Walter Lorenz’ lecture. It was a well-organized conference.  | In 2016 ENSACT could contribute with speakers that match the topic. Lead to be taken by global organisers.  | Sue will send a transcript of the lectures from the WSWD to all ENSACT members. |
| Changes in ENSACT representatives |
| Sue will step down as president of EASSW in July after the Milan conference. Hakan will step down after the IFSW Edinburgh conference in September. Their successors are not elected yet.  | Hakan will inform ENSACT of his successor as representative of IFSW Europe. |  ENSACT thanks Sue for her huge contribution to ENSACT from the start. Anke and Robert will be ensuring continuity of EASSW participation in coming period. |
| The European Observatory |
| ENSACTs bid was very well received. It was seen as a model for other regions. David Jones has communicated that input from ENSACT is welcome concerning the framework. It´s important to get a wide diversity of good practice submissions. We will use our networks to spread the news about the Observatory.Sue reported that there will be a workshop in Milan about the European observatory. | We will also send invitations for submission to organizations that are not part of ENSACT. | Thea and Kerstin will draft an introduction email for use by ENSACT partners.Thea will send invitations to relevant organizations. All partners are requested to do the same in their networks.Sue and Thea will prepare a Powerpoint about the Call for submissions and the European observatory to all ENSACT partners before end April. |
| The deadline for our report is forwarded to October 2015.   | Thea will adjust the timetable. | Thea will negotiate a later deadline with David Jones |
| The format has to be adjusted, with respect to theme and purpose (education, practice & policy), goal, language, right to reproduction, purpose of the project, maximum number of characters, additional information.Submitters have to give us permission to publish the material. Ownership remains with the submitters. |  The submissions should be sent in EnglishFilms and other products can be submitted by link. Material will have to be publicly available / open source. | Kerstin will make a draft suggesting the questions of the form and will send it to Thea & Robert next week.Thea will draft new introduction text.Robert will set up a digital tool for submissions based on the format before 1 April.The final version will be sent to all partners for comments. A pilot will take place to check quality. |
| Criteria for selection  | The selection will not be on the criteria of being “the best” but should show a wide range of good practises. The bids should be understand-able and relevant to the theme.  | Innovation and creativity is a bonus, but should not be a requirement |
| Contact persons for the Observatory:Jolanta Pivoriene, FESETCecilia Heule, PowerUsHakan Acar, IFSW EuropeAnke Beuck, EASSWAnnalise Murakami, ICSWPhil Birkenhäger, FICEMaria Pentaraki, SWHIN | Contact persons will send Thea a detailed outline of how they will approach their members, before 1st of April. After the 1st of April the invitation can go out, and the digital form should be available. | Kerstin will consult the contact persons on relevance of bids that are unclear.Contact persons are also responsible for feedback and dissemination of results |
| Kerstin informed that she has been approved a grant from the Swedish organization CSA for traveling to the ENSACT meetings. |  | CSA will be mentioned as supporter in the European report. |
| The next ENSACT meeting |
|  | Next meeting to take place in Utrecht, Netherlands on Monday 12 October. The meeting will be held at 13.00 – 18.00 at Movisie. | Kerstin will send a first draft to Thea and/or ENSACT partners one week before the meeting.  |
| ENSACT website |
| Robert proposes the possibility of a basic website for ENSACT, with links to partner organisations and basic information (ENSACT statement, call for submissions European observatory).  | It should be a simple website with little maintenance. ENSACT partners will take turns to pay hosting costs. FESET volunteers to pay the first invoice.  | Robert will look into the possibilities to set up the page and propose a design. |
| SWAN |
| Sue raised the question of inviting SWAN to join ENSACT. | ENSACT partners will seek more information about SWAN  | Thea will put SWAN on the agenda for the next meeting. |