

## **REPORT TO THE IASSW JUNE 2016 BOARD MEETING HELD IN SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA**

### **Introduction**

The Executive Committee of the European Association of Schools of Social Work held one meeting during the first half of 2016 in Vilnius, Lithuania. All Executive members attended the meeting that was hosted by University of Vilnius. This gathering of the Executive Committee members was used to organize the mini conference under the title "Social work in dynamic societies: preserving identity, embracing innovations". Some of the ExCo members gave lectures concerning actual issues of international social work education.

### **Strategic Planning**

The EASSW started with the process of strategic planning for the period from 2016-2019. The strategic planning workshop was organized during the Executive members meeting in Vilnius in February, 2016. New definition of mission and vision as well as new strategic directions are defined and the whole process was guided by independent professional from Lithuania. The draft Strategic plan was made in May and was sent to the school members for their comments. After collecting the comments final document will be made until the end of June 2016.

### **Preparations for the EASSW conference 2017**

The EASSW prepares next European conference which will be held in Paris in period from June 20-22<sup>nd</sup> of 2017. The title of the conference is "Social work education in Europe: challenging boundaries, promoting a sustainable future". During the last months several Skype meetings as well as meeting of the steering and organizing committee were held in Paris at the end of May. All preparatory activities are on good track. All necessary activities are agreed and deadlines are set.

### **Strategic cooperation with other international organizations**

The EASSW continuously works toward establishing of the strategic agreement with other international (European) organization. The first agreement was signed with the PowerUs (International network of teachers and researchers from schools of social work and representatives from different service user organizations). The president of the EASSW attended in January 2016 meeting of the Executive committee members of the IFSW Europe region in Porto, Portugal. During this meeting some important decision were made. First to work toward further strengthening of the relations between two social work associations and second to invite European Social Work Research Association to join and to make strong tripartite social work partnership in Europe. During this meeting the participants agreed to organize tripartite meeting in Zagreb, Croatia in May 2016 during the delegates meeting of the IFSW Europe. The meeting in Zagreb was held in May and three associations agreed to develop further their relationships in the future and to show cooperation between these most influential European social work associations. The liaison officers will be nominated from each of the associations and concrete partnership will be established especially in organization of the European conferences of all three associations.

### **Partnerships with INGO of Council of Europe, AIFRIS and ENSACT**

The EASSW regularly attend the meetings of the INGO of Council of Europe (Conference of International Non-governmental Organisations) as well as of the ENSACT meetings.

### **World Social Work Day 2016**

The EASSW president participated in preparatory work and attended the meeting in Geneva on March 15<sup>th</sup> organized to celebrate WSWD together with the IASSW president Vimla Nadkarni and other colleagues from Europe.

The EASSW actively participated in organization of the WSWD in Brussels (Belgium) together with the IFSW European region. This event was organized on March 14<sup>th</sup> with the presentation of the EASSW president.

The ExCo member of the EASSW Raymond Kloppenburg organized the group of Dutch students who made the special EASSW logo for the celebration of the WSWD in Europe.

The video clip was made and put at the EASSW web site with the messages with regards to the WSWD celebration.

Also several national-wide events were organized in this occasion by our school members.

### **Research projects and support for the social work schools**

The EASSW continued to support to finance the small research projects according to its own rules and tradition. Also the ExCo members supported the proposal that EASSW participates as associate partner in new Erasmus+ project concerning social inclusion: promoting participation, democratic values and prevention of violent extremism.

As the result of the small project financing the International Congress on Social Work Professionalization and Social Entrepreneurship in Post-Socialist Countries is organized in Chisinau, Moldova. President of the EASSW attended this event and gave the presentation about the roles and activities of the EASSW as well as about the social work education in Croatia.

### **Conclusion**

The EASSW is actively involved in current developments concerning the different political, societal and educational matters that have influence to social work and societies in the Europe. We use social media, web site and other channels to communicate with the interested public, and to release our statements when needed. We started the process of designing of the new web platform that should be more informative and interactive.

Submitted by Nino Zganec, EASSW President

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European Association of Schools of Social Work