

### ***Biographical Statement***

**Lars Uggerhøj** is full Professor of Social Work at the Department of Sociology and Social Work, Aalborg University, Denmark. He is an educated social worker and has practiced as such for 13 years. He finished his doctoral degree in 1995 as the first social worker in Denmark. Research wise Lars Uggerhøj is focusing on service user experience and involvement and the collaboration between research, practice and service users in practice research. He has published a long list of books and articles in both areas nationally and internationally. He has for nine years been heading the Danish master program in social work. He is Danish coordinator and member of the coordination committee of 'Master in Advanced Development in Social Work' an Erasmus Mundus master program where students are educated in United Kingdom, Portugal, France, Poland and Denmark. Lars Uggerhøj is one of three research leaders of a group of 50 social work researchers at Aalborg University and coordinator of the 'Practice Research and Service User Perspectives' research network within the research group. He is coordinator of the Nordic research network 'Knowledge production in Social Work' and of the 'Nordic/Baltic Doctoral Network in Social Work' establishing international doctoral seminars, courses and network.



### ***Vision for IASSW***

My vision is to underline IASSW as a natural and needed platform for research and especially collaborative research approaches in Social Work. To qualify social work the different levels of educations in social work and research must work closely together. Through this collaboration teachers can more easily involve research findings and critical research discussions in the curriculum as well as the collaboration can create a more common knowledge production in social work. Being young in the history of research social work is not burdened by dogmas and can more openly experience with different types of research. In times where evidence practice is on the top of the agenda globally social work needs alternative ways of studying itself. Not as a new truth but supplementing the evidence based approach. There is a need for research approaches more directly connected to problems social workers meet in their everyday practice and a need to make research a part of learning processes in practice. To develop practice research further it has to be put much stronger on the agenda in IASSW. Practice research contains collaboration between, education, research, practice and service users and thereby supports the participation of service users in social work educational programs, strategies, practice etc. It is necessary to involve different voices of social work in the development of research and to change social worker and service user positions from being consumers to becoming partners. Establishing collaboration and connections between practice, service users, education and research, changing positions and building up new research traditions is not easy and therefore needs to be emphasized and supported by a 'mother-organization' like IASSW. A more visible position and clear strategy towards a research based knowledge production within IASSW will send a strong message to both social work programs and research. IASSW is a platform and meeting place for social work educations and therefore needs to signal a clear interest in collaborative research approaches and through this inspire educations to develop new approaches to knowledge production. Hence it is my vision for IASSW to emphasize and support this development of collaborative and more collective research approaches and of more service users based strategy to qualify social work. And I would say this even stronger: IASSW has an obligation to support these tendencies and approaches and to make this policy more visible.