**REPORT TO THE IASSW JULY 2018 BOARD MEETING HELD IN DUBLIN, IRELAND**

**Introduction**

The Executive Committee of the European Association of Schools of Social Work held one meetings during the year 2018. The meeting was held in the city of Madrid, Spain. Beside internal business of the EASSW, an important part of this meeting was devoted to the preparation of the next European EASSW/Complutense conference that will be held in June 2019 in the city of Madrid. During this event, also a meeting was held with the deans of the Spanish social work schools to include actively them in the preparation of the conference and giving space for their proposals to the main conference topics.

**Membership**

The EASSW currently counts 323 school members, divided in 42 countries

**Participation at WSWD event in Geneva**

This year the central European event on WSWD was organized on March 20th in the venue of UN in the city of Geneva. The main topic of the event was: “Social Work and Youth: Towards Inclusive Sustainable Development”. The event was attended by different UN representatives as well as other collaborating associations as IFSW, AIFRIS etc.

In the name of the IASSW and EASSW, I gave the welcome speech in which I emphasized the importance of the WSWD celebration as well as importance of the international collaboration between different social work stakeholders.

The main keynote speech with the title: “Inclusion into what? A radical sustainability perspective on the challenge of youth inclusion faced by social work” was given by professor Aila Leena-Matthies, from the University of Jyväskylä, Finland and also member of the Executive Committee of the EASSW.

**Implementation of the Strategic and Action plan of the EASSW**

The EASSW has continued with different activities that are part of the Strategic plan. Among them are activities connected with forming of new advisory board of the EASSW as well as preparation for adoption of new Network Strategy. Also, different new bylaws were prepared and adopted at our meeting held in Madrid. With the bylaws the procedures of different activities should be more transparent and bettered.

Accordingly to Strategic plan, three task groups have been created developing specific goals and related action in three main fields: membership and communication, social work education knowledge dissemination, Network strategies.

The Executive Committee continue its endavours to improve the communication between its own members and school members. The new web site is valuable tool in this process.

**Preparation of the book “Faces of Social Work Education in Changing Europe”**

The Executive Committee of the EASSW decided to start with the preparation of the book with above mentioned title. The main aim of the book is to present a systematic, comprehensive comparison of the different systems and conceptualizations of social work and its educational structures in Europe. Several authors were invited to send the abstracts so to cover different parts of Europe and to provide as comprehensive as possible overview of the social work education in different European countries. Currently the proposal with the abstracts is sent to publisher, Springer in Germany and we wait for their response.

Meanwhile, is in the process of review the second special issue related to EASSW Conference, held in Paris in 2017. The special issue will be published by Social Work Education International Journal during next autumn.

**The EASSW conference 2019**

The EASSW along with the Spanish partner Complutense University Madrid will organize the European social work education conference in Madrid in period from June 4-7th of 2019 with several preconferences. The title of the conference is “Meanings of Quality of Social Work Education in Changing Europe”.

The Executive Committee of the EASSW discussed comprehensively about the different aspects of organization of this conference. The Steering and scientific committee were formed and program concept note was written. Key note speakers from different European countries are proposed and will be approached after a selection procedure. The call for abstracts will be open on July 6th and very soon new web site will be launched.

**Strategic cooperation with other international organizations**

The EASSW have continued the work on strengthening of the cooperation with other European social work association. In this regards the draft of the new Network Strategy was prepared and is currently under the consultation process among the Executive Committee members. Among main partners of the EASSW have been and are still IASSW, IFSW Europa, ESWRA, Power US. Also we tend to further develop our relations with the INGO of the Council of Europe. Our member Robert Bergougnan was elected as vice-president of the INGO of the Council of Europe which can contribute to refining of the relations with this organization. Also we tend to intensify our relationships with the representatives of the UNESCO especially during the conference in Madrid. After the successful presentation of the last European observatory the EASSW evaluated the partnership of ENSACT and decided to redefine the relationship with the European patners. The letter prepared by the EASSW president will be sent to the partners with the information that EASSW will not continue to participate in existing working setting and with call to the partners to start with the negotiation about reformulation of future working relations.

**Representing the IASSW**

The president of the EASSW Nino Žganec will participate in the organizing committee of the IASSW world 2020 conference that will be held in Rimini, Italy.

**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 Horizon2020 project titled “A multi-stakeholder co-creation platform for better access to long-term care services — SoCaTel’ (‘action’). The president of the EASSW is the member of the Advisory board of the project.

**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.

Submitted by Nino Zganec, EASSW President June, 2018