



**Executive Committee Meeting 25 & 26 April 2009, Dubrovnik, Croatia.**

**Minutes of the Meeting.**

**Present:**

Mona Fransehn, Maria Asuncion Martinez-Roman, Claude Noel, Günter Friesenhahn, Jan Agten, Annamaria Campanini, Marju Medar, Mirka Necasova, Gabor Hegyesi, Sue Lawrence.

**Apologies:** Inger Hjerrild, Anna Michalska, and Peter Hendriks (who will arrive in the afternoon)

1. Minutes and matters arising:

Action Points – the EC reported back on action points – all have been completed.

2. Report of EC Officers:

2.1 President's report

Annamaria went with Masun to the Spanish social workers conference.

Annamaria participated in a workshop organised by EU on competences on social work and social care – there was a Nursing representative there – Annamaria will try to meet him, as the Nursing lobby is very effective. These two elements – competencies and professional representation – will be pursued.

Annamaria has organised two meetings in Milan and Parma on social work competencies, to help raise the status of European and international social work in Italy.

Annamaria has been accepted as Prime Mover for the social work education workshop of the Europe-China forum and identified the European participants. This is a positive sign that EASSW has been recognised as the European social work representative in this forum.

Annamaria has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Chicago.

2.2 Secretary's report

Jan reported that he is still having difficulties identifying contact persons to send EASSW information to.

Jan wonders whether there should be a password protected page on the website for members only.

Jan gave a report on membership figures for 2008-09. Jan will put two contact details on the membership form for each school: contact person and administration person. Jan will put a list of current EASSW members on the website.

2.3 Treasurer's report

Jan has sent the financial report and auditor's report by email to the EC.

Mirka explained the accounts for 2008 and the budget for 2009. The report was accepted unanimously.

Mirka went through the Auditor's report. There is €5079.21 held for ENQUASP – Mirka has asked both Isidor Waliman and Christine Labonte what should be done with this money – there has been no decision as yet, so the money will be held on the account until a decision is made.

The Auditor's report was accepted. The EC thanked Mirka for her work.

3. Annamaria gave a report on IASSW meeting in Parma. The discussions were very effective : the international definition of social work; regional associations; planning for the congress in Hong Kong in 2010.

4. Dubrovnik conference issues:

- Pre-conference for doctoral students – this will be evaluated after this congress to see whether it will be offered in the next congress in Brussels in 2011.

- Fifty students are attending the conference - there was no information on the website for service users stipends
- The review of the international definition of social work: every 10 years IASSW review the definition. Based on the results of the pilot survey a new internet-based questionnaire has been developed. It will be available to fill in at the conference – the EC should help as many people as possible to complete the questionnaire. There is a symposium on the international definition at the conference
- Rota for the EASSW stand at the conference: A list will be put on the stand and EC members should sign up for times when they are available. Jan will leave a list of instructions on the stand.

5. Relationship between EASSW and sub regional networks. The Central and Eastern European Network (CEEN) has been approved by the IASSW. The relationship of EASSW with other regional associations will be discussed at the congress, although Darja (President CEEN) will not be attending. Another representative of the CEEN will be attending.

6. Strategic development of EASSW.

6.1 Representation in different organisations

- Council of Europe: Gunter reported that it is difficult for him to attend everything due to restrictions on his time. He has spoken with Virena Taylor of DGIII Social Cohesion and Social Policy, but needs to know his mandate and tasks when he attends meetings.
- European Economic and Social Committee: Gabor reported that EASSW could be represented on the Social Forum for NGOs which meets once a month. Gabor has written asking for EASSW to be a member of the Social Forum.
- ENQASP – this group is no longer active. The EC discussed whether this type of quality assurance work is something that we should continue with, and whether anyone has the time or experience to take it forward. Anyone who has further information should bring it to the EC in the future.
- ENSACT – This is a network of various social professional associations. It has no finance of its own, it is there only to organise the conference every two years. Jan and Peter are currently the representatives of EASSW on ENSACT. There needs to be agreement among the member organisations on the financing of ENSACT – indeed, which organisations are still in ENSACT. Peter and Jan will be at the next meeting of ENSACT to put these following points –
  1. Which organisations have membership of Ensact,
  2. How is ENSACT to be financed?
  3. There needs to be transparency about how the co-ordinator is elected. The Co-ordinator should be from the participating organisations or nominated by them.

6.2 Web page and communication with members.

Discussion about whether the web page should be open or restricted wholly or partly for members. The difficulty is deciding who the members are (when they pay membership etc).

The EC decided to communicate with members by email. Two email addresses will be requested for each member – one contact person in the social work area and one international co-ordinator, administrator or person responsible for finance.

6.3 EASSW Bulletin and PR of EASSW

Peter and Sue offered to write a bulletin about the Dubrovnik conference.

Suzy Braye, editor of EJSW will be attending the meeting on Sunday to discuss mutual cooperation which may contribute to PR for EASSW.

In 2010 there is a meeting in Hungary to celebrate the 20th anniversary of setting up of social work in Hungary.

Annamaria will try to attend the JSWEC conference in England in July to publicise EASSW.

6.4 Strategic development of EASSW

We continued the discussion about the role and function of EASSW. The EC agreed that the constitution should remain in its original form. There was reflection about the Constitution Section II Purpose of the EASSW. The following objectives were suggested at the November meeting to further articulate the work of the EC. The first objective was changed as follows:

- ❖ Acting as a forum for social work education via interest groups, which include:
  - Sub-regional associations, networks, content-related groups, language groups, country groups, and others.
- ❖ Coordinating a voice for European activities in social work education
- ❖ Representing EASSW on European and international bodies
- ❖ Contributing to establishing common standards for European social work education (in light of global standards and the European agenda)
- ❖ Provide a platform for European critical reflection on topics (providing a political framework)
- ❖ Assisting with internationalization of the curriculum
- ❖ Encouraging development of European social work research
- ❖ Assisting with dissemination of pedagogic and practice developments
- ❖ Providing a forum for information exchange
- ❖ Support for European schools of social work

## 7. Project funding

### 7.1 Application: Supervision in Social Work Education in Europe.

This application was received in November 2008. It is building on an existing project that has been funded by CESRT. It meets all the criteria stated for project applications.  
Project approved for €4000.

### 7.2 Europe China Dialogue

This is an important political initiative of EASSW and the EC members can be funded by EASSW Europe-China Forum Fund for EC members, so it does not require funding from EASSW special projects. Funding was agreed for €1000 for each participant not funded by the Foundation – Elena Roldan EASSW member, Spain; Liv Schjerup, Norway; Cecile More, Norway; Silvia Fargion, Italy.

### 7.3 Application: International comparative research on ‘Moral aspects of outreach approaches in Social Work’

The contact persons are given, but the Universities need to be identified, so Jan can check whether they are current members. Funding of €4000 was approved, subject to EASSW membership of participants.

### 7.4 Application: Professionalization of social work – What works?

Application is for funding of €4000 for a regional seminar to be held in Koblenz, to be conducted in German for colleagues from a variety of German-speaking countries. Participants will be asked to join EASSW, if they are not currently members, to receive a reduced price of 50% for the conference. The grant would be used to translate abstracts into English and French.

This project is to be funded under the Regional Seminars budget.

Conclusion: The EC-meeting in autumn has 1 more project to be discussed for funding in 2009.

Most projects have a relation to the EC-members and their background. More advertising is needed for the budget line: funding innovative projects

Mona and Sue will work on the Project criteria for the website.

## 8. Nominating Committee report – Chair – Jan – Claude and Mirka.

8 people replied –

2 are re-elections: Mona Fransehn & Masun Martinez-Roman

6 are new candidates.: Adéla Mojzisova, Anke Beuck, Ewa Kantowicz, Jérôme Wenz, Sanela Basic, Violeta Gevorgianiené

Voting papers will be given out to participants from member schools (1 vote per school and 1/3 per individual member), but as there are sufficient places for all candidates there is no real competition. Other people can attend and should be registered to gauge interest in the General Assembly. Gunter will stand as Treasurer – to be approved by general Assembly.

#### 9. Agenda for 29 April

- a) Presentation of new members and their competences and expertise, to develop the EASSW.
- b) Strategic plan of the EC of the EASSW
- c) Report from ENSACT meeting – Peter and Jan
- d) Date and place of meetings for Autumn 2009 and Spring 2010
- e) Possibilities for future meetings

#### 10. Cooperation with European Journal of Social Work

Suzy Braye, Editor, Aimee and Caroline from the Publisher, Routledge, joined the meeting to discuss further cooperation between EJSW and EASSW.

The journal is published four times a year. The Editorial Board is listed in the front cover of the journal (copies were distributed). Content is varied with submissions from a range of countries. Journal aims to reflect the diversity of social work in Europe. There is no formula for presentation of articles – rather it reflects the diversity of styles and content. There are peer reviewed articles (5000-7000 words), country perspectives (1500-2000 words), research notes (1500-2000 words), Brussels bulletin and book reviews. The journal would like EASSW to increase the diversity of submissions to the journal and to increase the subscriptions to the journal – particularly from University libraries.

EASSW welcomes sections such as Country Notes as an opportunity for people new to writing about social work, to have an experience of publishing.

The following proposals were suggested:

1. EASSW news and bulletins could be submitted for publication – a couple of pages in each journal.
2. Links can be provided to EASSW for information on the publisher's web site for abstracts of articles
3. Time limited material can be made available for the EASSW website.
4. Under the member link of EASSW, time limited material - key articles etc - can be made available.
5. Key word searches can be made for abstracts from the publisher's web site – information about the journal can be given for the EASSW website.
6. Final reports of EASSW funded special projects can be submitted for publication in the journal in the research notes or country notes (up to 2000 words).
7. Reports on other activities can also be submitted (up to 2000 words). Where longer reports are submitted they can be considered as articles.
8. What strategies has EJSW for supporting non-English-speaking people?  
Content – it is an English language journal – the Board has discussed submission in other languages – submissions can be given an initial scrutiny from the Board, and Board members can mentor authors in translation, and the Editorial Office refines any language editing for publication. Copy editing is also done by the publisher.
  - Could articles be funded for translation recommended by EASSW? Suzy will follow this up.
  - Students could be encouraged to submit material – maybe as part of a student prize, for example. Again, Suzy will explore this.

- Publishers have some philanthropic activities and contribute to EBSCO as a search engine for abstracts and International Network Availability of Scientific Journals (INAS).
9. The Board occasionally reviews the Journal's aims and scope – feedback from EASSW would be helpful. Suggestions to Suzy Braye.
  10. Aim should be to involve people with other languages – Claude will send in a paper in French to Suzy on the platform for French language publications.
  11. Special Issues: Guest Editors need a broad call for papers – EASSW can include calls for papers and other information about the journal in the twice-yearly email to members.

12. The journal responds to proposals for special issues – EASSW can suggest topics for special issues.
13. Writing workshops can be organised jointly for regional seminars to help people build skills in writing for publication.
14. The Journal will provide to time limited materials for the European-China Forum website prior to the July visit

Sue will send these notes to Suzy and the journal will respond with suggested timescales.

#### 11. Any other business

- a) Claude informed the EC that within 3 years, French schools have to put all curricula for social professions into ECTS credits.
- b) Gabor informed the EC that Hungarian schools of social work have a new structure in place in line with Bologna. There is a conference in May in Budapest to celebrate 20 years of social work education in Hungary.
- c) The UK Social Work Research Committee will be holding its first Social Work research Conference in September 2010. They would like a European Social Work Research Conference in 2012 and would like EASSW to be involved.
- d) Claude will attend the meeting on 29 April to feed back information to Jérôme, as he is unable to attend.
- e) Suggestions were given to Annamaria for her opening speech.