



Executive Committee Meeting 7-9 May 2008, Geel, Belgium.

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

Apologies: Inge Hjerrild, Anna Michalska,

1. Welcome

2. Reports of the BRNO meeting

Minutes: Agreed

Action list:

If you would like business cards please apply to Jan Agten

The flyer is now available in English Czech, Spanish. Further translations to be provided:

French (Claude), Italian (Annamaria)

Jan will undertake the printing and distribution.

A newsletter needs to be prepared for IASSW conference in Durban

3. Report of EC members of their respective tasks:

Secretary & administration: Jan reported on his work. Patricia to continue to be administrator. Jan will work on an employment contract for her.

Bank transfer from Berlin– this was completed last week. The rest of money hopefully will be transferred before July 2008.

Financial Report by Treasurer: Budget questions/issues

Mirka tabled the financial statement and reported on expenditure. Mirka and Jan will organise the sub accounts in line with international bookkeeping conventions.

Membership: List and membership database is not accurate – contact person details not up to date. Jan to provide membership list to each country representative to update information, so requests for fees can be sent out.

Each EC member to provide a current list of schools of social work in their country.

4. IASSW - Report of the Osaka meeting + conference

Annamaria and Jan reported back. They had a meeting with the European sub-group which was very successful. Annamaria will arrange a European regional meeting in Durban and invite the groups to a meeting in Dubrovnik.

5. Strategic development EASSW.

Gunter reported on his work for EASSW in Germany. He sent out the EASSW flyer to all Schools of Social Work in Germany. Gunter will present EASSW at the German conference in June. There will be a conference in October in Ostrava. Gunter is on the Scientific Committee.

Gunter has jointly edited a book from the Thematic Network.

Marju reported on her work in Estonia. She met with other social work educators who listed their requests. These included helping to build the curriculum for social work in Estonia.

Mirka said the meeting of EASSW in Brno had been very important, especially the seminar on supervision. Most schools relate more to the Czech Association and are not clear what EASSW could do for them.

Maria Ansuncion has tried to find new members for the EASSW and has recruited some. They have difficulty with international social work texts being in English and not Spanish, so it makes cooperation difficult. Annamaria and Masun attended the meeting with the Spanish Association in Granada in April and encouraged them to join EASSW.

Claude said that some of the French texts are shared between Francophone countries. There are 14 different curricula at five levels and Bologna has been difficult in this context. The French association is working on ECTS and Bologna and Claude is encouraging French schools to join EASSW. Annamaria attended the meeting with the French Association and they are committed to continuing cooperation.

Annamaria reported about the situation in Italy since the last election. The new guidelines for social work education are not helpful as social work has only 15 credits in the curriculum. She will organise a seminar on Bologna in September to try to influence the situation as they do not teach on a competency basis but only in academic disciplines.

Mona had a Swedish Association meeting and she sent out the newsletter. They are unclear about the role of EASSW. They were interested in ENQASP as they are looking

for recognition in international accreditation. The IASSW conference will be in Stockholm in 2012.

Sue reported that in January she will become Chair of the International Sub Committee in UK because Brian Littlechild finishes as rep on IASSW and a new UK representative – Janet Williams, will become the representative for UK on IASSW. Social Work in UK is about to undergo a substantial change with the introduction of personalised budgets.

Peter presented himself to the Dutch organisation of Social Work. He sent all Dutch schools a letter offering to represent them on EASSW, but so far has no response. Peter has also written to all Swiss schools, but thinks language may be a problem.

Jan reported there are two associations, Flemish and Wallonian. All Flemish schools are members of EASSW, but only a few Wallonian schools are members– language is the main reason. Flanders schools are in the process of building the curricula based on competencies.

The meeting then considered the SWOT analysis of EASSW written in Brno and how to take forward the strategic discussion about EASSW.

The meeting discussed the wording of the Constitution and proposals for change were suggested.

Gabor reported that Hungarian colleagues proposed the following changes to the mission statement:

"The European Association of Schools of Social Work (EASSW) is a European NON-PROFIT PROFESSIONAL BODY of institutions of social work education, organizations supporting social work education and social work educators.

Its mission is to promote social development, TO SUPPORT BRINGING SOCIAL WORK PERSPECTIVES TO EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL WELFARE POLICIES, TO REPRESENT EASSW AT EU, COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND OTHER RELEVANT BODIES and develop high quality education, training and knowledge for social work practice, social services, and social welfare policies in Europe. In fulfilling its mission the EASSW adheres to all United Nations' Declarations and Conventions on human rights, AND THE BASIC TREATY OF THE EU, recognizing that respect for the inalienable rights of the individual AND COMMUNITIES is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace. Members of EASSW are united in their obligation to the continued pursuit of social justice and social development. In carrying out its mission EASSW fosters cooperation, collegiality, and interdependence AND PARTNERSHIP among its members and with SOCIAL ASSOCIATIONS AND others."

NAME.....

EASSW IS AN INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN

In discussing the purpose of EASSW the following points were proposed:

- Coordinating European activities in social work education
- Representing EASSW on European and international bodies

- Establishing common standards for European social work education (in light of global standards and the European agenda)
- European critical reflection on topics (providing a political framework)
- Internationalisation of the curriculum
- Encouraging development of research
- Disseminating pedagogic and practice developments
- Providing a forum for information exchange
- Support for schools of social work

The strategic plan for EASSW was updated in light of the discussion (see separate paper).

6. Matters outstanding:

Representation Strategy of EASSW in:

- Council of Europe: Gunter Friesenhahn gave a report of his contact with Council of Europe – as a result EASSW is now on the list of official NGOs and representatives will be invited to its meetings and conferences. The next meeting will be 5-6 June and Gunter and Mirka will attend.
- EU – Gunter is trying to locate a person or Department responsible for Social Services. The European Universities Association may be helpful in providing contacts. The Social & Economic Committee and the Social Platform were suggested as points at which EASSW could find influence. Gunter will approach his local MEP to have contact with the European Parliament.
- Mirka reported back on her meeting with Eastern European Region Schools of Social Work. They would like to cooperate closely with EASSW to give a voice to the former socialist states.
- Widening membership beyond EU member states was proposed. Members agreed to use existing contacts to advertise and encourage membership of EASSW

ENSACT

Jan Agten + Peter Hendriks

Dubrovnik conference: *Social action in Europe: different legacies & common challenges?*

Jan tabled the draft programme.

EC members were asked to recommend people as Keynote speakers – names to Jan by 1 July 2008.

2 or 3 people from the EC will have conference fees paid.

Chairs for sessions – Gunter and Peter offered to chair sessions 3 and or 4.

Conference language – abstracts can be in own language and also in English. If participants want a session in a specific language they can request it. Keynotes will be translated into English, French and Croatian.

ENQASP

Annamaria Campanini + Inger Hjerrild

Annamaria gave an overview of the establishment of ENQASP and its work. A group of the EUA (ENQA) was accredited by EU to give a quality label to courses, but it was not expert in social professional education, so ENQASP was formed. They did an accreditation of courses in Iceland and Switzerland and of the EUSW Thematic Network. The people doing this work need to be recognised and money is needed for marketing and other expenses. If ENQASP are to be successful in becoming an accreditation body they need to be known. The EC agreed to keep attending the meetings of ENQASP and continue with the work.

IASSW: Annamaria Campanini + Jan Agten

EASSW bulletin and PR of EASSW

7. Project funding:

Mona reviewed the project criteria as published on the EASSW website and proposed that it should be re-written.

- Transnationalisation of social work education services

The proposal needs an abstract, a budget, to specify how it will be innovative taking into account existing information and to specify the five member partners of EASSW.

- European-Mediterranean Sub Regional Group of EASSW

The application contained no abstract, no budget, the timescale predated the application, no outcomes are identified and therefore no indicators can be given for the evaluation of the project and not all the partners mentioned were members of EASSW.

The committee recognised that the proposal was politically sensitive due to the position of the Northern African states in relation to the African regional group of the IASSW, as mentioned in the proposal. It was agreed that the proposal would be discussed with IASSW as an opportunity to cooperate around supporting a network.

- EUSW seminar in co-operation with EASSW on Competency Based Teaching

This application conformed to all criteria and was approved. It was agreed that a maximum of 2 grants of 500euros for each member university can be allocated.

- Proposal for European Student Conference in Dubrovnik April 2009.

If students want to apply for support, they should apply to the Solidarity fund - however they should be students at a member school of EASSW, the maximum grant should be 500euros and not more than 70% of the costs. Other sources of funding must be provided by the student.

- Jan will advise the colleagues from Antwerp that they can apply for project funding according to the criteria.
- Sue offered to help Mona with project applications while Inger Hjerrild is unwell.
- Jan will modify the text for Project Criteria for the web and send it to EC members for comment before publication on the web site of EASSW.

- The conditions we have summed up during the discussion are:

1. The application should respect the project outline as available on the website
2. It should be in the interest of EASSW to strengthen SW Education in Europe cooperation with EASSW.

3. Applicants of the grant must be individual members or member schools of EASSW.

The word applicant is meant for all the schools that profit from the EASSW money.

4. Extra funding should be demonstrated

5. The EASSW budget provides 16.000€for the 4 best projects

Decision during the next EC-meeting and choose between the 4 best applications which fulfill the most the criteria.

It was not clearly decide who will inform to the applicants and by which mean. I suppose that it is the task of the selection committee. Or is it the task of the secretary?

8. Any other business

European Journal of Social Work

Suzy Braye, Editor of EJSW would like closer cooperation with EASSW – the EC agreed this would be desirable. There are currently calls for applications to the Editorial Board and for Reviewers for journal submissions. Calls are on the EASSW web site, or Sue Lawrence will send them on.

Gunter announced a two day seminar for bachelor students beginning of November and Gunter would like colleagues from other countries to participate.

Gabor informed the EC about a seminar to be held at the end of August: Culture of Inclusion 28-29 August 2008.

Ostrava EXPRESS conference 16-18 October 2008.

European Thematic Network 18-20 September 2008, Maastricht.

Next EASSW Board meeting: Afternoon of Saturday 20-Sunday 21 September 2008 Maastricht. Peter Hendriks to find venue.

Action list

1. **Jan** will undertake the printing and distribution of the new flyers
2. A newsletter needs to be prepared for IASSW conference in Durban: **Annamaria, Jan, Mirka**
3. **Jan** to provide membership list to each country representative to update information
4. Requests for fees can be sent out by the **secretariat**
5. **Each EC member** to provide a current list of schools of social work in their country.
6. Patricia to continue to be administrator. **Jan** will work on an employment contract for her.
7. **Mirka and Jan** will organise the sub accounts in line with international bookkeeping conventions.
8. EU – **Gunter** is trying to locate a person or Department responsible for Social Services. The European Universities Association may be helpful in providing contacts.
9. The Social & Economic Committee and the Social Platform were suggested as points at which EASSW could find influence. **Gabor** will bring more information and a strategy how to proceed.
10. **Gunter** will approach his local MEP to have contact with the European Parliament.
11. **EC-Members** agreed to use existing contacts to advertise and encourage membership of EASSW
12. Dubrovnik Conference: Chairs for sessions – **Gunter and Peter** offered to chair sessions 3 and or 4.
13. Decision about funding projects during the next **EC-meeting** and choose between the 4 best applications which fulfill the most the criteria.
14. Calls for applications to the Editorial Board of the European Journal are on the EASSW web site, or **Sue Lawrence** will send them on.
15. Ostrava EXPRESS conference 16-18 October 2008. The **EC-members** are supposed to participate actively.

16. Next EASSW Board meeting: Afternoon of Saturday 20-Sunday 21 September 2008
Maastricht. **Peter Hendriks** to find venue.