

BULLETIN

AUGUST 2002



Letter from the President

Dear members,

this bulletin will arrive, when most of you will already start in the winter term. For this reason I wish you a very successful teaching and research time after a – hopefully – splendid summer break.

I hope that the bulletin can give you some new and valuable informations and can improve our connections. I am very happy that we can include two profiles from member schools, this time from Switzerland, and an article about the history of social work in the Czech Republic.

I want to thank the authors for their contributions and invite you all to send me your school profiles and articles about the developments in social work and social work education in your countries. This kind of information helps all of us to be informed on current developments.

I am also very happy to inform you that we are a still fast growing organisation, including more and more European countries, as i.e. recently Ukraine with the Kiev-Mohyla-Academy.

Yours sincerely

Christine Labonté-Roset

European Accreditation Agency (EAA)

Christine Labonté-Roset

The setting-up of the EAA for the field of social work education is well on his way, but as probably everybody who works on the European level knows every step takes his time.

We have now the agreement of the European branch of IFSW, FESET, the European office of AIEJI (the International Association of Social

Educators) and of CESSNET (the alumni network of MACCESS – one of the oldest European master programs) to participate in this agency. We reported to the Council of Europe about our activities and will have in autumn the next meeting with representatives of the Council to discuss our next steps.

We drafted a first paper on the structure of the EAA and the

principles for accreditation, which will be discussed on this occasion.

Bologna Process

Christine Labonté-Roset

As we are often asked, where to find good informations about the ongoing Bologna Process, I would recommend the homepage of the Council of Europe www.coe.int. Here you will find under the column 'culture' the entry 'higher education'. Chosen this entry, please click on 'activities' - then you should find the entry 'Bologna Process' with the texts of the Bologna declaration, the Prague Communiqué etc. and a lot of

background documents, including the very informative texts of Guy Haug and Christian Tauch about 'Trends in Learning Structures in Higher Education'.

The next meeting of the European higher education ministers will be in Berlin in September 2003.

The next conference dealing with themes according to the Bologna Process will be:

- The European University Association (EUA) and Swiss

Confederation Conference on ECTS

- 11 - 12 October 2002 Zürich, Switzerland, ETH Zürich
- 'Credit Transfer and Accumulation - the Challenge for Institutions'

For further informations on this conference see:

www.ects-conference.ethz.ch/index.asp

Brief social work history in the Czech republic

Mirka Necasova, EASSW, Masaryk University Brno necasova@fss.muni.cz using an article written by Oldrich Chytil, Ostrava University

As the Czech republic is situated in the heart of Christian Europe the first organized efforts to deal with social problems were connected with church - monastic orders activities and parochial districts activities as well. These conditions were interrupted by Hussites in the 14th century (for instance the system of hospitals was destroyed by them). During the reign of Marie Teresie and Josef II. in 18th century (Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia were parts of Austrian and Hungarian empire) was established new system of education and social care institutions and the church lost its privilege in the field of care for people in need. After the foundation of the Czechoslovak republik in 1918 the responsibility of social care was slowly passing from the home community and donors to the state administration. Between the wars, social workers were active in the spheres of social care in communities, care for youth, social and educational care, professional advising, care for disabled people, mother and child health care. They also worked in various voluntary associations – important segments of the social care system.

Soon the practise induced a need to set up education in the social care. The first social work school was set up in Praha in 1918. It was called Social Care Higher School (for high-school graduates) and its foundation was connected with Alice Masarykova, daughter of president T.G. Masaryk, and Edward Beneš, Masaryk's successor in presidency. The school satisfied the need to have trained workers capable to upgrade the public social care and unite the different associations into a modern social care system. Other higher schools were founded in Turcansky Svaty Martin and Bratislava (Slovenia) in 1926 and in Brno in 1927 and later also in Horice, Vysoke Myto, Ostrava, Jihlava and Ceske Budejovice. Academic education in social care was established in 1945 when the University of Politology with the

Faculty of Social Science was founded in Praha, followed by the Social University in Brno in 1947 (which was connected with A.I. Bláha – a wellknown sociologist). After the World War II the social work activities flourished and also the social work methods were frequently discussed. Marie Krakesova published a famous book in 1946 in which she presented a method based on her own experience and influenced by thoughts of Mary Richmond and Virginia Robinson. This hopeful development was interrupted by the start of communist regime in February 1948.

Under socialism the importance of social work was on decline, because the state proclaimed such an ideology that social problems did not exist any more. Potential clients of social workers (individuals or families) got some financial benefits from the state or were sent to prisons or to hospitals (homeless, drug addicted). The artificial picture of a problem free society resulted into underestimation of social work and stagnation in most fields of social care. Academic social education institutions were shut in 1953 and the majority of higher schools as well. The same happened to non-state organizations of social care.

Significant impulse for social work in Czechoslovakia came in 1968. The Prague Spring acknowledged that social problems do exist even under the socialist system and allowed to devise a Government concept for social policy. West European experience was used to set up social work programmes for families with children, disabled and elderly people, Romany people, homeless and released prisoners. But many university graduates and experts had to leave the field after the country invasion done by Soviet Union soldiers and during the political repressions of the early 1970s.

After the Velvet Revolution in 1989 the situation changed. The activities of church and other non-state

organizations expanded. New educators in social work came into existence. During this hasty and rash period the lack of experience and professional education was soon revealed. Two outlasted higher schools provided only lectures on law and administrative skills and there was lack of real professionals in the field of social work itself. The Association of Educators in Social Work was established in 1993 by the Masaryk University in Brno and University in Ostrava to improve constantly the quality of education. Association members have signed the Social Work Education Minimum Standard defining the graduates scope of knowledge and expertise. At present

four kinds of social work curriculum are available: three-year Social Work Academy (for high school graduates, 3 year study), university level: bachelor (for high school graduates, 3 year study), master (for bachelor graduates, after additional 2 years of study), doctoral (for master graduates, after additional 4 years).

Another professional body was reestablished in 1990 – the Society of Social Workers. For the first time the organization was established in 1922. The Society organizes conferences and discussion forums for social workers. In 1995 the Code of Ethics of the Czech Social Workers was declared by that professional organization.

Ecole d'études sociales et pédagogiques (EESP), à Lausanne (Suisse)

Verena Keller—vkeller@eesp.ch

L'EESP réunit au sein d'une seule école la formation en l'ergothérapie et les cinq formations du travail social (service social, animation socioculturelle, éducation spécialisée dont éducation sociale, éducation de la petite enfance et maîtres socioprofessionnels). 620 étudiant-e-s fréquentent l'école, dans des cycles à plein temps et en emploi. L'école existe depuis 1964 comme Association de l'Ecole d'études sociales et pédagogiques suite à la fusion de deux écoles,

dont celle d'éducateurs créée par Claude Pahud en 1953. Elle est subventionnée par la Confédération suisse et par les cantons romands et du Tessin. Son Unité de recherche, créée en 1989, a réalisé des nombreuses études pour divers organismes publics et privés. Des conventions avec les Universités romandes sont à l'œuvre depuis des années pour des cours et études post-grade. Un secteur Formation continue complète depuis 2001 l'offre de cycles post-grade pour les professions du social et de la santé.

Profile

University of Applied Sciences Basel

School of Social Work

The School of Social Work trains for degrees in Social Work and Social Pedagogy. In doing so it promotes an international orientation. The curriculum is modularized.

The FHS-BB is designed as a transnationally based education and training institution with a primarily European orientation. It is an attractive place to study

- for students with transnational interests
- for students interested in social work which transcends borders and in the professional and socio-political differences in the tri-state region of Oberhein

- for students interested in European comparison, topics and questions of social policy and social work.

General Opportunities

Students who choose the FHS-BB, generally have the opportunity to complete a part of their studies (classes and/or internship) abroad (including in the region of Oberhein). Their performance abroad is evaluated using the ECTS (European Credit Transfer System). If the studies take place within Europe, they receive financial support which, however, does not provide complete cost coverage. Placement abroad can be individually chosen. The FHS-BB has a large network of partner schools (Socrates) at its disposal (see www.maccess.nl).

Special Opportunities

The main emphasis on transborder social work, known as RECOS, offers an EU supported study program for social work in the Oberhein region, which can be taken and completed as an integral part of the degree. A certificate is awarded upon completion. In this study program courses which conduct a comparative regional analysis of social work, social problems, and social policy are offered to students from France, Germany, and Switzerland. Performance is evaluated using the ECTS.

For more information see

www.fhsbb.ch

or contact

eveline.sachsalber@fhsbb.ch

EASSW Budget – Auditors Report

Christine Labonté-Roset

The annual accounts of our association for the year 2001 were audited by an external auditor, as stated in our constitution and successfully approved.

IASSW - World Congress

Christine Labonté-Roset

The IASSW World Congress this year was held in Montpellier/ France from the 15 - 18 of July.

Until now it was the biggest conference of the international association besides the previous joint congresses together with IFSW with about 1300 participants. One reason for this was the fact that IFSW cancelled its intended world congress in Harare, Zimbabwe this year due to the political situation in this country. IFSW invited instead its members to participate in the Montpellier congress and Imelda Dodds, the president of IFSW took part in the opening ceremony of Montpellier.

About 400 papers were presented under the congress title 'Citizenship and social work education in a globalising world'. These papers can be found on the website of the French Association of the organisations for the social work education and research: **www.aforts.com**

Attached you will find the French version of my speech on the opening ceremony of the

European Social Work Congress Copenhagen 2003

Christine Labonté-Roset

The 2nd announcement of the above mentioned social work congress will be send out to our members in the next weeks, together with a call of papers.

This congress will be a joint congress of the European branch of IFSW, FESET and EASSW, 26 – 29 May 2003.

The seminar will focus on the theme 'Social work in a future Europe on a political agenda', especially on two objectives:

- social security systems
- the fight against social exclusion.

General informations can be obtained at the seminar secretariat: European Seminar Copenhagen 2003

H.C. Andersens Boulevard 50

DK-1780 Copenhagen

Ph: +45 33 30 43 43

Fax: +45 33 30 44 49

e-mail: info@socialwork2003.dk

The general website is: **www.socialwork2003.dk**

Special informations for the call of papers can be obtained on:

summary@socialwork2003.dk

Here you can also send in your abstracts.