

BULLETIN

APRIL 2003



In a relatively short time, the EASSW has become a sizeable and more consolidated organization. As such it now is also an important source of income for IASSW and able to play a significant role in it. As a result, the EASSW has decided to make full use of the number of delegates it can send to the IASSW board of directors. It also has decided to play an active role in further developing and reshaping IASSW in its mission.

Attached, you will find the EASSW proposal to restructure IASSW as an organisation and to rethink its function and mission. The proposal has been submitted to the IASSW board of directors for discussion with the intent to let IASSW membership vote on a restructuring plan at the next IASSW congress in Adelaide.

...❖ See the proposal at page 3 !

Isidor Wallimann

First International Congress of Social Work in Slovenia

In October 2002 the first international congress on social work in Slovenia was held in Portoroz. With over 300 participants from all over Europe it was a big success. Together with the president of Slovenia, the EASSW president participated in the opening ceremony and during the congress a special EASSW-seminar was held on the Bologna process and its implications for social work education.

Here the announcement for this seminar:

Effects of the Bologna Process for the Social Work Education in Europe

Labonté-Roset, Reverda, Wallimann

The Bologna Declaration in June 1999 from 29 European Ministers of Higher Education started a rapid process of changes in higher education in most of the European countries. Such the aim of the declaration to create a common European higher education area until 2010 will probably be reached even earlier. Until now this process has been discussed on the political level. It is high time to take part in this discussion and decision process, because the main objectives of Bologna will change the structures, the quality and even the content also of the social work education. These main objectives are: Promotion of teachers and students mobility, Promotion of employability of graduates on the European labour market, Competition of offered study programs

Europe-wide, Introduction of easy readable degree systems, more coherence through the introduction of a two-tiers-system of degrees, Introduction of a European orientation, more quality assurance through evaluation of the universities and the accreditation of study programs, more cooperation on a European level and joint study programs. In the seminar will be discussed, how the schools of social work can prepare themselves to participate in this process to influence this development. Our starting position is very favourable as the subject we are dealing with (social work) is already internationally orientated. We have already included some European and intercultural orientation in our study programs, have international cooperation and some mobility. The question will be how and in which points we have to improve this, and with which measures and methods to develop examples of good practice, that could be disseminated. The question of the seminar should also be if social work education can deliver if new perspectives which should be included in the Bologna process. For example, the foundation of a European Accreditation Agency for study programs in the field of social work and social pedagogy will be discussed. As examples of already existing good practice the Joint Master Program "Comparative European Social Studies (MACESS)" and the "Transnational Study Program in Social Policy and Social Work in the Upper Rhine Valley (Germany, France, Switzerland)" will be presented.

ENQASP

We already reported about the project to establish a European accreditation agency. On February 10 we had a first meeting with representatives of FESET, the European Association of Training Centers for Socio-Educational Care Work, the European bureau of AIEJI, the International Association of Social Educators and CESSNET, the alumni network of MACESS, one of the oldest European joint master programs. The European branch of IFSW, the International Federation of Social Workers couldn't send a representative but expressed their strong interest of future involvement.

The meeting decided unanimously to establish such an agency and to both come up with a frame for the structure of the agency as well a set of criterias and goals for the accreditation process itself.

It was also decided to change the name into

European Network for Quality Assurance for Social Professions (ENQASP)

in order to have a broader basis for our work, which should include the consulting and monitoring of new (European) study programs just as organizing seminars and congresses on the questions of evaluation, accreditation and related questions of social work education in Europe.

A first Mission Statement was passed:

“ENQASP Mission Statement”

Graduates in the field of social professions should no longer need to individually seek acceptance of their degrees for further study and work abroad. Additionally, graduates should have guarantees that their degrees will be accepted by employers and universities outside their own countries.

To reach these goals EQN sees itself as a body to evaluate and recognise curricula (quality label) for social professions beyond their already obtained national recognition.

By doing so, ENQASP intends to promote mobility, exchange, compatibility and comparability in Europe.

ENQASP will

- develop a frame of reference and minimum standards for study programs in the European field of social professions
- establish European procedures to evaluate existing programs on regular basis
- grant a quality label
- consult and monitor new programs
- organize public conferences on quality assurance

The next meeting of our steering group will be in May in Copenhagen.

Christine Labonté-Roset

Change of EASSW constitution

In June 2001, the General Assembly of EASSW in Lodz/Poland decided after a rather long and intensive debate over the question of the term of office for EASSW-executive committee members, to vote for this question through postal ballot. This postal ballot was carried out in the summer of 2002 with the result, that a big majority of the EASSW members voted in favour of a change of the constitution based on the following text:

“Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected for a term of four years, with one half to be elected every two years. Members of the Executive

Committee shall normally serve no more than two consecutive terms.

Exceptionally, the Executive Committee may give reasons to the General Assembly why a committee member might be able to stand for election for an additional period.”

A copy of the constitution with all changes decided upon on the last two General Assemblies will be send out with the invitation for the next General Assembly on May 27, 2003 in Copenhagen.

Restructuring IASSW: Corporate Identity and Membership Services (Proposal)

Not long ago, the IASSW was the only organisation to provide a platform for schools wanting to be active on a transnational basis. With regional and sub-regional associations little developed, the IASSW was, therefore, bound to cater to individual schools. This has changed dramatically.

Alone in the few years passed, we have been able to observe a vigorous growth in regional and sub-regional associations of schools. Europe, Asia, the Pacific, the Caribbean and Africa are particularly to be mentioned. Europe has seen the fastest growth, followed by Asia and the others. With the addition of Chinese schools, also Asia will see hitherto unseen growth in its regional membership.

In some cases, the new regional and sub-regional associations are developments parallel to other processes of regional economic, social and social policy integration. In turn, these processes encourage schools to primarily focus on their region by transcending national borders through contacts and development in the region.

The IASSW has moved away from the situation in which local schools would have to seek membership in the IASSW in order to connect with the outside world, regionally and internationally. Accordingly, many functions that the IASSW once needed to fulfill are now met primarily by regional and sub-regional associations. This, in turn, calls for a redefinition of the tasks. The IASSW should restrict itself to tasks that cannot successfully be met by regions.

For the above reasons, the IASSW has lost much of its function (and attraction) for individual schools, while it remains a viable organisation for regional and sub-regional associations. What, then, should be IASSW's function if it is to serve regions and sub-regions? What should be its organisational structure to optimally serve?

Organizational Structure: Federation, not Association

The IASSW move away

- from the many membership categories
- from "duplicate" membership categories (school, national and regional)
- from the large board of directors
- from a board of directors with different voting rights among board members

The IASSW should move towards

- a federation of regional and sub-regional associations with

- a membership of only regional and sub-regional associations
- voting rights to be newly determined for regional and sub-regional associations

IASSW functions

Being a federation of regional and sub-regional associations, the IASSW will need to retain functions pertaining to the global level, such as:

- retaining the UN consultative status and collaboration with IFSW
- working towards global qualifying standards
- organizing a world congress in a four year cycle for world level exchange
- organizing regular board meetings around content such as
 - world level social problems affecting training and social policy
 - developing policy strategies pertaining to world level social problem issues for use both in the UN consulting and regional context.

Financial Consequences: New Revenue Structure

Due to the rapid growth in regional and sub-regional associations, the pressure on the regional level to provide numerous and effective services has grown significantly.

And with schools having regions in their focus, membership fees to the IASSW have increasingly become suspect, since on a daily basis it is the regions which are in need of better services and higher membership fees. Regional membership fees, however, cannot easily be increased to match the increased demand for services in the region.

To resolve the above issue, all membership fees should be collected by regional associations. They in turn agree among themselves on a formula to finance the services to be rendered by IASSW. Thus, the present mode to finance IASSW, would be restructured.

Time schedule

This proposal shall be submitted to the general assembly at the world congress in Adelaide and be discussed at the board meetings before, starting with the meeting in Tallin and Helsinki in August 2003.

New EASSW representatives in the IASSW board

At its meeting in October at Portoroz, the Executive Committee elected two representatives to the IASSW board of directors:

Isidor Wallimann, University of Applied Sciences Basel and Darja Zavirsek, University of Ljubljana.

Isidor Wallimann is professor of sociology, economics and social policy, Darja Zavirsek, professor of anthropology and social work. Both have a wide range of teaching, research and publication experience on an international level and much know-how in monitoring and consulting new study programs on the undergraduate and postgraduate level in Europe.

EASSW, thus is fully utilizing its representation to the IASSW to fully promote European interests in social work education.

Looking at IASSW membership, Europe has the largest membership group. For this reason, the EASSW should also have its proper influence in the IASSW.

Darja Zavirsek and Isidor Wallimann are bound to be good advocates for European interests within the IASSW.

IASSW ELECTIONS 2003

The call for nominations has been sent out. The deadline for nominations is Oct. 15, 2003. There is some indication in Europe that not all member schools might have received the call for nominations. Should you not have received it, let IASSW know immediately. Be aware that the call for nominations was not sent by separate mail designated for electoral purposes. It came as an addition to the newsletter.

The EASSW believes that it is necessary that the IASSW adheres to the rotation principle practiced in the past. For the last eight years (two terms are the maximum for a president to remain in office), the presidency has been in Europe. Provided that the candidates are qualified, the next president should represent members of an area other than Europe.

CONSULTANTS REQUESTED

Increasingly, EASSW receives invitations to name competent consultants for projects in Middle and Eastern Europe. The demand in particular is for consulting in curriculum development at existing schools or for consulting in establishing new schools of social work.

The EASSW does not like these opportunities to pass our member schools. Therefore, we invite you to send us (labonte@asfh-berlin.de) names and addresses of experts that you think would like to work in these fields.

MEMBER SCHOOL PROFILES

If you are a member and would like to present yourself as a school to other members, you now can do it through our web page. Send our web master your

profile in no more than 5,000 characters for a one year publication on the web (www.eassw.org).

INNOVATIVE IDEAS AND PROJECTS

If you are a member and would like to present to others members innovative ideas and projects in

- teaching,
- practice and
- research

you now can do it through our web page. Send our web master your profile in no more than 5,000 characters for a one year publication on the web (bj@dsh-aa.dk).

Invitation to Copenhagen

On the 26-29 of May 2003 , as you probably already know, we will have together with IFSW Europe and FESET our Joint Congress Social Work in a Future Europe.

About 550 people already signed up and we invite you to participate also in this important event in order to meet colleagues from schools of social work and social educational work and social work practice

to discuss in the workshops and to meet the keynote speakers like Zygmunt Bauman, Jacques Doncelot, Anna Diamantopolou, Bertel Harder and others.

We are looking forward to meet you also on the EASSW General Assembly, Tuesday 27 of May, 2.30 pm; 5 p.m. The invitations for this event will be sent out beginning of April.

EASSW Executive Committee

Report from the Nomination Committee for the EASSW Executive Committee

In the middle of January the Nomination Committee; sent out a call for nomination to all member schools. Deadline for nomination was March 14. The committee; has got 8 nominations. They have all accepted to be elected and have declared that their schools / universities will fund their activities for the EASSW.

The nominated are:

Christine Labonté-Roset	Germany	Stand for reelection
Isidor Walliman	Switzerland	Stand for reelection
Nol Revarda	Netherlands	Stand for reelection
Answin Weissenborn	Austria	Stand for reelection
Anna Metteri	Finland	New
Ann Davis	Great Britain	New
Jan Agten	Belgium	New
Anna-Maria Campanini	Italy	New

Attached to the bulletin you will find their statements for election. Their CVs will be possible to read in the EASSW stand at the Conference.

For the Nomination Committee
Sören Björkman

MACESS selected as 'good practice' for Joint European Masters

Together with ten other Joint Masters, the MA Comparative European Social Studies, located in Maastricht, has been selected as an example of good practice by the European University Association (EUA). The EUA received more than 60 applications from higher education networks for this project, of which 11 projects were selected by a panel of European higher education leaders. The application was submitted in cooperation with the Alice Salomon Fachhochschule in Berlin. MACESS is the only course of the selected programmes, that represents social work education. The project is supported by the European Commission through the Socrates programme.

MACESS is offered by Hogeschool Zuyd and the London Metropolitan University, in co-operation with an extended network of 28 universities and colleges all over Europe. The course is intended for graduate social professionals (social workers, social pedagogues, care workers etc.) and offers the opportunity to conduct a comparative study and research in the field of social professional practice and/or social policy within a European context. Successful completion of the course is awarded by an English MA degree.

Since the signing of the Bologna Declaration, a lot of attention has been given to the convergence of higher education structures and the introduction of Bachelors and Masters degrees. However, these developments are mostly nationally based with little attention for cross-border cooperation. "So far there has been little attempt to examine actual cooperation among European universities, and to highlight

the benefits to students, professors and institutions of working together in Europe – and this is a gap we aim to fill," expressed Eric Froment, president of the EUA, in this context.

Joint Masters are perceived as a way to promote partnerships between universities as an alternative to mutual competition and as an added value to improve the quality of higher education. The Joint Masters Project aims to identify good practice in existing joint masters programmes to establish models for creating and sustaining joint masters programmes in Europe.

Like the other projects, MACESS will be described according to three key themes:

- quality assurance and recognition
- student experience and mobility
- course integration and curriculum development

The project will run for one academic year (2002/-2003) and the outcomes will be presented at the Second Convention of European Universities in Graz, Austria, May 2003. In addition, a coherent recommendation for Joint Masters will be formulated to the Berlin Ministers Summit, September 2003.

For more information on the project:

www.unige.ch/EUA

For more information on MACESS:

www.macess.nl

Nol Reverda
MACESS/course director

Macess announcement

Add a European dimension to your career:

MACESS

Master of Comparative European Social Studies



The Hogeschool Zuyd and the University of North London, in co-operation with an extended network of 28 universities and colleges all over Europe, offer the MA Comparative European Social Studies (MACESS). This course is intended for graduate social professionals (social workers, social pedagogues, care workers etc.) and offers the opportunity to conduct a comparative study and research in the field of social professional practice and/or social policy within a European perspective. Successful completion of the

course is awarded by an English MA degree.

MACESS is a one year, full-time course, and consists of an educational programme of half a year, followed by a comparative research of six months. The research period starts in March. About 25 students from different European countries yearly attend this course, which is taught in English and the educational part of which takes place in Maastricht. The course team consists of an international group of teachers, recruited through the above mentioned network.

For information package and application form contact:

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