



Newsletter January 2009

In 2008 the work was focused on two main objectives:

- 1- improve the contacts and the support with social work education institutions in different parts of Europe
- 2- consolidate the partnerships with other European organisations involved in the social work topic

1- Improve the contacts and the support with social work education institutions in different parts of Europe

As a consequence of the meeting with AFORTS colleagues (Association Française des Organismes de Formation et de Recherche en Travail Social) I was invited to participate in April in Paris to a congress aimed to reflect upon the need for the French education to be more open towards an European and international perspective.

The meeting has been very successful. Aforts encourages all the participants to become a member of EASSW and we decided to organize one of our EC meeting in France to contribute to this process.

Also in April, I have participated on behalf of EASSW, in Granada in the annual conference of the representatives of social work education in all Spanish Universities, presenting a speech about La Reforma de la Formación de Grado y Postgrado en el Espacio Europeo de Educación Superior: un desafío para el Trabajo Social

The EC-meeting in May in Geel was mostly spent on strategic developments of EASSW. After our EC meeting, Jan Agten organized a seminar for the teachers of the Flemish schools of social work on European Social Work Structures, competences for studying abroad and student participation in conferences

Every member of the executive committee, have worked in different ways to involve their own countries in EASSW and IASSW, often clarifying the differences between the two organizations and representing EASSW voice in national conferences and meetings.

The membership drive is a key issue for EASSW, as it is for IASSW. To keep the membership database updated demands a lot of work, especially because of merges and changes in positions on the one hand and new members from central and Eastern Europe. E.g. In Turkey 8 new departments of Social work have started this year.

The new EASSW Flyer has been published in 5 languages and we have to have more languages!

2- consolidate the partnerships with other European organisations involved in the social work topic

A fruitful contact has been realized by Gunter Friesenhahn with the 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. Gunther Friesenhan and Mirka Necasova have attended to the 5-6 June meeting.

Other European bodies have been approached (Department responsible for Social Services, the European Universities Association, the Social & Economic Committee and the Social Platform and also the European Parliament).

The cooperation with ENSACT is ongoing, a new meeting took place in September in Zagreb to discuss both the progress in the agreement and the organisation of the biannual conference in Dubrovnik(26/29 april). The title of the conference is ***Social action in Europe: different legacies & common challenges?*** and the draft programme is ready and on the website.

Next to this unique cooperation between 6 European Associations in organizing the conference:

- European Association of Schools of Social Work (EASSW)
- Formation d'Educateurs Sociaux Européens / European Social Educator Training (FESET)
- Federation Internationale des Communautés Educatives (FICE)
- International Association of Social Educators (AIEJI)
- International Federation of Social Workers European Region (IFSW)
- International Council on Social Welfare European Region (ICSW)

We would like to create special space for student participation in the conference.

The website of Ensact is redesigned and will be actively used for spreading information coming from all Ensact partners. www.ensact.eu

Jan Agten represented EASSW in the international congress of ICSW in Tours. It was the 80 anniversary of the ICSW. A look into the history of social work in Europe is fascinating through the publication: "80 Years of History (1928-2008)"

In some countries in Europe (retired) teachers are spending time in setting up the SW Canon. See for Belgium and the Netherlands <http://www.canonsociaalwerk.be/> and <http://www.canonsociaalwerk.nl/index.html>

There is a request for international cooperation, but so far not worked out.

EASSW is still actively participating in the different initiatives organised by the EUSW Thematic network (European Platform for Worldwide Social Work)

EASSW is still present in the *European Network for Quality Assurance in Social Professions (ENQASP)* together with FESET (Formation d'Educateurs Sociaux Européens/European Social Educators Training), FICE (Federation internationale des Communautés Educatives), AIEJI (International Association of Social Educators) but in the last meeting in Dubrovnik we discuss about the real possibilities to develop activities oriented to ensure quality in the education, according with the line of European bodies. Sue Lawrence is taking contact with some representative of the European Universities Association to understand if it is useful or not go on with ENQASP, or if it will be necessary to find other strategies

The initiative was taken by Christine Labonté to establish cooperation in the Mediterranean area between Europe and the Magreb countries is ongoing, but in our EC we needed to discuss inside IASSW about this topic.

« La formation des travailleurs sociaux et dans le context Europeén. La place d'EASSW ».

This presentation is the contribution offered on behalf of European Association at the meeting organized by AFORTS (Association Française des Organismes de Formation et de Recherché en Travail Social) in Paris.

The title of the meeting « Les formations sociales dans l'espace européen : enjeux et perspectives » (the social workers education in an European context : challenges and perspectives), clearly expressed the intent to offer the schools partners to AFORTS a concrete

opportunity to reflect upon the possibility to open the French education towards an European and international perspective.

One of the peculiar aims was also to understand and develop the use of the ECTS system in French education for social workers to implement the exchange opportunities between students and practitioners in Europe. In this sense, a very interesting contribution was presented by Beatrice Delpouve, expert in the Bologna Process, who presented the Tuning methodology in organizing competence-based curricula.

The meeting was very successful. AFORTS encouraged all the participants to become members of EASSW and I promised to encourage the EC to organize one of our meetings in France to contribute with more voices as possible to this process of Europeanisation of social work education in France.

One week later, in Granada, the annual conference of the representatives of social work education in all Spanish Universities was held. The organisation of the conference was a mix of plenary sessions and workshops. During the plenary sessions, Moneréo Perez spoke about the social rights in the system of European tractates, Hoffer- Mehlmer presented the professional situation of social workers in Europe between commonalities and differences, and myself I spoke on the social work education reform in Europe. The interventions in the workshops were organized following some specific lines like “social work in front of new and old social problems”, “debate and changes in social welfare: new context for social workers”, “the reform of the education within the HE in Europe, challenges for social work education and profession”, “research and development of social work discipline and profession”. Very successful and interesting meeting with the participation of teachers, professionals and students from all over Europe.

There are two things to point out: first of all, the document presented by the representatives of the Universities, signed by the Minister of the Education in which the new competence-based curricula are designed; second, the great effort made by Maria Asuncion Martinez, member of the Executive committee to involve all the universities in EASSW.

Parallel to the IASSW meeting in Durban had a meeting with all the European representatives in the IASSW board.

Issues discussed were:

1. Next European Conference 26-29 April 2009 in Dubrovnik

2. Relation between sub regional networks and Associations and the EASSW. Sub regional networks and Associations should ask their members to become also a paying member of the EASSW and the IASSW. Both Associations should defend SW-issues on the respective levels.

Exchange the member lists between EASSW and the sub regional networks and associations is an issue for further discussion.

During the II semester of 2008 the work was focused on two main objectives:

1- prepare the Dubrovnik conference, consolidating the ENSACT partnership

2- improve the contacts and the support with social work education institutions in different parts of Europe

1- prepare the Dubrovnik conference, consolidating the ENSACT partnership

The cooperation with ENSACT is ongoing, a new meeting took place in September in

Zagreb to discuss the organisation of the biannual conference in Dubrovnik(26/29 April)
Social action in Europe: different legacies & common challenges? More than 200 abstracts
have been received and evaluated. A pre-conference on HUMAN RIGHTS IN TEACHING
AND PRACTICE will be organized from 26 April 2009 10-18hours. All details can be found
on our website <http://www.eassw.org>

During the conference our General Assembly will take place on Tuesday 28 April 2009 at
16.00 hours (4 pm) and we planned to discuss two important topics:

“how can EASSW represent a voice for Europe?” and “Europe and its regional associations”

During the Assembly we also will organize elections for new EC-members.

During the conference we would like to collect as much as possible ideas about the how to
proceed with the “International definition on Social Work” A pre-survey has been prepared
and sent to the EASSW member.

2- Improve the contacts and the support with social work education institutions in different
parts of Europe.

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own countries in EASSW and IASSW, often clarifying the differences between the two
organizations and representing EASSW voice in national conferences and meetings.

Jan Agten, Gunter Friesenhan and I participated in the EXPRESS conference organized in
Ostrava the 16-18 October 2008 to discuss the topic “Social Professions for a Social Europe“
I participate in the opening lecture (29 august 2008) of the first master in social work held in
Amsterdam. Some members of the EASSW Board contributed to a seminar on International
Social Work in Utrecht (September 2008)

I also was present in the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Alice Salomon with a speech
in which I underlined the international commitment of the first IASSW President.

EASSW together with the Italian Association of Teachers in Social work and EUSW
Thematic Network, organized a seminar on competence based curricula in Brindisi, with the
participation of Jan Agten and Maria Asuncion Martinez from the EASSW Board.

At Zagreb University Jan Agten gave a presentation for field workers, teachers and students
on how to implement the Bologna-process in the Social Work curriculum

At Zaragoza University a training day was organised for Social Work staff with the input of
Jan Agten.

I participated to the International Congress organized by the Lusitana University in Lisbon in
November 2008I also planned two seminars one in Milano and one in Parma in the occasion
of our EC. I want to thank all the colleagues who accepted the invitation!

EASSW approved to support some research programmes with a small grant. The EC
approved 4 innovative projects STRENGTHENING SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION IN
EUROPE IN CO-OPERATION WITH EASSW with a small grant of €4000 each: Research
and Social Work in urban areas,

Adult Care in Europe and the Social Professional Curriculum,

The effectiveness of Social Work education in preparing Practitioners within different
European systems, EUSW seminar in co-operation with EASSW on Competence Based
Teaching.

Annamaria Campanini, President