

**Minutes Executive Committee EASSW
Madrid, 5-7 March 2018
Chaired by Nino Žganec**

**Venue: Sala de Juntas. 3th floor. Faculty of Social Work.
Complutense University. Pozuelo de Alarcón. Madrid.**

(Sala de Juntas. 3º Planta. Facultad de Trabajo Social. - Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Pozuelo de Alarcón. Madrid)

Participants: Ines Amaro (IA); Andres Arias Astray (AAS); Robert Bergougnan (RB); Teresa Bertotti, (TB), Marion Laging (MLa), Florin Lazar (FL); Marika Lotko (MLo), Aila-Leena Matthies (ALM); Raymond Kloppenburg (RK), Ronny Heikki Tikkanen (RT), Nino Zganec (NZ), - Sandra Mendes (SM) as administrative person

Absent justified: Christos Panagiotopoulos (CP); Hakan Acar (HA)

Notes taken by: RT, MLo, FL, AAS, finalised by TB

MONDAY, March 5th 9.00 – 12.00

- 1. Minutes from the Cologne meeting:** approved.
- 2. Agenda for Madrid meeting: priorities and time schedule.** adopted as designed.
- 3. Update on relevant activities since last EC meeting: reports from President, Treasurer, Secretary and all EC-members: All EC members**

President: Meeting in Madrid in January with UCM for first agreements for the 2019 Conference, among other, draft of the contract and composition of committees. Participation to IASSW meeting in Zagreb reported in point 5. Agreement regarding SWD meeting in Geneva (will speak in name of the EASSW and of the IASSW)

Preparation of the Statement regarding high fees of the Dublin conference (there will be no changes but need to be considered for EASSW conference)

Treasurer (RK): preparing budget 2017 and for 2018, as well as strategic lines for 2019 (see later). Supporting administrator in problems with new system of members payments. Participation to IASSW meeting in Zagreb.

Secretary (TB): Final version of minutes (provisionally published on line), support to president regarding contracts and agreements for the 2019 conference. Preparation of Eassw's January newsletter. Work on the draft for new bylaws and alignment of the bylaw document and the new statute, to be discussed. Participation to IASSW meeting in Zagreb. As member, work on the Special issue of Social Work Education journal

RB elected as president of NGO's to the CoE, informs about opportunities offered to EASSW from this role, as using European social cohesion platform, the involvement of Schools of Social work on Fundamental Rights (FRA). (see later, TFG 3).

AA - work done for the organization of the next EASSW Conference (including the convening of the Spanish deans for discussion with ExCo). Promotion of EASSW in Albania (joint project IA and other collages).

IA - Working with the scientific committee and develop work of the TFG 2. Involvement in the Albanian project.

ALM - work on small project funding and TFG 2. Try to connect with the Russian schools; work with the Finish association of the Schools of social work

MLa - work on the book “Faces of Social work education” -see later

FL - Organization of a conference in November in Bucharest Rumania. (possible venue for next ExCO); mapping and contacts with schools of social work in Moldavia. Development of the idea of conference about ex-communist countries.

MLo - networking in Lituania (important changes in the Higher Education System) and neighbor countries, work on book in press about ‘Social work cases around Europe’

RT . Work on the webpage (to be discuss later.

RK - Promote of EASSW, created a network of schools and a national day of social work, trying to connect to international activities.

4. Reports about the work of the TFG between two meetings

Task Force group coordinators report the following, beyond the TFG activities reports (see attachment 1)

TFG1. Website, communication and membership (RT)

Website’s parts related to membership and registration function much better. Parts related to schools and life association need to be developed, there is still need to solve some bug. The issue of having professional support will be discussed. Responsibility to feed the web page is collective, with involvement of other TFGs; plan for development will be discussed later (point 9 and 13).

Instructions for the Social Work Day posters and videos were published and RT will take care to publish news of the events from schools. Some problem with the coupons are reported.

TFG 2 knowledge and education in social work (IA)

The call for the WSWD poster is published on the website. Develop the poster and the sentences on it. Work on the book “Faces..” (see point 8).

Ongoing work on the pedagogical award: a draft will be prepared at the end of March, after discussion. NZ recommends considering the idea of some memorial lectures reg European important social work educators

TFG 3 - Networking - presented by MLo (in absence of coordinator HA)

Investigation on key networks (research, education, profession) is ongoing. Need to define priorities and kind to networking to be privileged will be discussed furtherly.

TFG3 is asked to consider also the issue of the advisory council (as in the Statute and the new bylaw).

All the groups are invited by the treasurer (RK) to think to budget related to their activities, that will be included in the budget

5. Report about the IASSW board meeting in Zagreb

5.1 NZ reports about the IASSW board meeting in Zagreb. Three main questions were addressed, as interest for EASSW, involving the relation with IFSW

1. The proposal from IFSW to IASSW to merge the two association was examined in Zagreb also collecting former IASSW presidents’ opinions. The proposal was rejected with the statement that IASSW would remain an independent association.
2. In 2020 there will be two social work world conferences: one organized by IASSW and ICSWE, that will be held in Rimini (Italy) - NZ will be a member of the steering committee. A second one is organized by IFSW, and it will be in Calgary (Canada)

3. The establishment by IFSW of an Education commission, with the goal to set standard and for accreditation of social work education' schools. Opinions of former IASSW Presidents were collected also about this topic. Some members of EASSW ExCo were initially involved but no recent news is reported. It is known that something is in progress (i.e IFSW has launched a questionnaire) and it is worrying that no information is being shared about this.

After discussion among EASSW EC members, the shared opinion is that it is not acceptable that education standards are developed without the participation of the IASSW. There is also a difference between indicating standards and pretend to accredit schools. As European partners, EASSW should take a position. The statement should express concern and should be addressed both to IFSW and IASSW; it should wish a collaboration among the two organization, as vital for social work sake. As a conclusion: a draft of the statement will be prepared by NZ after this meeting and put into discussion (see 12.2)

5.2 - Other IASSW matters discussed in Zagreb as relevant for EASSW

- New document on ethical principles for global SW. After an open consultation on the first document settled by the IASSW task force, chaired by Vishantie Seawpaul, a final draft is now on discussion with IFSW. The document will be presented in Dublin 2018. The following two years will be dedicate to test the document and collect comments, in order to have a final document approved during the 2020 world conference.
- RK and TB, as participants to IASSW board, support the importance of a stronger connection with the works carried out by IASSW, i.e the on line Social Dialogue journal, or the engagement for Global standards.

6. Financial overview: Treasurer

The treasurer presents the budget for 2017, with a positive result and positive total reserve. The budget for 2017 is approved (as in attachment n.2)

The system of payment through the website is successful: at the February 26th the amount of membership quotes is already more than 50% of the total expected, as the administrator (SM) says.

The treasurer presents the provisional budget for 2018. The final budget for 2018, is approved as in attachment n.2) after amendments proposed by TG (see point 12), invited to think to their financial needs also for 2018. These amounts are included in the existing items as following: web maintenance and promotion material for TG1, regional meetings for TG 2, network development and current representation EC members for TG3. Budget 2018 it also include anticipations to UCM for the conference.

Treasurer present a proposal for a new structure of the budget, to be adopted in 2019 for the sake of clarity and transparency. The budget will be divided in three main topics: activities related to strategic plan; member focused activities; organization focused activities. The proposal is approved.

Treasurer will collect information regarding the possibilities of investing part of the reserve in ethical funds in preparation of next ExCo.

7. Membership related overview: Secretary and administrator

The Secretary presents trends and number of membership as in the attached document, updated to February, 20th, 2018 (attachment n. 3). The Secretary asks for greater involvement of regional coordinators, with special consideration of underrepresented

countries and of TFG 1, for strategies and ways to increase recruitment and retainment. Pull the attention to the president's letter.

8. Preparation of the book: "Faces of Social Work Education in Europe": MLa and NZ

Springer gave an encouraging feedback to the proposal of the book. Before the final assessment, publisher need to receive chapters' abstracts. As in the guidelines sent by NZ and MLa, the deadline for abstract is 1st of May (internal deadline 15th april); for first draft of chapters in October and the final version until December.

Debate address the following questions:

- Emphasis on differences in each country, that should appear also in the title
- Whether or not considering inclusion of other countries that are not represented in EC. After discussion on pro and cons, in a non-unanimous consent, the decision is to ask HA to write about Turkey, to invite someone for the chapter about UK; to include a chapter from Poland and one for Russia.

EC appreciate the great work done and the relevance of this publication

9.1 Madrid conference notes: presentation and discussion - (first round)

NZ present the composition of the scientific and the steering committee. The scientific committee is co-chared by Ines Amaro (from EASSW) and Fernando de Lucas (from UCM). Andres Astrias and Aurora del Castillo Charfolet are co-chairs of the Steering Committee.

IA presents the preliminary work upon the concept note, prepared by her and Fernando de Lucas as co-chairs of scientific committee, and the list of proposed keynote speakers previously sent to EC members.

The discussion starts considering the title proposed and after considerations of different aspects (as the need of being focused on SWE ...), EC agree on a title that focuses on the notion of quality. The concept will be of a conference that wants to challenge the notion of quality as used in the neoliberal and managerial approach. The general idea is to open a space where the notion of quality is worked out accordingly to social work perspective and values.

The final title proposed is "**Meanings of quality of social work education in changing Europe**"

Date will be between **4 and 7 June. 2019**

TUESDAY, March, 6th - morning

Fernando de Lucas (from UCM) co-chair of the Scientific committee, join the meeting

9.2 Madrid conference notes: presentation and discussion (2nd session)

IA presents a second version of the concept note, that is approved after few changes.

Following this new concept, the streams of the conference are reviewed. A common reference to quality should be included in the names of the streams or their presentation. After discussion about streams, Ines invites to send her any other notes and comments. Ines will send the final draft and comments.

Some of the suggestions during the meeting: a specific stream for being ethical educators; include service users in communities and include the quality of social life/relation in community; critical consideration on evaluation of quality in SW education

9.3. Discussion about formats of presentation

The same formats adopted in Paris (and Milan) will be considered for the conference

- **master class** - after discussion about time allocation and aims of master classes (an opportunity for young teacher to meet and share with experienced teachers), is suggested to organize 2 master classes.
- **Pre-conferences** - First day before the opening, self-organized but selected after a call for pre-conferences
- **Plenary sessions, Oral presentations sessions, symposia, workshops** for the main conference
- **Closing session should be a panel discussion**

9.4 discussion about Keynotes speakers and other

Discussion upon the first proposal lead to:

- define some criteria for selection of keynotes speakers: from SW, from Europe, balancing gender, including some young speakers.
- Keynote suggested from Spain is unanimously welcome

Everybody is invited to proposed names in the next 10 days.

A final discussion of the conference in the last day will be a panel discussion, aimed at considering and launching political positions of EASSW .

10. Meeting with the deans of Spanish schools of social work. 11.00 - 13.00

Almost 40 deans and teachers of Spanish schools of social work gathered to share their views and give suggestions about the concept and organization of Conference.

The meeting is chaired by the Aurora del Castillo Charfolet, Dean of UCM, Andres Astrias and N. Zganec. After the presentation of by Ines Amaro and Ferdinando de Lucas, the deans expressed their interest and agreement of considering the notion and meanings of quality in social work education, addressed in a critical view.

Other suggestions were made both regarding streams as well as organization. The scientific and steering committee will take these suggestions into consideration. NZ express thanks on behalf of the EC.

TUESDAY, March, 6th - morning

11. Reflection after the meeting with deans and further conference matters

11.1 EC comment the meeting with deans, and appreciate the contribution made as well as the relevant and meaningful involvement of the Spanish schools. Beyond the suggestions about contents and streams (as internationalization and Erasmus,) will be considered the use of technology (as video streaming of keynotes) in order to enlarge access, the use of social media, the link od conference website with Eassw website.

Eassw website should be used as platform for international cooperation, to advertise the conference materials, to provide spaces for interest groups, and to support exchanges among students.

11.2 - Conference organization and deadlines

NZ informs that RT will be replaced from the Steering Committee by Robert Bergougnan, due to personal reasons.

For the organization of the conference, UCM will employ a professional agency (a foundation) linked to the University.

First launch of “Save the date” announcement should be after the Easter (April 1st).

12. Results from task group activities

12.1- TG 1 - Communication and membership

TG 1 will write two concept notes about the two main tasks, in order to have a strategic framework (and consequent roadmap) that will allow more organized and effective action in TFG1’s goals.

Concept note about communication will include website management and use as well as the newsletter and social media. It will address the eventual need of a dedicated person, of special instructions (as a video clip) to illustrate the possibilities of website; ways to feed and to make the website more lively and interactive; need to someone that collects news for website. It will also consider the ways to do the newsletter: whether through a collection of news about EASSW activities, linked to the website (as discussed in Koln), or a journal with new writings and short articles.

Concept note about membership will consider strategies to recruit new members and to retain members. It will consider the role of regional coordinators as crucial points: already from now they can have from SM the list of members schools, can create a map of all schools and contact potential member schools. The creation of promotion material will be also addressed in the concept note.

MLa will coordinate the TG and prepare the draft of the concept notes, which will be prepared before next EC. In the meanwhile, she will be the contact person for the website and FL will take care of the next newsletter, sending a deadline for contributions. Newsletter should be released before summer.

Regional coordinators are requested to send the letter from the President to potential new member schools, if not already done.

12.2- TG 2 . Social work education knowledge

TFG 2 discussed the following points:

Prize/award for social work education. Taking inspiration from other prizes, the discussion is around the type of award (e.g money, recognition, invitation for keynote speech). A proposal will be prepared before end of march by IA

World Social Work Day: the proposal of the blank poster and the call for video clip is on line. EC member are expected to disseminate the communication

Publications. Contacts for special issue of papers from next 2019 conference. Possible new books: on administration/management in SW schools or on curriculum development in SW education.

Ethical statement from IASSW. TFG is willing to comment the document, provided that it is not too late (process of consultation was closed in January 31st). TB will check

Education commission of IFSW. As in point 5.2, the decision of making a statement about the Commission is approved: NZ will circulate within May 1st.

Regional meetings – launch a call for supporting regional meetings, accordingly to new bylaws (AAS will prepare a first draft of the call within May 1st)

Website has the possibility to create a space for colleagues to share teaching materials/pedagogical materials. Use of website for finding partners for projects; presentation of past small projects.

12.3 TG 3 - networks and partnerships

TFG 3 presents the following reflections on international and regional cooperation and collect reactions and suggestions

- Cooperation with NGO network. Support seminar on social cohesion RB will prepare a letter to be discussed by TG3 within 1 month
- Ensact. Discussion about future and actual uncertainties as well as Eassw involvement. See point 14)
- Network collaborations trough the website.
- Cooperation with UNESCO. It is promising but the issue of contested classification of Social Work within health matters wasn't considered. Agreement to advertise Eassw in UNESCO website and viceversa
- Cooperation with other regions: e.g. Africa, through IASSW regional African organization, in relation to topic relevant for European regions (as Migration)
- Cooperation with IASSW on human rights defense.
- Cooperation with ESWRA. E.g. pre-conference on social work education
- Supporting the development of the advisory board as a way to develop collaboration with national associations of schools of social work.

IN order to prioritize all possible partnership, TG3 will prepare a plan for networking strategy and cooperation in 2 months (May 15), to be shared and discussed.

13. Small projects

The committee for small projects informs that two very valuable applications were received, with difficult in selecting one out of the two. The proposal to fund both projects and to increase budget for another small project in September is discussed and approved.

Wednesday 7th - Morning

14. Partnerships: Council of Europe, Unaforis, Ensact

RB presents possible collaborations with the Council of Europe as the initiative dedicated to develop collective complaints; actions within FRA (fundamental rights); participation to EASSW 2019 conference. ExCo ask to make visible Eassw activities in CoE website. If useful, Eassw could also make statement, e.g. for standards of social work education. Regarding Unaforis, there are no news about further collaboration.

The involvement of EASSW with ENSACT is widely discussed, particularly in relation to the issue of stepping out (or staying) because of uncertainties and actual difficulties. MLo and RK participated to the meeting in Utrecht and refer that the position of Eassw in the future will play an important role. Actual main activity is the Global Observatory on the Global Agenda; initial mission was for lobbying at European level, now this

mission is lost. Decision is that EASSW will stop its participation to the current network after the last report of the European Observatory and will invite European partners to rethink future collaboration.

15. Discussion about bylaws upon the new statute

The bylaws approved in 2016 in Coimbra have been updated, accordingly to the new Statute. Some of them have been modified.

- Bylaw 1. adopted
- Bylaw 2 adopted with addition of activities of taskforce groups.
- Bylaw 3: adopted with request of more formally voting when needed.
- Bylaw 4 adopted with addition of coordinator and avoidance of officers as coordinator
- Bylaw 5 adopted with changes regarding representative in IASSW and financial paragraph.
- Bylaw 6. Adopted with addition of maximum amount and reference to special supports
- Bylaw 7 adopted
- Bylaw 8 adopted
- Bylaw 9 - Adopted with
- Bylaw n. 9 (Election procedure) is adopted after a discussion about to keep or cancel the possibility of “postal ballot”, (which include electronically), provided that the “ordinary General Assembly” could be constituted also if not in person. The motion of cancelling the words “postal ballot” gained the majority of votes.
- Bylaw 10. (Rules for the use of the EASSW communication channels) will be presented the ExCo via mail before summer
- Bylaw 11 - new Bylaw about Membership fee adopted
- Bylaw 12 adopted
- Bylaw 13. on EASSW interest groups will be presented to the ExCo via mail before summer, first draft to task group 2
- Bylaw 14 - new Bylaw about Advisory council of EASSW - **adopted**
- Bylaw 15 new Bylaw about Support and sponsorships of regional events - adopted. -

The final version of amended bylaws are visible in attachment n.4 with changes highlighted. The adoption of bylaws with highlights of the major changes, will be posted and published on website and newsletter, especially those who support schools members

15. Next ExCo meeting

Next meeting will be in Bucharest, from 6th to 9th November.

- 6 /11 (Tuesday) travel day
- 7/11 (Wednesday) all day work
- 8/11 (Thursady) working morning + conference in the afternoon
- 9/11 (Friday 9/11) working morning + travel day in the afternoon

AOB

- Task group 1 and Marion will be the contact person for Sandra if there are any problems regarding the membership part of the website.

Minutes defined in March, 20th, 2018 by the secretary (these minute have been circulated in march, 2018 among EC members and will be finally approved during EC meeting in Autumn 2018)

ORIGINAL