



INSTITUTO SUPERIOR DE  
SERVIÇO SOCIAL DO PORTO



European Association of Schools of Social Work



## **European Conference on Social Work Education - Diversity and Social Work Education: Building Bridges for Sustainable Futures.**

### **Important Dates:**

Call for Abstracts Deadline: November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Notification of Abstract Acceptance: **January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Authors Early Registration Deadline: February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Submission of abstract at: <https://ecswe2023.eventqualia.net/en/home/call-for-papers/>**

### **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

The European Association of Schools of Social Work and Institute of Social Work of Oporto (Instituto Superior de Serviço Social do Porto) announce the 2023 European Conference on Social Work Education, which aims to be an international forum for dialogue and discussion about concerns, challenges, and practices in social work education. In times when freedom and democracy are challenged by environmental crisis, war, insecurity, and the growth of extreme-right movements in Europe, the overarching themes of the conference are respect for diversity, equality, and the achievement of socially responsible societies. The conference promotes the mission of the EASSW towards the inalienable rights of the individual, freedom, justice, and peace to foster cooperation, collegiality, and solidarity. It builds further on the Tallin conference's 2021 themes of resilience and innovation in working together in partnership for safer, and environmentally sustainable futures. The Conference aims to find answers to how we co-build knowledge between students, service users, academics and practitioners to address the aims and concerns outlined above. We need to find ways to develop the social work curriculum that enhances the future skills of social workers in order to "meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (UN, 1987). Social Work Education can be a lead actor in addressing our current crises in a meaningful way, by learning lessons from what has gone before and by creating renewed inter and trans-disciplinary knowledge - towards the sustainability and peace to which "future generations" have a right. The conference invites SW educators, researchers, students, service users, activists, and practitioners to engage in collaborative, innovative, creative, and proactive approaches to developing social work curricula, including ethics and values, theories, models, and interventions. We aim to involve all partners in co-building bridges to promote community development, active citizenship, peace, well-being, and sustainability.

<https://ecswe2023.eventqualia.net/en/>



## **SIX CONFERENCE THEMES!!**

### **1. Fundamental Rights, Caring and Peace-Building Practices in SWE**

After the second world war, the western world committed to fundamental social rights that came to be considered as inalienable. However, we live in an era where we are witnessing a reversal of these rights. Freedom and democracy are currently being challenged both by external issues, for example, the war in Ukraine, and by internal issues, such as the growth of extreme right-wing movements. In this topic, participants are invited to discuss the impacts of these recent changes and present projects or strategies outlining how Social Work Education can continue to uphold the profession's core values and commitment to rights within such a challenging context.

### **2. Diversity, Intersecting Inequalities and Pedagogy of Hope in SWE**

This theme focuses on recognition and understanding of diversity, reducing inequalities and promoting empowerment and hope to transform oppressive conditions.. This concerns the history of colonisation and imperialism and multiple forms of inequalities, including health, safety, and economy, which intersect with structural life conditions of privilege and marginalization such as age, able-bodiedness, ethnicity, gender, and race. Presenters in this thematic group are invited to share knowledge and discuss practices linked to intersecting inequalities.

### **3. Social Work, Political Diversity and Active Citizenship in SWE**

For decades, we have developed social work methods, assuming that they will be implemented in a democratic environment. Today we can see how fragile this assumption is as we witness the rise of authoritarianism across Europe. To such challenges as radical capitalism, right-wing extremism or populism, we can add the most complex and topical question of social work (education) in totalitarian / authoritarian countries: how can we help to strengthen communities in the fight for fundamental rights, awakening in them a sense of responsibility and collective agency? Presenters in this group are asked to explore that question.

### **4. Environmental Justice in SWE: Indigenous-, Eco-Social-, Environmental, Green-, Post-Anthropocentric Approaches**

We live in a time of environmental crisis where social work education and practice are faced with the need to develop responsive knowledge and pedagogical strategies. Presentations in this thematic group are invited to elaborate on projects, methodologies and practice skills that promote diverse forms of environmental sustainability in SWE across different approaches, such as 'indigenous-', 'environmental-', 'eco-social-', 'green-', '(post-)anthropocentric' social work.

### **5. Innovative, Creative and Art-based Approaches in SWE**

Scientific research and professional practice have shown that the different forms of artistic expression (music, theatre, dance, poetry, visual- and digital arts) are particularly effective pedagogical tools for social intervention and transformative learning. They also contribute to the development of alternative languages to the usual technocracy of Social Work. Presenters in this thematic group are invited to share knowledge and discuss theoretical departures and pedagogical practices linked to the use of different forms of expression in SWE.



## 6. Lessons from the Pandemic in SWE

Never before has an entire generation experienced a pandemic in real time context. All social, economic, and political structures had to adapt in record time, as did universities and SWE. Education was transformed to take place through a digitalised environment. In this theme, participants are invited to present educational strategies, research and intervention projects that have been examples of such adaptations.

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**Authors are warmly invited to submit abstracts for** Oral Paper, Poster, Symposium, and Workshop, presentations. The conference invites SW educators, researchers, students, service users, activists, and practitioners to engage in collaborative, innovative, creative, and proactive approaches to developing social work curricula, including ethics and values, theories, models and interventions. We aim to involve all partners in co-building bridges to promote community development, active citizenship, peace, well-being, and sustainability.

- 1. Oral Paper Presentation** - The oral paper presentation may be authored by an individual or by a group. The abstract should be in line with the main theme of the conference and linked to the conference's sub-themes. The oral presentations will be grouped in parallel sessions based on the sub-themes. The abstract submitted should be 250 words or less.
  - 2. Poster Presentation** - The poster presentation may be created by an individual or by a group and is to be displayed on a portable wall. At times, the author(s) of the poster will accompany it, to answer questions that people have. To apply for a poster presentation, the author(s) must submit an abstract of a maximum of 250 words.
  - 3. Symposium** - The symposium presentation is a self-organised seminar of three to four papers on a common topic which are presented within the same session and are in line with the conference's main theme, as well as one or more of the sub-themes. When applying for a symposium, one person is responsible for submitting the following:
    - An abstract (maximum 250 words) that describes the theme of the symposium, and which argues for the importance of it within the framework of the conference;
    - An abstract (maximum 250 words) for each of the papers included in the proposed symposium. You will also have to indicate which person will be the symposium convener. We will only communicate with this person. **Preference will be given to symposia that** demonstrate cohesiveness across presentations and to presentations strongly linked to the central theme/sub-themes of the conference. Symposia will be accepted or rejected as a whole, not in parts.
  - 4. Workshop** - A self-organized seminar of one or more presentations relevant to the conference theme/sub-themes. Workshops are intended to be thoroughly interactive with considerable participation and discussion from those attending. Workshops may have an explicit agenda of training participants on a given topic or of generating an interest group or a network for future collaboration. If applying for a workshop, please submit an abstract of 250 words or less including a description of the content and how it will be delivered (pedagogical methods, etc.).
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## **ABSTRACTS GUIDELINES**

The following guidelines for all kinds of presentation are advisory. If you think there are good reasons to amend them, please feel free to do so.

**If your abstract is for a presentation based on one or more empirical research projects**, it could include the following:

- Background and purpose: description of the problem, study objectives, research question(s) and/or hypotheses;
- Methods: study design, including a description of participants and selection strategies, data collection procedures, measures, and approaches to analysis;
- Findings: specific results in summary form;
- Conclusions and implications: description of the main outcome(s) of the study and implications for practice, policy or further research.

**If your abstract is for a presentation which is not based on primary empirical research**, it could include the following:

- Background and purpose of the presentation;
- A summary of the main points of the presentation;
- How the presentation will address one or more of the conference's aims and themes;
- Conclusions from and implications of your presentation for practice, policy, or further research.



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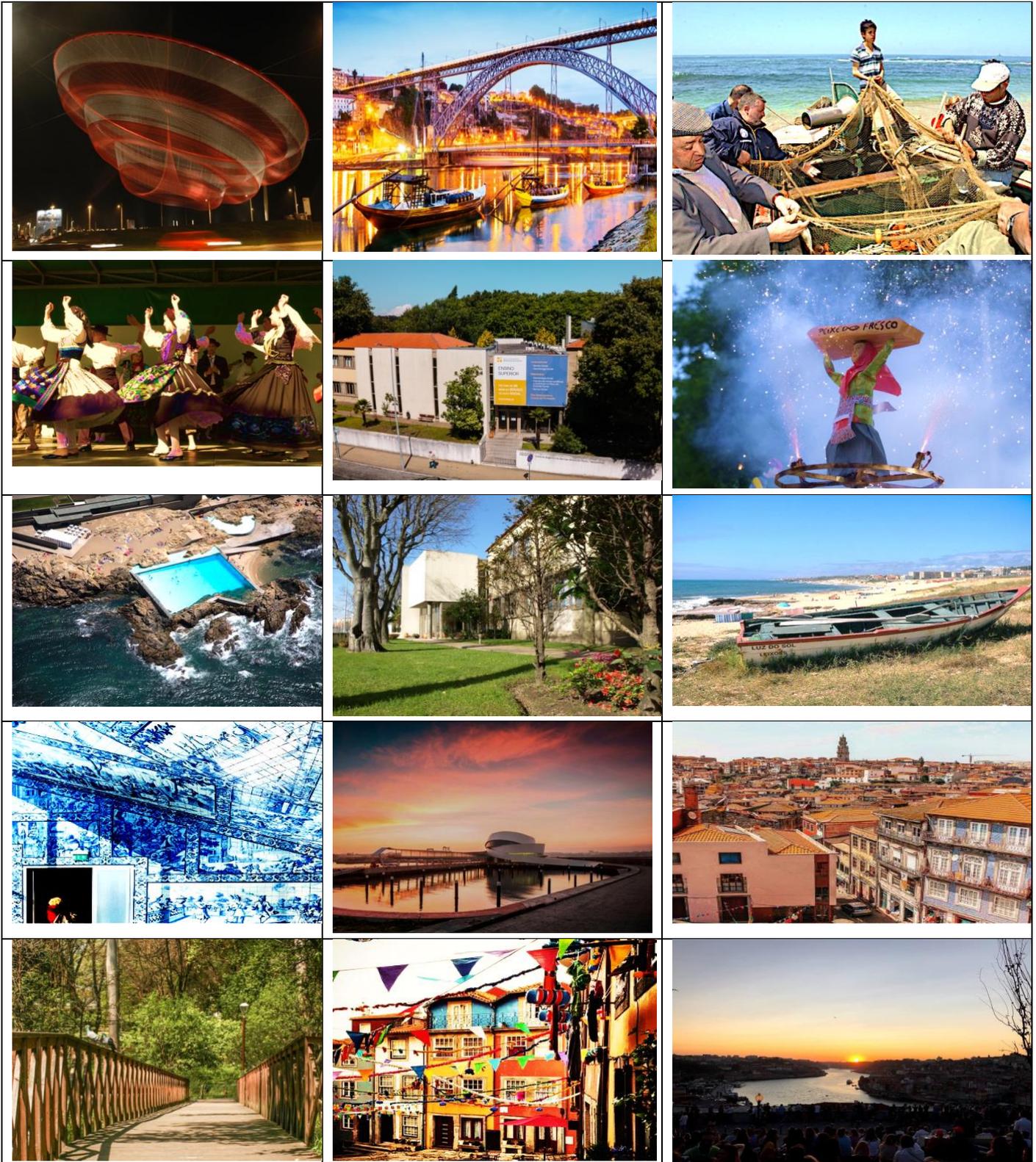
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