

2019 ERIS Annual Report

I Meeting of ERIS members

Last year brought two meetings of the university representatives associated with the European Research Institute for Social Work (ERIS). The first meeting held on 8th April 2019 in Ostrava, Czech Republic was rich in discussions revolving around scientific research and publishing activities of the Institute, in particular preparation of the publication *Philosophy and Ethics in Social Work* and distribution of a new monograph *Social Work with Migrants and Refugees*, edited by M. Pfaller-Rott (who also secured the funding), D. Böhler and A. Kállay. Other discussed topics included ERIS publications planned for the 2020 – 2022 period, including the content and editorial plan for English issues of the *ERIS Journal: Winter Issue 1/2019*, Editor Prof. Mariusz Granosik, University of Łódź, Poland; *Summer Issue 4/2019* on the topic of Social Justice and Diversity, Editors: Doris Böhler, FH Vorarlberg, Austria, and Karen Mills, University of Hertfordshire, UK; *Winter Issue 1/2020* and *Summer Issue 4/2020*. They also agreed on the content and organizational support for the 13th ERIS International Scientific Conference entitled *Children in Social Work* and held on 7th– 8th November 2019 at the Trnava University, Slovakia.

The second meeting, which took place on 6th November 2019 in Trnava, revolved around the topic of the next 14th International Scientific Conference entitled *Participation: A Path to Inclusion?*, which should be held on 29th September – 1st October 2020 in Strasbourg, France. They also agreed on the date, general outline, and organization of the International Spring School of Social Work 2020.

A significant part of the meeting agenda was devoted to the ERIS strategy, which was the focus of a workshop led by Prof. Brian Littlechild. The University of Łódź, represented by Dr. Anita Gulczynska and Dr. Marlgorzata Kostrzynska, presented proposals for joint projects. The proposals were discussed by all involved partners. Several work teams were created to be led by elected representatives on four key topics:

1. Leadership and responsibility (structure, role, representatives) – Team leader: Janet Anand, Finland
2. Teaching and study – Team leader: Sigrid Bathke, Germany
3. Research, publishing, communication – Team leader: Jelena Petrucijová, Czech Republic
4. Marketing – Team leader: Miriam Slaná, Slovakia

By the next meeting in April 2020 held in Ostrava, work plans for the next period will be created based on Partners' suggestions on key topics.

- Partners agreed to accept another applicant for associate membership:
 - Russian State Social University in Moscow. <https://rgsu.net/>
- The newly appointed deputy for FH Landshut will be Prof. Sigrid Bathke, who will replace Prof. Christopher Fedke

- The proposal to increase the ERIS membership fee from 100 to 200 EUR with effect from 2019 was approved by all Partners.

II Educational activities

The focus of educational activities was again the International Spring School of Social Work, whose 13th year took place on 9th – 12th April 2019 in the newly renovated building of the Faculty of Social Studies, University of Ostrava (FSS UO). This event was attended by 57 people, of whom 39 were from universities abroad, e.g. Eichstätt, Koblenz, Bremen and Landshut in Germany, Hertfordshire in England, Kuopio in Finland, Trnava in Slovakia, Lille, Strasbourg and Metz in France, Dornbirn in Austria, Moscow and Rostov-on-Don in Russia, and also from Lodz in Poland. We also welcomed students from Russia, South Korea and Slovakia.

The programme mainly focused on the presentation of students' contributions based on their master and doctoral theses, discussions with academics, group and individual consultations. Students welcomed the beneficial feedback provided by academics and the opportunity to discuss the topics of their research with experts from different countries in an informal setting.

The annual Spring School included lectures and workshops as part of the *“Expansion and Development of the FSS UO Research Team (VEDTYM)”* project, which is in the final stage of sustainability. It was a research afternoon for doctoral students with Prof. Brian Littlechild from the University of Hertfordshire who lectured them on academic writing and research and with Prof. Mariusz Granosik from the University of Łódź on the topic of research in social work and the use of narrative grounded theory.

Internationalization of student education in ERIS partner universities

In the monitored period, five academics from the Faculty of Social Studies, University of Ostrava participated in teaching at partner institutions: M. Špiláčková and S. Vávrová lectured at the University of Łódź, K. Glumbíková and M. Mikulec at the UEF University in Kuopio and Š. Dořičáková at the Trnava University. B. Littlechild from the University of Hertfordshire, M. Granosik from the University of Łódź, and Jutta Harrer from KU Eichstätt lectured at FSS UO.

III Publishing activities

ERIS Journal

Eris Journal – Winter Issue 2019 and Summer Issue 2019 in English is available both in electronic and printed version <http://www.socialniprace.cz/eng/index.php?sekce=2>

ERIS publications

The 5th publication from the series of ERIS monographs *Social Work with Migrants and Refugees* (Eds. M. Pfaller-Rott, A. Kállay, D. Böhler) was published.

IV Conference

International Scientific Conference *Children in Social Work*

A conference organized by the Department of Social Work in cooperation with the European Research Institute for Social Work took place at Trnava University from 7th – 8th November 2019. An important moment was the plenary lecture of Prof. Iveta Radičová, who talked about new trends in modern society and their impact on the young generation. This scientific event also paid attention to a number of other current topics, such as the education of children from Barbara Gasteiger Klicperer from Austria. Important guest speakers from Poland shared their experiences from interventions with children and families. After the opening lectures, there were workshops dealing with topics such as the child and his/her healthy development, child and family protection, diversity and social inclusion, children's rights and issues of violence against children, as well as new challenges in social work with children and families. Prof. Emmanuel Jovelin from France concluded the conference with a talk on the comparison of different approaches to unaccompanied minors in Europe.

V Joint projects

The Faculty of Social Studies, University of Ostrava submitted a project proposal funded by the International Visegrad Fund "*Value Building in Social Work Education*" in cooperation with partners from abroad: Trnava University (SK), University of Łódź (PL), Warmia and Mazury University (PL), Budapest Gaspár University (HU), and the University of Debrecen (HU). The project objective is the creation of tools to enhance the quality of education in social work, the creation of scientific articles, the organization of an international conference of the Spring School of Social Work, and a final conference summarizing the project results.

VI ERIS website and its promotion

The ERIS website content as well as the formal layout and appearance have been continuously updated. ERIS has been promoted by representatives of all partner universities through conferences and workshops, within author profiles in professional journals, etc.