

## ERIS annual report for the year 2008

On 24th April 2008 the meeting of representatives of founding universities with the Rector of the University of Ostrava was held in the assembly hall, where the activities of the European Research Institute were inaugurated.

### The founding European universities and appointed representatives

doc. PaedDr. Oldřich Chytil, Ph.D was appointed as director, vice-directors: prof. Dr. Peter Erath a doc. PhDr. Dana Sýkorová, Ph.D.

**University of Ostrava (Czech Republic)** – doc. PaedDr. Oldřich Chytil, Ph.D.

**Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (Germany)** - Prof. Dr. Peter Erath

**University of Hertfordshire (Great Britain)** - Prof. Dr. Brian Littlechild

**Université Catholique de Lille (France)** - Prof. Dr. Emmanuel Jovelin

**University of Kuopio (Finland)** - Prof. Dr. Juha Hämäläinen

**Trnava university (Slovakia)**- doc. PhDr. Miriam Šramatá

**Catholic University for Applied Science North Rhine-Westphalia, Köln am Rhein, (Germany)** Prof. Dr. Ria Puhl

### ERIS meetings

On **24th April 2008** the third meeting of ERIS members took place in **Čeladná**. Members present: Brian Littlechild – Hertfordshire, Emmanuel Jovelin - Lille , Juha Hämäläinen – Kuopio, Oldřich Chytil, Dana Sýkorová - Ostrava, Miriam Šramatá, Andrej Kállay – Trnava, Peter Erath – Eichstätt, Gabi Wolfsgruber (appointed by prof. Ria Puhl) - Köln, Katerzyna Pawelek – Poznań.

An editorial board for ERIS publications was appointed. The date and the topic of another international conference in Trnava was set: *Research in social work – the utilization of research findings in theory and practice of social work*. See the Conference and Publication activities. The members were asked to submit propositions of common research projects. (Projects, see below)

On **12th – 14th September 2008** the meeting on common research projects was held in **Eichstätt**. Oldřich Chytil, Jan Keller and Dana Sýkorová represented the Faculty of Social Studies, University of Ostrava, partner universities were represented by Miriam Šramatá, Andrej Kállay, Peter Erath, Brian Littlechild and Emmanuel Jovelin. The proposal for the organization of a doctoral study programme, the venue and contents of the 3rd year of the Spring school were discussed. In order to further improve the quality of the contents, the programme of the Spring school will be enriched by a lecture on *Professional text writing*. The principles, or criteria of presentations of students' projects in *ERIS web Journal* were also on the programme.

**22nd October 2008 ERIS meeting** took place in **Trnava**. (the members present at the meeting were: Miriam Šramatá, Andrej Kállay – Trnava, Katarzyna Pawelek – Poznań, Oldřich Chytil – Ostrava, Dana Sýkorová– Ostrava, Peter Erath – Eichstätt, Ria Puhl – Köln, Brian Littlechild – Hertfordshire). The main points of the meeting

were: 1. The program of Conference discussion. 2. The preparation of the Spring school. 3. Discussion of contents and organization of Conferences that will take place in Trnava in 2009 and in Köln am Rhein in 2010. 4. ERIS publication activities. 5. Setting up web pages.

## **Research activities**

### **Research projects:**

On the basis of a FSS OU proposition, a skeleton theme of ERIS research activities: Social work between privatization and public responsibility was adopted, provided that the orientation of ERIS international research projects will correspond with the main directions of research and scientific development at individual member universities. The following research areas were approved at the FSS OU: theory of modernization, cultural society, modernization at the level of a region and Ostrava, social-gerontological aspects of modernization and the consequences of modernization for social work. The current or prepared projects are related to the skeleton theme: *Industrial city in postindustrial society* (GAČR, reg. č, 403/09/1720) and *Czech and Bavarian project*, which focuses on the development of new social risks in the context of a crisis of a social state, or on spatial aspects of social exclusion. Research activities are coordinated with respect to both the ERIS skeleton theme and available financial resources. (see the Conception of multi-resource financing of science and research at FSS OU. In the course of the year 2008 the Department for science, research and foreign affairs at FSS OU was gathering information on invitations of grant agencies, foundations etc., criteria and conditions of offered financial support, and with regard to them, a possibility of submission of ERIS international research projects was considered).

The project of an educational course for PhD students and research workers called *The application of methods and techniques of social-scientific research in social work*, in which the experts from foreign partner schools (mainly ERIS members) will participate, will be resubmitted in the grant competition as part of the Operational program of education for competitiveness. (As in the first invitation the project proposition was not accepted).

A possibility of realization of the project on transfer of *best practice* in the area of exclusion of families which are disadvantaged by multigenerational deprivation as part of the Operational program Human Resources and Employment was considered. However, the conditions of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, CR did not allow finance to be provided to the area, or to a priority for support, planned research activities and intended engagement of foreign partners.

### **Publication activities**

Editorial board: Jan Keller, Juha Hämäläinen, Emmanuel Jovelin, Brian Littlechild, Ria Puhl a Andrej Kállay.

The publication series were approved *Studies* (yellow) and *Materials* (blue).  
The preparation of ERIS Vol. 1 started: "ERIS-Studies No1" *Social work across Europe – Theoretical, empirical and professional developments in selected countries* (Ed. by Peter Erath and Brian Littlechild).

The framework for the presentations of students' projects in ERIS web Journal was worked out (the paper from the Spring school 2008 published in ERIS web Journal: *Mentally Disordered Offenders in England and Wales and the Parole Process*, by Wendy Fitzgibbon, University of Hertfordshire).

## **Conference**

The International Conference in Trnava *Research in social work – the utilization of research findings in theory and practice of social work*.

ERIS members moderated the discussions in the sections:

Doc. PhDr. Dana Sýkorová, PhD from the University of Ostrava gave a lecture on "Research in social work and for social work (Specific example of application of methods of social-scientific research)".

The Conference was held on 23rd – 24th October 2008. (100 participants/20 foreign participants). Lecturers – ERIS members:

doc. PaedDr. Oldřich Chytil, Ph.D., Ostrava – Information on ERIS

prof. Dr. Peter Erath, Eichstätt - Theory Building, Research and Knowledge Transfer in Social Work,

prof. Dr. Brian Littlechild, Hertfordshire - Applying Research to Social Work Practice,

prof. Dr. Ria Puhl, Köln- Participation – as a Matter of Quality in Child and Youth Care,

prof. Dr. Emmanuel Jovelin, Lille – Trajectories and Evaluation of Services for Young Homeless People,

prof. Riitta Vornanen, Kuopio – Research-based Social Work in Finland.

ERIS members moderated the discussions in sections.

## **Pedagogical activities**

### **Doctoral study program Social policy and social work in English**

On the basis of the outcomes of the ERIS members' meeting in Eichstätt, an organizational conception of studies in a doctoral study program Social policy and social work for foreign students was elaborated, in compliance with the credit system at the University of Ostrava.

## **Spring school of social work in Europe for students of Master's and doctoral study 2008**

On 22nd – 27th April 2008 the second meeting of the Spring school of social work for students of Master's and doctoral study of social work took place in Čeladná in the Beskydy Mountains. Students and academic staff members from partner European universities were present - 37 participants from 6 universities, out of which 29 were foreign. (14 professors, 23 students).

### **Information on ERIS activities**

- ERIS web pages in the Czech and English versions were set up and put into service. They are part of the web pages of University of Ostrava <http://eris.osu.eu/>
- A leaflet with Czech and English versions was published, informing about ERIS activities and the professional services provided by the Institute. ERIS will be promoted by journals and periodicals of selected institutions, e.g. Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic, regional offices, or municipal authorities, to name just a few.
- Personal meetings with representatives of key institutions took place. The aim of these meetings was to inform about the foundation of ERIS and the orientation of its activities, as well as to establish contacts for possible cooperation with the Moravian-Silesian region, the Association of educators in social work, the National council of people with disabilities, the Union of employers' associations of the CR, and the Agency for social integration.