

## ERIS Annual Report for the year 2009

### I. ERIS meetings

Two ERIS meetings were held in 2009: The first took place on April 23, 2009 in Ostrava, with the participation of O. Chytil, D. Sýkorová (Ostrava), P. Erath (Eichstätt), M. Šramatá, A. Kallay (Trnava), B. Littlechild, C. Meffan (Hertfordshire), J. Hämäläinen (Kuopio), E. Jovelin (Lille), R. Puhl, J. Freise (Köln a.R.) and K. Pawelek (Poznań). Publication as well as scientific and research activities of ERIS were discussed, and these include: preparation of the ERIS Book, vol. I - the working title of which is *Social Work Across Europe – Theoretical, Empirical and Professional Developments in Selected Countries* (ed. by P. Erath and B. Littlechild); organisation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> international conferences: *Social Work between Privatisation and Public Sector* (Trnava, 20.–23. 10. 2009), *Social Work and Diversity. Looking at Gender, Class, Culture and Religion* (Köln, 20.–22. 10. 2010); attention was also paid to organisational matters in connection with The International Spring School 2010; other issues included the discussion of rules applying to affiliated membership in ERIS and the possibilities for funding ERIS activities.

The second ERIS meeting was held in Trnava on October 23, 2009. Partnership universities were represented by O. Chytil, D. Sýkorová (Ostrava), P. Erath (Eichstätt), J. Hämäläinen (Kuopio), M. Šramatá, A. Kallay (Trnava), B. Littlechild (Hertfordshire), J. Evans (Hertfordshire), R. Puhl (Köln a.R.), O. Botek (Trnava) and K. Pawelek (Poznań). The participants evaluated the 3<sup>rd</sup> international conference of ERIS in Trnava and focused on the organisation of the conference to be held in Köln (see above). They mainly emphasised the goal of achieving more active participation of doctoral students in conferences held by ERIS. Further issues discussed at the ERIS meeting included: pedagogical activities, more concretely organisation of doctoral studies in the English language at the Faculty of Social Studies of the University of Ostrava in co-operation with the Catholic University of Applied Sciences in Cologne; the content as well as organisation of the International Spring School 2010; proposals of research projects to be pursued by ERIS members; publication activities (selection of articles for the ERIS Web Journal, the strategy to be used in order to have the journal enlisted among the reviewed periodicals in the Czech Republic and finishing the 1<sup>st</sup> volume of the ERIS book); inclusion of the rules applying to affiliated membership into the ERIS Statutes.

## II. Research activities within ERIS

Within the framework of *FP7 European Research Proposal*, a major research bid worth 2.7 million € has been submitted by Hertfordshire together with the ERIS partners Ostrava, Lille, Trnava, Kuopio, Eichstätt–Ingolstadt and by other universities in Poland, Italy, Romania, Greece and Denmark. The working title for the proposal is *En Route to Social Cohesion: Young Peoples' Journeys with Formal and Informal Welfare Initiatives – A Comparative European Study of Effective Responses from Government and Non-governmental Organisations*. (The outcome of the selection procedure will be known in July 2010.)

The University of Eastern Finland, in co-operation with the Faculty of Social Studies of the University of Ostrava (FSSOU) and Trnava University in Trnava, is preparing a comparative project under the title *Privatisation of Social Services* (the project manager being J. Hämäläinen). The methodology of this project will also be applied to the sub-project *Social Services in Post-industrial Society. An Analysis on the Example of Ostrava* which was selected in the student grants competition organised by the University of Ostrava and which is to be performed by the research team of FSSOU in 2010.

Further research projects being prepared or performed with participation of ERIS members include: EU–US–Atlantis Programme, Co-operation in Higher Education and Vocational Training, another research project that will be submitted by Canterbury Christ Church University with partners from US universities and two ERIS members – Catholic University of Eichstätt and Catholic University of Lille.

## III. Teaching/Educational Activities

**The Spring School of Social Work in Europe for students in magisterial and doctoral programs of studies 2009.** The third year of this annual event took place in Ostrava from April 21 to 26, 2009, with the participation of 18 students and 10 academicians from foreign universities (Kuopio, Eichstätt, Köln a. R., Hertfordshire, Lille, Trnava and Poznań), and 2 academicians and 12 students from FSSOU (out of which seven were doctoral students). The higher number of students from FSSOU can be attributed to the fact that the school was transferred from Čeladná to Ostrava.

Content of the third year of the Spring School was innovated: its program, the focal point of which in the first two years was presentation of students' research projects, doctoral (dissertation) theses and students' group as well as individual discussions, was extended for a

specialised lecture section – in 2009, the program thus included B. Littlechild's speech on *Research for Social Work Policy and Practice – Social Work Research as Knowledge Building*. (For report from the last event in 2009 – see: <http://eris.osu.eu/index.php?id=6227>).

#### **Doctoral study programme in Social Policy and Social Work in the English language :**

The admission of applicants for study in the FSSOU doctoral programme is conditioned by resolution of an organisational concept of the studies in compliance with the credits system as well as with regard to economic effectiveness. This issue was discussed at the meetings of ERIS representatives in Ostrava and Trnava (in April and October 2009) and at the meeting of ERIS Director with his deputies in March 2010.

In 2009, internationalisation of student instruction at ERIS partnership universities was achieved with the active participation of P. Erath (from Catholic University of Eichstätt) – teaching at Kuopio, Ostrava, Lille, Hertfordshire, and Trnava; J. Hämäläinen – teaching in Ostrava, academicians from FSSOU in Ostrava: O. Chytil – teaching in Kuopio, Eichstätt; A. Krausová – teaching in Lille; J. Keller – teaching in Lille.

#### **IV. Publication activities**

##### **ERIS Web Journal**

In 2009, members of the journal's Editorial Board were: J. Keller, J. Hämäläinen, E. Jovelin, B. Littlechild, R. Puhl and A. Kállay. The content structure of the journal was determined in more detail, i.e. the themes for the different issues of the Journal, and its different sections/pages – e.g. an open section, and thematic areas covering four areas: 1/ Mission; 2/ Special issues; 3/ Articles; 4/ ERIS News. The Web Journal now has its ISSN number, which is important for its world wide recognition. Guidelines for the submission of articles are accessible on the ERIS website. They will be extended across specified for each journal section.

In 2009, content of the first issue of the journal was being prepared with the topic of this first issue being *Social Work and Youth*. The Journal now has the following articles: „Mentally Disordered Offenders in England and Wales and the Parole Process“, by Wendy Fitzgibbon, University of Hertfordshire ( Nov. 6, 2008 ); „The Youth Justice System in England and Wales: History, Current Developments and Key Issues in Policy and Practice with Young Offenders“, by B. Littlechild, University of Hertfordshire ( June 19, 2009 );

„Privatisation of Social Care Services in Finland“, by J. Hämäläinen, University of Kuopio/University of Eastern Finland ( Dec. 28, 2009 ); „Calculated Risk Taking in Youth Welfare Practice in the Multicultural Environment of the City of Vienna“, by H. Wilfing, S. Wurm, University of Applied Sciences of Social Work in Urban Areas Vienna ( Jan. 12, 2010). To increase the range of ERIS articles, Board members are encouraged to submit articles themselves, and are to encourage colleagues in their universities and others – e.g. Masters/PhD students, at conferences, etc.

The Editorial Board worked out a proposal for the thematic orientation for the next issues of the ERIS Web Journal: 2/2010 *Social Work and Poverty* ; 1/2011 *Child Welfare in Europe*; 2/2011 *Physical and Social Space* . FSSOU will consult with their expert on publishing and ask them to propose a design for the ERIS Web Journal.

### **ERIS Book**

In 2009, a book of the ERIS–Studies No. 1 editorial series was prepared for publication: *Tendencies and Debates in Social Work Across Europe – Reports from 12 Different Countries* (ed. by P. Erath and B. Littlechild). The book will comprise of 12 texts from authors theorising and describing the situation of social work in different European countries. The book will offer students and lecturers a sound insight into the different constructions of social work in Europe and draw attention to important national literature and internet sites for further study. For ERIS, the book is of important relevance both for further publishing (new ERIS books on theorising, researching comparing social work etc.) and as a base for further research activities.

The proposal of the editorial plan for future years includes the following topics: 1. *Theoretical Debate in Social Work in Europe* ; 2. *Research in Social Work in Europe* ; 3. *Best Practice in Social Work in Europe* .

### **V. Conferences**

On October 21–23, 2009, the Department of Social Work at the Faculty of Health and Social Care of the University of Trnava in co-operation with ERIS held an international congress *Social Work in Between Privatisation and the Public Sector* . The main thematic areas of the congress were: the direction which social policy and social services in Europe is taking; the place of social work in a market economy; the role of the third sector in the provision of public services; co-operation of the public sector and non-governmental organisations in the area of services provision. Guests from six countries and ten European universities contributed to the

high quality of the congress with a range of excellent presentations. ERIS representatives gave keynotes speeches and also worked as moderators of the individual sections. (A report from the conference may be viewed at <http://eris.osu.eu/>.)

## **VI. Web ERIS and other ways of ERIS promotion**

In 2009, the task of improving the content and formal properties of the ERIS Web Journal was gradually accomplished. The informational leaflet of ERIS in a modified graphical layout and with logos was reprinted. ERIS was also promoted at conferences and workshops, and through author profiles in professional journals, etc. (At FSSOU, the promotion of ERIS was established as a permanent goal of the heads of departments. They are also to inform continuously about ERIS activities at department meetings. )

Ostrava, April 20, 2010