

# ERIS Annual Report 2010

## I ERIS meetings

In 2010 two meetings of the representatives of universities associated in ERIS. At the first of them, in Ostrava on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 the scientific-research and publication activities of the institute were discussed, mainly: preparation of the book *Social Work Across Europe – Accounts from 16 Countries* (ERIS Monograph Vol. 1, eds. Erath, P., Littlechild, B.), the plan of other publications of ERIS for the period of 2010 – 2014, including the content plan of the monothematic issues of the specialist journal *ERIS Web Journal*; the content and organizational arrangements of the 4<sup>th</sup> international ERIS conference *Social Work and Diversity. Looking at Gender, Class, Culture and Religion*, held by Katolische Fachhochschule Norrdrhein-Westfalen Köln on October 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010. The ERIS meeting in April took place in the presence of O. Chytil, D. Sýkorová (Ostrava), P. Erath, J. Freis (Eichstätt), M. Šramatá, A. Kállay (Trnava), E. Jovelin (Lille), R. Puhl (Köln) and invited guests F. Van den Veer (Ede, the Netherlands), J. Murlier and Ch. Fedke (Landshut, Germany).

The second meeting, held in Köln at October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010, was attended by O. Chytil, D. Sýkorová, A. Gojová (Ostrava), P. Erath, J. Freise (Eichstätt), M. Šramatá, O. Botek, A. Kállay (Trnava), E. Jovelin (Lille), R. Puhl (Köln), B. Littlechild, C. Meffan (Hertfordshire), J. Hämäläinen (Kuopio), K. Pawelek (Poznań) a D. Galesi (Trento). The participants evaluated the quality and course of the 4<sup>th</sup> international ERIS conference (see above) and discussed the topic of the next 5<sup>th</sup> international conference *Transnational Convergence, Diffusion and Transfer in Social Policy and Social Work*, held in Eichstätt on October 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Further they agreed on the contents, graphical design of the cover, number of copies and way of funding of the above mentioned book *Social Work Across Europe – Accounts from 16 Countries*. They also agreed on the date, frame programme and organization of the International Spring School of Social Work 2011.

## II Research activities of ERIS

In 2010 the comparative project *Privatization of Social Care Services in Selected European Countries: its Grounds, Models and Consequences for Professional Social Work in the Field of Child Welfare – A Comparative Perspective*. (University of Eastern Finland, Faculty of Social Studies in Ostrava, since 2011 Trnava University in Trnava). The aim of the project is to analyze the consequences of privatization of social care services, especially from the point of view of professional social work, in the light of experiences in different countries. So far there are two sub-projects:

1. Privatization of Social Care Services for Elderly People (University of Eastern Finland, University of Ostrava, University of Trnava)

## 2. Quality Control of Private Child Care Services (University of Cologne, University of Eastern Finland)

Partial projects were funded by the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation – TEKES and the University of Ostrava (within the Student Grant Competition of University of Ostrava, the so-called specific research, see the project *Social Services in Postindustrial Society. Analyzed on the Case of Ostrava*, successfully defended at the beginning of 2011). A group of students from Katholische Fachhochschule Nordrhein-Westfalen Köln deals with the impacts of privatization of social services in Germany in the case of social and legal protection of children within their student project. The project will be finished in July 2011.

The ERIS members submitted several other joint proposals of research projects. The following of these project were not accepted in given grant competitions:

*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 research bid under FP7 European Framework worth 2.7 million€ was submitted in February by Hertfordshire with the partners Ostrava, Lille, Trnava, University of Eastern Finland, Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Adam Mickiewicz University Poland, Trento Italy, "Al.I.Cuza" University Romania, TEI of Athens Greece, and Metropolitan University College Denmark), project *Cooperation in Higher and Secondary Education* (Canterbury Christ Church University College with partners from American universities and ERIS members from Katholische Universität Eichstätt and Université Catholique de Lille; programme EU – US – Atlantis), *Integration of Immigrants* (joint project of ERIS member universities in Lille and Trnava).

### III Educational activities

The core of the ERIS educational activities was again the International Spring School of Social Work – its 4<sup>th</sup> year was held in Ostrava on April 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Thirty one students and academics from the partner European universities (among them, 8 students and 3 academics from the Faculty of Social Studies and 2 students from the Faculty of Arts, University of Ostrava) participated in this event. Because of delayed air transport in the time of the Spring School, 7 students and academics from the University of Eastern Finland and the University of Hertfordshire had to cancel their planned participation. Due to these serious reasons, the programme of the Spring School was altered and some of its parts were shifted to the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the Spring School (e.g. in 2010 the lectures of R. Puhl on *Social Work and Research* and J. Freise *Difficult Relationship* were on the programme in 2010, the workshop on research methodology in social work will take place in 2011).

**The postgradual study programme of Social Work and Social Politics in English:** In 2010 the first student was enrolled in the postgradual study in blended form, namely a student from Katholische Universität Eichstätt.

**Internationalization of education of students from the ERIS partner universities:** In the given year the following actively participated: P. Erath (Katholische Universität Eichstätt), who taught in Barcelona, Kuopio, Lille, Ostrava, Trent; J. Hämäläinen (University of Eastern Finland), who lectured in Ostrava. Brian Littlechild/Caroline Meffan, Hertfordshire – teaching at Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, PhD supervision at University of Eastern Finland, Catholic University for Applied Science North Rhine-Westphalia. The academics from the Faculty of Social Studies, University of Ostrava O. Chytil taught in Eichstätt, Kuopio and Köln; J. Keller in Lille; A. Krausová and V. Holasová in Trnava.

#### **IV Publication activities**

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

In 2010 the graphical design of the journal and its structure were altered. Two issues of the journal were published: 1/2010 Social Work and Youth, including contributions from 2008 to 2010, and 2/2010 Social Work and Social Policy in Europe, amplified with reviews of books and research reports (<http://periodika.osu.cz/eris/>). The thematic orientation of the numbers in the next period was agreed on: Child Welfare in Europe (1/2011, supervisor J. Hämäläinen), Social Work and Diversity (2/2011, supervisor R. Puhl), Social Work and Social Space (1/2012, supervisor: D. Sýkorová). All the chapters show us the huge variety of existing policies, theories, research results, methods, professional debates, etc. and with this give us a comprehensive survey on tendencies and debates which each reader can use for comparing specific aspects in his/her country with aspects in other countries, or, perhaps even more important, to recognize "meta-developments" across Europe, e.g. marketisation of social work, tendencies towards managerialism, risk management and de-valorisation of social work and the social.

##### **ERIS publications**

In the given year, the first publication from the monograph section was edited: Erath, P., Littlechild, B. (eds.) *Social Work Across Europe – Accounts from 16 Countries. ERIS Monograph Volume 1*. Ostrava, Boskovice: University of Ostrava – ERIS, Albert Publisher. ISBN 978-80-7368-910-0. The monograph is focused on the theory and description of the situation in social work in several European countries. It provides a survey of various concepts of social work in Europe, references to relevant literature and internet sources etc.

#### **V Conferences**

In the autumn, another of the regular ERIS conferences took place, namely the 4<sup>th</sup> international conference *Social Work and Diversity – Looking at Gender, Class, Culture and Religion*. The conference was organized by Katholische Fachhochschule Nordrhein-Westfalen Köln on

October 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010. Among the ERIS university lecturers were B. Littlechild, E. Jovelin (*Culture and Social Work*), O. Chytil, P. Erath, J. Keller (*Class and Social Work*), C. Meffan, R. Puhl (*Gender and Social Work*), J. Hämäläinen, J. Freise (*Religion and Social Work*), the Gender and Social Work section was moderated by A. Gojová .

## **VI ERIS web and promotion**

Both the content and formal arrangement and design of the ERIS web pages were gradually improved. ERIS was promoted by the representatives of all the member universities by means of conferences and workshops, in authors' profiles in specialist journals etc. Careful promotion of the institute supported the interest of other universities to participate in its activities – six foreign universities applied for associate membership: Ramon Llull University, Barcelona, Poznań University, Trondheim University, University of Trento, Landshut University and Al. I. Cuza University.

The ERIS web pages and ERIS Web Journal were chosen by the National Library of the Czech Republic to be archived within the prestigious project WebArchiv. Information on ERIS will also be published in the publication *Kdo je kdo v české sociologii a příbuzných oborech* (*Who Is Who in Czech Sociology and Related Sciences*) that will be published by a renowned Czech publishing house of specialist literature in social sciences.

Ostrava, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011

D. Sýkorová, P. Nemethová

Approved by ERIS members at ERIS meeting in Ostrava, April 28, 2011.