

ERIS Annual Report 2014

I ERIS meetings

In 2014 two meetings took place involving representatives of partner universities within in the European Research Institute for Social Work (ERIS). At the first of them, held in Ostrava on 8 April 2014, participants discussed the Institute's research and publication activities, with a particular focus on the following: the preparation of the book 'Research in Social Work in Europe' (ERIS Monograph Vol. 3, eds. Hämäläinen, J., Littlechild, B., Špiláčková, M.); the plan for other ERIS publications for the period 2014-20, including the contents of the monothematic issues of the ERIS Web Journal; and the content and organizational arrangements for the 8th international ERIS conference *Research and social work practice - mutually beneficial endeavour or uneasy bedfellows?*, to be held on 13 - 14 October at the University of Hertfordshire in Hatfield, UK.

At the second meeting, held in Hatfield on October 13, 2014, the participants discussed the topic of the next (9th) international conference, which will be held on 12 - 13 October 2015 in Landshut, Germany: *The role of social work in a shifting world – social change and cohesion as a challenge and mandate of professional social work*.

The participants also agreed on the date, preliminary programme and organization of the International Spring School of Social Work 2015.

II Educational activities

The core of the educational activities undertaken by ERIS was again the International Spring School of Social Work – held for the 8th year in Ostrava on 8-11 April, 2014. Out of a total 53 participants, 25 were from universities outside the Czech Republic – Eichstätt and Landshut (Germany), Hertfordshire (UK), Kuopio (Finland), Trnava (Slovakia), Lille (France), Dornbirn (Austria), and Lodz (Poland).

The programme was devoted to the presentation of students' papers based on their doctoral dissertations or diploma theses, discussions with teachers, group and individual consultations. The opportunity to meet and discuss with academics from various countries in an informal, friendly environment and to receive valuable feedback from them is vital for all participants in this event.

As in previous years, this year's Spring School was followed by lectures and a workshop held as part of the project "Enlargement and Development of the Research Team at the Faculty of Social Studies, University of Ostrava" (VEDTYM). These included a research afternoon entitled "Biographic/Narrative Research Methods in Social Work" coordinated by Prof. Kaja Kazmierska and Dr. Katarzyna Waniek from the University of Lodz, a methodological workshop by Doc. RNDr. Ivana Loučkova entitled "Teaching Research by Research", and a research afternoon entitled "Participatory/Action Research" given by Prof. Emmanuel Jovelin from the Catholic University of Lille.

Internationalization of education for students from the ERIS partner universities:

During the year the following academics actively participated in the internationalization programme: four academics from the Faculty of Social Studies at the University of Ostrava (O. Chytil taught at the Catholic University of Lille, A. Gojová and M. Chrenková in Kuopio at the University of Eastern Finland, and A. Krausová taught at Trnava University in Slovakia).

III Publication activities

ERIS Web Journal

In 2014 two issues of the journal were published: 1/2014 Welfare states and social work in Middle and Eastern Europe - 20 Years after the Fall of Communism and 2/2014 (Open – for all texts on theory, research and practice in social work in Europe). (<http://periodika.osu.cz/eris/>). The thematic focus of the volumes in the upcoming period was agreed: 1/2015 will be on Migration across Europe, and 2/2015 will be open for all kinds of texts dealing with social work theory, research and practice in Europe. Articles will be focused on the huge variety of existing policies, theories, research results, methods, professional debates, etc., providing 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 importantly, to recognize "meta-developments" across Europe, e.g. marketization of social work, tendencies towards managerialism, risk management and de-valorization of social work and the social.

ERIS publications

In 2014 the third in the series of monographs *Research in Social Work in Europe* (part I and II) was edited.

Preparations were launched for ERIS Book IV: *Philosophy and Ethics in SW* and ERIS Book V: *Social Work and Poverty*.

IV Conferences

The 8th annual research conference "*Research and social work practice - mutually beneficial endeavour or uneasy bedfellows?*" of the European Research Institute for Social Work (ERIS), based at the University of Ostrava, took place on 13-14 October 2014 at the University of Hertfordshire's Fielder Centre. The conference was attended by nearly 100 academics, managers and social work practitioners, Master's students and PhD students. A group of 4 students and 4 academics from the University of Ostrava gave presentations at the conference. A well-received innovation was the introduction of small group seminars where participants could discuss the implications of papers connected with the themes of the conference, giving them the opportunity to consider how they could relate the ideas and issues presented at the conference back to their own thinking and experiences, as well as taking them away and applying them to their work at their own agencies or universities.

V Joint projects

The Faculty of Social Studies participated in the project 'Learning network for research-based social work practice' launched by the UEF Kuopio with research on *Old Age and Poverty* (VEDTYM Project).

ERIS submitted a new bid to the EU's Horizon 2020 research programme SOLID@ITY. The bid proposed examining means of developing innovative, dynamic and cohesive cities with high solidarity by measuring, analyzing and identifying innovative policies and practices in different European countries. The bid was not successful.

VI ERIS website and promotion

Gradual improvements continued to the ERIS website (content, layout and design). ERIS was promoted by the representatives of all the member universities by means of conferences and workshops, as part of authors' profiles in specialist journals etc.