

ERIS Annual Report 2015

I ERIS meetings

In 2015 two meetings involving representatives of universities associated in the European Research Institute for Social Work (ERIS) were held. At the first of them, in Ostrava on 14 April 2015, the research and publication activities of the institute were discussed, mainly: the preparation of the book *Social Work and Poverty* (ERIS Monograph Vol. 4, eds. Sýkorová D., Klimentová E., Rissanen S., Ylinen S.); the plan for other ERIS publications for the period 2016-20, including the contents of the issues of the Journal after merger with Czech and Slovak Social Work Journal ; and the content and organizational arrangements for the 9th international ERIS conference **The role of social work in a shifting world - social change and cohesion as a challenge and mandate of professional social work** to be held from 12-13 October 2014 at the University of Applied Sciences in Landshut, Germany.

At the second meeting, held in Landshut on October 12, 2015 the participants discussed the topic of the next (10th) international conference, which will be held on 29 – 30 September 2016 in Lodz, Poland - **Participatory Social Work: Approaches, Barriers, Critique**. Further, they agreed on the date, framework programme and organization of the International Spring School of Social Work 2016.

II Educational activities

The core of the educational activities undertaken by ERIS was again the International Spring School of Social Work – held for the 9th year in Ostrava on 14-17 April, 2015. Out of a total 48 participants, 37 were from universities outside the Czech Republic – from Eichstätt, Bremen, Koblenz and Landshut (Germany), Hertfordshire (UK), Kuopio (Finland), Trnava (Slovakia), Lille (France), Dornbirn (Austria), Lodz and Warmia and Mazury (Poland) and Barcelona (Spain).

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 "Social Division, gentrification and socio-spatial segregation in German cities" by prof. Detlef Baum from the University of Koblenz, Germany, a methodological work-shop by prof. Brian Littlechild entitled "Research in the areas of child protection and mental health – the ethics and methods for research in sensitive areas with vulnerable clients", and a research afternoon entitled "Research on professionalization and SW education in Poland" given by Prof. Ewa Kantowicz from the University of Warmia and Mazury, Poland.

Internationalization of education for students from the ERIS partner universities:

During the year the following academics actively participated in the internationalization programme: three academics from the Faculty of Social Studies at the University of Ostrava were involved: K. Cilečková and M. Špiláčková in Kuopio at the University of Eastern Finland and A. Krausová taught at the Trnava University. P. Erath from the Catholic University of Eichstätt taught in Lille and Ostrava.

III Publication activities

ERIS Journal

The ERIS advisory board agreed with cooperation with the Journal Czech and Slovak Social Work and in July 2015 came to merger.

1st issue ERIS Journal – Summer 2015 is available both on line and printed version

<http://www.socialniprace.cz/eng/index.php?sekce=2&podsekce=&ukol=1&id=85>

All issues are open for ERIS authors.

ERIS publications

2015 continued preparations on the ERIS book IV *Social Work and Poverty* and on ERIS Book V: *Philosophy and Ethics in Social Work*.

IV Conferences

The 9th annual research conference **The Role of Social Work in a Shifting World - Social Change and Cohesion as a Challenge and Mandate of Professional Social Work** was held from 12-13 October at the University of Applied Sciences in Landshut, Germany. Over 70 participants from more than 10 countries came to Landshut to discuss the issue. Discussions were wide-ranging, with lectures and around 15 workshops. In the conceptual design of the conference, the organizers took as a starting point the fact that processes of change in European countries have accelerated with regard to knowledge and service societies. The results and papers from this conference will be released in publications by the European Institute for Social Work (ERIS) and the Institute for Social Change and Cohesion Research (IKON)

V 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, in authors' profiles in specialist journals etc.