

I. Meeting of ERIS members

In 2018 there were two meetings of representatives from partner universities of ERIS (the European Research Institute for Social Work). The first was held on 17 April 2018 in Ostrava; participants discussed the Institute's research and publishing activities – especially ongoing work on the book *Philosophy and Ethics in Social Work*, preparation of new monograph *Social Work with Migrants and Refugees* (editors M. Pfaller-Rott, who ensured funding, D. Böhler and A.Kállay) and plans for publications in 2019–2021, including the contents of English language versions of the ERIS Journal Winter 1/2018 (editor prof. Hans van Ewijk from University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht, Netherlands). Issue was published on 28th February 2018 (e-version), ERIS Journal Summer 4/2018 (editor prof. Janet Anand from the University of Eastern Finland – topic: *Social Work in Health Care Settings*), and content end editing of for the following period ERIS Journal Winter 1/2019 and ERIS Journal Summer 4/2019, content and organization of 12th ERIS International Conference “Social Justice and Diversity – Models in Social Work Research, Practice and Education, to be held on 8-10 October 2018 at FH Vorarlberg in Dornbirn. The second ERIS meeting was held on 8th October in Dornbirn, on the occasion of the 12th annual international conference. Participants discussed plans for the 2019 conference “Children in Social Work”, to be held on 7–8 November 2019 in Trnava, Slovakia. The participants also approved the dates, framework programme and organizational arrangements for the International Spring School of Social Work 2019.

New associated members were approved:

ASSOCIATION POUR LA FORMATION ET LA RECHERCHE EN INTERVENTION SOCIALE
École Supérieure Européenne de l'Intervention Sociale (ESEIS - site de Strasbourg
<http://www.estes.fr/>

- PÔLE D'APPUI À LA RECHERCHE, Université Paris-Est Créteil Val de Marne www.u-pec.fr .

- University of Social and Administrative Affairs, CZ <http://www.vsss.cz/en/>

- Institut für Sozialpädagogische Forschung Mainz e V. (ISM) <https://ism-mainz.de/ism-e-v/>

Individual membership: dr. Andrej Kállay from Slovakia.

The University of Lodz has complied all requirements and became full member.

The annual membership fee rise from 100€ to 200€ was approved by all partners.

II. Educational activities

The International Spring School of Social Work was again the main focus of ERIS's educational activities; the 12th spring school was held in Ostrava from 17–20 April 2018. The event featured a total of 56 participants, of whom 37 were from universities outside the Czech Republic – Eichstätt, Landshut, Koblenz, Bremen (Germany), Hertfordshire (UK), Budapest (HU), Trnava (Slovakia), Lille and Strasbourg, Dornbirn (Austria), Rostov on Don, (Russia) and Łódź (Poland). We also welcomed students from Russia, Romania and Slovakia. The programme focused mainly on students' presentations based on their Master's or doctoral dissertations, accompanied by discussions with academics, group and individual consultations. The students welcomed the feedback from the academics and the opportunity to discuss the topics of their dissertations with experts from various countries in an informal and supportive environment. As in previous years, the programme included 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'. The workshop took the form of a research afternoon featuring Prof. Mariusz Granosik from Poland, on the topic 'Social Work Research – Grounded Theory'.

Strengthening international links in education for students of ERIS partner universities

During 2018, 3 academics from the University of Ostrava's Faculty of Social Studies were actively involved in teaching at partner institutions. M. Spilackova lectured at the University of Lodz, FH Vorarlberg in Dornbirn, S. Doricakova lectured at Trnava University. O. Chytil lectured at KU Eichstätt and in Trnava. B. Littlechild, M. Granosik, O. Botek, A. Gulczynska and M. Kostrzynska lectured at the Faculty of Social Studies in Ostrava.

III. Publication activities

ERIS Journal Eris Journal – the winter 2018 and summer 2018 English-language issues are available in electronic and printed form: <http://www.socialnipace.cz/eng/index.php?sekce=2>

Preparations continued for the fifth monograph in the series: Social Work with Migrants and Refugees (Eds. M. Pfaller-Rott, A. Kállay, D. Böhler)

IV. ERIS conferences

International conference European Dimension in Social Work Education and Practice

On 24 and 25 September 2018, University of Ostrava hosted an international conference called European Dimension in Social Work Education and Practice, organized by the Czech delegation of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats in the European Parliament in cooperation with the Faculty of Social Studies, University of Ostrava, and the European Research Institute for Social Work, University of Ostrava. The event was the only conference organized at the occasion of the centenary celebrations of social work education in the Czech Republic. At the same time, it marked the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Faculty of Social Studies, University of Ostrava, and of the European Research Institute for Social Work, University of Ostrava. The aim of the conference was to treat the relationship between social policy, social structure and social work in the European Union; the relationship was also the issue of the opening lecture by Jan Keller, Member of the European Parliament. Lectures on the influence of social changes on social work education and practice by invited key speakers from many European universities followed: Oldřich Chytil (University of Ostrava), Peter Erath (Germany), Brian Littlechild (Great Britain), Walter Lorenz (Italy), Hans van Ewijk (Netherlands), Emmanuel Jovelin (France), Riina Kiik (Norway), Elena Iarskaia-Smirnov (Russia), Mariusz Granosik (Poland), Bella Szabó (Romania), Berta Granja (Portugal). Each lecture was followed by a discussion which continued also during the coffee-breaks and the dinner. Besides the lecturers, representatives of the USA and twenty European countries – Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Belgium, Hungary, Portugal, Russia, Finland, France, Sweden, Austria, Greece, Romania, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, Slovakia, Poland, Italy – took part at the conference. The conference was attended by invited representatives of schools from the Czech Republic, too. The conference hosted altogether 100 participants; it is important that even the doctoral students of social work from the home Faculty could attend the conference. The conference was highly appreciated by all participants, particularly in terms of the organizational aspect and the content because in just two days, it presented the development of social work education and practice across Europe.

The conference became a worthy celebration of the anniversaries mentioned. A video recording was taken from the conference which will be available mainly for students.

International Conference: Social Justice and Diversity – Models in Social Work Research, Practice and Education

The conference was held from 8th – 10th of October 2018 at the Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences (FH Vorarlberg) Dornbirn, Austria. What are the current challenges that confront social workers in heterogenic societies and how can the evolving theories of social justice and human rights contribute to the development of knowledge for practical application? These fundamental questions formed the basis of the international ERIS conference on Social Justice and Diversity that took place from 8th to the 10th October 2018 in the University of Applied Sciences in Dornbirn, Austria. The realities of migration societies and the accompanying issues of equality, rights and ethics have recently resulted in an intense level of critical public discourse within journalistic, educational, political and academic circles. This conference was designed as a scientific exploration of these debates, providing 30 diverse lectures by social work academics and practitioners from over eleven different countries in Europe and North America. The conference's core element involved the delivery of five keynote lectures by European experts covering a wide spectrum of themes ranging from anti-discriminatory practice, critical whiteness, human rights in the profession, the evolving public mandate of social work and social justice with regard to loss and death. These thought-provoking presentations were complemented by seven workshops, each addressing a particular perspective on the general issues of the conference.

The next ERIS conference is scheduled to be held in autumn 2019 at the University of Trnava.

V. Common projects

E. Jovelin from the Catholic University of Lille prepared and submitted a project together with 6 universities (Lille, Kuopio, Dornbirn, Hertfordshire, Trento and Olomouc) aimed at migration: Designing and educational program for professionals working with refugees and asylum seekers.

M. Pfaller-Rott from the Catholic University of Eichstätt cooperates with colleagues from India on the project Culturally Competent Practice with Refugees and Migrants in India and Germany.

VI. The ERIS website and promotional activities

Improvements and updates were made to the content, organization and appearance of the ERIS website. ERIS was promoted by representatives of all member universities at various conferences and workshops, via author profiles in journals, etc.