

2020 ERIS Annual Report

I ERIS Members Meeting

In 2020, due to anti-pandemic measures, two meetings of university representatives associated with the European Research Institute for Social Work (ERIS) were held online. The first meeting held on 24th June 2020 revolved around the results produced by the meetings of each working group, scientific research and publishing activities of the Institute on the basis of the proposals made by the working group on publishing and research activities, such as orientation towards publications in PDF format available to students without a fee, publishing compendia every 2-3 years focused on the main research topics at individual partner institutions, sending offers of joint publication proposals to major international publishers. Other discussed topics included the content and editorial plan for English issues of the *ERIS Journal: Winter Issue 1/2021: Forced Migration and Minority Groups*, Editorial Team: Janet Carter Anand, University of Eastern Finland, Finland and Stefan Borrmann, University of Applied Sciences in Landshut, Germany and *Summer Issue 4/2021: Histories of Social Work*, Editor: Marie Špiláčková

In the second meeting, which took place on 24th September 2020 and was also online, the participants discussed the personnel changes in the appointed representatives (the newly appointed representative at the Catholic University of Eichstätt is Anette Korntheuer and after four years of working as an ERIS Journal administrator, Barbora Gřundělová handed over her position to the FSS UO student, Klára Brzezinová.

A significant part of the meeting agenda revolved around the ERIS strategy and the plan of activities for each working group.

The members acknowledged the cancellation of the associate membership of the University of Trento and the Institut für Sozialpädagogische Forschung Mainz:

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As of July 2020, Prof. Sigrid Bathke became the new appointed representative for FH Landshut, replacing Prof. Christopher Fedke.

II Educational activities

The International Spring School of Social Work planned for 21st– 24th April 2020 was cancelled in March due to the declaration of a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we established a working group to prepare a plan for the Spring School 2021, which for the first time in its history will be organized solely online.

Internationalization of student education from ERIS partner universities:

Although in the year under review it was not possible to organize our usual student and teacher mobilities and lectures at partner schools, Dr. Dořičáková taught an online course, and Assoc. Prof. Kalenda taught a full-time course at the University of Trnava.

Prof. Brian Littlechild from the University of Hertfordshire, Anna Gulczynska from the University of Lodz and Juha Hämäläinen from the University of Eastern Finland lectured online at FSS UO.

The Teaching Working Group presented a proposal for the gradual creation of online modules focused on research objectives, methodology of publishing scientific papers, etc. for PhD studies.

III Publishing activities

ERIS Journal

Eris Journal – Winter Issue 2020 and Summer Issue 2020 in English is available both in electronic and printed version at <http://www.socialnprace.cz/eng/index.php?sekce=2>

IV Conference

The planned international conference in Strasbourg has been postponed to Paris due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with a new date set for September 2021. The next international conference in 2022 will be hosted by the partner institution Russian State Social University in Moscow.

V Joint projects

In June 2020, we started the implementation of the project funded by the International Visegrad Fund “Value Building in Social Work Education.” The project was submitted by the Faculty of Social Studies, University of Ostrava in cooperation with partners from neighbouring countries: Trnava University (SK), University of Łódź (PL), Warmia and Mazury University (PL), Budapest Gaspár University (HU), and the University of Debrecen (HU). The project objective is the creation of tools to enhance the quality of education in social work, the creation of scientific articles, the organization of an international conference of the Spring School of Social Work, and a final conference summarizing the project results.

VI ERIS website and its promotion

We set up Communication and Promotion Working Group to provide the website with updates on the results and achievements of partner institutions in research, publishing, innovative teaching methods and to ensure their dissemination through social media at regular semi-annual intervals.