**Minutes from EC meeting Sarajevo**

**21-23 November 2012**

**Present:** Annamaria Campanini (AC), Anke Beuck (AB) , Ewa Kantowicz (EK), Gunter Friesenhahn (GF), Masun Martínez (MM), Marju Medar (MaM), Peter Hendriks (PH), Violeta Gevorgianienė (VG), Sanela Basic(SB), Nino Zganec (NZ), Vasilios Ioakimidis (VI). Sue Lawerence (SL) participated on day 1 through web link.

**Apologies:**  Adéla Mojžíšová (AM), Jerome Wenz (JW), Ronny Heikki Tikkanen (RT),

Alessandro Sicora (AS)

*Chair: Gunter Friesenhahn*

**1) Matters arising from previous minutes.**

-As it had been previously decided, minutes were approved by EC members before the meeting.

-With regards to a previous decision to form a group with a responsibility to collect teaching examples and good practices, AB mentioned that she was in touch with Julia Watkins who had been really helpful throughout this process .

- EC members discussed their Reports which can be found attached to the minutes. It was also suggested that there were extensive variations in the way EC members report on their activities. Some focus on their academic activities while others only refer to their actions arising from EC decisions. VI suggested that some homogeneity was necessary and volunteered to prepare a template which will be used by all EC members while preparing their reports.

-GF updated on the Ensact conference and asked all members to use their networks in order to promote the conference. HE also referred to the obstacles in working with Council of Europe. These are mostly related to the increased workload of CoE officers.

- (AC) had been invited as an expert to participate in a conference on Social Work Education in France. She informed the EC members about ongoing education reform process, which involves some competition with other fields (e.g. sociologists). She suggested that the EASSW needs to support social work colleagues in France by collecting and disseminating information about the scope and delivery of social work education in other European countries.

- (SL) informed the EC members that she is in touch with colleagues from the middle east in order to facilitate a round table a during the ENSACT conference which would examine aspects of membership in regional committees located in conflict areas. All members accepted the proposal.

**2) Restructuring of the officers’ position**

(MaM) referred to a meeting she had with a registered auditor who suggested ways of improving the EC’s auditing activities in order to overcome logistical and legalistic problems at a cross-country level (eg different laws on electronic signatures etc).

She explained that under these circumstances and given the complexity of the new task she explained that she would not be able to continue her responsibilities as a treasurer. (PH) and (GF) stated that these developments initiated a need for a wider restructuring of the officers' positions and responsibilities. Such restructure will be based on the idea that officers will have clearly defined responsibilities in order to avoid overlapping. Moreover, one of the missions of the restructured EC will be the preparation of and smooth transition to future officers.

(PH) and (GF) proposed that under such restructure (PH) could assume treasurer’s responsibilities and another member of the EC could replace him as secretary. Only (VI) was nominated for the chair of secretary prior to the meeting. During the meeting (EK) nominated (AB) for the role of secretary. (AK) thanked EK but clarified that she had no intention to step as a candidate.

The implications of (VI)’s relocation to the UK were carefully examined against the constitution and it was clarified that his continuation in the EC fully abides to the constitutional provisions of the organization.

The restructuring was then put to a vote within the EC:

a) Vote on re-aligning in accordance to the constitution: Everyone agrees. No need for vote.

b) Vote on (VI) nomination as secretary: votes 10 members supported the nomination. MM abstained.

- (VI), under his new role as Secretary, undertook responsibility for the preparation of constitutional changes prior (2 months) before the General Assembly. The proposed changes will be circulated to all member schools in advance of the Assembly in Istanbul.

**3) Financial overview: budgets from 2012 and 2013 -** report of Secretary and Treasurer

PH reported that

1. Due to a successful membership drive, the member subscriptions have covered the association expenses for 2012. This was a very good position, as subscriptions have previously fell during non-conference years.

2.       Due to the return of project funding that was allocated to a project in Belgium, the total income was higher than budgeted.

3.     An agreed capital account against costs was deposited in an ethical savings account early in 2012. The yearly interest is not therefore accounted in 2012.

4.       In 2011, the cost of the China- Europe forum was included in the officers travel budget and so officer traveling costs appear rather higher than usual. In 2012 the costs are considerably lower. Officers have been very vigilant in keeping costs low and been economical when choosing travel and Hotels.

5.       Only a few requests were received for the solidarity fund for EC members. The expenses have been kept far below far below the budgeted amount.

6.       We did spend a little more than budgeted on web page maintenance; we invested in a new web site and because of this some of the problems in the CMS system were solved and the website is functioning well and being well utilized.

7.       We spent 5000 euro more on project money than was budgeted. This was due to a one-off donation. The EC decided this year however not to donate any further money in disaster situations, except within the context of project applications.

8.       The salary costs of the administrator in the Netherlands are higher than expected due to the introduction of a new VAT system of 21% in NL. A considerable amount of the salary costs were however remitted by the host of the secretariat, the Institute of Social Work of the Hogeschool Utrecht, for which we are very grateful.

Thus the expenses and incomes for 2012  are quite balanced.

He also highlighted that the number of paying members now stands at 168. There are also a considerable number of member schools who did not pay their fees this year and will be notified as soon as possible.

P.H. also stated that expenses related to publicity material for ENSACT conference should be included in 2013 budget, along with expenses linked to travel costs for officers and members from Eastern Europe.

Moreover, (PH) explained that there have been efforts to simplify the invoice system and possibly link it to the website. There was also a discussion about the simplification of the auditing. It was agreed that in order to maintain transparency an officially certified auditor would be appointed to review and audit the budget annually.

(VI) questioned the relevance of the existing membership fee structure within the context current economic reality in Europe. He suggested that the existing fee structure and use of solidarity fund do not respond to the existing realities across Europe. The west/east divide is not as strong as in the past and currently there are schools in “western” Europe that might need more support than countries classified as “east”. It was decided that a task force would review the fee structure in a way that reflects current circumstances. Moreover, the solidarity fund will operate on an individual case basis and not in relation to geographic location of schools.

-The systematic and dedicated work of Dorine (the administrative assistant of the organization) was commended by all EC members.

**4. Ensact and Istanbul conference**

(PH) informed the EC about the preparation of the conference organization committee. He highlighted the fact that EASSW is responsible for organizing a symposium on the topic of “Sustainable development and social actions”. Miss Markovic from Council of Europe (Director of Human Rights and Antidiscrimination) has been approached by the EC to be one of the keynote speakers. (S.B) Suggested that this symposium should be more visible on our website. (AC), (EK) and (GF) agreed to co-ordinate the preparation of the Symposium. Moreover, (PH) suggested that Dorine could be asked to represent EASSW at our stand during the Istanbul conference.

(PH) informed EC members about the current state of affairs within the Ensact network. This generated some discussion with regards to the broader obsjectives of the Ensact network and the way EASSW relates to it.

(NZ), (VI) and (GF) , stressed that our decision should be based on the following factors: finanancial viability, visibility of EASSW and the current balance between expectations from this coalition and reality. (AC) explained that the initional goal of this joint venture for social welfare organisations was to grow stronger in acheiving commom goals. She then asserted that this objective had not been achieved and most of its energy is directed towards the organisation of the Ensact conference. (AB) suggested that we could exlore the idea of a smaller scale EASSW conference on the topic of 'social work education in a time of crisis'.

EC members unanimously decided to review the existing relations of our organisation with our partners in Ensact and explore the possibility of organising an independent EASSW conference in 2015.

**5. Report from visit to Kabardino Balkaria (Russia)**

(VG) offereda brief reflection the recent visit to Kabadrino Balkaria University in Russia. On July the 9th 2012 a round table was entitled “Problems and perspectives of integertaion of Russian and European Social Work programmes of higher education in the framework of Bologna process“ was organized jointly by KBSU & EASSW. (VG) stressed that the visit was very successful in establishing links to social work educators in the Russia region and pointed at prospects for future cooperation. Finally, she informed EC members that there is an invitation from KBSU to join their conference in Moscow in February next year on the topic “Intrenationalisation of social work education“.

On the basis of this report EC members unanimously decided to support and further promote the EASSW links with Russia. Within this context a member of the EC will be expected to attend the Moscow confrence in February 2013. Travel expenses and accomodation with regards to this visit will be covered from EASSW budget.

The work of (VG) in forging relationships with Russian Universities was comended by all EC members.

**6 Conferences and other events**

(EK) informed EC members about the upcoming conference on “Community economy – integration – professionalisation. Challnges for Social Work“, to be held 27-30 June, 2013, UWM Olszyn.

(SB) also informed EC about prospected seminar/sympozium to be held in June 2013 in Ljubljana. The seminar will focus on the topic of particular interest to the region, probably on disability and inclusion. There will be about 50 participants, with several key presenters and discussion. Specific participation by EASSW will be welcomed in terms of any of following: suggested speakers, funds, outreach to EASSW and IASSW members in the region who might be interested in attending.

**7. Project Application and Project Budget**

(MaM) informed EC members that three project applications had been summitted and reviewed by project group:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Title of the project** | **Applicant** | **Partners** | **Duration** | **Total cost and EASSW grant** | **Activities** |
| *Reflection of European Social Work in the Visegrad Region* | Technical University in Liberec | 1. Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University (Czech Rep); 2. University of Presov (Slovakia); 3. Faculty of Health and Social Studies, University of South Bohemia (Czech Rep); 4. Rzeszów School of Engeneering and Economics (Poland) | 01.01.-31.12. 2013 | T: 4000eur  EASSW: 3000eur  Co- and own- financing: 1000eur | Scientific monograph consisting of academic papers focused on the problems of tertiary education in social work |
| *: “Picture your Study” or “Pictory”* | University of Applied Sciences Koblenz | 1.University of Luxembourg; 2.Tallin University; 3. University of Apllied Sciences Bern; 4. University of Applied Sciences Cologne | 01.12.2012-30.06.2013 | T: 6000eur  EASSW: 4000eur  Co- and own- financing: 2000eur | Virtual forum where students get the chance to discuss common challenges and problems and topics concerning international and national social work issues |
| *European meet Chinese teachers to build a dialogue on social work education* | Università Milano Bicocca | 1. London Metropolitan University; 2. University of Gothenburg; 3. Tallinn University; 4. Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz; 5. Hogeschool Utrecht; 6. Universitad de Barcelona; 7. Centre Régional de Formation aux Métiers du Social; 8. Università della Calabria; 9. Metropolitan University College | 01.11.2012-01.11.2014 | T: 50000eur  EASSW: 4000eur  Co- and own- financing: 46000eur | Development a dialogue and cooperation of the China and Europe social work. |

EC members discussed whether to consider the application from Milano University under the topic of project application. The main issue identified was related to the fact that this proposal is linked to the broader Europe-China forum. Thus, it was discussed within the context of our commitment to the this forum.

Consequently, EC voted for the remaining two projects. Both projects were approved (Voting results: 8 EC members voted for accepting to fund both project applications, 2 abstained).

(VI) informed the EC that University of Nicosia will return funding which had been allocated to them for the creation of a Euro-Med journal. Technical difficulties and the creation of several journals in the meantime contributed in this decision.

With regards, to the process prior to the EC meetings is was decided that: a) Dorine should scrutinize every incoming application in terms of membership and fees in order to clarify whether applicant schools are paying members or not; b) Project group should review the application in terms of content, creativity etc and make a concrete proposal to EC memebrs about whether proposed project should be accepted for funding or not.

8) **Project application related** **Europe Chine Forum**

(AC) informed EC members about the outcomes of this project & EASSW's role and commitment. She described the work of the forum as interesting and succesful but she also identified a number of long term issues that needsd to be resolved by the EC (these were related to the budget requirements and strategic commitment of the EASSW).

After brief discusion on these aspects, (GF) suggested a vote on the question whether to continue supporting – in financial terms - Europe China Forum Voting results: for: 2; against: 4; abstained: 4. In line with voting results, it was decided that EASSW will not continue the financial support of the Europe China Forum.

**9. Preparation of General Assembly and Nominations Committe**

It was decided that the nomination committe (AB, NZ and AS), in liaision with the secretary (VI), should undertake necessary steps to prepare the General Assembly in Istanbul. This would include relevant anouncements and call for candidates, preparation for the GA and reaspnse to the technical preparations regarding voting procedures and voting process.

Three EC members (MA, JW and EK), announced the decision not to stand for a re-elections in the forthcoming GA. Two other members (SB and AB) decided to stand for reelection. A brief discussion about financial difficulties EC member schools experience lead to the decision for the EC to concentrate its efforts in supporting members from schools who face difficulties. It was decided that EASSW under no circumstances should be reduced to a group of rich schools and therefore the EC was committed to its support for its members.

**10. Global agenda.**

The discussion concentrated on celebration of Social Work day in 2013. During 2012 the two international social work days were ‘merged’ in a “the week of action”. It is important to distinguish between 2 levels: national activities, related to that day and activity of EASSW. The possibility to approach Council of Europe (done last year by Gunter) was discussed. Gunter informed the EC that Council of Europe was impressed by this mission and agreed to provide the room for the meeting. The idea to offer the EASSW website as a platform for many activities related to social work day ( to put videos, information), to advertise it in “social” sections in newspapers, to use facebook were discussed.

**Decision:** 1. *On the international level*: EASSW will join IFSW event in Geneva

2. *On national level*: context related activities will take place in each country (inviting key persons, etc.) and we have to ensure that this week is more visible on the web.

**3. EASWW and cooperation with journals.**

While presenting this issue (VI) told that it is important to highlight the academic dimension of EASSW and ensure that the organization is visible in academic journals. A few journals which EASSW could cooperate with were named: “Social work and society”, “European journal of social work” and the “Critical and Radical Social Work Journal”. Within this context it was decided to ask (SL) to reinvigorate our links with the European Journal of Social Work and (VI) to formalize links with the “Critical and Radical Social Work journal”. It was also agreed that links to the journals we cooperate with should be on EASSW web and that the cooperation should be mutually beneficial.

It was also decided that the EC will explore possibilities of editing a special issue in one of the aforementioned journals. (GF) mentioned that this could happen through the “Social Work and Society” online journal. (SB), (NZ) and (VI) suggested that they could contribute to a special issue on “social work in transition” by sending articles related to their presentations in the Sarajevo Seminar.

(VI) also highlighted the importance of including PhD students in the activities of the organization. It was decided that a section on the website will be developed in order to create space for PhD and MSW researchers. (RT) will be informed about the technical possibilities.

**Date and Venue of Next meeting**

The next meeting of the EC will be in Istanbul on 16 April (09.00- 16.00) and 19 April (18.00 and 19.30)

The General Assembly will be on Wednesday April 17 at 18.00 hours.

EASSW symposium in Istanbul conference will be on the 18th of April.