

**Minutes Executive Committee EASSW  
November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2021  
Chaired by Christos Panagiotopoulos  
Venue: Paris, University of Paris Nanterre and Online**

**Participants:** Christos Panagiotopolus (CP), Mariusz Granosik (MG), Raymond Kloppenburg (RK), Mona Livholts (MoL), Judit Csoba (JC), Femke Dewulf (FD), Jane Fenton (JF), Katarina Hjortgren (KH), Florin Lazar (FL), Marika Lotko (MaL), Zuzana Poklembova (ZP), Urban Nothdurfter (UN), Anna Rurka (AR), Ana Ana Marija Sobočan (AS).

Sandra Mendez (SM Administrative secretary), Marta Borges (MB Communication support 8.11.2021 12.30-13.30)

**Notes taken by:** AS and FD

**Notes edited by:** CP and MoL

**EASSW Board Meeting - Day 1  
Monday November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**10:15 to 16.00 PM CET**

**10:15- 12:20**

**1. Welcome**

CP: Welcome to the ExCo-Board meeting online and in Paris.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda is unanimously agreed on.

FD: Working Code

ML: Sustainability policy

AR: INGO's (International non-governmental organisations)

**3. Approval of minutes (June 2021)**

The minutes are approved by the board.

**4. Matters arising (If any)**

Mask policy for offline meeting in Paris is agreed on.

**5. Officers' Reports**

a. Updates from the President CP

Report from the elections during 2021 Tallinn conference. There was a change of members in the ExCo board after several members ended their period and new members joined.

There is currently a total of 15 members in the board.

Short presentation of the procedures of EA to the new members: All members actively participate in two working groups. It is important to regularly meet in the working groups (also so that the group coordinator does not remain alone in the role). The outcomes of the working group are important to fulfil EASSW:s mission and activities.

b. Closing note from Teresa Bertotti

TB thanks all the members of the EA for the collaborative work together during her presidency. TB supports the creating of a work code and the discussion about a sustainability policy.

6. **Update on Secretary's position (CP)**

CP: There was a call circulated for a new secretary in the officer's group (currently filling posts this group are CP, RK, MG). RK: Relevant questions concerning the work of the secretary are: what are the tasks, how much time will it take and the competence to take on the role. Meetings are connected to the EC meetings (preparing for the 2 EC and meetings after the EC). From 2022 there will be work to prepare for the conference (working with the organizing of the conference: 3 meetings in the first half year, and monthly meetings leading up to the conference). Board members further discuss the tasks of the secretary. MoL advertise her candidacy to take on the position. It is discussed that if needed it can be a rotating position after one year. FD expresses an eventual interest for the position next year.

**Decision:**

The board decides to appoint MoL to the position of Secretary for two years, with the possibility of considering an exchange after one year.

7. **Upcoming ECSWE 2023 conference (CP)**

A call for host has been published and board members are asked to disseminate the call to their networks, with the aim to have applications and proposals by the end of the year.

**Decisions:**

All members disseminate the call and make inquiries about a host for the ECSWE 2023 conference.

8. **Update from the Treasurer (RK)**

a. Financial report 2021

RK presents the financial report: expenses are divided between member focused activities and organization focused activities to be able to follow the expenses more closely. The report also includes the planned budget, the actual costs, and the difference.

b. Budget and financial procedures

RK will leave the position in 2023; currently, to be able to manage the account (Triodos), the person needs to be Dutch and be registered in the Chamber of Commerce. CP: RK should check with the Dutch to see if they would nominate a treasurer to the ExCo. MaL suggests that the bank would be checked before we make a change. The board discusses a strategy that half a year before next GA organize a new voting as new Treasurer, to buy time for RK to do the transfer of the resources. The board will continue this discussion and make a decision during the next ExCo meeting in spring 2022.

c. Approval of budget

**Decision**

The board approves of the budget presented.

9. **Update from the Vice President (MG)**

- a. Evaluation from Tallinn conference (presentation of 10') The evaluation consists of an Online survey with 26 questions (10 open): 75 people answered. Most people evaluated that the conference was excellent, and that they improved their network of contacts. One third claimed that online delivery affected the quality of the conference very much.

Most people found keynotes master classes and workshops good or excellent. More than half found the conference to be organized excellently; communication was assessed quite good (but comments also indicate it could be better). GA was attended by 20 people in the survey and the general impression was that a majority was satisfied. Some suggestions for improvements was: platforms were not assessed very efficient; information and communication can be improved.

RK adds that the comments on the content of the conference should be discussed as this is relevant for future conference planning, so we learn from the present evaluation. TB suggests that the next conference needs to say something about post-covid, what we have learned, what changes are relevant to social work education.

**12:30-13:30**

**10. Introduction to all members of Sandra Mendes and Marta Borges: duties and availability (CP, SM, MB)**

MB reports on communication: During May – July, most work was linked to the conference. From August – until today: the plan is to advertise regional events in social media and the website. The newsletter is available, and soon the signature will be available. The main concern for improvement of information is to have information continuously updated on social media and the website. CP promotes that all task groups meet with the communication group, along with the president, to see how MB can support the group and what information members provide to the communication group. It is suggested that it would be important to have an editorial team for the newsletter. The road map working groups discuss with MB when and how certain information should be shared. MB will prepare the overview of the communication channels before the meetings with the group and a template for the members to send in the information.

**Presentation of the new structure of working groups. (MG)**

Update from Coordinators of the working groups (10 minutes presentation)

b. Membership (ZP)

Collective membership

The board discuss the differences between A and B countries membership and the need to review the possibility of providing a discount to promote collective membership. MB suggests that EASSW needs to advertise membership options in a clear way and give

different options of membership. There is a need update contact persons in the membership list.

**Decision**

The membership group will work with a proposal for revised categorisation of countries and collective membership fee.

c. Small projects,

d. Awards and regional events presentation

-FD suggests that two calls per year is enough for regional events with clear dates to organize and inform partners. This makes dates and sharing information more flexible.

The board discusses the importance of preparing rules and guidelines for project funding, clear eligibility criteria, and provide material about the event to upload on the website and make it more interactive. A short evaluation of the first SWE awards is made.

**Presentation of the new structure of working groups. (MG)****Update from Coordinators of the working groups (10 minutes presentation)**

e. Sigs (KH) see presentation

KH presented the work done so far within the group. Two SIG's – Ecosocial work and Global social work - were very active at Tallinn conference. There is space for these SIGs on the Website and guidelines about applying for SIGs. The board discusses the possibility of developing more cooperation between our task groups. Cooperation would strengthen the planning of activities together and offer supportive structures for coordination between groups. It would help to develop more SIG's and to exchange ideas and expertise. The board discusses the need to open the SIG nplatform to other members or even non-members. If we want to have more visibility, we should create more possibilities and open access to more people who visit our website. The interconnections between funded activities are important. Being a SIG should not be a restriction for applying for a Small Project. Another opportunity is the Book Series: SIG's could publish. It would be important for EASSW to provide clearer information to applicants that they can apply for different funding to develop activities. As a conclusion of the discussion all group coordinators are asked to make an overview of criteria and a list of issues to be discussed, to send email to officers and MB to discuss this issue on criteria and financial guidelines in an online meeting after the board meeting.

a. Communication (FL) See presentation

The newsletter is published two times yearly. FL provides information about the working process of publishing and brings up the need for circulation of responsibility of leadership. FL invites other members to be involved more in the WG and AS expresses her availability. All working groups can communicate news and advertisement on the website and social media, also improving information related to SWE and SW (like Tallinn conference outcomes). We should find other ways to find content and share on our platforms. It is important to improve visibility of activities of member schools, making communication more interactive, for example publish social media posts one or twice a week. It should be helpful to have a calendar for the Newsletter. Call for content could go to all members, but if we need info to transfer information fast it could be on social media. The board discusses that communication should be more proactive both to members and non-members. The communication group should discuss priorities. It should be clear how to become a member and what are the advantages. Latest newsletter had better quality and reader friendliness. The Coupon system doesn't work and the board commit to getting rid of the coupon system and replacing it by an email-recognition system (for staff in member schools)

f. Publications (MG) see presentation

MG informed the group about the publication of the Special Issue in JSWE.

10-12:00

**Update on the Strategic Plan (CP) and Road Map (2022-2024)**

General introduction by CP. Presentation from the working groups:

Membership group

The membership group should meet to discuss their priorities and there is a suggestion to focus on first three activities as a priority.

Communication group

CP forwards events to IASSW, so all members are asked to deliver content. First three activities are overlapping, suggestion is to organize a meeting and discuss the focus/priority for the working group.

Small Projects group

CP suggests promoting Small projects more and link it Small Projects to SIG's, regional events or communication group in general. We need more partnerships and continuation of the work/outcomes.

Special Interest Group

CP suggest working on SIG establishments and support them by our platforms, suggesting them to apply for other EASSW activities

Regional Events and Awards

Good opportunity to share and promote work of members and even non-members. We need to make specific criteria and decide what can be funded. Awards were very well received during the conference, and we launched also a student award, but we could give more space or possibilities for students or PhD students to collaborate or get support from member schools.

Publications

It is important to work together to increase promoting publications of the valuable work by members.

**Decision**

The board decides that all working groups meet and decide what work tasks are high priority, what activities should be taken out and what can be on hold, to promote manageable and sustainable work.

12:30-13:30: LUNCH

13:30-14:30

Discussion on the planning of working groups for the next 2 years and Finalizing of the Strategic Plan and Road Map for the next 2 years

Planning for the next 2 years for all working groups:

14:30-15:30

**AOB (topics to be submitted prior to the meeting)**

1. INGO – International non-governmental organisations (AR)

The committee decided to extend Robert Bergougnan's mandate as EASSW representative to the Council of Europe for one year. Ana Marija Sobočan will act as titular representative (RB:s deputy) and thereafter continue as main representative.

2. Sustainability

Introduction by ML with the purpose of discussing the developing of a sustainability policy for EASSW. ML submitted a written document for the meeting. It included suggestions for how EASSW can work to visualise environmentally sustainable goals as part of their mission statement, that applicants include sustainability goals when applying for funding of SIGs and Small projects, and that sustainability could be considered in arrangements of ExCo-meetings and conferences, travelling or digital meetings etcetera. (See ML proposal dated 28.9.2021). The board started a discussion about the possibility of implementing different aspects of the policy, for example when arranging meetings and conferences. The discussion will continue in the board meeting during spring 2022.

13:00-to 14:00 lunch break

14:00 – 15:30

**Presentation of the new structure of working groups. (MG)**

Update from Co-ordinators of the working groups (10 minutes presentation)

a. Communication

CP: FL would like to step down as the editor of the Newsletter. Decisions:

AS and CP volunteer to support FL or take over coordination of the Newsletter.

b. Membership

ZP membership group is focused on membership regional coordinators position / responsibility, establishing advisory council, other issues with membership (membership list etc.). The group has begun establishing the advisory council by mapping and better understanding national organizations. There has been a decrease in membership in the past years. Currently, 111 member schools and 29 individual members. The board discusses strategies as a response to the membership decrease. For example, offer a collective membership to countries that have many schools in social work. Also, the categorization of A/B countries might not be appropriate at the moment. Dutch schools did not renew because the collective membership is not available. The board should reconsider the A/B categorization, the collective membership and to provide a joint membership for the IASSW and EASSW.

**Decision**

The board decides that the membership work group prepares a proposal about new membership fee options. Regional coordinators ask member schools to provide information to contact persons.

c. Small projects

CP suggests promoting it more and link Small Projects to SIG's, regional events or communication group in general. We need more structural partnerships and continuation of the work/outcomes. AR: suggests sending next to the final report a one page communication page to share on our platforms.

d. Awards and regional events

FD: the group sponsors and support of regional events has launched social work education awards (Alice Salomon award, research award and student award – the first time in Tallin, 2021). The planned work is on time (except some delays linked with covid). Awards need to be promoted early and actively, and winners should also be listed on website and elsewhere. Concerning regional awards four deadlines should be condensed into two deadlines to make it more manageable. Regional events are now collected and advertised, so information about these should be sent to the group. Financial guidelines should be prepared: basic rules or guidelines should be developed, so that we are better equipped to respond to questions about this activity.

**Decision:**

The board decides that regional events should have two calls only, which makes the timeline for the call for events more flexible. The group prepares a guideline on eligibility criteria that can be published online.