

**Minutes Executive Committee EASSW
21-22 March 2022 – online – EASSW Teams platform Chaired by Christos
Panagiotopoulos**

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

Excused: Jane Fenton (21.3-22.3), Sandra Mendez (22.3-23.3), Judit Csoba (21.3.14.00 - 16.00 and 22.3 10.00 - 12.00), Florin Lazar (21.3 13-15), 22.3 Femke Dewulf (22/3 9-12), Zuzana Poklembova (22.3 14.15-14.45), Judit Csoba (22.3. 10.00-11.00), Marta Borges (22.3 10.45-11.30)

Notes taken by: ZP and MoL

Minutes edited by: MoL

Place: Online

Monday 21st of March

Time: 9:15-15:15 CET

9:15- 10:45

I: Approval of minutes from previous meeting (Paris).

Minutes will be sent to all ExCo-members later this week. CP asked for future minutes to be written briefly in sentences not in bullets and the importance of sending minutes in due time before meeting deadlines. RK suggested that all documents for every meeting is sent in one email.

II. Update from the Officers

- a) President, CP (Update on IASSW meeting, EASSW Statement on the Ukrainian Crisis, World Social Work Day¹, ECSWE 2023, representation of EA in events and collaboration) CP presented information from the IASSW meeting. Joint membership is an important topic to take decisions about for the future. CP informed about forthcoming IASSW activities (online webinars etc.). CP asked for materials from Social Work Day (photos, pictures, videos).

The question of the importance of support of Ukrainian colleagues and excluding Russian colleagues from EASSW (no members now) was opened and postponed until later during meeting with Darja Zaviršek from Slovenia.

¹ Anyone can comment on this

Follow up and information about the host of the next ECSWE conference 2023 (CP, RK, MoL). EASSW hope to receive an application from Portugal during the next few days. Greece and Austria has expressed interest for 2025. It is discussed if online or offline conference (AR opened this discussion).

Involving members in projects (Erasmus+ would as association we would like to be involved, and if yes, how?) discussion, importance of present EASSW (logo) (FM), once member is founded by association have to use our logo (rule/bylaw)

- b) Vice President, MG (Special Issue SWE) MG informed about SWE Special issue – 15 abstracts from approx. 65 to ask authors to prepare full paper. Tend of march deadline has been extended until end of April.

MG pointed out, that Publication group consisted of only new members and knowledge of agreement with springer is not sufficient. The group has been slightly reorganized later and this discussion could continue tomorrow.

Necessity to choose Editor/s for next publication – will be discussed tomorrow.

An invited guest, Darja Zaviršek from Slovenia, joined the meeting. ExCo members introduces themselves, and a discussion was conducted about finding ways how to support Ukraine (online teaching). DZ provided a brief summary about what is going now currently in support and presented example of ways of possible support. The question of excluding Russian universities and individual members was opened, and websites, threats from government, individual support prevalence etc. MG offered some tools for help: teaching support, sharing Erasmus student classes, Teams or Zoom. DZ will send a list to ExCo members and their colleagues to offer teaching or other support to Ukrainian social work education.

- c) Treasurer, RK (Budget approval, update on treasurer's position) RK presented results from 2021 and forecast for 2022 and brought up the question of treasurer after RK:s retirement. It is important to plan for a new treasurer and RK introduced two scenarios – a) treasurer from Netherlands (until June RK find someone from Netherlands) or b) wait for candidacy and move bank). ExCo decided to wait until tomorrow with final decision.

FD suggested that EASSW need an insurance for “organization focused expenses”, CP reminded later discussion about web side what may affect the budget at least for 2022. FD suggested adjust budget for regional meeting (later on meeting was this suggestion accepted by all present members). FL reminded that there is no audit expenses, RK say audit is every two years, so next will be 2023.

Decision

The board makes the decision to approve the budget.

- d) Secretary, ML (Bylaw and sustainability policy)

ML presented the work with a new BYLAWS N.16 “Specific agreements with member schools for the involvement of partnership in projects”, that had been prepared in the officer's group and had been sent out before the meeting. It was discussed that it would be important to clarify that the support for partnership in

accordance with the bylaw “does not include financial commitments”. It was agreed that ML would make this correction and send out again to all members.

Questions for a discussion about sustainability policy has been sent out and ML will make an introduction for this discussion in the afternoon.

10:45-11:30

Website Update (Marta, Christos)

An update will be from Marta and CP on what has been done so far about the website. The offer from Mosne will be presented and once approved we will appoint the web-administrator.

CP presented offer from Mosne (from this weekend) and tomorrow we will decide who will be involved in preparation and final choice of website company. It was emphasized the importance of simple, easy, user friendly, CP and MoL suggests that all leaders of thematic and working groups work together and focus on website during rest of spring. Also involve MB and SM into this work. MaL reminded of problems with the current website. The group will prepare short description of what EASSW want for the quality and userfriendliness of a new website.

It was discussed to launch a call for preparing logo with an amount of money for winner, focusing on the rational behind logo. Important to improve visibility including signature with logo (FD). AS volunteer to prepare a call. The call should be announced by the end of march with a deadline by the end of May.

15 minutes break

11:45-13:00

Membership

Joint membership (IASSW-EASSW)

A proposal will be submitted for discussion and approval (Membership Group)²
The board discussed the possibilities of a joint membership for IASSW-EASSW as something that would be positive. The question that group membership is no longer possible in EASSW was brought up as a reason for some members moving to IASSW. The board also discussed aspects of regional differences that may be an obstacle to joint membership. CP will continue the discussion with IASSW about joint membership.

Fees (individual and group fees, Countries A/B)

A proposal will be submitted for discussion regarding fees and attracting more members (Membership Group)

A revised list of fees for different countries are presented. The new categorisation of countries A/B/C has been created to promote inclusivity and increased membership for the future. A review of the list of country coordinators has been done and the list has been revised.

Decision

The board decides to acknowledge the proposal for new fees and the revised categorisation of countries and country coordinators.

13:00-14:00 lunch break

14:15-14:35

² Please read proposal attached to the minutes

Sustainability policy³ presentation (MoL, Secretary)

MoL provided an introduction that actualized the importance of sustainability in global social work documents, such as: “environmental sustainability” (the Global Agenda 2012, 2020); “listening to and learning from Indigenous peoples around the world” (the Global Definition of Social Work 2014); emphasising the Global Standards of Social Work Education (2004, 2020) to “promote social work education about environmental justice”. The presentation also linked to the commitment to fulfil the USDG:s economic, social, and environmental sustainability (2015-2030). Questions for discussion that was enclosed in a document before the meeting were the following: 1) How can EASSW include and visualise in its current mission statement and/or develop a bylaw related to the contribution to “promote social work education about environmental justice”? 2) How can EASSW visualise its commitments to work towards the United Nations Goals of Sustainable Development. Which goals are most relevant? 3) How can EASSW promote the implementation of its sustainability policy linked to the funding of projects and activities?

14:35- 15:15

Discussion about sustainability policy

The board discusses that we already have included aspects of sustainability in our mission statements such as human rights, freedom, justice, and peace and proceed to look at how we can further include and visualise sustainability in our goals and mission. The discussion concerns how we choose to conceptualise and create a practice in the everyday work with members in EASSW around sustainability. Critical viewpoints on sustainability as a westernised concept is raised. Environmental justice is a key concept in the Global standards of social work education. Discussion concerns the meaning of ecology in communities in practice and their contribution to the curricula is brought forth as important. We should also further discuss the policy linked with our own travelling etcetera, how to consider the environment and sustainable agency in our own organisation. The question of how to implement sustainability as a practice in EASSW is discussed in relation to our activities, for example funding of SIGs and Small projects. We want to open up for a dialogue with our members and the SIG group Ecosocial work has important knowledge about this issue. We also discuss the possibility to make a questionnaire to map how member schools implement sustainability and environmental justice in their teaching.

Decision

The board makes the decision to continue the work with developing a sustainability policy. As a first step ML and KH will contact the SIG group Ecosocial work to receive feedback and expertise on how to proceed.

Tuesday 22nd of March

9:15-12:00 CET

9-15-10:15 (CP)

Concluding remarks from Monday 22nd of March and actions taken regarding Membership, website, conference and sustainability policy. CP summarises the discussions and agreements made by the board from 21st of March and further brief discussions on these topics are conducted. The topic of publication with springer (MG) is also discussed.

³ Please find attached questions about the discussion

Membership: A revised categorisation of membership has been made to promote inclusiveness and extended membership for the future. This list needs to be formally decided at the GA meeting in 2023.

The website: the board agrees that improvements of the website is a prioritized issue. Action is now taken to unlock the website so all members can access the information. Three strategies for the work this spring are brought forth A) All group coordinators will have a meeting with Mosne to communicate the requirements of improvements and discuss the proposal from Mosne that EASSW received. B) A logo call will be posted on the website directed to students in social work and more broadly for a competition for a new logo for EASSW. C) The work with the plan for revision of the website shall be completed by the end of May. It will be sent to the officers and after this an online decision will be made by the board.

ECSWE conference 2023: We have received an application from Portugal (INSTITUTO SUPERIOR DE SERVIÇO SOCIAL DO PORTO (ISSSP)) to host the 2023 conference. The application is not complete at the moment, but will be complemented in regard to logistics and financing. The board agrees that it is a good candidate and that we continue the planning and can make a final decision via email when we have planned together in a forthcoming meeting with the applicant.

Sustainability policy: the presentation and discussion from 22nd March is further discussed. There is agreement that it is important for EASSW to develop a sustainability policy that adds to the current aspects such as human rights, freedom and peace that we already have. We decided yesterday to consult the Ecosocial SIG group for their view both theoretically and in practice. Further discussion was about the possibility of creating a questionnaire of how issues of sustainability policy is applied among members in Europe regarding policy, education, and professional practice. This requires board members to work together, and it was proposed that ML, MG, and UN could be a group to continue this work. UN expresses interest in contributing with creating a questionnaire.

Publication with Springer publishers and the need for new series editors: MG presents the question of the current ongoing collaboration with Springer publishers and brings up the need for EASSW to discuss the form of the future series editorship. Currently the series editors are not from EASSW, and the contract with Springer is going to be renewed. The board discusses that it is important that members from the Executive committee are represented as series editors and to strive for a wide and inclusive publishing among members of EASSW. FL and JC announce interest to take on future series editorship and the board supports this. MG will communicate with current editors and Springer about this change of series editors.

Decisions

All group coordinators work together with development of the website and the planning of the revisions should be finalized by the end of May 2022.

The board support the application from Porto in Portugal as the host for the ECSWE-conference 2023, but further clarifications about financing and logistics needs to be made before the decision is taken.

The board decides to appoint ML, MG, and UN as a group to work further with developing a sustainability policy for EASSW, to work on a mission statement, involving the Ecosocial work SIG group for consultation, and support the initiative of a questionnaire.

The board decides to appoint FL and JC to represent the board as new series editors of Springer's publications and that MG will communicate with current series editors and Springer publishers about this change.

10:15-12:00

Update from thematic groups

Communication Group newsletter, website (FL, AS, JC)

FL presents three activities that have been ongoing in the communication group: 1) Newsletter 2) Website 3) Social media. The deadline for the forthcoming newsletter is the end of March and the work of collecting content is ongoing. The improvement of the website is most important to improve the accessibility of information and communicating with members. To post updated information on a regular basis is crucial. Concerning social media, the YouTube channel needs to be reactivated.

SIG (KH)

KH presents two new proposals to SIGs. The board discusses the aim, content and activities related to the mission and goals of EASSW.

Decision

The board decides to approve the SIG on human rights and social work, and to provide feedback to the proposal on Holocaust heritage for clinical social work to clarify the relation to social work education.

SPG (MoL)

Two new small projects have been approved by the Small project group. The board finds both projects to be of good quality and very well related to the mission and goals of EASSW. Improvements of advertising and informing about applying for SPG is an ongoing work of the group.

Regional Events (FL)

There have been changes regarding the number of times for announcement per year (from four to two times yearly) and amount of support (from 3000-5000 Euro) for regional events. The motivation is to improve clarity regarding the time of application by having fewer calls. The motivation for increased financing is to be able to cover reasonable costs for people to organize the event. There are until now no clear guidelines for what costs can be covered (e.g., not salaries).

SWE awards: the award winners of 2021 (Alice Salomon Award, Research Award, Student Award) will be promoted more on our website. In November we will launch a new call for submissions for the next SWE awards 2023, that will be celebrated during the next bi-annual conference.

12:00-12:15

Approval of actions to support Ukrainian colleagues

As part of the EASSW meeting 21-22.3, we had a call for solidarity and support network from a social work educator colleague in Ukraine. The call means to provide supportive education activities to social work students and educators, if we have lectures, workshops or courses online in English.

Decision

The board decide to act in support of Ukrainian social work education and colleagues in Ukraine and distribute the call for solidarity and support network to our networks of schools.

Next meeting (Place and date)

Decision

The next ExCo-meeting will take place 7-8th November 2022. The goal is to have a physical meeting, preferably in Portugal, but if needed due to the circumstances the meeting will be organized as a hybrid meeting or online.