



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear EA members,

Since our last Newsletter many things have happened and decisions have been taken for the benefit of our members. The president has managed to represent successfully EA in the World Social Work Day 2024 held in Geneva. It has been a fruitful day that opened new collaborations' path with our Swiss members (Fribourg and Geneva) but it has also highlighted the importance of SW education in the celebration of Social Work Day. Following that event EA representatives (Christos Panagiotopoulos-President, Jolanda Berends-Treasurer, Florin Lazar-Member, Panagiotis Pentaris-Member) have attended the International Conference of Social Work in Panama City. The first two have represented EASSW in the IASSW boards and General Assembly by reporting what has happened in the European Region since last IA GA. EASSW has also suggested the need for closer links with IASSW. Therefore, it has been proposed to be accepted joint applications for small projects funding from IA and EA members and stronger support of the local regions and associations to IA when is needed especially when conflicts or disasters occur within a specific region.

EASSW has also been represented in advisory boards of European networks (such as ESN¹) and in European Projects (such as SISWEC²). Therefore, useful material³ from these collaborations is provided and promoted in our social media the past few months. We want to provide you with more opportunities for growth and networking thus in the next pages of this newsletter you will find interesting information about upcoming events and past events you may want to retrack information. Additionally, I am glad to inform you that small projects' funding is now open to receive applications until the end of 2024! Also, a new exciting initiative has just launched, our Podcast! Join us or visit our newly constructed website for news and updates.

Concluding this introductory note, let us not forget that the next ECSWE 2025 (<https://ecswe2025-salzburg.eu/>) will take place in Salzburg, Austria from the 23 rd until the 26 th of June. More information will be found in the conference website where soon the call for abstract will be announced! We wait all of you to celebrate our biannual conference! we want your constructive feedback on how to become better and more inclusive for all of you! So news, queries and suggestions are always welcome in our administrator's address membership.eassw@gmail.com.

On behalf of EASSW

Professor Christos Panagiotopoulos

¹ [HTTPS://WWW.ESN-EU.ORG/](https://www.esn-eu.org/)

² [HTTPS://WWW.SOCIALWORKERSKILLS.EU](https://www.socialworkerskills.eu)

³ [HTTPS://EUFUNDS4SOCIAL.EU/](https://eufunds4social.eu/)

⁴ [HTTPS://OPEN.SPOTIFY.COM/SHOW/28YCDTJYAQBKPODMW5N5AT?si=9D694374DC8D4B88](https://open.spotify.com/show/28YCDTJYAQBKPODMW5N5AT?si=9D694374DC8D4B88)



EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION JUNE'25

Inspired by the success of the “Building Bridges” themed European Conference of Social Work Education (ECSWE) in 2023 in Porto, the European Association of Schools of Social Work (EASSW) and the Department of Applied Social Sciences (Salzburg University of Applied Sciences) will be held in Salzburg/Austria in June 2025. The theme for this conference will be “Social Connectedness”.

The aim of the conference is to investigate ways in which Social Work Education (SWE) can foster social connectedness as an important pillar for an inclusive, democratic, healthy and (socially) sustainable society.

Starting points for reflection

- Definitions of, theoretical approaches to and empirical findings on social connectedness,
- Social, democratic, economic, demographic etc. conditions for social connectedness,
- Consequences at the individual, organisational and societal level that arise from a lack of social connectedness and
- Methods and approaches to critically address social connectedness in SWE.

More information in <https://ecswe2025-salzburg.eu>



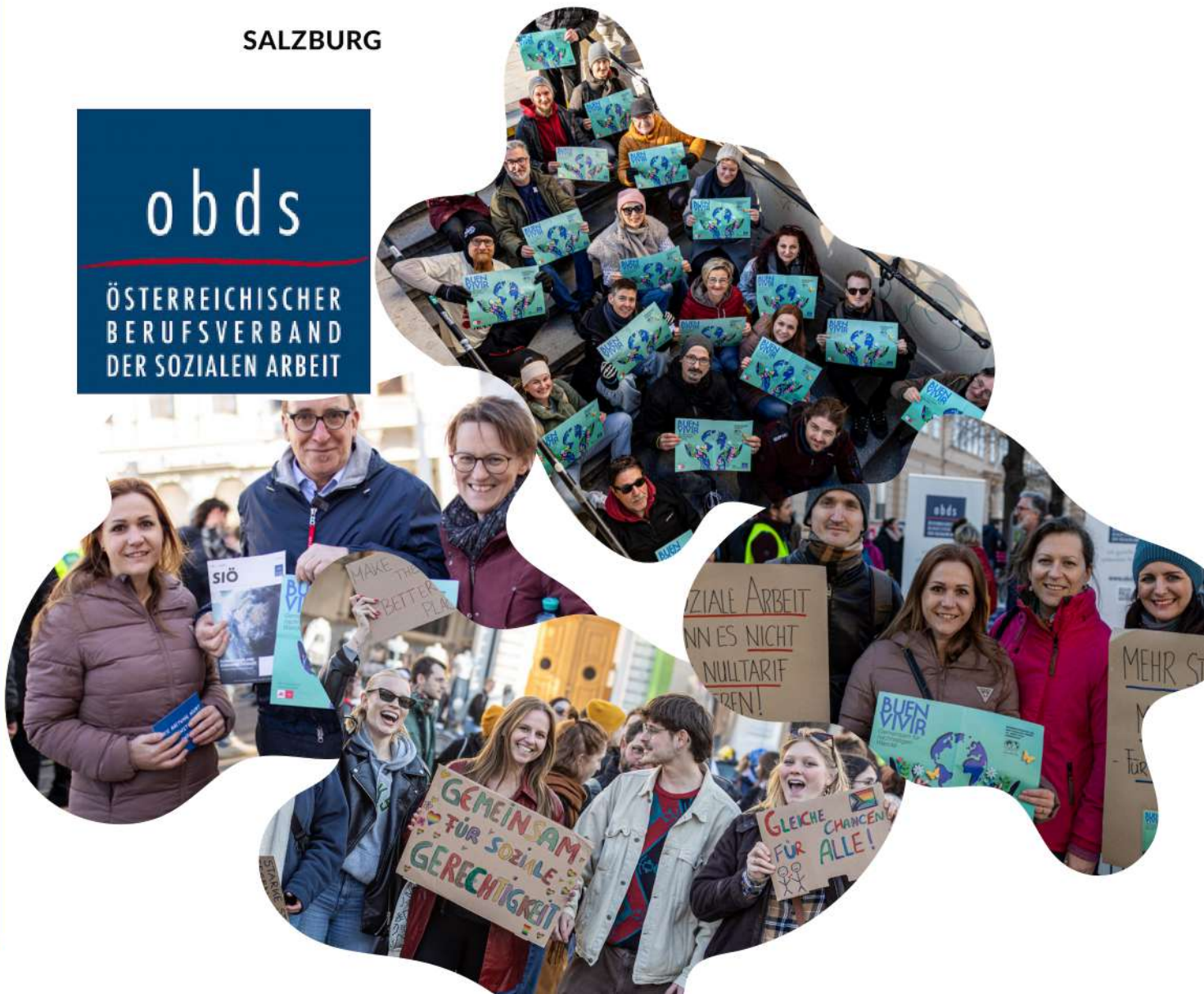
SOCIAL WORK MONTH 2024

CYPRUS

Dr Panagiotis Pentaris, Deputy Head of Department for Research - Director of Research and Research Studies, gave a keynote speech on the 28th of March for the Conference organised by the Cypriot Association of Social Workers, and the Cypriot Council of Social Work Registration, for World Social Work Day. The theme of the day was 'the role of social workers in palliative and hospice care'.



SALZBURG





SOCIAL WORK MONTH 2024

Ten out of ten: Social Work Week in Poland

One day a year devoted to social work is definitely not enough. That's why members of the Polish Association of Schools of Social Work have been organizing a Social Work Week for the past ten years. The anniversary, tenth edition of the Social Work Week took place from March 18th to 22nd, 2024, and was organized by ten schools of social work: the Academy of Special Pedagogy, the University of Warmia and Mazury, the University of Opole, the University of the Commission of National Education, The Pontifical University of John Paul II, the University of Szczecin, Warsaw University, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, and the University of Rzeszów. Numerous academic and outdoor events were held in nine Polish cities. In each location, schools of social work, together with partner organizations, organized a variety of engaging events including meetings with practitioners and managers of governmental and non-governmental organizations; lectures and workshops conducted by renowned social work researchers; student poster sessions; seminars and mini-conferences. There were also presentations of national and international examples of good practices. Important issues for social work, such as migration, family and parental law, and foster care, were raised and discussed. Additionally, there was a dialogue about the future of social work as a practice, field of study, and academic discipline. The Social Work Week also provided an opportunity to showcase organizations where social work graduates can find employment. Naturally, there were also informal gatherings and even an entertainment program. Ultimately, it seems that most participants rated the event ten out of ten. Such a rich array of events could not have been organized without the involvement of students and graduates, particularly members of scientific clubs. The positive energy and enthusiasm that characterized this year's Social Work Week will certainly not go to waste, as they are much needed in everyday committed practice. These gatherings serve as a form of empowerment of social workers, and their effects must endure for many months, as the next Social Work Week won't take place until next year.





SOCIAL WORK MONTH 2024

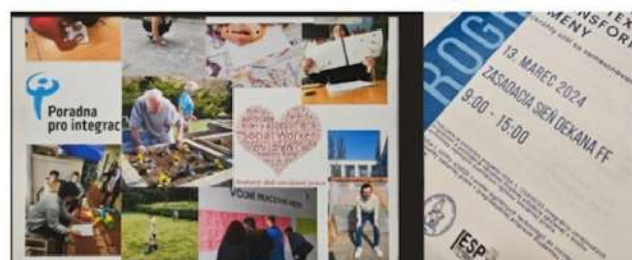
Social Work Month in Slovakia

Social Work Day was celebrated by the Institute of Educology and Social Work, Faculty of Arts, University of Prešov. The Faculty organized a roundtable with social work employers "Innovation of professional practice methodology in the context of transformational change". The event took place on March 13th, 2024, under the patronage of the Dean of Faculty of Arts: prof. PhDr. Beata Balogová, PhD., MBA., as a part of scientific research projects: KEGA č. 027PU-4/2022 "The transfer of digital technologies to the innovation of professional practice methodology in the undergraduate training of social work students." and VEGA č. 1/0535/23 "Integration of Ukrainian migrants and assessment of the difficult life situation associated with the crisis caused by the war conflict through the lens of social work."



INNOVATION OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE METHODOLOGY

ROUNDTABLE
WITH SOCIAL WORK
EMPLOYERS



Social Work DAY was celebrated in United Nations in Geneva

World Social Work Day 2024 (WSWD), took place at the United Nations in Geneva and online, the event explored Buen Vivir in Social Work: Co-building a Sustainable and Just Future and discussed how social workers can adopt innovative, community-led approaches based on alternative value systems that emphasize a more harmonious coexistence with nature.

The celebration of WSWD 2024 included contributions from social workers and scholars based in various regions of the world. Through keynote speeches, workshops and a roundtable, the event explored pathways to a more just and sustainable shared futures and discussed how social work can contribute to this transformative vision. The Presidente of EASSW, Professor Christos Panagiotopoulos was part of the opening session.





SOCIAL WORK MONTH 2024

Social Work Month in Bulgaria



On the occasion of the World Social Work Day 2024 entitled "A Shared Future for Transformative Change", the Bulgarian Association of Social Work Education (BASWE) in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the European Association for Social Work Education and the Bulgarian Association of Social Workers organized a conference with international participation entitled "Social work in a changing world – education, research, policy and practice". The conference was held on March 21 at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and hosted by the Faculty of Education.

Keynote speakers at the conference were: Dr. Ivanka Shalapatova, Minister of labour and social policy with presentation "Prospects for Human Resource Development in the Social Sphere in Bulgaria - from Vision to Action", Prof. Florin Lazar, University of Bucharest, member of the Executive Committee of EASSW with presentation "Social Work Education in Europe: Transforming Challenges into Opportunities", Diana Petrova, director of Directorate "Control, monitoring and licensing" at the Agency for quality of social services with presentation "The Agency's Responsibilities for Improving the Quality of the Social Services in Bulgaria".

Official greetings to the conference were given by the rector of Sofia University Prof. Georgi Valchev, the dean of the Faculty of Education Assoc. Prof. Vanya Bozhilova, official representatives of the State agency for child protection, Agency for social assistance, Agency for labour, and also Sofia municipality. Prof. Annamaria Campanini, the president of IASSW, addressed the participants in the conference through a video greeting.

Former and current chair persons of the BASWE – Prof. Boncho Gospodinov, Assoc. Prof. Ivaylo Tepavicharov, Prof. Lyudmila Vekova, and Assoc. Prof. Rossitsa Simeonova presented "Bulgarian Association of Social Work Education – Reflections and Perspectives for Development".

25 papers in 3 thematic sections were presented during the forum: social work education, social work research, social policies and good practices in social work.





EUROPEAN CONFERENCE FOR SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH IN VILNIUS.

The term “Industry 4.0”, or alternatively, the “Fourth Industrial Revolution” refers to the transformation of production of goods and services resulting from the application of a new wave of technological innovations: interconnected collaborative robots; machine learning; Artificial Intelligence; 3D printers; the simulation of interconnected machines; the integration of the information flow along the value chain; multidirectional communication between manufacturing processes and products (Caruso, 2017). Technological innovation significantly impacts various levels of human life and social relations, which, in turn, reshapes the landscape of practice and research in social work and social policy. On the individual level, technologies may contribute to self-identity, self-control, and perpetuating a personal narrative. On the macro level, by changing mentality and cultural norms, they can destabilize existing institutions, power relations, social structures, reigning economic and technological systems, and cultural assumptions.

Changes in social work practice, research, and education brought about by new technologies, might shape the discourse and change the social work identity. Will the new tools and expanded opportunities help improve the societal image of the profession? Or, on the contrary, will the social work profession lose its human face, its core values, and its commitment?

Professor Zuzana Poklembova, PhD. represented EASSW in the Conference, and seized the moment to invite every participant to contribute to the next year European Conference on Social Work Education, which will take place in June 2025 in the heart of Europe – Salzburg with the theme for the conference “Social Connectedness - Contemporary Challenges and Opportunities”,



Vilnius
University

ENVISIONING FUTURE:

Social Work Research and
Discourse in the Age of Industry 4.0

13th European Conference
for Social Work Research

April 17-19, 2024

VILNIUS, LITHUANIA





CLIMBING TO THE TOP OF EUROPEAN SOCIAL POLICY: EASSW AND CINGO OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

European Association of Schools of Social Work is an active member of the Conference of International Non-governmental Organisation of the Council of Europe (CoE) and has had participatory status in the Council since 2001. This means that EASSW has the right and even the obligation to speak on matters that it considers important, and which are within the area of interest of the CoE. The person responsible for constant contact between EASSW and CINGO is Mariusz Granosik, head of EASSW delegation. However, nothing prevents other members of the Association from supporting thematic committees (as members of these committees) and appearing at CINGO meetings (as guests). This is our great chance and a real opportunity to participate in the high-level European discourse of social rights, gender equality, environmental justice, etc.

On April 8-10, 2024, the General Assembly of the CINGO of the Council of Europe was held in Strasbourg in the Agora building. What made this meeting particularly important was the fact that this year CINGO was electing members of the Standing Committee for a new four-year term. With the change of authorities at the highest level, the working committees in which CINGO members cooperate with analogous or similar committees of the European Council change. Even before the elections and structural changes took place, Michael O'Flaherty, the newly appointed Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, emphasized the importance of CINGO, as a representative of civil society, in the process of giving opinions on key decisions made by the European Council. Most importantly, from the perspective of EASSW member schools, new thematic committees have been approved, in which every member of our association can participate. Here are the 8 new committees

1. Committee Inclusive Territories, Environment and Health
2. Civil Society Committee on the Rights of the Child in Europe
3. Committee Education for Democracy
4. Committee Human rights, Democracy and Artificial Intelligence Civil Society in Action
5. Committee for Interreligious and Interconvictional Dialogue
6. Committee on Migration Issues
7. Committee NGOs as advocates for gender equality and women's rights
8. Committee Sports and Human rights

Each partner school interested in joining the work of one of the CINGO committees is asked to contact Mariusz Granosik - mariusz.granosik@now.uni.lodz.pl



BLENDING INTENSIVE PROGRAMME



Two members of the EASSW board, Prof. Panagiotopoulos (University of Nicosia) and Dr. Pentaris (Goldsmith University) had the chance to take part in a very interesting Blended Intensive Programme from the 14th until the 19th of April where they exchanged ideas, knowledge and skills with colleagues from Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Turkey, Poland and Austria. The theme was children and families in an era of uncertainties: Challenges and Critical Perspectives for interventions with diversities. Apart from the scientific programme where all participants (students and faculty) found beneficial, the socio-cultural programme was exciting too, as we had the opportunity to experience a place in Greece where people with different cultural and religious background live together for many years now.



SWSD 2024 PANAMA

The World Social Work Social Development Conference (SWSD2024) took place in Panama between 4th and 7th of April. The theme 'Respecting Diversity Through Joint Social Action' highlights the bottom-up change that is needed to co-build a new eco-social world. The conference brought people together from across the world to strengthen our professions as key actors for sustainable change.

Conference was host by the Panama Association of Social Workers, Kenia Batista said: 'We welcome people to Panama. Our beautiful country which comprises many cultures and sits in the middle of two continents is the perfect place for us all to explore this theme and make plans for a better world. We know you will enjoy the people, the hospitality and the scenery of Panama'.

The SWSD2024 was a joint world conference hosted by the Panama Association of Social Workers, The International Association of Schools of Social Work and The International Federation of Social Workers. EASSW was represented by the EASSW-ExCo.





PETROS STANGOS BOOK PRESENTATION

STRASBOURG, 14 MAY

The Department of Social Rights of the Council of Europe is pleased to invite you to attend the hybrid event: Exchanges on the book by Petros Stangos: *La fabrique de la jurisprudence sociale européenne : Les décisions 'réclamations collectives' du Comité européen des Droits sociaux*. The event is co-organised with the University of Strasbourg and will be held in Strasbourg, on 14 May 2024 (17:00 pm – 19:00 pm, French local time) at the Council of Europe, Agora building, 1 quai de Jacoutot in Strasbourg, room G02.

In order to participate in the event online or in person, please fill the registration form in the link below <https://rb.gy/p11esi>. For further questions about this event, please contact Inci Uzunhasan (inci.uzunhasan@coe.int).

LA FABRIQUE DE LA JURISPRUDENCE SOCIALE EUROPÉENNE

Les décisions « réclamations collectives »
du Comité européen des droits sociaux

Petros Stangos
Préface de Mélanie Schmitt et
Nicolas Moizard

Reflexe européen

Études

BRUYLANT



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL AWARD FOR PHD RESEARCH DISSEMINATION



The SWE international journal is pleased to offer grants for PhD and Professional Doctorate students who have had an abstract accepted by a recognised social work conference. The abstract can be based upon a completed or partially completed PhD and is open to both full and part time students.

The amount of the award will cover conference fees (and you are encouraged to apply early to take advantage of 'Early Bird' reductions) and may include a contribution to travel and accommodation. The limit of each award will be £750.

For more info <https://rb.gy/p11esi>



APRIL EDITION
2024

SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION BEST ARTICLES

Each year the editorial board has the privilege of reading and judging the excellent articles published within the journal to determine which articles deserve particular recognition. Of course any article published is deemed to be of a very high quality and of relevance and interest to our readership. To make the task manageable we have identified three key categories: conceptual, pedagogical and empirical.

Last Prize Winners

2023

- Sharlotte Tusasiirwe, Diana Nabbumba & Peninah Kansiime
- John Gerard Fox & Pauline O'Maley

2022

- Best Pedagogical Article: Yan et al.
- Best Conceptual Article: Rogerson et al.
- Best Empirical Article: Priya Harindranathan, Reuben Addo, Gregory Koers & Lizeth Guadalupe Parra-Perez

Check out for more in <https://rb.gy/940j87>

SOCIAL WORK REVIEW/REVISTA DE ASISTENTA SOCIALA

Social Work Review
Anul VIII, Nr. 3-4 / 2009

Revista de

Asistență Socială

Call for papers

Social Work Review/Revista de Asistentă Socială: <http://www.swreview.ro>

Social Inclusion - Fostering the Socially and Ecologically Sustainable Digitalisation of Welfare States

Submission of Abstracts: 1-15 September 2024

Submission of Full Papers: 15-30 January 2025

Publication of the Issue: September/October 2025

<https://www.cogitatiopress.com/socialinclusion/pages/view/nextissues#SustainableWelfare>



EASSW & SPRINGER PRACTICE SERIES

European Association of Schools of Social Work (EASSW) and Springer invite submissions for book proposals for the European Social Work Education and Practice Series from academics, researchers, and social work practitioners. The Series is a joint collaboration between EASSW and Springer. Proposals can include edited and authored books.

The is seeking proposals for topics including the following as well as other topics deemed important by colleagues:



1. **Resilience and crises**
2. **Social work education for the future**
3. **Social work education and practice in the era of AI and technology**
4. **Vulnerable groups**
5. **Mutual learning**
6. **Theories, policies, and contested issues in social work discipline and for social work practice**
7. **Politics, policies and practice.**
8. **Decolonizing the curriculum in social work education in Europe.**
9. **Creative and Art-Based Pedagogies in European Social Work Education.**

The proposals are expected to have a European perspective and international relevance for social work education and practice. At least some authors are expected to be affiliated with EASSW member schools.

Proposals first will be screened by the series editors and international Advisory Board and the initial list of proposals will be approved by the Executive Committee of EASSW. Each manuscript will be peer-reviewed.

Series Editors

- Judit Csoba
- Florin Lazăr

Please contact Springer publishing editor Janet Kim (janet.kim@springer.com) for more information about the Series. More info at <https://www.springer.com/series/16359/editors>



APRIL EDITION
2024

ICERI2024

ICERI2024 is the 17th annual International Conference of Education, Research and Innovation will take place in Seville, Spain on the 11th, 12th and 13th November 2024. If you would like to take part in the conference and you have experiences or projects to present, you can submit your abstract proposal for ICERI2024. You can choose whether to submit it as an in-person presentation or a virtual one.

Abstracts should be within the scope of the topic areas listed in the section topics. The deadline for submission of abstracts is July 11th 2024.

More info in the link <https://shorturl.at/oyzMQ>



17th annual International Conference of Education,
Research and Innovation
Seville (Spain). 11th - 13th of November 2024.

EUROPEAN SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH CALL FOR PAPERS



Special Issue Call for Papers

Envisioning Future: Social Work Research and Discourse in the Age of Industry 4.0

Deadline for submission of abstracts: **31 May 2024**

This special issue will showcase stimulating, quality papers presented at the European Conference on Social Work Research held in April 2024 at Vilnius University, Lithuania.

Manuscripts are invited from all who presented at the conference.

The European Social Work Research journal provides an international forum for the publication of high-quality contributions relating to all aspects of social work research and drawing on diverse research methodologies, ideas and knowledge. This peer-reviewed journal is published through a partnership between the European Social Work Research Association and Policy Press.

For more info please check ESWRA website <https://www.eswra.org/>



EASSW GROUPS

Small Projects - coordinator Panagiotis Pentaris

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - coordinator Michel Tirions

Regional Events - coordinator Michael Lynch

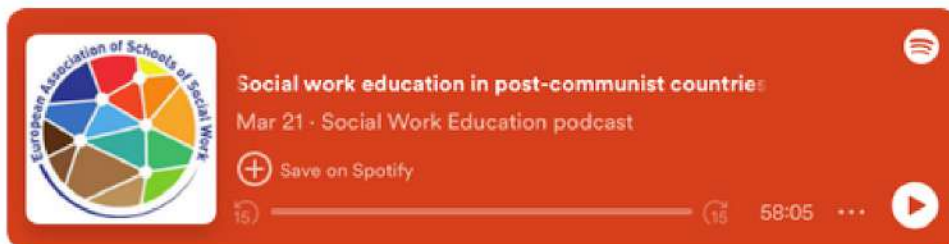
Awards - coordinator Urban

For more information write us an email to membership.eassw@gmail.com

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



FOLLOW EASSW PODCAST



COORDINATION

Christos Panagiotopoulos

COMMUNICATION & DESIGN

Marta Borges

CONTENT TEAM

Christos Panagiotopoulos

Florin Lazar

Jolanda Berends

Mona Livholts

Michel Tirions

Richard Ingram

Zuzana Poklembova

CONTACT

Marta Borges

EASSW Communication Officer

communication.eassw@gmail.com