



Annual Report 2021

Message from the ESWRA Chair

ESWRA Chair: Alessandro Sicora

The European Social Work Research Association

ESWRA was founded in 2014 to create a hub for social work research development, collaboration, and exchange across Europe. ESWRA currently has 600 members from across Europe and beyond, its foundation arose from overwhelming levels of engagement in the European Social Work Research Conference. ESWRA's vision is to take forward the development, practice, and utilization of social work research to enhance knowledge about individual and social problems, and to promote just and equitable societies.



Goals of the association

BENEFITS

To promote social work research which will have beneficial consequences for practitioners, service users, educators, researchers, graduate students, and those responsible for service development and delivery.

HIGH STANDARD OF RESEARCH:

To foster and maintain the development of high levels of social work research and knowledge production across the European community of nations.

RESEARCH CAPACITY and LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:

To enhance both capacity and learning opportunities within and across the European social work community.

RESEARCH METHODS FOR SOCIAL WORK:

To provide an environment for the application of research methods and approaches by those from a wide range of disciplines within and beyond the social sciences, in forms which have relevance for social work practice and research.

NETWORKS AND COLLABORATION:

To build and work with networks of social work researchers within Europe and actively foster links between European and wider international research networks.

ESWRA MEMBERS BENEFIT FROM:

- Networking with other researchers
- Membership of Special Interest Groups
- Online access to the European Journal of Social Work
- Regular member news and online resources

Message from the ESWRA Chair

ESWRA Chair: **Alessandro SICORA**

ESWRA had continued working to take forward the development, practice, and utilization of social work research to enhance knowledge about individual and social problems, and to promote just and equitable societies also in 2021, another year heavily influenced by the effects of the Covid pandemic.

The 10th European Conference for Social Work Research took place in an online format in May 2021, since it was not possible to make in Bucharest in 2020, as previously planned. The success of this conference is clearly shown by its numbers: 500 Persons attending, and 287 abstracts and posters presented.

European Social Work Research, ESWRA journal in partnership with Policy Press, is ready to start its activity since the composition of the Editorial Team, the Editorial Board and the International Advisory Board was defined and the agreement with the publishing company has been signed. This is an important milestone in the process of creating a new arena for scientific debate for the benefit of the wider community of the social work scholars, researchers, and practitioners.

Thank you to all those who made the 10th European Conference for Social Work Research, the journal *European Social Work Research* and all other activities (SIGs, etc.) promoted by ESWRA possible. In our uncertain times creating connections and bridges between people is even more important than before. ESWRA is committed to do its part.

The European Conference for Social Work Research

ESWRA Vice Chair: **Jon Symonds**

The conference continues to be the largest annual social work research event in Europe and is a key event in the calendar of the Association. Despite the disruption of Covid in 2020, the conference was hosted online in 2021 by colleagues at the University of Bucharest. 550 delegates took part in the main conference with 235 registered for SIG events. In feedback from the conference, delegates valued the opportunity for the ESWRA community to come together and the quality of the keynote speakers. Despite the challenges of not being able to meet in person, the conference was successful in bringing together the community to share its research in the discipline. Perhaps not surprisingly, most delegates expressed a keen desire to be able to meet again in person in the future.

On the basis of feedback from members, planning for the annual conference continues to prioritise the benefits of the event being in person although the uncertainties of Covid present challenges to this. The Association has become

more experienced in planning for contingencies in the different modes of delivering a conference and has explored different options of delivering the conference online and in person, or in combination. As a result, it is well positioned both to navigate similar challenges to the conference, as well as to enhance the experience of people engaging with the conference in the future.

Looking ahead, the 12th ECSWR 2023 will be hosted by Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy and the 13th ECSWR 2024 will be hosted by Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania.

Members services & Research Resources committee

Chair: Liz Frost

In response to interest from SIGS, ESWRA's commitment to inclusivity, and the digital possibilities developed in the context of Covid-19, the Members services & Research Resources committee together with the SIG development committee facilitated two pilot seminars with a view, if successful, to developing an ESWRA Seminar series. The first seminar was led by the Arts-based Research in Social Work SIG, the second was led by the European Network on Gerontological Social Work (ENGSW) SIG. They were both very well attended and well received. As a result, we are looking forward to delivering more seminars later this year.

The success of the pilot seminars is also the realisation of ESWRA's aim to not only connect European researchers once a year through a conference, but to introduce regular, accessible, and available smaller events for the membership to attend.

Members services & Research Resources committee continues to develop and enhance the depth and breadth of the resources ESWRA offers its members.

SIG Development Committee

Chair: Maria Ines Martinez Herrero

In April 2021 Ines Martinez took on the role of chair of the SIG committee and engaged with a round of meetings with SIG convenors to seek perspectives on SIGS support needs from ESWRA. 10 meetings took place and key feedback was for ESWRA to support: dissemination and visibility of research (website, events, social networks), between conferences events and contact, help develop ESWRA membership "as a community", more time for SIGs at ECSWR, more varied conference streams topics. The ESWRA proposal to develop SIGs-led online seminars was discussed and well received.

SIG changes: One SIG finished their activity (social work with children and families), and two new SIGs were approved "Social Work with Young People Experiencing Extrafamilial Risk and Harm", "Social work and the more than human". The process

of reviewing the proposals raised discussions in the SIGs committee about that lead to reviewing the wording of SIGs guidance documents to emphasise SIGs': research focus, inclusivity and accessibility, balanced scope (specialised on a topic but broad enough to attract interest, manageable number of SIGs ESWRA can host).

ESWRA online seminar series pilot was organised ESWRA, chairs of the Members services & Research Resources committee together with the SIG development committee, ESWRA has facilitated the first 2 seminars, led by the Arts based research and E. network on Gerontological research. The seminars were well attended and very well evaluated by participants;

At ECSWR 2022 we are looking forward to a lively SIG program, 18 SIGs are holding an event. A SIGS convenors' meeting is also scheduled during the conference.

Prizes and Sponsorship committee

Chair: Elena Cabiati

Every year ESWRA seeks nominations for two Annual Awards for Outstanding Publications: the ESWRA Award for an Outstanding Publication in European Social Work Research and the ESWRA Award for an Outstanding Publication in European Social Work Research based on a Doctoral Thesis.

The Prizes and Sponsorship Committee continues to promote the ESWRA publication awards in the scientific community with the aim to enhance the development of high-quality research and to disseminate it across Europe. Year by year, the Committee is supporting and monitoring the nominations for the ESWRA awards, giving attention to the source of nominations and the quality of papers.

The review process is based on overall research quality, including appropriate rigor, transparency, and validity, and at least one of the following: explores a demonstrably new area of research/demonstrates methodological innovation/makes a significant conceptual or theoretical contribution to its field/Has a (potential) impact for policymakers, practitioners and other research users

ESWRA Publishing

ESWRA Book Series: 'Research in Social Work'

The ESWRA book series published by Policy Press showcased some of the best social work research in Europe. Books Published a part of the series examine current, progressive and innovative research applications of familiar ideas and models in social work

ESWRA Journal

ESWRA and Policy Press are delighted to announce the establishment of the Journal *European Social Work Research* a combination of several years' work, more information will be available at ECSWR 2022.

ESWRA finances

Treasurer: Koen Hermans -

After a difficult financial year because of Covid19 and the consequent the cancellation of ECSWR 2020 Bucharest, ESWRA was able to recover an important part of the 2020 loss thanks to a successful online conference in 2021 and as our loyal members renew their yearly membership, the financial stability of ESWRA is also assured.

ESWRA Profit and loss account for the financial year 2021

European Social Work Research Association Profit and loss account for the year 2021

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
	€	€
Member contributions	1.231	2.122
Conference and Events	80.492	
Other income		
Total net Proceeds	<u>81.723</u>	<u>2.122</u>
Conference and Event costs	1.430	1.000
SIG Funding		
Journal	10.818	4.024
Gross turnover result	<u>69.475</u>	<u>-2.902</u>
Expenses		
Board Charges	184	1.741
Administration costs	37.052	36.549
	<u>37.236</u>	<u>38.290</u>
Operating result	32.239	-41.192
Financial costs	280	296
Result	<u>31.959</u>	<u>-41.488</u>



ACCOUNT AUDIT CERTIFICATE

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European Social Work Research Association

Financial Year January 1st– December 31st, 2021

Addressed to The *General Assembly of the European Social Work Research Association (ESWRA)*

We: Kirsteen Laidlaw, Health, Psychology and Social Studies Faculty of Health and Science University of Cumbria, Carlisle CA1 2HH and Saskia Keuzenkamp, Movisie, Utrecht, Netherlands

Elected as account auditors by the General Assembly of ESWRA held in Leuven (April 2019), hereby certify that:

- We have conducted an audit relating to the 2021 accounts and Financial Statement of the ESWRA.
- We confirm that our audit was carried out in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards respecting ethical rules and based on the relevant legal provisions of the country where the association is registered (Netherlands).
- The above-mentioned Financial Statement was examined and all tests of the supporting documentation and accounting records deemed necessary were carried out to obtain reasonable assurance that, in our opinion, based on our audit:

That the Financial Statements referred to fairly present the financial position of ESWRA and the results of its operations and cash flow for the year 2021, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the Netherlands.

Signed by Kirsteen Laidlaw

Date 21 March 2022

Signed by Prof. Dr. Saskia Keuzenkamp

Date 21 March 2022

ESWRA Board 2021

ESWRA is run by a Board elected by its members. There are 15 members of the Board. Current ESWRA Officers and members are:

Chair: Alessandro Sicora, University of Calabria, Italy

Vice Chair: Jon Symonds University of Bristol, UK

Secretary: Emilio Jose Gomez Ciriano University of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain

Treasurer: Koen Hermans KU Leuven Belgium

Marcin Boryczko	Chair, Nomination and Election Committee, Gdańsk University, Poland
Inge Bryderup	Chair, ESWRA Journal Development Group, Aalborg university, Denmark
Elena Cabiati	Chair, The Prizes and Sponsorship Committee, Catholic University of Milan, Italy
Liz Frost	Chair, Member Services and Research Resources Committee, University of the West of England, UK
Ephrat Huss	Chair, Country Representation Committee, University of the Negev. Israel
Florin Lazar	Chair, External Relations Committee, University of Bucharest, Romania
María Inés Martínez-Herrero	Chair, Special Interest Group Development Committee International University of La Rioja (UNIR), Spain
Judith Metz	Academie Mens en Maatschappij, The Netherlands
Ozan Selçuk	Co-chair, PhD & Early Career SIG, Recep Tayyip Erdogan University, Turkey
Florian Spensberger	ESWRA Doctoral, Co-chair, PhD & Early Career SIG Ludwig-Maximilians Universität München, Germany
Karen Winter	Queens University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK

For more information about ESWRA please email ESWRA's Executive Administrator,
Claire Prater at info@eswra.org



Find out more and become an ESWRA



member at www.eswra.org

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**European Social Work Research
Association – ESWRA**

**ESWRA is registered as an association in
the Netherlands – 68923538**

**ESWRA is registered with the European
Transparency Register – 809247929272-91**