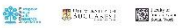


**ECSWR 2027**  
16<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN  
CONFERENCE FOR  
SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH  
5 - 7 May 2027  
University of Bucharest / ROMANIA  
Facing the Polycrises – Rethinking the Role of  
Social Work Research



For more detailed information  
[www.ecswr2027.com](http://www.ecswr2027.com)



## ECSWR 2027 Bucharest Call for Papers

The main theme of the 16th European Conference for Social Work Research is *“Facing the Polycrises – Rethinking the Role of Social Work Research”*

The world moves visibly and rapidly away from viewing crises as isolated events toward recognising them as polycrises – multiple interconnected and simultaneous crises, virtually impossible to contain within a single national or institutional framework. Such interconnections have existed throughout history, but today there is increasing awareness of how crises influence and amplify one another. Against this backdrop, the social work profession is once more reflecting on its position, strengths, and challenges in this evolving world order.

In the context of the recent geopolitical events, the rising political turmoil in various (cross)national and local contexts, the polarising socioeconomic instability and imbalances, increasing armed conflicts and wars, as well as the challenges of AI automation across all human activity, we are witnessing sometimes subtle and other times ostentatious shifts in institutional arrangements, policy provisions and leadership visions. More often than not, these changes lead to the perpetuation of multiple forms of inequity, as well as new discriminatory mechanisms and (yet) hard-to-identify oppressive practices.

While social work is intertwined with and invariably reflects many of these shifting tendencies, it is also one of the most stable components/systems of societies, rooted in a strong valuebase which upholds the centrality of social justice ideals leading to the communal greater good, in an effort to promote the strengths rather than the fragility of social structures.

Change at a deeper level across multiple societal structures is not just imminent, but already happening in momentum. The future of social work as a profession partly depends on how well social work research as a foundation for social work action succeeds in articulating these changes into creative conceptualisations and methodologies, driven by the new unfolding realities. While social work has never been static, it is now perhaps more challenged than ever before to rethink and adapt at a fast pace at all levels - education, practice, policy, etc. Under these various tensions and sometimes clashing forces, social work research can play an important role in leading the way forward, ensuring that the silent/low voices are heard, and the new order does not neglect its core values.

Researchers, scholars, practitioners, and students are invited to submit abstracts for the following types of proposal, Oral Paper Presentation, Poster Presentation, Symposium, Workshop. Abstract submission deadline is **October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**. The submission platform opens on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2026.

### Proposal Types

#### Oral Paper Presentation

The oral paper presentation may be authored by an individual or by a group. The abstract should be in line with the main theme of the conference and linked to the conference’s sub-themes. The oral presentations will be grouped in parallel sessions based on the sub-themes. The abstract submitted should be 500 words or less. More information about the abstract is provided below.

#### Poster Presentation

The poster presentation may be created by an individual or by a group and is to be displayed on a portable wall. At times, the author(s) of the poster will accompany it, to answer questions that people have. To apply for a poster presentation, the author(s) must submit an abstract of a maximum of 500 words. More information about the abstract is provided below.

#### Symposium

The symposium presentation is a self-organised seminar of three to four papers on a common topic which are presented within the same session and are in line with the conference's main theme, as well as one or more of the sub-themes. The symposium session lasts 90 minutes.

When applying for a symposium, one person is responsible for submitting the following:

- a general abstract (maximum 500 words) that describes the theme of the symposium and which argues for the importance of it within the framework of the conference.
- an abstract (maximum 250 words) for each of the papers included in the proposed symposium.

You will also have to indicate which person will be the symposium convener. We will only communicate with this person.

Preference will be given to symposia that demonstrate cohesiveness across presentations and to presentations strongly linked to the central theme/sub-themes of the conference. Symposia will be accepted or rejected as a whole, not in parts.

### Workshop

A self-organized seminar of one or more presentations relevant to the conference theme/sub-themes. The workshops last 90 minutes. Workshops are intended to be thoroughly interactive with considerable participation and discussion from those attending. Workshops may have an explicit agenda of training participants on a given topic or of generating an interest group or a network for future collaboration. If applying for a workshop, please submit an abstract of 500 words or less including a description of the content and how it will be delivered (pedagogical methods, etc.).

### **Guidelines**

The following guidelines for all kinds of presentation are advisory.

If your abstract is for a presentation based on one or more empirical research projects, it could include the following:

- Background and purpose: description of the problem, study objectives, research question(s) and/or hypotheses;
- Methods: study design, including a description of participants and selection strategies, data collection procedures, measures, and approaches to analysis;
- Findings: specific results in summary form;
- Conclusions and implications: description of the main outcome(s) of the study and implications for practice, policy, or further research.

If your abstract is for a presentation which is not based on primary empirical research, it could include the following:

- Background and purpose of the presentation;
- A summary of the main points of the presentation;
- How the presentation will address one or more of the conference's aims and themes;
- Conclusions from and implications of your presentation for practice, policy, or further research.

### **Submission Instructions**

All abstracts must be relevant to the central conference theme and subthemes. Preference will be given to abstracts that are strongly linked to the conference theme and subthemes, so we encourage authors to show this explicitly. Authors are also asked to mention one or two theoretical or empirical references that inform or inspire the abstract. In addition, we actively welcome proposals for symposia and/or workshops by the Special Interest Groups.

Please note that authors may submit a **maximum of three abstracts** as follows: one abstract of which they are the main author and two abstracts of which they are a co-author. Submitted abstracts will be reviewed by an international panel. Decisions will be notified by week of 11<sup>th</sup> December 2026 to the e-mail address provided by the authors when registering.

Subthemes

1. Challenges and opportunities for social work research, practice, policy or education in contemporary contexts
2. Social work research, policy, practice or education across national, social, cultural, disciplinary and professional boundaries
3. Exploring the impact and effectiveness of social work practice
4. Social work history and identity as a profession and discipline
5. Theorizing social work and/or social work research
6. Linking social work research and practice, including the co-creation of knowledge
7. Methodological development, innovation, technologies and capacity building in social work research
8. Social work research and automation, technology and AI
9. Social work leadership

For more information about the conference and the submission process please visit the ECSWR 2027 website <https://ecswr2027.com/> please share with your friends and colleagues.

