

Annual Report 2020

Message from the ESWRA Chair

ESWRA Chair: Judith Metz

2020 has been different than anyone could have expected, due to the enormous crisis in the shape of COVID-19. Like any other association in the world, the main question for the ESWRA Board was how to continue running our Association? Working towards the goals of the Association, while dealing with the consequences of the global lockdown which we are still facing. This Annual Report reflects on how we dealt with the crisis as well as the progress we made on the ESWRA goals.

There are two matters which I would like to highlight. First is the decision to postpone the 10th European Conference for Social Work Research; following the spread and trajectory of the coronavirus around the world, it became increasingly clear that it was not possible to continue with the existing plans for the conference in Bucharest. The conference committee together with the ESWRA Board and supported by an informal group of supportive members decided to postpone **ECSWR 2020 Bucharest to May 2021**. We were extremely sad and disappointed that we had to take this decision. However, we are sure that this decision is in the best interests of both the world health situation and the health and wellbeing of all delegates, colleagues, families, and friends.

Second is the decision made by the ESWRA Board to launch an ESWRA journal in partnership with Policy Press, provisionally entitled *European Social Work Research*. After an extensive exploration and long debates within ESWRA and the wider community, the Board concluded that there is the space and need for another publication outlet for social work research. At the time of writing, the Journal working group is preparing the final proposal and putting together the editorial team. We are proud to have come to a decision to further develop the infrastructure for social work research.

I would like to end by expressing my gratitude to everybody who contributed to the work of ESWRA the past year. We are still in uncertain times, thanks to your support, ESWRA will continue to represent the importance of social work research in our world.

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 500 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

The European Conference for Social Work Research

ESWRA Vice Chair: Jon Symonds

The European Conference for Social Work Research is the largest annual social work research event in Europe. It brings together members and colleagues to share and promote social work research and build collaborations for future work together.

In 2020, the 10th annual conference had been organised to take place in Bucharest, Romania, but due to the impact of COVID-19, had to be postponed. As a result of the unprecedented disruption across Europe and the rest of the world, there was no annual conference in 2020.

In response, our planning for the conference involved several adjustments to ensure that we could meet in 2021, despite the uncertainty of the times. After careful consideration of different factors, and working closely with the University of Bucharest, we reorganised the format so that it could be delivered online in 2021. This will be the first time the annual conference has been delivered in this way and we will be collecting feedback to incorporate learning about new methods of planning and delivering conferences in the future, whether these are in-person, or online.

We have continued to have interest and strong applications to host the conference in the years ahead and are pleased to have agreements in place for the conference up to and including 2024. Plans are already underway to bring the conference to Amsterdam in 2022, Milan in 2023, and Vilnius in 2024. We continue to work to ensure that the conference represents all regions of Europe and if you would like to enquire more about hosting the conference at your institution, please speak to us at the conference, or email us at info@eswra.org

Members services & Research Resources committee

Chair: Liz Frost

After a restructuring of ESWRA committees in 2019-20, The Resources Development Committee has become the 'Membership Services and Research Resource Committee, (MSRRC) chaired by Liz Frost. This new committee continues to be made up of both ESWRA board members and general members.

Initially the MSRRC was given the tasks of considering whether and what research resources should be available to members only and researching and reporting back on whether a permanent online infrastructure was a good investment for ESWRA. The Committee decided it was important to go 'back to basics' for the former of these, and by studying the constitution of ESWRA itself, came to understand that the benefits of the organisation should be as open as possible, providing they did not render

membership pointless. After researching the latter point, MSRRC advised the Board that the massive variety of platforms being used across different European countries, made the adoption of one by ESWRA too excluding and potentially divisive.

Since these early activities, the MSRRC has made it a priority to liaise with other committees, particularly the current Conference Committee, and the SIGs committee, to understand their 'membership services and research resource' needs and to encourage their members to contribute videos of their activities to the website, to disseminate what we are currently doing. This has been enthusiastically taken up, and any member or interested person can now find out more about the conference, and the activities of contributing SIGS, in video form, on the website.

Developing a robust data base for members research activities is ongoing, developing from the very useful foundational work put into place by the last Committee. Communication with all committees to keep under review and respond to membership needs is also a continuing priority.

SIG Development Committee

Chair: Karen Winter

Karen Winter is the Chair of the SIG Development Committee which supports and oversees the work of 24 Special Interest Groups. These groups, led by SIG convenors, enable ESWRA members to network and collaborate on specific issues. The Special Interest Groups meet at least once a year at the European Conference for Social Work Research and regularly share information and discussions online. The SIG Development Committee issues a handbook containing guidelines for SIG convenors, produces a twice-yearly SIG newsletter and facilitates the work of SIGs at the annual conference through events that enable all SIG members to develop their ideas together.

Prizes and Sponsorship committee

Chair: Elena Cabiati

The Prizes and Sponsorship committee consist of 4 members, 2 Board members and 2 members of the Association. The Prizes and Sponsorship Committee develop and pursue an effective strategy to promote the profile of, and to ensure that applications for the ESWRA Annual Awards are of the highest quality.

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 Committee support the development and the promotion of outstanding social work research papers around Europe. Nominations must demonstrate a significant contribution to social work research against the following criteria: carried out in 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, educators, and other research users.

Year after year, the number, and the source of the nominations for the EWSRA awards is increasing. The Committee is engaged in a rigorous review process of the research papers with the aim to select outstanding social work research publications.

The members of the committee are also committed to the development, co-ordination and implementation of sponsorship initiatives approved by the Board

ESWRA Publications Series

Series co-edited by John Gal and Anna Gupta

In 2016 ESWRA launched its book series 'Research in Social Work' published by Policy Press. The series forms a collection showcasing some of the best social work research in Europe. The editors of the series are Anna Gupta and John Gal. Books published as part of the series examine current, progressive, and innovative research applications of familiar ideas and of new models in social work research. Four books have already been published in the series. These are 'Research and the Social Work Picture', by Ian Shaw (2018), 'Social Work and the Making of Social Policy' edited by Ute Klammer, Simone Leiber and Sigrid Leitner (2019), 'The Settlement House Movement Revisited', edited by John Gal, Stefan Köngeter and Sarah Vicary (2021) and 'Interprofessional Collaboration and Service User Participation', edited by Kirsi Juhila, Tanja Dall, Christopher Hall, and Juliet Koprowska (2021). We look forward to launching 'Adoption from Care', edited by Tarja Poso, Marit Skivenes and June Thoburn at ECSWR 2021 and to publishing 'Involving Service Users in Social Work Education, Research and Policy' edited by Kristel Driessens and Vicky Lyssens-Danneboom later in the year. Four further titles are slated for publication 2022 and we are actively encouraging new proposals from ESWRA SIGS.

ESWRA finances

Treasurer: Koen Hermans -

ESWRA Profit and loss account for the financial year 2020

	2020	2019
Member contribution	€2,122.00	€48,384.00
Conference and Events		€23,094.00
Other Income		
Total net Proceeds	€2,122.00	€71,478.00
Conference event costs	€1,000.00	€1,060.00
SIG funding		
European Journal of Social work	€4,024.00	€5,756.00
Gross Turnover	-€2,0902.00	€64,662.00
Expenses		
Board charges	€1,741	€13,104
Administration costs	€36,549.00	€36,074.00
Operating result	-€41,192.00	€15,484.00
Financial costs	€296.00	€615.00
Result	-€41,488.00	€14,869.00

ESWRA Finances 2020

The final profit and loss account 2020 shows the impact of not being able to organise a conference in 2020. This causes a loss of € 41,192.00. Given the healthy financial situation of ESWRA, the Association can deal with such a one-off loss. The Board decided that for those members who have paid their membership fee as part of the conference subscription in 2020, the membership will be automatically extended in 2021. The membership fees that have been collected as part of the subscriptions of the Bucharest Conference 2020 will be considered in the budget of 2021.

European Social Work Research Association

Financial Year January 1st– December 31st 2020

Addressed to

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

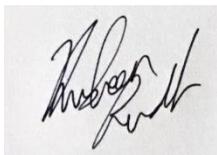
We: Kirsteen Laidlaw, Health care, Faculty of Medicine University of Leeds. and Saskia Keuzenkamp, Movisie, Utrecht, Netherlands

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 2020 accounts and Financial Statement of 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:

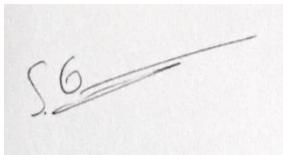
That the Financial Statements referred to fairly present the financial position of ESWRA and the results of its operations and cash flow for the year 2019, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the Netherlands.

Signed by Kirsteen Laidlaw



Date: April 2021

Signed by Prof. Dr. Saskia Keuzenkamp



Date April 2021

ESWRA Board 2020

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

Chair: Judith Metz Academie Mens en Maatschappij, Netherlands

Chair-elect: 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, Alborg university

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 Member Services and Research Resources Committee, SIG Development Committee, University of Essex, UK

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: Chair, Special Interest Group Development Committee 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**