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## Message from the ESWRA Chair

As I write this introduction to the 2019 ESWRA Annual Report we face an enormous crisis in the shape of COVID-19 with uncertain and unimaginable impacts on us all. Although looking back on the activities of 2019 may be less of a priority than finding ways to deal with the current situation and addressing future perspectives, it is still important to present the work of the Association to our MEMBERS and to be accountable for the work that the ESWRA Board has been doing over the past year.

This Annual Report reports on our progress towards the goals of the Association, and on our annual event, the European Conference for Social Work Research. It also reports on the ESWRA accounts for 2019 and other activities.

Although the Annual Report looks back, the ESWRA Board is looking ahead, exploring possibilities to expand the benefits to members; exploring the development of an ESWRA journal in partnership with Policy Press; and developing its digital infrastructure to maintain online connections and complement the physical conference. It has never been more relevant to address inequality and disadvantage and through the work of our Association, ESWRA will continue to represent the importance of social work research in our world.

Wishing you, your families, friends, and your communities well in these uncertain times

**Judith Metz**, Chair of ESWRA

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## 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 619 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.



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## 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.

### RESEARCH CAPACITY AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

To enhance both capacity and learning opportunities within and across Europe.

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## Goals of the association (Continued)

### 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 is going from strength to strength. Its membership has grown significantly over the last few years. The Association now has over 600 members, drawn from more than 35 European countries and several non-European countries.

### 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
- Dedicated web-based resources

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## The European Conference for Social Work Research

Vice Chair: Jon Symonds



The European Conference for Social Work Research has become the largest annual social work research event in Europe. It is the key means by which the Association brings together members and colleagues to gather, share research and build collaborations.

In 2019, the 9th conference was held in Leuven, organised by a consortium of universities: KU Leuven, Ghent University and the University of Antwerp. The main programme was attended by 600 delegates with 270 taking part in the SIG programme, the largest ever SIG programme in the history of the conference.

Feedback from the conference was very positive with delegates appreciating the coherence of the programme, the integration of the SIG programme and the success of the mobile app. These are all features which we incorporate into the conference guidance for subsequent hosts.

In 2020, the preparations for 10th annual conference due to be hosted by the University of Bucharest, have been disrupted due to

the spread of COVID-19. The planning was already in the advanced stages with a well-developed programme of keynote, oral and poster presentations. However, by March 2020 it became clear that ECSWR Bucharest could not go ahead as planned, after much discussion it was agreed that the conference should be postponed to 2021. It is the first time that the conference has been hosted in Romania and represents another step forward in the commitment of the Association to be truly representative of social work research across Europe, in all parts of the continent.

Future plans continue for conferences beyond 2021 and we look forward to bringing the conference to Amsterdam in 2022 and to Milan. Our call for conference hosts for 2023 and beyond is already out and we are speaking to interested parties about the possibilities for hosting the conference in new and stimulating locations for the future of social work research. If you think you would like to host the conference in your own institution in the future, then please speak to us at the conference or by email [info@eswra.org](mailto:info@eswra.org).

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## Communications Committee



**Chair:** Emilio Jose Gomez Ciriano  
**Internal communications:** Elena Ciabiti

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Emilio Jose Gomez Ciriano, Chair, leads on developing ESWRA's Communications Strategy Working with the members of the Committee, Emilio is responsible for External Communications whilst Elena Cabiati is responsible for Internal Communications. In consultation with the Board, the Communications Committee works actively to promote ESWRA initiatives and profile, to provide information to ESWRA members and SIGS, to strengthen relationships between members and with external organisations, including through social networks and media, and to represent ESWRA in other associations such as EASHH, and develop relationships with likeminded associations across Europe and at EU level.

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## SIG Development Committee



**Chair:** Karen Winter

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Karen Winter is the Chair of the SIG Development Committee which supports and oversees the work of 23 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.

## Resources Committee



**Chair:** Håvard Aaslund

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The Resources Development Committee has grown in membership and activity this year, working to support social work research across Europe. The Committee is made up of Board members and ESWRA members, and this year launched three new initiatives. The first was to collect interviews, vox pop, pictures and videos from ECSWR 2019 to make a promotional video for ESWRA. The second was to develop a system for collecting oral presentations from the conferences to post on our website. And the third was to start working on resources for funding opportunities. The video will be launched during spring 2020. We collected two presentations which are posted on the ESWRA website. We will work on ways to improve this in ESWRA 2020, to be able to collect more presentations. In regard to funding we will arrange a workshop about the theme in ECSWR 2020. We also followed up on our earlier initiatives by collecting recorded keynotes from ECSWR 2019 which were posted to the ESWRA website to reach a wider audience. This collection will grow in future conferences. In addition. The Committee has improved the members' database of researcher expertise by making it clearer and allowing researchers to link to their professional pages. A plan of activities was developed and will be updated regularly to embed new activities in 2020.

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## ESWRA Publications Series

**Series co-edited by John Gal and Anna Gupta**

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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. The first title in this series 'Research and the Social Work Picture', by Ian Shaw was published 2018 and 'Social Work and the Making of Social Policy' edited by Ute Klammer, Simone Leiber and Sigrid Leitner was published in 2019. An additional five books are slated to be published over the next two years, with another two books contracted and planned to be published in 2022.

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# ESWRA finances 2019

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## ESWRA INCOME 2019

Membership Fees	€48.500
Conference Fees	€155.500
<b>Total income</b>	<b>€204.000</b>

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## ESWRA EXPENDITURE 2019

Conference	€132.000
Journal	€6.000
Office	€25.500
Board	€13.000
Website	€4.500
Accountancy	€5.000
Awards	€1.000
Other expenses	€2.000
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>€189.000</b>
Added to reserves	€15.000

At the end of 2019, ESWRA counted 619 members. We consolidated our financial position due to the success of the annual European Conference for Social Work Research in Leuven. The financial report for the year 2019 shows a surplus of €15.000. This is less than last year,

which is also due to the fact that we have more members from lower income countries who pay a lower fee which is in accordance with ESWRA's policy to increase the participation of social work researchers from lower income countries.

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# ESWRA Board and Officers

ESWRA is run by a Board elected by its members.

There are 15 members of the Board. Current ESWRA Officers are:

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## CHAIR

**Judith Metz**  
Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences,  
The Netherlands



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## VICE CHAIR

**Jon Symonds**  
University of Bristol,  
United Kingdom



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## SECRETARY

**Alessandro Sicora**  
University of Calabria,  
Italy



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## COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

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



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## TREASURER

**Jean-Pierre Wilken**  
Research Centre Social Innovation,  
Utrecht University of Applied Sciences,  
The Netherlands





**Find out more and become an ESWRA member at  
[www.eswra.org](http://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**