

EUSW



EUSW: European Platform for Worldwide Social Work

Members of EUSW hold copies of our first collective published book. The image serves to underline the fundamental principles of the Network.

The Network is both collective and diverse. Currently there are about 100 members, including people from all over Europe. This means that a wide diversity of ideas and experience contributes to the collective goal of improving and extending the subject and the individual members' knowledge base. Eastern, Southern, Northern and Western Europe are represented.

The photograph encapsulates the concept of working together as a process to achieve a tangible and useful product for the whole academic field.

As a product the book itself represents a revolution in European social work publishing. The editors (from the network) asked every country to write an impressionistic account of how social work is – its history, philosophy, education, practice, struggles and so on – in their own country. The book has a chapter from every EU country, and forms a reference document for anyone wishing to understand what social work education is like across Europe. In Lithuania, for example, how are social workers educated? Does religion still matter in Spanish social work? What is a social pedagogue and why do they have them in most of Europe but not the UK? Such questions are raised and answered as the volume addresses commonalities, differences and variation, and offers the opportunity to learn from each other. The volume introduces a brand new notion in social work education: it is a truly pan-European text written by nationals of the countries they are part of.

The picture captures the beginning of a process. The book and the group of people promoting it demonstrate the aim of the network to develop the whole knowledge field in European social work by broadening the knowledge base and actively promoting inclusive and pan-European educational activity.

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