

HUMAN PLUS 2004
First Conference of the Archipelago of Humanistic Thematic Networks
"The role of the humanistic arts and sciences in European society, education and research"

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Work group:
Thematic Network: EUROPEAN SOCIAL WORK – EUSW-TN

The EUSW-network is committed to the processes of breaking down further the artificial boundaries between theory and practice, research and service delivery, and between education and action within welfare to improve its responses to the vulnerable, Main objective of this network is to present itself not only as a collection of Working Groups working on specific outputs, but also as a dynamic platform for an easier and more effective interaction among all Social Work actors: HEIs, professional associations, research bodies, SW education and research, opening a European dimension of SW as a profession, the development of ECTS-based tools for the design of curricula in SW, the development of a permanent platform for the discussion of SW issues.

The main outputs of EUSW-TN are:

Training courses for SW actors, Tools for the management of the network activities, Common tools for international programmes and recognition, Development of SW international activities, Creation of a platform for open discussion, Studies and comparative analysis on SW issues and their application in Europe and Beyond, A fully interactive network Web site offering updated information about the network and opportunities available in the SW area, Conferences open to all network members, Group meetings, Textbooks presenting SW in its worldwide reality, Newsletters to learn about opportunities and the network improvements, Quality insurance and assessment.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR:

EUSW-TN has been financially supported by EU/ Socrates for two years. We are now applying for a new three years project period. A positive response to this application is important to continue the good process of work and high activity and co-operation among the members during the two passed years running.

During these two years:

- three annual meetings with 50 partner institutions from more than 27 countries have been arranged
- two text books - bibliographies on comparative aspects of social work in Europe are delivered
- newsletters have been distributed
- web-site production is started
- a 20 ECTS credits Educational Programme on core issues of Social Work in Europe both as e-learning and as self-study and summer school are established and students will enter the programme in January 2005. The Educational Programme will end in the beginning of September 2005 and then be evaluated. More information about the educational programme on: <http://home.hib.no/ahs/virclass>
- A lot of new partnerships among social work educational institutions have been established and new projects as the VIRCLASS project (the virtual classroom of social work in Europe) have been started as an output from EUSW-TN

Suggestions for discussions in the working groups at the HUMAN PLUS 2004 Conference:

I will find it interesting to discuss how we can learn from each others way of running and organizing the thematic networks, and how to stimulate contacts in the networks and among thematic networks. Since the thematic networks are tools for communication and interaction it is interesting to know more about how the activities among members are stimulated.

My second area of interests is to discuss how new technology can be used in a more open way and how different thematic networks can co operate. One common area I can think of as teacher in social work is the area of community planning and community work, which is an area where social work, social policy, geography, history, and a lot of different professions in the humanistic area will interfere with each other and be able to make interesting projects together, both in educational programmes but also in the field of research and common multi-professional textbooks.

