

ENSA European Network of Social Authorities General Assembly Minutes

Brussels, 22-25 January 2024

– Monday 22nd January

Venue: Odisee University of Applied Sciences – Campus Brussels, Warmoesberg 26, 1000 Brussels

After the welcoming by host in the Odisee University of Applied Sciences by **Jos Sterckx**, Senior researcher and project development of the Social Work Department of the previous mentioned University, **Annalisa Bisson**, Legal Representative of the ENSA Network and Director of the International Relations of the Veneto Region took the floor to open the ENSA general Assembly 2024.

She is pleased to meet the participants personally this year for this ENSA General Assembly 2024, indeed last year due to COVID she was only able to connect on line. She brought the greetings of the Director of Social Services of the Veneto Region **Pier Angelo Spano**.

First she thanked the **Odisee University of Applied Sciences** for Hosting and co-organizing this event with the support of Flemish organization **Growing Up** from Flanders.

She greeted and thanked for their work:

A. the **Local thematic network leaders** from:

- Belgium, Flanders, **Rudy de Cock** and **An Rommel** for the *Minors working group*;
- the Netherlands, City of Rotterdam, **Anthony Polychronakis** for the *Older Adults working group*;
- Italy, the Veneto Region, **Pasquale Borsellino** from the Direction Social Services: Unit, Family, Minors, Youth and Civil Service;
- Greece, Cyclades, **Miltos Sakellariou** from Social cooperative for the ENSEL, *Social Emotional Learning network*;
- Spain, Valencia: the **new candidate** for the local coordination of the disability working group from the *Generalitat Valenciana IVASS* (Valencia Institute of Social Services), **María José Rico Llorca**, Directora General Instituto Valenciano de Servicios Sociales who was online, and **Maria Sorzano**, project manager IVASS who was on site.

B. **The Treviso delegation of the project Project WE-LA-PA** - Welfare, Work and gender equality in the employment and professional field in Treviso and its province.
The Project has been submitted by Manpower Srl, and funded by the Veneto Region - Employment Directorate - under the ESF+ 2021-2027 plan, Objective "Investment for employment and growth". It was one of the 24 projects funded by the Veneto Region under the project P.A.R.I: "Innovative Network Projects and Actions for Equality and Gender Balance.

C. **All international and local participants.**

Annalisa Bisson presented the agenda with the following points:

1. **Appointment of working groups leaders**
2. **New composition of ENSA working groups**
3. **Procedures for the ENSA involvement in EU projects**

4. **Integration of the Youth Care Platform in ENSA**
5. **New Memberships**
6. **Next General Assembly**
7. **Any other Business:**
 - ENSA running projects and financial report
 - Other projects connected to this General Assembly
 - Main ENSA activities 2023

Decision: the agenda was adopted

1. **APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS LEADERS**

Annalisa Bisson follows presenting the state of the art regarding the local coordination of the different ENSA working groups in order to confirm and appoint the relevant referees according to the members views.

- **Older Adults working group:** City of Rotterdam, referee: *Anthony Polychronakis*;
- **Minors working group:** Flemish Agency Opgroien (Growing Up), referee: *Rudy de Cock, An Rommel*;
- **Youth and Family working group:** Veneto Region, Direction Social Services, referee: *Pasquale Borsellino*;
- **ENSEL Network thematic working group:** Social cooperative Altera Vita (Cyclades Greece), referee: *Miltos Sakellariou*.
- **Disability working group:** Proposal for a new coordination by Generalitat Valenciana IVASS Valencia, referee *María José Rico Llorca*, Directora General Instituto Valenciano de Servicios Sociales, *Maria Sorzano*, European Project Manager.
- **Note:** the Conseil Départemental du Val de Marne was coordinating this group and their work has been highly appreciated. There has been a change in the management, the referee in charge is now working for the CCAS (Centre Communal d'Action Sociale Créteil). The Generalitat Valenciana IVASS Valencia is willing to take this role. This proposal has been supported by all the other working group leaders.

Decision: The above mentioned working groups leaders are confirmed and the candidature of the Generalitat Valenciana, IVASS Valencia as leader of ENSA Disability working group is approved

Words of thanking are expressed from IVASS Valencia by **Maria Sorzano** who is honoured of this role.

2. **NEW COMPOSITION OF ENSA WORKING GROUPS:**

Annalisa Bisson presented the proposal for the new composition of ENSA working groups:

- A. Working group Minors and working group Youth and Family will work together.
 - **Themes including:** care, culture, education, youth employment, mental health, sports, family policies, violence prevention as leverage for child & youth wellbeing.
 - **Structure supporting the coordination:** proposal shared by working group leaders to have a structure to support the coordination: with a *core group* with 1 chair or 2 co-chairs, 1 coordinator,

members of the core group. Among the chairs or co-chairs proposal of The Region of Carinthia, *Christina Gaschler*, and Odisee University, *Jan Claeys*, *Jos Sterckx* for Coordination.

- B. Working group Disability and working group Older Adults will work together with their specific local leaders according to Older Adults and disability policies. Core group disability policies: among the proposals *Miljana Djanovic*, CCAS of Créteil and *Johan Warnez*, Cognition and Inclusion.
- C. Working group Social & Emotional Learning: the support to the coordination will be done by *Prof. Dr. Cigdem Sahin Taskin*, Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Faculty of Education (Turkey) and *Dr. Miguel Vidal González*, Spanish National Reference Centre CIPFP Misericordia, Valencia (Spain).

Decision: the new composition of ENSA working groups was adopted a core group will support the local leaders.

3. PROCEDURES FOR THE ENSA INVOLVEMENT IN EU PROJECTS

In order to have clear procedures for the involvement of ENSA in EU project the following proposals have been presented by the Veneto Region:

- **Support letter**: agreement needed of the ENSA-legal representative with advice from the Direction of Social Services of the Veneto Region & thematic WG coordinator;
- **Associated partner**: agreement needed of the ENSA- legal representative with advice from the Direction of Social Services of the Veneto Region & thematic WG coordinator;
- **ENSA as full partner** (PIC Veneto Region): agreement needed from the ENSA-legal representative with advice from the Direction of Social Services of the Veneto Region & thematic WG coordinator make unanimous advice;
- **Full partner on behalf of ENSA** (PIC by partner of ENSA): the ENSA-coordinator, with advice from the Direction of Social Services of the Veneto Region & thematic WG coordinator make an unanimous advise to the partner who will represent ENSA. All partnerships will be notified in the next ENSA GA;
- **ENSA as leader** (PIC Veneto Region): the ENSA-legal representative upon indications of the Direction of Social Services of the Veneto Region & thematic WG coordinator make unanimous advice;
- **Advisory Board**: agreement needed of the ENSA-legal representative, with advice from the Direction of Social Services & thematic WG coordinator. The name of the member of the AB can be suggested by the interested partner according to role and expectations.

Jos Sterckx from Odisee University thanked **Annalisa Bisson** and the Veneto Region for these proposals and expressed the wish for the ENSA network to keep, as much as possible, light procedures, **Annalisa Bisson** confirmed that the responses regarding agreements for the ENSA involvement from the Veneto Region will be very fast. **Jos Sterckx** adds that the Veneto Region, with its role as guide, should act according to what she considers is best for all and is grateful to the Veneto Region for its work.

Decision: the above mentioned procedures to decide on the involvement in projects are adopted

4. INTEGRATION OF THE YOUTH CARE PLATFORM IN ENSA

Decision: The Youth Care Platform has been integrated in the ENSA network. Members have been informed and invited to join ENSA.

5. NEW MEMBERSHIPS

ENSA application form:

In order to improve the ENSA application form the following suggestions have been made:

- 1) Include date and stamp of the Organization and signature of the legal representative indicating the referee for the activities to carry out.
- 2) Specify the areas of interest.
- 3) Indicate the motivation to join ENSA (examples: participate in European projects, designing proposals..)

The following new memberships requests have been received:

- *Greek Scientists Society, Non-Profit Organisation*: referred by Odisee University of Applied Sciences
- *Artevelde University Gent (Flanders)* referred by Wendy Eerdeken and Odisee University
- *Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University (Turkey)*: referred by Ensel Network
- *CSV Volunteer Center Vicenza*
- *Qualità e Benessere (Veneto, Italy)*, promotes quality of life of older adults and of persons with cognitive impairments: referred by Giorgio Brunello
- *Associazione P63 (Padova, Italy)*, rare diseases: referred by Giulia Volpato
- *Margherita cooperativa Sociale (Vicenza, Italy)*
- *Don Bosco International*: referred by Youth Care Platform

Decision: The here above new memberships requests should be filed by the Organisations in the new application form here enclosed. They will be approved in a next ad hoc on line Assembly date to be defined.

ENSA logo

Decision: The ENSA logo is granted to ENSA members, upon approval by the Legal Representative after receiving the lay out and the draft documents where the logo will be positioned; the general coordination and working groups have to be informed about any use of the logo.

6. NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Municipality of Cava de' Tirreni (Province of Salerno) is candidate to organize and host the next General Assembly.

Decision: The proposal is accepted for 2024 or 2025 and the Municipality of Cava De Tirreni is thanked. The date has to be defined.

The Municipality is strategically located: 40 km from Naples- Capodichino airport with daily European flights, the nearest train station is Salerno only 7 km, and is well connected to the city's train station and to the Amalfi Coast which is only 3 km away. Cava De Tirreni leads the 13 municipalities of the Amalfi coast from Vietri till the Municipality of Positano.

7. AOB

ENSA Running projects:

The ENSA present running projects are listed by **Annalisa Bisson**:

- **FORM:** Therapeutic Foster Care for unaccompanied minors and their foster families. Lead Odisee University Flanders. Meeting linked to the final conference Project; 2 options:
 - o *Wednesday 27.11 - morning* partner meeting + ENSA meeting, *Thursday 28.11* International conference.
 - o *Wednesday 27.11 - afternoon* ENSA meeting to allow arrival in the morning, *Thursday 28.11* International Conference, *Friday 29.11* Partner meeting

<https://form.ensa-network.eu/>

- **TETRAS** - Training of Educators for Transfer of Transversal Skills. Lead: Groep Ubuntu Flanders. ENSA meeting linked to the final conference of project 2024, date tbc.

<https://tetras.ensa-network.eu/>

- **ENSA Financial report 2023:** see attached file

- **Other projects connected to ENSA for this General Assembly include:**

- Project **WE-LA-PA** - Welfare, Work and gender equality in the employment and professional field in Treviso and its province. The ENSA General Assembly 2024 has been held jointly with a study visit of the project WELAPA.

- Project **HOPE** - Responding to Heatwaves in the Older People Ecosystem. Lead: City of Rotterdam, partner ELISAN collaborating with ENSA.

<https://hope-heatwaves.eu/>

- Project **SELF-IN** - Self Management Learning programs for people with intellectual disabilities. ENSA Associated partners. Lead: Generalitat Valenciana- IVASS Valencian Institute of Social Services.

https://www.ivass.gva.es/Erasmus_SELF-IN/SELF-IN_project.html

Instagram: selfinerasmusplus

Database stakeholders:

English: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfXYTyKk0OBHpFex-VhAr9LMd0IDluq5IH4JY8B6xTDkgZBTA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Italian: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSck5gI96mUGsyBO1I5_6Bg2W56fDgJAYZeAjb_cilGKdQyuEA/viewform?usp=sf_link

- Project **Care4Skills** - skills for long term care. Lead: EASPD European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities. The headline target of the partnership is to contribute to and enable the training of at least 60% of LTC professionals every year by 2030, with a particular emphasis on digital and person-centred care skills. The Partnership will welcome new organisations willing and able to contribute to this target.

- Project **ValueCare**, Value-based methodology for integrated care supported by ICT (Horizon 2020) partner ELISAN in the Advisory Board collaborating with ENSA.

- **Princess of Asturias Award**, Category social Sciences: Letter of support of ENSA to the Institute of Social Welfare, Polibienestar Institute of Valencia.

- **PAYOKE, NEXT TO YOU** partner requests an online meeting to present the project **WINGS** to the ENSA. This project has been funded by the AMIF programme **New Gender Strategies for Women's inclusion**, a multi-layered action aiming to facilitate the social-economic inclusion of women in vulnerable situations. WINGS provides them with language courses, psychological support, tailored employment counselling and labour integration opportunities.

<https://cesie.org/project/wings/>

Decision the proposal to present the project WINGS to the ENSA network is welcomed

- **PAYOKE, LILA** - supporting GBV survivors, funded by the European Union (CERV-2021-DAPHNE) from March 2022 to February 2024. Integrated one-stop support service aimed at women survivors of GBV and their children to tackle the needs arising from the Covid-19 crisis. They need 5 letters of support of organizations that express the will to disseminate the results of the project.
<https://lilaproject.eu/>

Decision the ENSA network will be happy to help

- **Main ENSA activities 2023**
27, 28 and 29 of June 2023 in Brussels at the Flemish Agency Growing Up.
The 27th, 28th and 29th of June 2023 in Brussels at the Flemish Agency Growing Up, the ENSA working groups of Older Adults and Disability, Youth Child and Family, ENSEL Network and Youth Care Platform took place.
There were three days full of exchange around the following topics:
 - **27th June:** ENSA Older Adults and Disability working group: exchange of experiences, practices projects and innovative answers to face new health and social societal changes: Community care, telecare, active ageing;
 - **28th of June:** Closing Event of the Panda Project, on participation of young children in child welfare and child protection;
 - **29th of June:** ENSA Working Groups Youth, Child and Family and Youth Care Platform on collaboration between services and civil society aiming at integrated care and support as important pillars for growth and development.

Conclusions, Odisee University of Applied Sciences host and co-organizer of this meeting with **Jos Sterckx** and **Jan Claeys** thank and congratulate on behalf of all working groups, the Veneto Region and **Annalisa Bisson**, legal representative for coordinating the ENSA network. Annalisa Bisson includes in the thanking **Mirko Mazzarolo** for formal aspects linked to the works.

With applause from the participants, the General Assembly procedures are closed and the works follow according to the general programme.

Attached files:

Financial report

ENSA revised application form

ENSA general assembly general program