



## Blended intensive Programme: International Community of Social Workers for Resistance Dubrovnik, Croatia, Augustus 29th– September 4<sup>rd</sup> 2026

Today, social workers are often the voice for those who are unheard. This Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) brings together motivated students who believe social work is more than a system — it's a force for change. The programme focuses on building an international community of future social workers who recognise the importance of resistance, advocacy, and action in the face of human rights violations, social exclusion, and inequality. This programme invites you to critically explore these challenges and develop new, empowering responses.

**If you're ready to learn, connect, and stand up for social justice — this programme is for you.**

You will collaborate with students, practitioners and academics from different countries and disciplines, including social work and law, gaining an interdisciplinary and international perspective. Together, you'll explore global social issues, learn how different societies respond to crises, and examine how social work can actively defend human rights and promote social justice.

Through interactive workshops, teamwork, and practical activities, you will:

- Learn from real-life experiences across countries
- Explore global crises and their local impacts
- Develop strategies for ethical and human-rights-based social work
- Discover how international networks of social workers can create lasting change
- Gain a deeper understanding of social work practices across Europe and beyond
- Develop your International network

A strong emphasis is placed on teamwork, interdisciplinarity, and linking theory with practice, turning ideas into meaningful action.

### About our school

At our School of Social Work, we engage professors from all around the world to sit together with students, practitioners and service users, debating current issues as peers and reinventing the social justice aspect of everyday social work. We take time for in-depth conversations about the issues that affect us and intend to engage all voices, either in the classroom or outside of it. This makes the School of Social Work a unique experience of reciprocal and transformational learning.

The IUC is located near the centre of Dubrovnik with its beautiful historic buildings and beaches. After a daily program, participants meet informally in the evening, on the beach or at numerous cafes and restaurants for dynamic conversations and memorable moments.



## About the IUC

The Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik (IUC) is an independent international institution for advanced studies. Its objective is to encourage, promote and implement cooperation among students and scholars through projects, study programmes, courses and conferences across a wide range of academic concerns.

Maintaining high standards of free and independent scholarship, the IUC is dedicated to network building for peaceful co-existence and pluralism regionally as well as internationally.

Address Don Frana Bulića 4  
HR-20000 Dubrovnik, Croatia  
More on: [www.IUC.hr](http://www.IUC.hr)  
Accommodation and other logistic information:  
<https://iuc.hr/accommodation>

## Virtual programme

In addition to the onsite programme, this BIP programme includes two online meetings designed to support your learning and collaboration:

**Before the live programme.** The first virtual meeting focuses on getting to know each other and preparing for the intensive part. You'll receive all key information, practice communication and language skills, ask questions, and actively help shape the programme by suggesting activities. This is also your chance to prepare presentations or materials you'd like to share during the live project.

**The second virtual meeting is dedicated to reflection and evaluation.** You'll exchange experiences, share feedback, discuss new ideas, and reflect on what you've learned. Supervisors will present the results of the programme and provide feedback, helping you connect the experience to your future studies and practice.

**The fee for participating is €75 for students.** Participants are expected to actively contribute throughout the five days, attending plenary sessions, group sessions, field trips and other activities. After completing the programme successfully, you will be rewarded 3 ECTS

Read our [Declaration: 'Dubrovnik calling'](#) on current challenges in social work and the need to resist.

Written by our director Prof. Vito Flaker, University of Ljubljana

Register  
[Here](#)

For more information, contact us by

[Email](#)

Please note that the School of Social Work's activities are organised on a voluntary basis and our response may not be immediate.

More information about the activities of our school can be found on our [website](#)

# Dubrovnik calling

15-12-2025 Prof. Vito Flaker

In the Breakthrough of the Social (Dubrovnik manifesto), we expressed the necessity for the Social to prevail over the axioms of economy, bureaucracy and other social forces that negate the basic humanity. We stated that radical social transformations need the practical wisdom of social work interfaces and the sociability of existence can profit from the practical skills, abilities, values and attitudes of Social Work.

Seven years later, we have many reasons for despair. We witness a seriality of catastrophic events, processes – wars, environmental catastrophes, authoritarian governments, dehumanising intelligence, and the like. On the everyday level, we experience further fragmentation, segregation, social divisions, subjection to algorithms, slavery to the enforced codes of conduct – a radical disregard for what we are as human beings.

The basic question of “How to remain human in inhuman conditions?!” is pending weightily more than ever. Actually, more and more it is the issue of resisting what is wrought on us rather than dreaming the future.

Vaguely and generally, we know what to do. We must:

## Keep on:

- Undoing injustice
- Fostering the empowerment of the people
- Making voices of the oppressed heard
- Introducing the perspective of the margin to the centre
- Establishing solidarity as praxis
- Promoting self-organisation and reinventing communities
- Keeping the peace in the time of war
- Enabling both freedom and security
- Staging utopian actions in dystopian structures
- Providing small steps paving the way for big changes

## Resist:

- Rising authoritarianism
- Resurgence of colonialism and Imperialism
- Exclusion and reification
- Supremacy of all kinds
- Fragmentation of life and society
- Reification of people and their encounters
- Hidden tyranny of bureaucratic solutions of existence

## Affirm:

- The process and relationships
- Human desire and will
- Heterogeneity of human experience
- The right to divert, deviate, contest to play and create
- To stand up, to walk and to lie down (not only to sit) when needed!

We have been good at voicing our discontent and social critique, but we can do better at inventing tools of practical, everyday resistance. The tools (and arms) of resistance need to be multiplied on personal, group and organisational planes. Resistant social formation can be envisaged and mapped globally and locally. What we need are inclusive communities and transnational networks. Thus, we might be able to not only resist but also invent and reinvent ways of creating socially just communities.

Let's do this in September 2026!

