



## **SOUTHEAST EUROPE ACADEMIC WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP NETWORK**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> International summer school**

#### **“The role of social work in policy practice in 21<sup>st</sup> century”**

*Sofia, 2-5 September 2024*

*Dear academic community of social work educators, researchers and students,*

*We live in furious times of neoliberalism, new public management, new and old wars and ecological disasters. Educators, practitioners and the entire system of social services need extensive support from governments and their social policies to be effective. The discipline and profession of social work can only thrive and stand up for its professional and scientific principles and ethics if governments and interagency support systems are funded and universal, accessible to all people. Social work researchers are also crucial for any society that wants to understand social problems, people's needs and rights, as well as new inequalities and current societal challenges.*

*The third international summer school organized by the Southeast Europe academic women's leadership network /SEAWLN/ will address these old and new challenges and therefore invites researchers, educators and social work students to participate in days of collaborative exploration of the future of social work and policy practice today.*

#### **Subthemes of the summer school:**

1. Current challenges in social work education, research, and practice
  - impact on social policy
  - social workers as change agents
  - best practices and promotion of the profession
2. Ecological awareness in social work curricula, social services, and activism (i.e. ecological issues, global social inequalities, social justice; waste colonialism in the region of SEE - water, deforestation, air pollution, burning plastic for Western countries).

***Chairs of the summer school:***

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rossitsa Simeonova, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Co-Chair

Prof. Dr. Darja Zaviršek, University of Ljubljana, Co-Chair

Prof. Dr. Barbara W. Shank, Honorary Co-Chair

***Host organizer:*** Bulgarian Association of Social Work Education (BASWE)

***Venue:*** Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Faculty of Education, 15 Tzar Osvoboditel Blvd, Sofia, Bulgaria

***Lecturers:*** Members of SEEAWLN and professors from US universities

***Participants:*** social work students from SEE member countries

**Program overview**

*Official opening* (official greetings, cultural performance)

*Opening panel:* “The role of social work in policy practice in 21<sup>st</sup> century” (Prof. Julia Watkins, Barbara W. Shank, Prof. Anamaria Campanini)

*Presentations* of SEE senior members and professors from US universities (format: 30 min. + 15 min. discussion)

*CSWE Executive presentation on leadership*

*Panel “Working with media and local authorities”* – journalists and social work practitioners present and discuss good and bad practices on the topic from SEE countries (90 min.)

*Panel “Opportunities and challenges of career in social work academia”* - presentation and discussion with junior members of the SEE

*Panel: Presentation of Julia Watkins’ memoir and Carmen Sugawara’s book /Ed./*

*Workshop for students* “Photo voice of Sofia from social work perspective”

*Other assignments for students:* providing feedback to the presenters in pairs.

*Visits at social work organizations in Sofia*

*Cultural and academic visits* (visit to Rilla Monastery and American University in Blagoevgrad, presentation of the president of AUBG )

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