

Joining the network

OUR MEMBERS

The European Social Network (ESN) is the independent network for local public social services in Europe.

ESN brings together people who plan, manage and deliver public social services, together with those in regulatory and research organisations. We support the development of effective social policy and social care practice through the exchange of knowledge and experience.

The European Social Network (ESN) works with more than 100 member organisations in over 30 European countries. Members of the network are public organisations comprising:

- National associations of directors of social services
- National, regional and local departments of social welfare (i.e. ministries, regions, provinces, counties and municipalities)
- Universities or national schools specialising in social policy
- Research institutes and other public organisations responsible for the improvement of social services
- Public funding and regulatory agencies

Associations of directors of social directors (or equivalent) have a special role within the network as Trustees: they form the Board of ESN and are responsible for its overall strategy and development.

YOUR BENEFITS AS A MEMBER

Connect with current policy and practice trends

Members have the opportunity to connect with current policy and practice trends by accessing:

- local, national and European **ESN-collated research** through a *Members' only* online area
- news and updates on the **latest policy developments and innovative practice** through ESN's bi-monthly *Members' newsletter*
- personal **mailings** on specific areas of expertise and interest through other *Members' communications*

Network with other key decision-makers/stakeholders

Members have the opportunity to meet directors, managers, professionals and various key stakeholders from across Europe to exchange knowledge, learn from each other and initiate collaborations mainly by participating in:

- policy and research **seminars and workshops** (all costs covered)
- policy and research **thematic working groups** (all costs covered)
- the annual **European Social Services Conference** (20% discount off delegate fees to ESN Members)
- **online discussion** platforms

Share good and effective practice to promote quality services

Members share good and effective practice in social work and care, engage in discussions to find solutions to common challenges by contributing to:

- ESN **thematic groups** and **policy papers**
- **pan-European** and other **Members' projects** (including European alliances, joint actions, peer reviews and other research projects)

Influence European and national policy-making by promoting the role of local public social services

Members can influence European and national-policy making by:

- sharing their knowledge and understanding of key socio-economic and demographic challenges to **develop practice-led and evidence-based policy statements and reports**
- contributing to other **EU events** and **consultations**



YOUR DUTIES AS A MEMBER

Members pay an annual membership fee of €965 on a rolling basis, renewed every 12 months.

We find the members who gain the most from our growing network are those who actively engage and participate in our work. Duties of an active member will consist of:

- Sharing good and effective practice with other members of the network
- Investing the required time in specific activities that they have committed to
- Responding to surveys, consultations and invitations to contribute to our activities
- Promoting ESN's work and activities through their respective communications channels
- Providing up-to-date contact information and data about their organisation

DUTIES OF THE MAIN CONTACT PERSONS

We have found that two points of contact with each Member organisation will ensure good communication channels and continuity. When applying for membership, you will therefore be asked to nominate two contact persons from your organisation. The two points of contact are responsible for receiving, sharing and disseminating information about ESN news, activities and events with colleagues in their organisation and encouraging diverse participation and contribution in the network.

HOW TO APPLY

Join us to help shape effective social policy and social care practice and contribute to a more inclusive Europe!

To apply for membership, please fill in our [application form](#) and return it to Jonas Bylund, Operations and Development Manager, by email (jonas.bylund@esn-eu.org), fax (+44 (0)1273 739239) or by post to the ESN Secretariat.

If you would like to receive some more information about membership, the ESN Secretariat has a very international team so please feel free to contact the relevant member of staff in [your own language](#) by email or phone.