

# Joining the European Social 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.

In 2016 the European Social Network (ESN) grew to more than 130 member organisations in over 35 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

### Learn about current policy and practice trends

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

- Access local, national and European **ESN-collated research** through our *Members area*
- Find news and updates on the **latest policy developments and innovative practice** through ESN's bi-monthly *Members' newsletter*
- Receive personal **mailings** on areas of expertise and interest

### Network with other key decision-makers from across Europe

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 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

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 €995 / £775 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
- Recognition of ESN membership by use of ESN logo on own website and in e-mail signatures
- Promoting ESN's work and activities through their respective communications channels
- Participation in the promotion of the ESN annual conference
- Providing up-to-date contact information and data about their organisation
- Sharing information with ESN on cost of the time spent at ESN activities on a yearly basis as a contribution towards ESN co-funding of its activities.

## 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, 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 Andreas Juul Standley-Johansen, Operations and Development Manager, by email ([Andreas.Johansen@esn-eu.org](mailto:Andreas.Johansen@esn-eu.org)), fax ( +44 (0)1273 739239) or by post to the ESN Secretariat.