

## FLYER

**8th annual TiSSA Plenum August 25 to 27, 2010 &**

**PreConference of the PhD-Network August 22 to 24, 2010 in Tallinn, Estonia**

### TiSSA Mission

*The international 'Social Work & Society' Academy (TiSSA)* provides a forum for involving professionals and academics in innovative discussion on theory and practice at the cutting edge of the social professions. Its overall aim is to identify how the needs of a wide range of societies experiencing transition can be met through the generation of new knowledge, concepts and models. The organizers of TiSSA assume, that socioeconomical developments indicate categorically that social work has to deal with its relation to the respective societies in a critical way, in order to build out a clear professional profile for the future, for a renewal of perspectives and to improve its agency. Any site of economic, political and social transition poses a challenge to social professions to reflect on new approaches to social work. In doing so, *The international 'Social Work & Society' Academy* focuses on

- promoting a comparative approach to the analysis of social work and society
- enhancing the development of knowledge, skills and experience
- shaping organizational changes and new governance processes
- analyzing quality criteria and reflecting on best practice
- encouraging the international dissemination and exchange of information on significant developments.

This reflection shall take place in the new setting of *The international 'Social Work & Society' Academy* in two ways: TiSSA Plenum & interuniversity PhD Network.

#### TiSSA Plenum

The TiSSA Plenum is the annual meeting of academics and professionals from all over the world. Based on the constitutive aims and perspectives, each Plenum deals with one central issue for contemporary social work on a global scale. Plenary sessions, panel debates and working groups excite serious but lively discussions. Field visits and the social program allow forging closer links to the colleagues. The Plenum is borne by the inquisitiveness and engagement of the participants, which realize each program by their papers and statements and vitalize the idea of a crossnational network of social professions.

#### Interuniversity PhD Network

The PhD Network of *The international 'Social Work & Society' Academy* aspires to establish a broad international cooperation of PhD students in the social professions. Within the structure of TiSSA an active participation in current professional debates is promoted and supported. Emergent scholars get the opportunity to present their dissertation projects in a broad international context and to enlist contacts relevant for their research topic. Thus a new generation of professionals could acquire and exercise those skills, which are necessary to cope with contemporary challenges of societies in transition and their impact on social services.

**Social Work in Times of Crisis: What can Social Work deliver - And who benefits?**

**August 25 to 27, 2010**  
**August 22 to 24, 2010**

**annual TiSSA Plenum**  
**PreConference of the PhD-Network**

**Call for papers:**

In the face of the dramatic global financial-economic decline the disrupting existential consequences at least for dependent workers and unemployed people become apparent. Social Work as part of the social policy mechanism is also becoming increasingly crisis-driven. Existing forms of help and support both for enjoying an individual life and for material safeguards are becoming weaker while the extent of poverty is growing dramatically with long-term effects on life chances particularly of young people.

Which are the options for Social Work in this situation to deliver the most professional and effective support? What chances and risks arise from an indicator-based management of social services? What are the necessary questions concerning the professional standard to develop the expertise of Social Work? How can Social Work position itself between market, state and family? Where does it see itself between the very often conflicting demands of political embedding and social solidarity, between welfare employers and other stakeholders in favour of service users?

The effect of professional Social Work always depends on its organisational context, whether it is state- or association-based. In addition, a spectrum of voluntary help and self-help movements is emerging in many European countries which on the one hand complements and supports Social Work in its activities, but on the other hand also substitutes Social Work in accordance with specific post-welfarist social political guidelines. Social Work will therefore have to critically debate this political reasoning and practice concerning those activities under the concept of civil society.

In Tallinn the TISSA meeting aims the necessary clarification of the social and political scopes and prospects of Social Work in societies at the crossroads of enhancing civility, human development, and social security or overburden the vulnerable who face new dimensions of psychological, ecological, and economic distress. TISSA therefore invites scholars and practitioners from all over the world to bring together helpful insights, challenging experiences, and promising approaches of participants from field work, administration and research.

**Abstract submission & registration**

**Abstracts:**

Submissions can either represent reflected practical experiences, empirical research or theoretical concerns. The international scientific committee will validate all incoming abstracts. Presentations will be limited to max. 20 minutes. Points for subsequent discussions are welcome. All colleagues are cordially invited to send an abstract (1-2 pages) to the TiSSA co-ordinator: [hansuwe.otto@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:hansuwe.otto@uni-bielefeld.de).

For all colleagues intending to give a paper either for the TiSSA Plenum or for the PreConference of PhD-Network the deadline for the announcement of the abstract is June, 15th, 2010.

**Registration:**

**Participation fee is:**

	Regular	Reduced
Academics and professionals (Plenum)	150,€	75,€
PhD students (PreConference & Plenum)	120,€	60,€

For further information and the easy online registration please see [www.TiSSA.net](http://www.TiSSA.net)

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***TISSA 2010 in Tallinn – a special professional event in the European context  
and also an attractive tourist destination***