

**Final Report:
Rights-based Social Work Practice in SouthEastern Europe
August 10, 2020**

Please accept this FINAL report from the “Rights-based Social Work Practice in SouthEastern Europe” whose membership is made up of the following scholars:

Scholar	University	City	Country	Language
Vjollca Krasniqi	University of Pristina	Pristina	Kosovo	Albanian
Elona Dhembo	University of Tirana	Tirana	Albania	Albanian
Erika Bejko	University of Tirana	Tirana	Albania	Albanian
Sanela Šadić	University of Sarajevo	Sarajevo	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnian
Sanela Bašić	University of Sarajevo	Sarajevo	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnian
Nino Žganec	University of Zagreb	Zagreb	Croatia	Croatian
Marina Milić Babić	University of Zagreb	Zagreb	Croatia	Croatian
Gordana Berć	University of Zagreb	Zagreb	Croatia	Croatian
Jane McPherson	University of Georgia	Athens	USA	English

We were funded with the following mission:

The over-arching purpose of A Transnational Collaborative Research on Rights-based Social Work Practice in Southeastern Europe is to promote the integration of rights-based ideals and methods into social work (both in education and practice) in selected Southeastern European countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Kosovo. This research project engages on the intersection between human rights and social work and seeks to promote rights-based practices by measuring social workers’ attitudes on four dimensions: 1) human rights engagement in social work; 2) human rights exposure in social work, 3) human rights lens in social work, and 4) human rights methods in social work.

An account of all the activities undertaken to that date:

Since being funded in 2018, we have accomplished the following activities:

- February 2018: We held a methodology conference over Skype that was organized by Dr. Jane McPherson. All data collected in the US studies was shared with all partners. Partners discussed scale translations/adaptations and made plans to share methodology.
- July 2018. Nino Zganec & Gordana Berc (Croatia); Elona Dhembo & Erika Bejko (Albania); and Jane McPherson (USA) met at IASSW in Dublin, Ireland to discuss the project plan.
- 2018: The rights-based scales—*Human Rights Exposure in Social Work* (HRXSW; McPherson & Abell, 2012); *Human Rights Engagement in Social Work* (HRESW; McPherson & Abell, 2012); *Human Rights Lens in Social Work* (HRLSW; McPherson, 2015; McPherson, Siebert, & Siebert, 2017); and *Human Rights Methods in Social Work* (HRMSW; McPherson & Abell, 2019) were translated and adapted for use in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Albania. Surveys were developed using the scales in all 4 participating countries.
- January 2019. Our consortium received \$4900 from The Dennis A. and Julia M. Watkins Foundation, Inc. to support our ongoing partnerships. Specifically, this grant provided travel funding for all of us to meet in Madrid (EASSW annual conference) in order to disseminate our research and to nurture our further collaborations.
- February 2019. We submitted a book proposal to EASSW/Springer for *Human Rights in this Age of Uncertainty: Social Work Approaches and Practices from Southeast Europe* (co-edited by Vjollca Krasniqi and Jane McPherson). This book emerged from this collaboration, will include scholarship rooted in this project, and also expands our collaboration to include Bulgaria and Slovenia. This is an outcome of the grant that was not originally imagined, but that would not have happened without this IASSW support.
- April 2019. *Human Rights in this Age of Uncertainty: Social Work Approaches and Practices from Southeast Europe* (co-edited by Vjollca Krasniqi and Jane McPherson) was provisionally accepted for publication by EASSW/Springer. Manuscript due 2021.
- June 2019, our Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Albania teams all participated in a joint symposium along with Jane McPherson at the EASSW conference in Madrid. Preliminary results from Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia were presented. Our symposium, *Integrating Human Rights into Social Work Education and Practice*, was well attended and well received.
- June 2019: Consortium planning meeting in Madrid.
- 2019: Data has been collected and analysis is under way in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia. Data collection begins in Albania.

- April 2020: Two abstracts were accepted for presentation at the European Conference on Social Work Research in Bucharest, Romania. Unfortunately, the conference was cancelled due to Covid-19. The accepted abstracts were:
 - “Measuring rights-based social work practice in Bosnia and Hercegovina” by Jane McPherson, Sanela Šadić, Sanela Bašić, & Tatiana Villarreal-Otálora
 - “Human rights approaches in social work practice in Kosovo” by Vjollca Krasniqi Jane McPherson, & Tatiana Villarreal-Otálora
- April 2020: The first article from the collaboration was published: "Rights-based social work in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Validating tools for education and practice," by Šadić, McPherson, Villarreal-Otálora, and Bašić in *International Social Work*:
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0020872820912310?journalCode=iswb>
 The article has already been cited 1 time.
- July 2020: Consortium planning meeting was anticipated at the SWESD Conference in Rimini, Italy. Canceled due to Covid-19.
- August 2020: Final contract signed for the upcoming book, *Human Rights in this Age of Uncertainty: Social Work Approaches and Practices from Southeast Europe* (co-edited by Vjollca Krasniqi and Jane McPherson), to be published in the “European Social Work Education and Practice series” by Springer. Manuscript is due November 2021. Book is anticipated for 2022.
- August 2020: The manuscript "Are We Putting Human Rights into Social Work Practice in Kosovo?" will be submitted by Krasniqi, McPherson, and Villarreal-Otálora to the *British Journal of Social Work* or *International Social Work*.
- August 2020: More manuscripts are in progress (a second manuscript on Bosnia) and others are planned.

Outcomes of these activities:

- As noted above, multiple presentations and articles have already emerged as outcomes from this project. Further presentations, articles, and a book are underway. We also hope to submit grants for rights-based training in SouthEastern Europe.

Activities planned for the coming months.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES PLANNED AFTER THE END OF THE GRANT:

- December 2020: Authors’ chapters are due. Manuscript is due. *Human Rights in this Age of Uncertainty: Social Work Approaches and Practices from Southeast Europe* (co-edited by Vjollca Krasniqi and Jane McPherson), to be published in the “European Social Work Education and Practice series” by Springer.

- May 2021: Two abstracts were accepted for presentation at the European Conference on Social Work Research in Bucharest, Romania in 2020. Conference has been rescheduled due to Covid-19.
- November 2021: Manuscript is due. *Human Rights in this Age of Uncertainty: Social Work Approaches and Practices from Southeast Europe* (co-edited by Vjollca Krasniqi and Jane McPherson), to be published in the “European Social Work Education and Practice series” by Springer.
- 2022: Book is anticipated for 2022. *Human Rights in this Age of Uncertainty: Social Work Approaches and Practices from Southeast Europe* (co-edited by Vjollca Krasniqi and Jane McPherson), to be published in the “European Social Work Education and Practice series” by Springer.

Material for the IASSW web page: pictures, summaries, power points, videos, drawings, interviews, descriptions, quotations. Links to the original material and publications based on the project can be given to be published on the IASSW website.

- For use on the IASSW website, we attached several photos to the interim report submitted in February 2020. Due to Covid-19, there have been no further face-to-face meetings or presentations.
- Two addenda are attached to this report: 1) the first article on Bosnia; and 2) the accepted book proposal.

In short, the project has been a great success, and much more work is anticipated.

Submitted by: Jane McPherson & Vjollca Krasniqi
August 10, 2020