Background pattern

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**30th European Social Services Conference**

**Bursary programme for people with experience of social services/social care**Expression of interest form

**Background Information**

The European Social Network (ESN) supports the active involvement of people using social services in its activities and with it, in the development of social welfare policy and practice.

The movement of people with experience of social services or social care has brought important developments in social welfare planning and delivery and represents a shift in the way social service provision is shaped.

Person-centred services and co-production of services are important changes which place the service users at the forefront of service planning and delivery rather than merely being considered a ‘beneficiary’. It is therefore important that this shift is reflected in how we work as a network for social services in Europe by actively involving service users in ESN’s activities.

The European Social Services Conference bursary programme supports the participation of people with experience of care/social services by giving them an opportunity to actively take part in high-level debates and discussions about social services issues, to learn from practices in other countries and to represent service users’ voices.

**HOW TO EXPRESS INTEREST**

* The bursary programme is available for a **limited number of candidates** only. Candidates will be selected based on the strength and merits of their expression of interest form.
* **Candidates should have ‘lived experience’ as a user of services- preferably in a professional or voluntary capacity** - in areas such as services design, delivery, evaluation.
* The bursary programme **covers travel costs (up to €300 per candidate), accommodation (2 nights per candidate) and the delegate fee only**. It does not cover any care costs or extra travel/transfer costs.
* The conference is **fully accessible** and run **in 5 languages** (English, French, Spanish, Italian and German).
* The bursary programme is financed by the **European Social Network** and the **EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)**.

**Testimonials From Previous Participants**  
*“Attending the conference has given me the opportunities to network amongst delegates and be part of an event that sets agendas that are close to my heart. For my own work in the UK, the opportunity to contribute to agendas was very valuable.  Thanks for asking me to be at the closing debate, which was something I hope my perspective added a dimension to”.*

**Rich Amos, Trustee (Specialist Education and Social Care) / Physical Inclusion Network Gloucestershire (PING), UK***“It’s been great having the chance to listen to all the imaginative and innovative ways to improve services”.*

**Rita Long, Service User & Researcher, Lancaster University, UK**

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM**

***For any questions, contact*** [***conference@esn-eu.org***](conference@esn-eu.org)

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| 1. **Contact details** | |
| Name: |  |
| Organisation: |  |
| Country: |  |
| Email: |  |
| Tel: |  |
| Website: |  |
| Social media: |  |

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| 1. **Why do you want to apply for a bursary to attend the European Social Services Conference?** (max. 150 words) |

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| 1. **What service user experience can you bring and share with other delegates at the European Social Services Conference?** (max. 150 words) |

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| 1. **Do you have experience or have been actively involved in any of the following areas (please tick accordingly):** | |
| Service planning/delivery/evaluation |  |
| Co-production of services |  |
| ‘Expert by experience’ programmes |  |
| Advocacy |  |
| If so, please explain in what capacity (max. 100 words): | |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Do you require any special assistance in order to take part in the European Social Services Conference**? (max. 100 words) |

*Please send the completed form to* [*conference@esn-eu.org*](mailto:conference@esn-eu.org)*.*