

# Lisbon Declaration for the Development of Social Work and Humanitarian Action in the 21st Century

Within the framework of research produced in the fields of Social Work and Humanitarian Action - Project INOVHUMRE (2020-1-PT01-KA203-078796), the members, and participants of the Conference "Digital Tools to support complex social intervention in a changing society", (16 November 2023) gathered at Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon, where they are represented:

- Fundacao Getulio Vargas - Brazil;
- Icesi University – Colombia;
- Hacettepe Universitesi – Turkey;
- Universidad Nacional de Educacion a Distancia – Spain;
- Instituto Marques de Valle Flor – Portugal;
- Magtel Foundation – Spain;
- Sened Derneği Turkey;
- Sosyal Hizmet Uzmanları Derneği Ankara Şubesi – Turkey.

Present to the international community, with the support of ICSW, IFSW and IASSW, **the Lisbon Declaration for the development of Social Work and Humanitarian Action in the 21st century**, a set of recommendations for the development of social work and humanitarian action in the 21st century, based on the following assumptions:

- Humanitarian crises, generated by various causes, call for greater specialization of social welfare professionals, including social workers. At the global, regional, and local levels, better training programs need to be designed to meet the challenges arising in a wide range of areas, such as the food crisis, social protection, or digitalization.
- The economic crisis, the deficit, unemployment, the poverty rate, competitiveness, and unequal access to opportunities produce social inequalities in a population group characterized by fewer resources (known as vulnerable communities or territories that generate insecurity), promoting unemployment, social exclusion, and conditioning democratic construction in some contemporary societies. Examples: TROIKA's intervention in Portugal from 2008 to 2014; the Covid-19 pandemic; the Ukraine-Russia war; Hamas - Israel; natural disasters (Lebanon's situation; Morocco's earthquake) and climate change around the world.
- This process requires a relationship of collaboration and cooperation between the state, civil society, and the private business sector, adopting the principle defined by the EU: Peace, Security and Good Governance. The set of principles defined aims to combat inequalities, in particular the promotion of gender equality. They represent a commitment to maximizing the synergies of the different social actors. They influence a more critical and constructive look at the ocean coast and the sharing of local and transnational experiences.

We therefore recommend the following **action points**:

- The need for technical literacy that is accessible and understood by all those involved in social policies, programs, and responses.
- Deepening a collaborative, participatory and co-design integrated methodology that is better suited to responding to the specific challenges observed; rehabilitating survivors with the support they require.
- Implementing innovative advanced training plans that propose new approaches and methodologies for teaching, learning and research, based on evidence from professional practice.
- A funding plan for research in these areas, promoting the development of new learning tools that incorporate the contributions of the knowledge produced, technologies and models of practice supported by both public and civil society partnerships.
- The creation of a digital platform that promotes the dissemination of knowledge in these areas, encourages the promotion of study and research networks between partners and countries and promotes information on advanced training plans in Social Work and Humanitarian Action.
- The inclusion of Social Work and Humanitarian Action in the European Agenda as a training and research priority, and in the agenda of other countries and regions worldwide.
- The internationalization of universities makes it possible to strengthen the dissemination of good practices in the field of humanitarian aid, and to contribute to the creation of a global network of universities working in humanitarian aid. As the world's largest provider of development aid and humanitarian aid and currently also hosts many refugees and immigrants who are victims of war or conflict or natural disasters, European schools of social work must be at the forefront of innovation in the field of humanitarian aid.

