



Annual Report 2024



Street Workers Network



www.dynamointernational.org



Funded by
the European Union

2024. THE NETWORK IN NUMBERS

58 COUNTRIES

10 000 +
Social Street
Workers

1600 +
Organisations

4 REGIONS

AMERICAS
13 MEMBERS

EUROPE
23 MEMBERS

AFRICA
14 MEMBERS

ASIA
8 MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

PERU & EL SALVADOR
Americas

LUXEMBOURG
Europe

MAIN ACTIVITIES IN 2024

INTERNATIONAL PILOT GROUP – TUNIS
50+ participants from 28 countries

WEAVING GLANCES: EUROPEAN TRAINING
26 participants from 13 countries

PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE VISITS IN BRUSSELS
Roger and Nadège (Benin); Augustin (Sénégal)

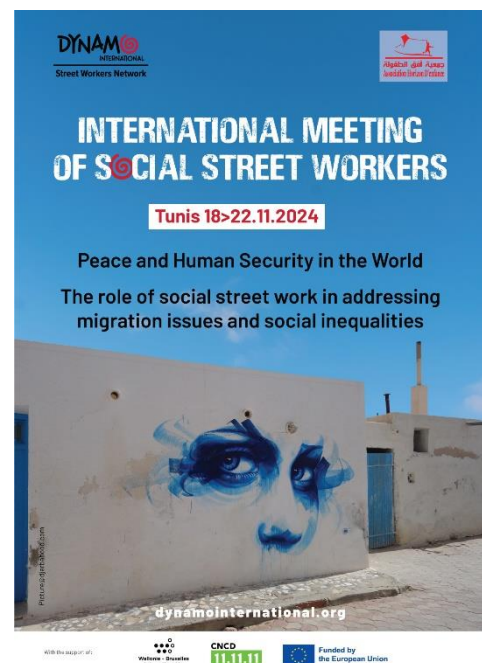
1. **International Pilot Group in Tunis (18-22 November)** co-organised in partnership with **Horizon d'Enfance**, a Tunisian member organisation of the DISWN Network, was the Network's flagship activity for 2024.

Title: Peace and human security in the world. The place of street social work in the face of migration and social inequality.

The pilot group is composed of the **national platform's representatives, the regional coordinators, the technical team and the director** of Dynamo International. **Experts** from various regions are invited. **Social street workers** members of the network may also participate. **They gather once every two years encouraging a regional rotation.**

OBJECTIVES

- **Network management:** admission and exclusion of the platform or/and the coordinators.
- **Strategy:** important recommendations, transversal themes to approach and the network's action plan, effective communication and knowledge transfer.
- **Capacity building:** working groups, workshops may be set up regarding specific themes or projects.



MAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE 2024 EDITION

- More than **50 participants. 28 countries** represented.
- **9 thematic workshops.**
- **International Conference** attended by members of the Tunisian Ministry of Social Affairs and Pierre Galand, a human rights activist.
- Drafting of a **Declaration of the social street social workers** on peace, human security and migration, reaffirming an approach centred on social justice and human rights, against the use of security as a political tool for control and repression.
- **Meeting with students and teachers from the Institute National of Social Work and Studies (INTES)** in Tunis.
- **Strategic sessions:** advocacy, research and training.
- Definition of **regional action plans.**

2. Coordination meetings – Online

The regional coordination online meetings are the cornerstone of the management of the Network. Regional Coordinators and the Technical Team participate in these meetings, other participants, both within and outside the Network, can be invited according to the purpose of the meetings.



On a regional level, each regional coordination has set regional online meetings, with regional and national coordination and a referent member* of the Technical Team.

*Véronique for Africa and Americas Region, Francesco for Asia and Europe Region.

Overall, the Network is pursuing the objective of the reinforcement of the autonomy of the regions, in line with the goal of decentralization, as stated in our 2022-2027 strategy.

3. Meeting in Vietnam (Ho-Chi-Minh City) - 12 to 16 August 2024.

Training course in social street work (12 and 13 August) attended by around **fifty participants, including social workers, students and teachers** from the Ho-Chi-Minh City Open University. The training was given by Edwin de Boevé (Director of Dynamo International) and Helder Luiz Santos (Streetwork Training Institute).

Seminar: ‘Social work with children in difficult and street situations: from international experience to the reality in Vietnam’ (14 August 2024). Presentations by Edwin de Boevé, representatives of TSR's Vietnamese platform, the Ho Chi Minh City Open University.

Regional Pilot Group (15 and 16 August)

The Asia region, the youngest within the Dynamo International Network, met face-to-face for the first time to celebrate a regional pilot group. Of the eight* member countries in the region, four** were represented, with two*** connecting during a hybrid session on Friday 16 August.

* Vietnam, Philippines, Hong Kong, Australia, India, Timor-Leste, Nepal and Israel.

**Vietnam, Philippines, Hong Kong and Australia

***India and Timor-Leste

Topics and activities of the Regional Pilot Group

- Needs assessment (cooperation between services and access to international programmes, knowledge transfer)
- Common challenges and specific issues.
- Sharing of resources by the Australian and Hong Kong platforms
- Improving cooperation within the region
- Advocacy and institutional partnerships
- Training and research strategy
- Field visits



- **Noleby (2023-2025)**

No-one Left behind: Strengthen the Street Workers Network in Europe to connect, engage and empower youth in vulnerable situations.



This project, financed by the European Union (Erasmus +) gathers partners, members of the Dynamo International Street Workers Network, in 13 countries of the region Europe.

Objectives

- **Strengthen the network at European level**, developing its organisational and mobilisation capacities to strategically address youth-relevant priorities.
- **Improve street-based youth workers' ability to effectively address youth needs and aspirations**, training a new generation of trainers and creating a space for exchange between peers and with young people.
- **Improve the mobility of youth in vulnerable situations** and of youth workers across the EU, fostering the exchange of practices and strengthening youth workers' capacity to mobilise EU mobility funding instruments.
- **Contribute to the shaping of youth-relevant policies at EU**, national and local level, producing evidence-based recommendations and creating opportunities for youth participation in democratic life.
- **Raise awareness on the realities and aspirations of young people in vulnerable situations**, making use of innovative communication tools, contributing to mobilise key stakeholders and the public towards inclusive societies.

MAIN ACTIVITIES IN 2024

Mission in Spain (January 2024) > Preparation of the International Training in Vitoria-Gasteiz

Missions in France

- Lille (March 2024): visit to APSN (the organisation behind Dynamo France) and two prevention clubs in the Lille area.
- Boulogne-Sur-Mer (June 2024): national meeting of Dynamo France (45 French TSRs), contribution to a panel on 'youth, the street, social work in France and Europe'.

Mission in Portugal (April 2024) > Visit of the Streetwork Training Institute and preparation of the Focus Group on Research and Training Strategy (Brussels, July 2024)

Working Group 'Training and Research' (Brussels, July 2024)

Following the survey '**capacity building, policy, and research organization**' conducted by the Streetwork Training Institute, this reflection meeting bringing together Network members (including the technical team, regional and national coordinators, and resource persons) aims to **define the basis for the Network's action training and research strategy** for the next ten years.

International trainings

Online training course ‘Polarisation and philosophical enquiry’ with the participation of TSRs from 7 European countries. Common challenges on a European scale (increase in hate speech, intolerance and discrimination). Complementarity of this training with Noleby's research activities, planned for the second half of 2024.

Weaving Glances - systems of oppression, intersectionality and community social work tools: Spain - Vitoria Gasteiz October 2024. Twenty-five TSRs from 13 European countries took part in this training course.



Advocacy

Six online meetings of the **Advocacy Working Group** (Lithuania, France, Slovenia, DISWN): preparation of a note on street social work with young people in vulnerable situations in Europe. Publication of this note has been postponed until 2025.

Belgian Presidency EU Semester: Presentation of the Noleby project to the members of the National Agencies (cancelled).

Social Work Conference (Bruges). Reaffirmation of the political dimension of social work. Three themes addressed through presentations and workshops linked to Social Work: Migration, Climate Change and Digitalisation.

Alliance ‘Investing in Children’ (see International Advocacy) Objective: Monitoring the implementation of the European Union's Childhood Guarantee and meeting with the National Childhood Guarantee Coordinators.

Research

Cooperation with Antonia Liguori (Professor at Teesside University and Noleby's research partner). Definition of an action plan for participatory action research, presentation of the action plan to the European members.

→ **Alliance Investing in Children**

Objective: Monitoring the implementation of the European Union's Childhood Guarantee and meeting with the National Childhood Guarantee Coordinators.



Dynamo International has been part of the European Alliance 'Investing in Children' since its creation in 2013, currently made up of over thirty members (networks and NGOs) with the aim of implementing the European Commission's recommendation defining a 'European Child Guarantee' by 2021.

The aim is to encourage Member States to adopt policies and measures to combat child poverty and social exclusion by guaranteeing effective access to a range of rights and services:

- The right to free early childhood healthcare
- The right to free education, including activities and at least one healthy meal a day at school
- The right to healthy food The right to decent housing conditions

In the period 2023-24, the Alliance has produced a number of statements relating to the Child Guarantee, including the following:

- A recommendation requiring Member States to adopt a National Action Plan.
- A position on the European Care Strategy and the Barcelona objectives (early childhood education and care) and the proposal for a recommendation on high-quality, accessible long-term care for all.
- A proposal to revise the Barcelona objectives with a view to achieving a real reduction in the existing inequalities between Member States in the field of early childhood education and care.
- Lobbying the EU Parliament to introduce an amendment to the EU budget (2021-2027) providing for an increase in the resources to be allocated to the objectives of the Child Guarantee. This action proved effective and the amendment was adopted.

The Alliance has been active during the EU election and post-election period (June 2024) in lobbying the new Parliament on issues related to children's rights and the eradication of child poverty. Currently, the Alliance is focusing on lobbying the new members of the European Commission.

→ **The Constructive Dialogue with the Office against Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**



**Nations
Unies**

Office des Nations Unies contre la
drogue et le crime

In September and October 2023, a delegation of DISWN members Valbona Hystuna (resource person, Greece), Joyce Kulevo and Abdulai Danaah (Ghana), and Lena Basu and Swati Chakraborty (India), participated in three sessions of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's Constructive Dialogue.

The Constructive Dialogues in 2023, on the revision process of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocols, took place in a hybrid format on the following topics: international cooperation; human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

Participants :

- Non-governmental organisations
- Private sector representatives
- Academics.

Objectives of the constructive dialogues:

- To inform participants about developments and outcomes of the review process.
- To gather input and suggestions from participants, including their contributions on ways to improve the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.
- To cooperate with non-governmental organizations to combat transnational organized crime and to promote and review the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, in accordance with article 32, paragraph 3 (c), of the Convention.

In 2024, Dynamo International has been invited to participate again in the Joint Constructive Dialogues in a hybrid format with in-person participation in Vienna - Austria, and online participation.

- 7 June 2024: Joint Constructive Dialogue following the Working Group of Government Experts on Technical Assistance and the Working Group on International Cooperation.
- 10 July 2024: Constructive dialogue following the working group on human trafficking.
- 15 July 2024: Constructive Dialogue following the Working Group on Migrant Smuggling.

The organisers of the Constructive Dialogue have given a positive assessment of the presence of a delegation from Dynamo International, one of the few civil society organisations present for the sessions.

One of the concrete consequences of this appreciation is the invitation for Valbona to take part as a panellist in the conference 'Promoting international cooperation and technical assistance to prevent all forms of crime', to be held in Vienna from 2 to 4 December 2024.

→ **The Global Campaign for Decriminalisation of Poverty and Status**



The Campaign to Decriminalise Poverty and Status is a coalition of organisations from around the world that advocate for the repeal of laws that target people because of their poverty, status and/or activism.

Across the world, outdated and newer laws are continually used to unfairly target poor and marginalised people because of who they are, rather than what they have done. At the same time, there is an increase in the use of criminal law to suppress activism and repress dissent. This often has a devastating effect on those who are already vulnerable.

Indeed, states regularly use the justice system against people for reasons that have little to do with the safety of citizens, but rather to protect inherited boundaries of power, wealth and privilege. This abuse of power has a profound cost in terms of human rights, manifesting itself in discrimination, the use of lethal force, torture, excessive imprisonment and inhumane conditions of detention.

Streetworkers are in contact with and work with the most marginalised groups, who are often at risk of being criminalised. In some cases, professionals are also at risk of being criminalised for defending the rights of the people they work with. There is therefore an obvious convergence between the objectives of this campaign and the realities encountered on a daily basis by the members of the Dynamo International Network.

Dynamo International joined the campaign in 2024, with the intention of raising awareness among its members so that they can be active players in the campaign. This year's pilot group will be a key moment in this process.

→ **Advancing the Social rights agenda in Europe: Social Rights Action Committee – Conference of International NGOs - Council of Europe.**

Dynamo International is a member, with consultative status, of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, a consultative body which represents civil society to the Council. The Council of Europe's mission is to promote human rights and democracy and to tackle social problems by seeking solutions. It is therefore a strategically important place where Dynamo International can relay the voice of street social workers and of the most vulnerable populations. Dynamo International is involved in the 'Action Committee for Social Rights' (CADS) and takes part in the Committee's coordination meetings.

The CADS' mandate, already renewed once in for a period of years, came to an end in 2024. This does not mean that Dynamo International's investment in the advancement of social rights within

the Council of Europe has come to an end: in October 2024, the new 'European Social Charter Committee' came into being. Inspired by the Vilnius Political Declaration (Council of Europe) July 2024), the objectives of this committee will focus on :

- Promoting the Revised European Social Charter (RESC) and the importance of a robust framework for social rights in the Member States of the Council of Europe
- Advocacy for ratification by all Member States of the CESR and the collective complaints procedure
- Involvement of the Council of Europe's Conference of NGOs in the process of monitoring the implementation of the CESR
- Promoting a rights-based approach to social policies
- Preparing position papers, recommendations and reactions on behalf of the Conference of NGOs



IN BELGIUM: CAPACITY BUILDING

⇒ Training: Social Street work methodology

Brussels – April 2024

14 French-speaking social workers from various sectors took part in the training, plus 2 workers from Benin and 1 worker from Senegal. This international participation added a special dimension to the training in terms of exchanging realities and practices.



Charleroi – June 2024

11 French-speaking social workers from various sectors took part in the training. In discussions with participants working with homeless people and drug addicts, it was noted that some workers were increasingly distressed by their working environment, in particular by unclear missions, work overload, an aggressive public and a loss of meaning.



Arlon – September 2024

This three-day training course was organised at the request of the Relais Social de la Province du Luxembourg. Around fifteen social workers from five associations in the province of Luxembourg took part. The issue of implementing street social work was central to the training. Discussions also highlighted a widespread difficulty among service workers due to an increase in precariousness, and the lack of human and material resources allocated to some of the services represented, which are now working short-staffed.

Namur – October 2024

13 French-speaking social workers from a variety of sectors took part in the training: 5 AMO, 6 municipal services in different sectors (prevention, social cohesion, housing), 1 CPAS, 1 addiction support service.

Digital Storytelling training (NOLEBY - CB and Réseau Belge): given to the Dynamo AMO team on the content of the international training course to be held in November 2023 in Ljubljana (Slovenia), as part of NOLEBY.

⇒ **INTERNATIONAL STUDY VISITS**

Between March and May 2024, we welcomed two workers from Benin and one from Senegal to Belgium for work placements based on visits to services in various sectors, meetings with Belgian international solidarity officials and Social Street Workers for exchanges of practice. The agendas were designed to meet the demands and needs of the 3 trainees.

Nadège Ahoga Codo completed his placement 15.03 to 27.04.2024

Nadège is a social worker, a teacher at the Ecole des Assistants Sociaux du Bénin (ESAS), a civil servant at the Ministry of Social Affairs, and a departmental director (Atlantique) in charge of coordinating 19 structures, including 12 centres for social promotion (CPS) providing community interventions, individual support and specialised interventions?

Roger Ouensavi completed his placement from 15.03 to 18.05.2024

Roger has been a street social worker since 1992 and coordinator since 2004 of the national platform of street social workers - GRES BENIN.

Augustin Carvahlo completed his placement from 12.04 to 11.05.2024

Augustin is a street social worker and director of Solidarité pour les enfants de rue (SPER) in Dakar and Casamance, Senegal.



⇒ **INTERCOMMUNITY MEETING OF BELGIAN SOCIAL STREET WORKERS**



Two residential days in Eupen (+ visit to Aachen) and one day in Brussels.

Participants: 18 TSR (7 Dutch-speaking, 6 German-speaking and 5 French-speaking)

The meeting focused on the question of the identity of Belgian street social workers.

The two themes explored were

- Instrumentalisation of the TSR
- Stigmatisation of the public

It was a first intercommunity meeting and a great success, with the prospect of holding it once a year.

During their stay in Eupen, the group had the opportunity to visit a street work service for young people and a shelter for adults in very precarious situations in Aachen (Germany).

On the 3rd day in Brussels, the group visited AMO Cars (Marolles) and Alias, a psycho-medicosocial support service for men and trans people involved in prostitution/sex work.

In the afternoon, the group finalised the work on the Belgian TSR flag, which they had started during their residential stay in Eupen.