

## THEME 1 - Social issue - contemporary challenges in public policies

In April 2022, Professor Maria Lúcia Garcia participated in the 11th *European Conference for Social Work Research*, which took place between the 6th and 8th in the city of Amsterdam, in the Netherlands.

Founded in 2014 to create a center for the development, collaboration and exchange of social work research across Europe, the *European Social Work Research Association* has over 600 members from over 33 countries. Considering the partnership with British universities, the partners indicated that the Conference is an important space for us to present our experience in cooperation.

The Conference focused on the debate of research in the field of social work, considering the complex times, both socially and economically, taking a stand against the wars in Ukraine and Syria, as well as the situation of refugees in the world. The event highlights the task of social work research in addressing relevant social challenges and contributing to solutions to those challenges.

Among conferences, paper presentations, posters and moments of interaction, the event brought together more than 500 participants from Europe and other parts of the globe.

Professor Lucia presented, in partnership with Gary Spolander (*Robert Gordon University*) and Olga Perez Soto (*Havana University*), the work *"Imagining and Building Bridges Between South and North in International Social Work Research: reflecting on 10 years of collaboration"* in which we address the challenges and barriers of a UK-Brazil and Cuba cooperation, UK-Brazil and Cuba cooperation, marked by the flight of researchers as a result of Brexit, reduced investment in research and language issues (English, Portuguese and Spanish).



Professor Lucia Garcia presents work at the 11th ECSWR (Amsterdam, April/22).

Finally, reflections on the challenges and barriers faced for publication in *journals* in English.

If, on one hand, the publication in English provides important bibliometric indicators, on the other hand, it distances the research from readers in Brazil and Cuba (not familiar with English).

## Meetings and partnerships

In addition to the Congress, the professor participated in meetings with Professor Tanny Bakker (from the Department of Social Work at the *University of Amsterdam*) and with Professor Alessandro Sicora (from the *University of Trento* and president of the *European Conference for Social Work Research of the European Social Work Research Association - ECSWR*).

Professor Tanny introduced the university, and the agenda involved possible exchanges of professors and students, with Professor Alessandro Sicora planning a visit to Ufes in the second semester.



Professors Lucia Garcia and Tanny Bekkers

The professor participation in this Conference was made possible with resources from Fapes (Francisco Landim Award) and support from PRPPG/UFES, and is also part of the actions foreseen in the *Early Childhood Development* project (Capes PrInt).



Professors Lucia Garcia (Ufes), Gary Spolander e Neil (RGU) and Alessandro Sicora (Trento)