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International Policy Practice Questionnaire
Used in the Research Project

**The Engagement in Policy Practice of Social Workers
in Germany, Israel, and Switzerland.
A Trinational Study and Comparison (PP:GIS)**

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1 Occupational Background

1.1 Which category describes your current occupancy best? I am...

[Source: developed by Burzlaff, Kindler, & Schwartz-Tayri]

- working as a social worker
- a social work student
- a student already working in the field of social work
- a retired social worker
- a social worker but currently unemployed
- none of the above

1.2 Are you a BSW or MSW student?

[Source: developed by Burzlaff, Kindler, & Schwartz-Tayri]

- BSW
- MSW

2 Recruitment Networks

2.1 Please rate how active you are in the following networks/groups:

[Source: based on Verba, et al., 1995; Schlozman et al., 2018 and modified by Kindler, 2021; Weiss-Gal & Gal, 2020]

	Not a member	Passive member	Active member
Political party			
Trade union			
Professional association of social workers			
Other social work professional organizations (e.g., DGSA, Fachgesellschaften)			
Advocacy organization (e.g., Amnesty International)			
Social and/or political movement (e.g., black lives matter, Fridays for future)			

3 Level of Engagement in Policy Practice

3.1 Level of Engagement in Policy Practice on the Organizational Level

[Source: modified scale originally developed by Weiss-Gal et al., 2020]

Generally, during your career as a social worker, to what extent have you taken part in the following activities to influence the policy of the service, agency, or organization in which you work that affects service users.

*Note that policymakers are people that have the power to influence and/or decide on policies. These can be managers, supervisors, or heads of your organizations as well as politicians on all levels or their assistants/advisors.

	(0) Never, (1) Rarely, (2) Sometimes, (3) Often, (4) Very often				
1. Being in touch with a policymaker	0	1	2	3	4
2. Inviting a policymaker to visit your organization or the community/neighborhood, you work in	0	1	2	3	4
3. Being in touch with celebrities	0	1	2	3	4
4. Being in touch with another organization	0	1	2	3	4
5. Being in touch with the social workers association or union	0	1	2	3	4
6. Using social media	0	1	2	3	4
7. Being in touch with the media	0	1	2	3	4
8. Collecting data, conducting a study, or using existing data	0	1	2	3	4
9. Collecting feedback from service users	0	1	2	3	4
10. Helping service users to act to influence policy	0	1	2	3	4
11. Attending in a parliament committee on local, state and/or national level	0	1	2	3	4
12. Taking part in an organized appeal to a court	0	1	2	3	4
13. Taking part in a protest activity (e.g., a petition, protest march, or rally)	0	1	2	3	4
14. Participating in a coalition or team	0	1	2	3	4
15. Organizing an official meeting, a seminar or a conference	0	1	2	3	4
16. Preparing a policy brief	0	1	2	3	4
17. Working to improve social workers' working condition	0	1	2	3	4

3.2 Level of Engagement in Policy Practice on the Non-Organizational Level (local, state, national, international)

[Source: modified scale originally developed by Weiss-Gal et al., 2020]

Generally, during your work as a social worker, to what extent have you taken part in the following activities to influence policy on local, state, national, and international level that affects service users.

*Note that policymakers are people that have the power to influence and/or decide on policies. These can be politicians or administrators/officials on all levels or their assistants/advisors.

	(0) Never, (1) Rarely, (2) Sometimes, (3) Often, (4) Very often				
1. Being in touch with a policymaker*	0	1	2	3	4
2. Inviting a policymaker* to visit your organization or the community/neighborhood, you work in	0	1	2	3	4
3. Being in touch with celebrities	0	1	2	3	4
4. Being in touch with another organization	0	1	2	3	4
5. Being in touch with the social workers association or union	0	1	2	3	4
6. Using social media	0	1	2	3	4
7. Being in touch with the media	0	1	2	3	4
8. Collecting data, conducting a study, or using existing data	0	1	2	3	4
9. Collecting feedback from service users	0	1	2	3	4
10. Helping service users to act to influence policy	0	1	2	3	4
11. Attending in a parliament committee on local, state and/or national level	0	1	2	3	4
12. Taking part in an organized appeal to a court	0	1	2	3	4
13. Taking part in a protest activity (e.g., a petition, protest march, or rally)	0	1	2	3	4
14. Participating in a team, forum, or roundtable	0	1	2	3	4
15. Organizing an official meeting, a seminar or a conference	0	1	2	3	4
16. Preparing a policy brief	0	1	2	3	4
17. Working to improve social workers' working condition	0	1	2	3	4

4 Organizational Support of Policy Practice

Social welfare services can support or impede the engagement of social workers in policy practice. The following questions refer to services you have worked in during your career as a social worker. Please rate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.

4.1 Organization

[Source: Tayri-Schwartz, 2015]

		1=strongly disagree 5=strongly agree				
1	The head encourages social workers to participate in activities aimed to change policies	1	2	3	4	5
2	Social workers involved in activities aimed at changing policies are viewed positively	1	2	3	4	5
3	Information about the methods to contact policymakers is readily available	1	2	3	4	5
4	There are specific discussions and meetings about policy issues	1	2	3	4	5
5	Being involved in influencing policies helps workers' careers and promotion prospects	1	2	3	4	5
6	Policy issues are discussed in staff meetings	1	2	3	4	5
7	Being involved in influencing policies hurts workers' careers and promotion prospects	1	2	3	4	5
8	Seminars or sessions about the ways social workers can influence policy are provided	1	2	3	4	5
9	Social workers are sent to seminars or conferences about policy issues	1	2	3	4	5
10	Social workers who have been involved in influencing policies receive recognition	1	2	3	4	5

5 Voluntary Political Participation

The following questions focus on your non-work related voluntary political participation, as a citizen.

5.1 Some people don't vote nowadays for one reason or another. Did you vote in the last [country] national election in [month/year]?

[Source: ESS 2018, question B13]

Yes

No

Not eligible to vote

5.2 There are different ways of trying to improve things in [country] or help prevent things from going wrong. During the last 12 months, have you done any of the following? Have you...

[Source: ESS 2018, question B15-B22]

		Yes	No
1	Contacted a politician, government or local government official?		
2	Worked in a political party or action group?		
3	Worked in another organisation or association?		
4	Worn or displayed a campaign badge/sticker?		
5	Signed a petition?		
6	Taken part in a lawful public demonstration?		
7	Boycotted certain products?		
8	Posted or shared anything about politics online, for example on blogs, via email or on social media such as Facebook or Twitter?		

6 Policy Practice Education

In this section we want to know more about your social work education with regard to policy practice. For each question, please circle the answer that fits you most.

6.1 For each question, please circle the answer that fits you most:

[Source: Burzlaff, 2022; Schwartz-Tayri, 2021]

	During your studies, how much did you:	1=not at all 5=very much				
1	learn about social work as a profession and discipline that focuses on micro, mezzo and macro levels	1	2	3	4	5
2	learn to develop a structural understanding of social problems	1	2	3	4	5
3	learn about theories of social justice	1	2	3	4	5
4	learn to analyze and critique power relations	1	2	3	4	5
5	learn about different forms of discrimination (such as antisemitism, racism, sexism, ableism, classism)	1	2	3	4	5
6	learn about different forms of solidarity and/or collective action	1	2	3	4	5
7	learn about social/political movements	1	2	3	4	5
8	learn about the need for critical thinking	1	2	3	4	5
9	learn about critical social work theories	1	2	3	4	5
10	learn about social work methods for social change	1	2	3	4	5

6.2 For each question, please circle the answer that fits you most:

[Source: Burzlaff, 2022; Schwartz-Tayri, 2021]

	During your studies, how much did you:	1=not at all 5=very much				
1	learn about social policy and theories of the policy process?	1	2	3	4	5
2	learn about social welfare and social services?	1	2	3	4	5
3	learn about how everyday life is influenced by social policy?	1	2	3	4	5
4	learn about how social policies shape social work?	1	2	3	4	5
5	learn about the importance of policy practice	1	2	3	4	5
6	learn about specific strategies and ways of policy practice?	1	2	3	4	5
7	take part in hands-on activities aiming to influence policies inside of class?	1	2	3	4	5
8	take part in hands-on activities aiming to influence policies outside of class?	1	2	3	4	5

7 Policy Practice Skills

In this section we want to know how skilled you feel to engage in policy practice. For each question, please circle the answer that fits you most.

7.1 Generally speaking, do you think you have the proper skills to perform the following actions?

[Source: Schwartz-Tayri et al., 2021. Based on: Jansson, 2018]

		1=no skills at all 5=highly skilled				
1	Draft a paper on a social or policy issue	1	2	3	4	5
2	Organize protest activities (like rallies and petitions)	1	2	3	4	5
3	Raise money or other resources for promotion of a project or program	1	2	3	4	5
4	Enlist volunteers to participate in a social change activity	1	2	3	4	5
5	Mediate between professional colleagues during a conflict	1	2	3	4	5
6	Influence the public to participate in the policy making process	1	2	3	4	5
7	Draw the attention of policymakers to any issue that is important to you	1	2	3	4	5
8	Criticize administrators or policymakers about failures or problems in the organization they are responsible for	1	2	3	4	5
9	Present arguments supporting your views when presenting a professional case, even if it may cause controversy, dispute or an unpleasant situation	1	2	3	4	5
10	Lead colleagues to follow you in a professional matter	1	2	3	4	5
11	Chair a focus group	1	2	3	4	5
12	Use the media to promote professional issues	1	2	3	4	5
13	Use the courts to influence policy	1	2	3	4	5
14	Take part in debates about social issues and values	1	2	3	4	5
15	Identify the values at the base of a policy	1	2	3	4	5
16	Identify social problems when meeting individuals you serve	1	2	3	4	5
17	Identify possible supporters and opponents of a policy	1	2	3	4	5
18	Identify expected obstacles when implementing a policy	1	2	3	4	5
19	Create and enable cooperation between different professionals or organizations	1	2	3	4	5
20	Analyze a social issue or a social problem	1	2	3	4	5
21	Analyze issues in social policy	1	2	3	4	5
22	Defend service users or speak on their behalf to policymakers or government officials	1	2	3	4	5
23	Discuss policies that need to be promoted or changed with policymakers	1	2	3	4	5
24	Have discussions about the values underlining a policy	1	2	3	4	5
25	Chair a coalition or a forum working to promote a certain issue	1	2	3	4	5

26	Plan a policy change activity: set goals and targets, plan needed strategies, map stakeholders and interested parties etc.	1	2	3	4	5
27	Define a personal or familial problem you encounter with service users as a disadvantage or a problem with a policy	1	2	3	4	5

8 Psychological Involvement in Politics Political Interest

8.1 How interested would you say you are in politics – are you...

[Source: ESS 2018, question B1]

very interested
quite interested
hardly interested
not at all interested

8.2 How interested would you say you are in politics...

[Source: adapted from ESS 2018, question B1; Kindler, 2021; Kindler & Kulke, 2022]

	very	quite	hardly	Not at all
On international level				
On national level				
On state level				
On local level				

External Political Efficacy

8.3 How much would you say the political system in [country] allows people like you to have a say in what the government does?

[Source: ESS 2018, question B2]

- Not at all
- Very little
- Some
- A lot
- A great deal

8.4 And how much would you say that the political system in [country] allows people like you to have an influence on politics?

[Source: ESS 2018, question B4]

- Not at all
- Very little
- Some
- A lot
- A great deal

Internal Political Efficacy

8.5 How able do you think you are to take an active role in a group involved with political issues?

[Source: ESS 2018, question B3]

- Not at all able
- A little able
- Quite able
- Very able
- Completely able

8.6 And how confident are you in your own ability to participate in politics?

[Source: ESS 2018, question B5]

- Not at all confident
- A little confident
- Quite confident
- Very confident
- Completely confident

Political Ideology and Partisanship

8.7 In politics people sometimes talk of “left” and “right”. Where would you place yourself on this scale, where 0 means the left and 10 means the right?

[Source: ESS 2018, question B26]

0 = the left

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10 = the right

No answer

8.8 Is there a particular political party you feel closer to than all the other parties?

[Source: ESS 2018, question B23]

Yes

No

Don't know

8.9 Filter: Which political party do you feel closer to than all the other parties?

[Source: ESS 2018, question B24]

List of all parties in our countries

8.10 Filter: How close do you feel to this party? Do you feel that you are...

[Source: ESS 2018, question B25]

very close

quite close

not close

not at all close

9 Big five inventory (BFI)

[Source: Berkeley Personality Lab, n.d.; John et al., 1991; John et al., 2008]

9.1 To what extent do you agree with the following statements on your personality?

	I am someone who...	1=disagree strongly, 2=disagree a little, 3=neither agree nor disagree, 4=agree a little, 5=agree strongly				
		1	2	3	4	5
1	Is talkative					
2	Tends to find fault with others					
3	Does a thorough job					
4	Is depressed, blue					
5	Is original, comes up with new ideas					
6	Is reserved					
7	Is helpful and unselfish with others					
8	Can be somewhat careless					
9	Is relaxed, handles stress well.					
10	Is curious about many different things					
11	Is full of energy					
12	Starts quarrels with others					
13	Is a reliable worker					
14	Can be tense					
15	Is ingenious, a deep thinker					
16	Generates a lot of enthusiasm					
17	Has a forgiving nature					
18	Tends to be disorganized					
19	Worries a lot					
20	Has an active imagination					
21	Tends to be quiet					
22	Is generally trusting					
23	Tends to be lazy					
24	Is emotionally stable, not easily upset					
25	Is inventive					
26	Has an assertive personality					
27	Can be cold and aloof					
28	Perseveres until the task is finished					
29	Can be moody					
30	Values artistic, aesthetic experiences					
31	Is sometimes shy, inhibited					
32	Is considerate and kind to almost everyone					
33	Does things efficiently					
34	Remains calm in tense situations					
35	Prefers work that is routine					
36	Is outgoing, sociable					
37	Is sometimes rude to others					
38	Makes plans and follows through with them					
39	Gets nervous easily					
40	Likes to reflect, play with ideas					
41	Has few artistic interests					
42	Likes to cooperate with others					
43	Is easily distracted					
44	Is sophisticated in art, music, or literature					

10 Employment situation

The following questions refer to your job in your principal working place as a social worker. This data are required for research purposes and not to identify the respondents. There is no way to identify the respondent through the data collection.

10.1 How would you describe your employment situation?

[Source: developed by Burzlaff, Kindler, & Schwartz-Tayri]

State employee (e.g., ...)

NGO employee (e.g.,)

Private organization employee (e.g.,)

Self employed

Other employment situation (please specify):

10.2 Do you have tenure?

[Source: developed by Burzlaff, Kindler, & Schwartz-Tayri]

Yes

No

10.3 Do you have a managerial position? (e.g., team leader, department head, branch head)

[Source: developed by Burzlaff, Kindler, & Schwartz-Tayri]

Yes

No

10.4 Please identify your predominant field of service (check only one).

[Source: developed by Burzlaff, Kindler, & Schwartz-Tayri]

- Migration and flight
- Age
- Inclusion
- Occupation and education
- Queer and diversity
- Poverty/basic security
- International social work
- Clinical social work
- Children, youth, families
- Criminal Justice
- Community
- Policy/Planning
- Domestic Violence
- Addictions
- EAP/Occupational Social Work
- Medical
- Therapy
- (Mental) Health
- Rehabilitation
- Gerontology
- Teaching/Research
- Other (please specify): _____

10.5 Percent of job in my primary working place is

[Source: developed by Burzlaff, Kindler, & Schwartz-Tayri]

..... percent

10.6 I am a...

[Source: developed by Burzlaff, Kindler, & Schwartz-Tayri]

Case worker

Community organizer

Child protection officer

Welfare officer

Other, please specify:

Translation note: include Sozialpädagogik, Sozialarbeit, soziokulturelle Animation, Gemeinwesenarbeit etc.

10.7 My seniority in my current organization:

[Source: developed by Burzlaff, Kindler, & Schwartz-Tayri]

..... Years

10.8 My seniority as a social worker:

[Source: developed by Burzlaff, Kindler, & Schwartz-Tayri]

..... Years

10.9 Please indicate the highest degree you have received.

[Source: developed by Burzlaff, Kindler, & Schwartz-Tayri]

1. Associate degree (e.g., AA, AS)
2. Bachelor's degree (e.g., BA, BS)
3. Master's degree (e.g., MA, MS, MEd)
4. Professional degree (e.g., MD, DDS, DVM)
5. Doctorate (e.g., PhD, EdD)

11 Socio-demographic questionnaire

11.1 What is the highest degree you have completed?

[Source: developed by Burzlaff, Kindler, & Schwartz-Tayri]
Bachelor in Social Work (university or university of applied sciences)
Master in Social Work (university or university of applied sciences)

11.2 Are you currently living in a relationship?

[Source: developed by Burzlaff, Kindler, & Schwartz-Tayri]
Yes
No

11.3 Are you the primary caregiver of any children under 18 years of age or dependent adults?

[Source: developed by Burzlaff, Kindler, & Schwartz-Tayri]
Yes, please specify a number:

No

11.4 Please indicate your age.

[Source: developed by Burzlaff, Kindler, & Schwartz-Tayri]
....

11.5 How would you define your gender identity?

[Source: developed by Burzlaff, Kindler, & Schwartz-Tayri]
Open answer possibility

11.6 Are you a member of a group/groups that is/are discriminated against in this country?

[Source: ESS 2018, question C18]
Yes
No
No answer
I don't know

11.7 Which forms of discrimination are you affected by?

[Source: developed by Burzlaff, Kindler, & Schwartz-Tayri]
Open answer possibility

11.8 This is the last question. Do you want to add something?

[Source: developed by Burzlaff, Kindler, & Schwartz-Tayri]
Open text field

12 Last page

Thank you for taking part in the study. All your responses have been saved. You can close the browser window now. Please don't hesitate to reach out in case you have any questions. Best regards,

Prof. Dr. Miriam Burzlaff, Tobias Kindler (MSW), and Dr. Talia Meital Schwartz-Tayri

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