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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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Introduction Page and Consent

Dear colleague,

it is good to see you here, welcome to this online survey. As you know social work consists of multiple domains and types of interventions. Social work values social justice and social workers are tasked with engaging in activities across various system levels (micro, mezzo, and macro) to promote change that creates a just society. This study aims to enhance our knowledge about one very specific professional activity in which social workers aim to promote social justice, namely “policy practice”.

This term refers to social workers’ engagement in influencing policies as part of their job in their professional role as social workers. Engagement in policy practice occurs in many ways, both big and small, such as calling legislators, advocating for a client or your agency, encouraging or preparing a client to advocate for themselves, and beyond. Your participation is important and much appreciated even if you think you might not be involved in policy practice to a high extent. We are very much interested in your perspective regardless of your engagement level.

There are no “right” or “wrong” answers, your authentic replies are important. Your participation in the survey will take about 30 minutes and is completely voluntary. If you do participate in the survey, you can skip any question. You can also leave the survey at any time without penalty. Your privacy and confidentiality will be protected as follows:

- We do not ask for your name or address.
- The final report will summarize across all of the information we collect. There will not be any information about any specific person.
- Only the identified research team will have access to the completed surveys.
- The completed surveys will be kept on a password protected server run and maintained by the informatics department of the Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences

There are no risks or direct benefits to you for participating in this survey. However, the information that you provide will help to increase understanding how social workers engage in policy practice with the potential to inform recommendations for improvements for the field. If you have any questions about this study (e.g., concerning your rights as a participant), please contact us.

Thank you for taking time to participate in this study. Have fun filling out the survey! We wish you all the best,

Prof. Dr. Miriam Burzlaff, Neubrandenburg University of Applied Sciences, burzlaff@hs-nb.de

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By answering the following question, you are agreeing to be part of this study.

- Yes, I have read and understood the above information and I wish to participate in this study.
- No, I don’t want to participate in this study.

1 Occupational Background

This first question focuses on your occupational background and serves to filter out participants who don't match the target group of this study.

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 social work student with professional social work experience
- a retired social worker
- a social worker but currently unemployed
- none of the above

1.2 Filter question (if 1.1 = student): On what level are you studying?

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

- Bachelor's of social work
- Master's of social work
- PhD/DSW

If "social work student" (without working in the field already) or "none of the above" was selected the following text appears:

Thank you for your interest in this research. This study focuses on practicing social workers' engagement to influence policies. As you are not (yet) working professionally in the field of social work, you don't match the target group of this study. If you accidentally chose these categories, you can [click here](#) and choose another option. Otherwise click on "submit".

1.3 Please indicate in which country you have spent most of your social work practice.

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

List of all countries all over the world

2 Recruitment Networks

In this section we are interested in your affiliation with and your activity level in different political networks and groups.

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

[Source: based on Verba, et al., 1995; Schlozman et al., 2018 and modified by Kindler, 2021; Kindler & Ostrander, 2022; Weiss-Gal & Gal, 2020]

	Not a member	Passive	Rather passive	Rather active	active
Political party					
Trade union					
Professional association of social workers (AvenirSocial, DBSH, NASW etc.)					
Other social work organizations/groups (e.g., AGJ, School Social Work Association, radical social work groups)					
Advocacy/non-government organization (e.g., Amnesty International)					
Social and/or political movement (e.g., black lives matter, Fridays for future)					
Student organization					

3 Level of Engagement in Policy Practice

The next questions focus on your activities to influence policies as part of your job in your role as a social worker. In the following sections, we call this type of professional activity “policy practice”.

3.1 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]

During your work as a social worker, to what extent have you taken part in the following activities to influence policies on a local, state, national, and/or international level?

	(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 another organization	0	1	2	3	4
4. Being in touch with the social workers association or union	0	1	2	3	4
5. Being in touch with celebrities or influencers	0	1	2	3	4
6. Using social media	0	1	2	3	4
7. Being in touch with the mass media (e.g., TV, radio, newspaper)	0	1	2	3	4
8. Collecting data, conducting a study, or using existing data	0	1	2	3	4
9. Collecting views and 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 civic action or protest activity (e.g., a petition, protest march, or rally)	0	1	2	3	4
14. Participating in a group, coalition, 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

*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.

3.2 Level of Engagement in Policy Practice on the Organizational Level

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

During your career as a social worker, to what extent have you taken part in the following activities to influence the policies of the service, agency, or organization in which you work(ed)?

	(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 another organization	0	1	2	3	4
4. Being in touch with the social workers association or union	0	1	2	3	4
5. Being in touch with celebrities or influencers	0	1	2	3	4
6. Using social media	0	1	2	3	4
7. Being in touch with the mass media (e.g., TV, radio, newspaper)	0	1	2	3	4
8. Collecting data, conducting a study, or using existing data	0	1	2	3	4
9. Collecting views and 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 civic action or protest activity (e.g., a petition, protest march, or rally)	0	1	2	3	4
14. Participating in a group, coalition, 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

*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 organization as well as politicians and officials outside of the organization on all levels or their assistants/advisors.

3.3 Level of Engagement in Policy Practice on the Organizational, Local, State, National, and International Level

[Source: Tayri-Schwartz, 2015]

Throughout your career as a social worker, to what extent have you acted (alone or with colleagues) to bring about changes in policies on the

	(0) Never, (1) Rarely, (2) Sometimes, (3) Often, (4) Very often				
organizational level?	0	1	2	3	4
local level?	0	1	2	3	4
state level?	0	1	2	3	4
national level?	0	1	2	3	4
international level?	0	1	2	3	4

3.4 Open Text Field on the Level of Policy Practice Engagement

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

What would you like to add regarding your engagement in policy practice? Remember, policy practice is defined as influencing policies as part of your job in your professional role as social worker.

.....

4 Organizational Support of Policy Practice

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

[Source: Gal & Weiss-Gal, 2017; Tayri-Schwartz, 2015]

	At the social welfare service organizations I have worked in during my career...	1=strongly disagree 5=strongly agree				
1	Agency leadership encourages social workers to participate in activities aimed to influence policies	1	2	3	4	5
2	Social workers involved in activities aimed at influencing policies are viewed positively	1	2	3	4	5
3	Information about the methods to contact policymakers is readily available in the organization	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
7	Being involved in influencing policies hurts workers' careers and promotion prospects	1	2	3	4	5
8	Social workers are offered training on the ways social workers can influence policy	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
11	Influencing policies is part of social workers' job description.	1	2	3	4	5

5 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.

5.1 During your studies, how much did you learn about:

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

		1=not at all 5=very much				
1	the international definition of social work	1	2	3	4	5
2	the ethical principles of social work	1	2	3	4	5
3	social work as a micro, mezzo, and macro practice	1	2	3	4	5
4	the connection between social work and social policies	1	2	3	4	5
5	policy processes					
6	structural causes of social problems	1	2	3	4	5
7	critical/radical social work	1	2	3	4	5
8	theories of social justice	1	2	3	4	5
9	different forms of discrimination (such as antisemitism, racism, sexism, ableism, classism)	1	2	3	4	5
10	social/political movements	1	2	3	4	5

5.2 During your studies, how much did you:

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

		1=not at all 5=very much				
1	learn about social work methods of macro practice?	1	2	3	4	5
2	learn about the concept of policy practice?	1	2	3	4	5
3	learn about how to be engaged in policy practice?	1	2	3	4	5
4	take part in hands-on activities aiming to influence policies inside the classroom setting?	1	2	3	4	5
5	take part in hands-on activities aiming to influence policies outside the classroom setting?	1	2	3	4	5

5.3 Open Text Field on Policy Practice Education

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

What would you like to add regarding policy practice education?

.....

6 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.

Generally speaking, do you think you have the proper skills to perform the following actions in order to influence policy?

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

Political skills		1=not at all skilled 5=highly skilled				
1	Organize protest activities (e.g., rallies, petitions)	1	2	3	4	5
2	Find resources to fund advocacy projects	1	2	3	4	5
3	Recruit volunteers to participate in a social change activity	1	2	3	4	5
4	Influence the public to participate in the policy making process	1	2	3	4	5
5	Use the traditional media (e.g., newspapers, TV)	1	2	3	4	5
6	Use the social media (e.g., Instagram, Twitter, Facebook)	1	2	3	4	5
7	Initiate litigation	1	2	3	4	5

Analytical skills		1=not at all skilled 5=highly skilled				
1	Develop a paper on a social or policy issue	1	2	3	4	5
2	Diagnose/Analyze social problems, injustices and policy gaps	1	2	3	4	5
3	Develop a political strategy (e.g., set goals, map stakeholders, identify barriers etc.)	1	2	3	4	5

Interactional skills		1=not at all skilled 5=highly skilled				
1	Build a coalition/alliance	1	2	3	4	5
2	Build personal power	1	2	3	4	5
3	Use rhetoric strategies	1	2	3	4	5
4	Advocate a position	1	2	3	4	5
5	Negotiate conflicts	1	2	3	4	5

Value-clarifying skills		1=not at all skilled 5=highly skilled				
1	Identify the values at the base of a policy	1	2	3	4	5
2	Engage in decision-making processes based on the ethical standards of social work	1	2	3	4	5
3	Reflect the potential disadvantages and benefits of a policy	1	2	3	4	5

7 Voluntary Political Participation

The following questions do not focus on policy practice anymore, but on your non-work related voluntary political participation as a citizen.

7.1 On a typical day, about how much time do you spend watching, reading or listening to news about politics and current affairs? Please give your answer in hours and minutes.

[Source: ESS 2018, question A1]

Hours:

Minutes:

7.2 Some people don't vote nowadays for one reason or another. Did you vote in the last election on...

[Source: adapted from ESS 2018, question B13]

		Yes	No	Don't recall	Not eligible to vote
1	National level?				
2	State Level?				
3	Local Level?				

7.3 There are different ways of trying to improve policies 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?		
9	Donated money to a political candidate or political party?		
10	Donated money to a nonprofit or non-governmental organization?		

8 Psychological Involvement in Politics

8A – Political Interest

This section focuses on political attitudes, political interest, and political efficacy.

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 an international level				
On a national level				
On a state level				
On a local level				

8B – 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

8C – 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

8D – 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)

This study examines the impact of both contextual and personal factors on social workers' policy engagement. This section focuses on the personal factors. Here are a number of characteristics that may or may not apply to you.

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

To what extent do you agree or disagree 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	Is talkative	1	2	3	4	5
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.

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 a permanent employment/tenure?

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

Yes

No

10.3 Which of the following best describes your current position within the organization you work for?

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

Frontline worker (work directly with the people we serve)

Program director / team leader / mid-level manager

Upper-level manager

Executive director

Other:

10.4 Please identify your primary area of practice (not finalized yet).

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

- Migration and asylum
- Education
- Elderly/seniors
- Inclusion/disability services
- Occupation and education
- Queer and diversity
- Poverty/basic security
- International social work
- Clinical/medical social work
- Children, youth, families
- Criminal Justice
- Community organizing
- Policy/Planning
- Gender based/partner violence
- Addictions
- EAP/Occupational Social Work
- Therapy
- (Mental) Health
- Rehabilitation
- Academia
- Other (please specify): _____

10.5 What percent of time do you work in your primary working place?

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

..... percent

10.6 How many years have you worked in your current organization?

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

..... Years

10.7 How many years in total have you worked as a social worker?

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

..... Years

11 Socio-Demographic Questionnaire

11.1 What is the highest degree you have completed?

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

Diploma of a "Höhere Fachschule" (in Switzerland only)

Bachelor in social work (university or university of applied sciences)

Master in social work (university or university of applied sciences)

PhD in social work

Other degree: open text field

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

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

Yes, I am taking care of children under 18 years or dependent adults.

No

11.3 Please indicate your age.

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

.... Years

11.4 How do you define your gender identity?

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

Open answer possibility

11.5 Are you a member of a group/groups that is/are discriminated against?

[Source: ESS 2018, question C18]

Yes

No

Prefer not to answer

I don't know

11.6 Which forms of discrimination are you affected by?

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

Open answer possibility

11.7 This is the last question. Do you share anything else about the topics covered in the survey?

[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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