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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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<https://www.ost.ch/de/projekt/ppgis>

Introduction Page and Consent

Dear colleague,

Welcome to this online survey. As you know, social work consists of multiple domains and types of interventions. In this study we aim to enhance knowledge about one very specific professional activity, namely, “policy practice.” This term refers to social workers’ engagement in influencing policies as part of their jobs. Your participation is important and much appreciated. Even if you think you might not be involved in policy practice to a significant extent, we are still very interested in your perspective.

There are no “right” or “wrong” answers; your subjective perspective is 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 synthesize 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 that is 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 inform recommendations for improvements in the field of social work. If you have any questions about this study (e.g., concerning your rights as a participant), please contact us.

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

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By answering “yes” to 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. (1)
- No, I do not want to participate in this study. (0)

1 Occupational Background

This first questions focus on your occupational and country background and serve to filter out participants who do not match the target group of this study.

1.1 Occupation 1

Which category best describes your current occupation? I am...

- working as a social worker (1)
- a social work student (2)
- a social work student with professional social work experience (3)
- a retired social worker (4)
- a social worker but currently unemployed (5)
- none of the above (6)

[Source: developed for this study]

1.2 Occupation 2. Filter. Show if 1.1 = “a social work student” OR “none of the above”

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

[Source: developed for this study]

1.3 Occupation 3. Filter. Show if 1.1 = “a social work student with professional social work experience”

At what level are you studying?

- Bachelor of Social Work (1)
- Master of Social Work (2)
- PhD/DSW (3)

[Source: developed for this study]

1.4 Country

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

- Dropdown Menu with a list of all countries all over the world

[Source: developed for this study]

2 Recruitment Networks

In this section, we ask about your affiliation with, and your activity level in, different political networks and groups.

2.1 Level of Engagement in Recruitment Networks

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

		(0) Not a member, (1) Passive, (2) Rather passive, (3) Rather active, (4) Active				
1	Political party	0	1	2	3	4
2	Trade union	0	1	2	3	4
3	Professional association of social workers (AvenirSocial, DBSH, NASW etc.)	0	1	2	3	4
4	Other social work organizations/groups (e.g., AGJ, School Social Work Association, radical social work groups)	0	1	2	3	4
5	Advocacy/non-governmental organization (e.g., Amnesty International)	0	1	2	3	4
6	Social and/or political movement (e.g., Black Lives Matter, Fridays for Future)	0	1	2	3	4
7	Student organization	0	1	2	3	4

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

3 Level of Engagement in Policy Practice

The next questions focus on your activities to influence policies as part of your job 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 at the Non-Organizational Level (Local, State, National, and International)

During your career 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	Communicating with a policymaker*	0	1	2	3	4
2	Inviting a policymaker* to visit your organization or the community/neighborhood in which you work	0	1	2	3	4
3	Communicating with another organization	0	1	2	3	4
4	Communicating with a social workers association or union	0	1	2	3	4
5	Communicating with celebrities or influencers	0	1	2	3	4
6	Using social media	0	1	2	3	4
7	Communicating with the mass media (e.g., TV, radio, newspapers)	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 influence policy	0	1	2	3	4
11	Attending a parliamentary committee at the 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, seminar, or conference	0	1	2	3	4
16	Preparing a policy brief	0	1	2	3	4
17	Working to improve social workers' working conditions	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 at all levels, or their assistants/advisors.

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

3.2 Level of Engagement in Policy Practice at the Organizational Level

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	Communicating with a policymaker*	0	1	2	3	4
2	Inviting a policymaker* to visit your organization or the community/neighborhood in which you work	0	1	2	3	4
3	Communicating with another organization	0	1	2	3	4
4	Communicating with a social workers' association or union	0	1	2	3	4
5	Communicating with celebrities or influencers	0	1	2	3	4
6	Using social media	0	1	2	3	4
7	Communicating with the mass media (e.g., TV, radio, newspapers)	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 influence policy	0	1	2	3	4
11	Attending a parliamentary committee at the 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, seminar, or conference	0	1	2	3	4
16	Preparing a policy brief	0	1	2	3	4
17	Working to improve social workers' working conditions	0	1	2	3	4

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

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

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

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				
1	organizational level?	0	1	2	3	4
2	local level?	0	1	2	3	4
3	state level?	0	1	2	3	4
4	national level?	0	1	2	3	4
5	international level?	0	1	2	3	4

[Source: Tayri-Schwartz, 2015]

3.4 Open Text Field on the Level of Policy Practice Engagement

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 as social worker.

- Open Text Field

[Source: developed for this study]

4 Organizational Support of Policy Practice

4.1 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 in which you have worked during your career as a social worker. Please rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each statement.

At the social welfare service organizations at which you have worked during your career:

		1=strongly disagree 5=strongly agree				
1	Agency leadership encouraged social workers to participate in activities aimed at influencing policies.	1	2	3	4	5
2	Social workers involved in activities aimed at influencing policies were viewed positively.	1	2	3	4	5
3	Information about the methods to contact policymakers was readily available in the organization.	1	2	3	4	5
4	There were specific discussions and meetings about policy issues.	1	2	3	4	5
5	Being involved in influencing policies helped workers' careers and promotion prospects.	1	2	3	4	5
7	Being involved in influencing policies hurt workers' careers and promotion prospects.	1	2	3	4	5
8	Social workers were offered training on the ways they can influence policy.	1	2	3	4	5
9	Social workers were sent to seminars or conferences about policy issues.	1	2	3	4	5
10	Social workers who had been involved in influencing policies received recognition.	1	2	3	4	5
11	Influencing policies was part of social workers' job descriptions.	1	2	3	4	5

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

5 Policy Practice Education

In this section, we ask about your social work education with regard to policy practice. For each question, please circle the answer that fits best.

5.1 Theoretical Foundations of Policy Practice

During your studies, how much did you learn about...

		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, and classism)?	1	2	3	4	5
10	social/political movements?	1	2	3	4	5

[Source: Burzlaff, 2020, 2021, 2022; Schwartz-Tayri, 2021]

5.2 Policy Practice in Practice

During your studies, how much did you...

		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 aimed at influencing policies within the classroom?	1	2	3	4	5
5	take part in hands-on activities aimed at influencing policies beyond the classroom?	1	2	3	4	5

[Source: Burzlaff, 2020, 2021, 2022; Schwartz-Tayri, 2021]

5.3 Open Text Field on Policy Practice Education

What would you like to add regarding policy practice education?

- Open Text Field

[Source: developed for this study]

6 Policy Practice Skills

6.1 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?

		1=not at all skilled 5=highly skilled				
Political skills						
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 social change activities	1	2	3	4	5
4	Influence the public to participate in the policy-making process	1	2	3	4	5
5	Use traditional media (e.g., newspapers, TV)	1	2	3	4	5
6	Use social media (e.g., Instagram, Twitter, Facebook)	1	2	3	4	5
7	Initiate litigation	1	2	3	4	5

Analytical skills						
8	Develop a paper on a social or policy issue	1	2	3	4	5
9	Diagnose/analyze social problems, injustices, and policy gaps	1	2	3	4	5
10	Develop a political strategy (e.g., set goals, map stakeholders, identify barriers, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5

Interactional skills						
11	Build a coalition/alliance	1	2	3	4	5
12	Build personal power	1	2	3	4	5
13	Use rhetorical strategies	1	2	3	4	5
14	Advocate a position	1	2	3	4	5
15	Negotiate conflicts	1	2	3	4	5

Value-clarifying skills						
16	Identify the values at the base of a policy	1	2	3	4	5
17	Engage in decision-making processes based on the ethical standards of social work	1	2	3	4	5
18	Reflect the potential disadvantages and benefits of a policy	1	2	3	4	5

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

7 Voluntary Political Participation

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

7.1 News Consumption

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.

- Open Textfield Hours
- Open Textfield Minutes

[Source: ESS 2020, question A1]

7.2 Voting

Some people do not vote nowadays, for one reason or another. Did you vote in the last election at the...

		Yes (1)	No (0)	Do not recall (-88)	Not eligible to vote (-99)
1	national level?				
2	state level?				
3	local level?				

[Source: adapted from ESS 2020, question B13]

7.3 Political Participation

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...

		Yes (1)	No (0)
1	contacted a politician, government or local government official?		
2	worked in a political party or action group?		
3	worked in another organization 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?		

[Source: ESS 2020, questions B15-B22; questions 9 and 10 developed for this study]

8 Psychological Involvement in Politics

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

8A – Political Interest

8.1 Overall Political Interest

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

- very interested (1)
- quite interested (2)
- hardly interested (3)
- not at all interested (4)

[Source: ESS 2020, question B1]

8.2 Political Interest on Different Levels

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

		(1) Very, (2) Quite, (3) Hardly, (4) Not at all			
1	an international level	1	2	3	4
2	a national level	1	2	3	4
3	a state level	1	2	3	4
4	a local level	1	2	3	4

[Source: adapted from ESS 2020, question B1; Kindler, 2021; Kindler & Kulke, 2022]

8B – External Political Efficacy

8.3 External Political Efficacy 1

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

- Not at all (1)
- Very little (2)
- Some (3)
- A lot (4)
- A great deal (5)

[Source: ESS 2020, question B2]

8.4 External Political Efficacy 2

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

- Not at all (1)
- Very little (2)
- Some (3)
- A lot (4)
- A great deal (5)

[Source: ESS 2020, question B4]

8C – Internal Political Efficacy

8.5 Internal Political Efficacy 1

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

- Not at all able (1)
- A little able (2)
- Quite able (3)
- Very able (4)
- Completely able (5)

[Source: ESS 2020, question B3]

8.6 Internal Political Efficacy 2

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

- Not at all confident (1)
- A little confident (2)
- Quite confident (3)
- Very confident (4)
- Completely confident (5)

[Source: ESS 2020, question B5]

8D – Political Ideology and Partisanship

8.7 Political Ideology

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?

- 0 = the left
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 = the right
- No answer (-66)

[Source: ESS 2020, question B26]

8.8 Partisanship 1

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

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know (-66)

[Source: ESS 2020, question B23]

8.9 Partisanship 2. Filter. Show if 8.8 = “yes”

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

- List of all parties in the respective country

[Source: ESS 2020, question B24]

8.10 Partisanship 3. Filter. Show if 8.8 = “yes”

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

- very close (1)
- quite close (2)
- not close (3)
- not at all close (4)

[Source: ESS 2020, question B25]

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 personal factors.

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

	I am someone who...	1 = disagree strongly, 5 = agree strongly				
1	Is talkative	1	2	3	4	5
2	Tends to find fault with others	1	2	3	4	5
3	Does a thorough job	1	2	3	4	5
4	Is depressed, blue	1	2	3	4	5
5	Is original, comes up with new ideas	1	2	3	4	5
6	Is reserved	1	2	3	4	5
7	Is helpful and unselfish with others	1	2	3	4	5
8	Can be somewhat careless	1	2	3	4	5
9	Is relaxed, handles stress well.	1	2	3	4	5
10	Is curious about many different things	1	2	3	4	5
11	Is full of energy	1	2	3	4	5
12	Starts quarrels with others	1	2	3	4	5
13	Is a reliable worker	1	2	3	4	5
14	Can be tense	1	2	3	4	5
15	Is ingenious, a deep thinker	1	2	3	4	5
16	Generates a lot of enthusiasm	1	2	3	4	5
17	Has a forgiving nature	1	2	3	4	5
18	Tends to be disorganized	1	2	3	4	5
19	Worries a lot	1	2	3	4	5
20	Has an active imagination	1	2	3	4	5
21	Tends to be quiet	1	2	3	4	5
22	Is generally trusting	1	2	3	4	5
23	Tends to be lazy	1	2	3	4	5
24	Is emotionally stable, not easily upset	1	2	3	4	5
25	Is inventive	1	2	3	4	5
26	Has an assertive personality	1	2	3	4	5
27	Can be cold and aloof	1	2	3	4	5
28	Perseveres until the task is finished	1	2	3	4	5
29	Can be moody	1	2	3	4	5
30	Values artistic, aesthetic experiences	1	2	3	4	5
31	Is sometimes shy, inhibited	1	2	3	4	5
32	Is considerate and kind to almost everyone	1	2	3	4	5
33	Does things efficiently	1	2	3	4	5
34	Remains calm in tense situations	1	2	3	4	5
35	Prefers work that is routine	1	2	3	4	5
36	Is outgoing, sociable	1	2	3	4	5
37	Is sometimes rude to others	1	2	3	4	5
38	Makes plans and follows through with them	1	2	3	4	5
39	Gets nervous easily	1	2	3	4	5
40	Likes to reflect, play with ideas	1	2	3	4	5
41	Has few artistic interests	1	2	3	4	5
42	Likes to cooperate with others	1	2	3	4	5
43	Is easily distracted	1	2	3	4	5
44	Is sophisticated in art, music, or literature	1	2	3	4	5

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

10 Employment Situation

The following questions refer to your job in your principal working place as a social worker.

10.1 Employment Situation

How would you describe your employment situation?

- State employee (e.g., ...) (1)
- NGO employee (e.g.,) (2)
- Private organization employee (e.g.,) (3)
- Self-employed (4)
- Other employment situation (please specify): [add open textfield here] (5)

[Source: developed for this study]

10.2 Tenure

Do you have permanent employment/tenure?

- Yes (1)
- No (0)

[Source: developed for this study]

10.3 Position

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

- Frontline worker (I work directly with the people we serve) (1)
- Program director / team leader / mid-level manager (2)
- Upper-level manager (3)
- Executive director (4)
- Other: [add open textfield here] (5)

[Source: developed for this study]

10.4 Area of Practice

Please identify your primary area of practice. (WE STILL NEED TO WORK ON THIS. THE LIST MIGHT BE DIFFERENT IN ALL THE COUNTRIES.)

- Migration and asylum (1)
- Education (2)
- Elderly/seniors (3)
- Inclusion/disability services (4)
- Occupation and education (5)
- Queer and diversity (6)
- Poverty/basic security (7)
- International social work (8)
- Clinical/medical social work (9)
- Children, youth, families (10)
- Criminal justice (11)
- Community organizing (12)
- Policy/planning (13)

- Gender-based/partner violence (14)
- Addictions (15)
- EAP/occupational social work (16)
- Therapy (17)
- (Mental) health (18)
- Rehabilitation (19)
- Academia (20)
- Other (please specify): [add open textfield here] (21)

[Source: developed for this study]

10.5 Percent

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

- Open Number Field

[Source: developed for this study]

10.6 Years in Current Organization

How many years have you worked in your current organization?

- Open Number Field

[Source: developed for this study]

10.7 Years in Total

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

- Open Number Field

[Source: developed for this study]

11 Socio-Demographic Questionnaire

11.1 Degree

What is the highest degree you have completed?

- Diploma of “Höhere Fachschule” (in Switzerland only) (1)
- Bachelor in social work (university or university of applied sciences) (2)
- Master in social work (university or university of applied sciences) (3)
- PhD in social work (4)
- Other degree: [add open text field here] (5)

[Source: developed for this study]

11.2 Caregiving Obligations

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

- Yes, I am taking care of [add open number field here] children under 18 years or dependent adults. (1)
- No (0)

[Source: developed for this study]

11.3 Age

Please indicate your age.

- Open Number Field

[Source: developed for this study]

11.4 Gender

How do you define your gender identity?

- Open Text Field

[Source: developed for this study]

11.5 Discrimination 1

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

- Yes (1)
- No (0)
- Prefer not to answer
- I don't know (-66)

[Source: ESS 2020, question C18]

11.6 Discrimination 2. Filter. Show if 11.5 = “yes”

By which forms of discrimination are you affected?

- Open Text Field

[Source: developed for this study]

11.7 Last Question

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

- Open Text Field

[Source: developed for this study]

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 do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. Best regards,

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

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