

# **Second Conference Announcement** **International Conference of the** **European Research Institute for Social** **Work (ERIS)**

***Social Work Research in the Context of Social Divisions:  
Knowledge, Practice, and Change***

**14–15 October 2026**  
**Łódź, Poland**

**Department of Social Pedagogy and Social Rehabilitation,  
Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Lodz**



**Conference venue: Aleja Rodziny Scheiblerów 2,  
90-001, Łódź**

We are pleased to invite scholars, researchers, practitioners, and representatives of social and community-based organizations to participate in the International Conference of the European Research Institute for Social Work (ERIS), entitled: *Social Work Research in the Context of Social Divisions: Knowledge, Practice, and Change*.

Contemporary societies are increasingly shaped by profound social, cultural, political, and structural divisions. Processes of marginalization, social inequality, forced migration, historical trauma, and institutional exclusion pose significant challenges for social work and social work research. In this context, social work research is steadily increasing as a crucial space for understanding complex social realities, critically examining power relations, and amplifying the voices of individuals and communities experiencing exclusion. Research in social work not only contributes to the production of knowledge, but also plays a vital role in shaping reflective practice, informing social policy, and supporting processes of social change.

We therefore propose a space for international debate and an opportunity to create a learning community around the questions that structure the individual thematic sessions:

### **Session I: Research Methodologies for Divided Societies**

Which research methodologies are particularly suited to exploring social phenomena in divided societies? How can research approaches capture experiences shaped by inequality, polarization, conflict, and exclusion? What social issues and processes should social work research focus on in order to meaningfully address contemporary social challenges?

### **Session II: Research Traditions and Intellectual Lineages in Social Work**

Which research traditions and schools of thought should be further developed or creatively revitalized in contemporary social work research? What intellectual and theoretical legacies have shaped the discourse of social work and influenced interpretations of social reality? How can these traditions help us better understand the dynamics of social divisions today?

### **Session III: Knowledge Production in Social Work Research**

What types of knowledge are produced through social work research? How do academic, professional, experiential, and critical forms of knowledge interact within research processes? How can knowledge generated through research be meaningfully presented to the social work community and used in social work practice, education, social policy, and public debate?

### **Session IV: The Impact of Social Work Research on Social Reality**

What impact can social work research have on social realities, professional practice, and institutional structures? How are research, action, education, and social change interconnected in the field of social work? In what ways can research contribute not only to understanding social problems, but also empowering disadvantaged groups and fostering social transformation and social justice?

### Scientific Committee of the Conference:

Monika Pfaller-Rott (Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany)  
Emmanuel Jovelin (Conservatoire Nationale des Arts et Métiers, Paris, France)  
Doris Böhler (Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences /OST/, Switzerland)  
Laure Liénard (Lille Catholic University, France)  
Miriam Slaná, Ondrej Botek (Trnava University, Slovakia)  
Markéta Seidlová (University of Defence, Czech Republic)  
Riitta Vornanen (University of Eastern Finland)  
Brian Littlechild (University of Hertfordshire, United Kingdom)  
Anita Gulczyńska, Izabela Kamińska-Jatczak, Małgorzata Kostrzyńska, Renata Szczepaniak (University of Lodz, Poland)  
Oldřich Chytil, Soňa Kalenda Vávrová, Zuzana Stanková, (University of Ostrava, Czech Republic)

### Conference Organizing Committee:

Anita Gulczyńska  
Izabela Kamińska-Jatczak  
Małgorzata Kostrzyńska  
Aleksandra Szczepaniak

The ERIS Conference, organized as part of the celebrations marking the 35th anniversary of the Faculty of Educational Sciences at the University of Lodz, will include not only an academic program but also study visits to social work institutions and guided tours of notable sites in Lodz.

To register for the conference and indicate your participation (with or without an abstract), please complete the form below by May 31, 2026. This date is also the deadline for abstract submissions.

**Please register here: [ERIS 2026 registration link](#)**

**The conference fee is €120 for students and €200 for other participants**

**Please ensure that the payment is made by 31 July 2026**

**The conference fee includes: participant materials, 1 lunch, coffee breaks, a study visit or city tour and a gala dinner**

### Payment details

**Recipient:** University of Lodz

**Bank account number (IBAN):** PKOPPLPW PL24 1240 3028 1111 0011 6434 0566

**Payment reference:** ERIS, participant's full name

**Invoice details:** name of the university/institution, conference fee and accommodation at the conference center or conference fee, TAX Identification Number

## Arrival instructions for participants

# International Conference of the European Research Institute for Social Work (ERIS)

### Venue of the ERIS conference

Faculty of Educational Sciences, University of Lodz  
Aleja Rodziny Scheiblerów 2, 90-001, Łódź

**Term:** 14-15 October 2026 – the main programme of the conference

**Kindly note that accommodation is not provided by the organizers. However we have included below a selection of hotels and Airbnb options located near the conference venue for your convenience.**

### Hotels near the faculty

Grand Hotel – 20 min from the Faculty (<https://grand.hotel.com.pl/grand-hotel/>)

Hotel Pietryna – 20 min from the Faculty (<https://www.hotelpietryna.pl/>)

Puro Łódź Centrum – 30 min by the Faculty (<https://purohotels.com/pl/lodz/>)

Hotel Ibis Łódź Centrum – 30 min from the Faculty ([Hotel Ibis](#))

Campanile Łódź – 30 min from the Faculty ([Hotel Campanile](#))

Training and Conference Center of the University of Łódź (For those who wish to use accommodation at this location, please fill out the form: **[form](#)**)

### Airbnb platform or Booking

The great option for people who prefer a private apartment to a hotel style. You can find there many apartments in the city center for example:

Apartment with a view of the Grand Theatre and EC1 – 3 min from the Faculty

Space Age Residence – 4 min from the Faculty

Narutowicza 41 Apartaments – 4 min from the Faculty

DeLux5, – 5 min from the Faculty

Bonjour Apartament – 5 min from the Faculty

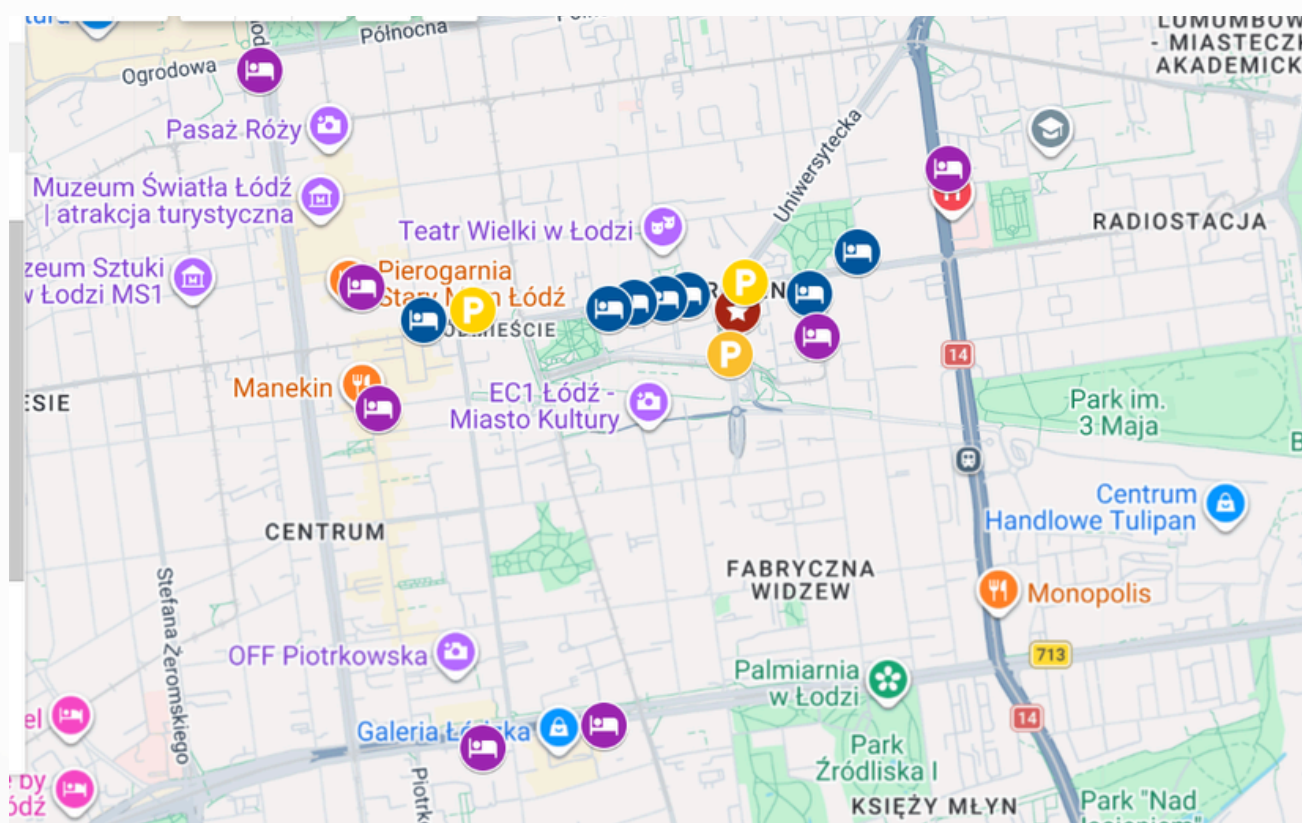
Hotel Villa Masoneria – 7 min from the Faculty

Boat City Aparts – 6 min from the Faculty

Dream Apartaments Wschodnia 76 – 15 min from the Faculty

## Map of accommodation locations, parking areas, and the conference venue

Link to the map with marked locations: [ERIS Conference 2026 - map](#)



### Map legend

- Red pin with a star – conference venue
- Purple pins – hotels
- Dark blue pins – apartments / Airbnb
- Yellow pins – parking areas

## Travel advice

For those coming by plane to Łódź (Łódź Władysław Reymont Airport)- a taxi, UBER or a bus is available

For those planning to travel by train, we recommend Łódź Fabryczna as the final station, as it is located closest to the Faculty and the recommended accommodation options.

## Public transport in Łódź

Public transport in Łódź is operated by buses and trams. Time-based tickets are available (e.g. 20-, 40-, 80-minute and 24-hour tickets) and allow transfers within their validity period. Tickets can be purchased from ticket machines at stops and in vehicles, as well as through mobile applications. Tickets must be validated in the ticket validator or activated in the mobile app by scanning a QR code after boarding the vehicle.

## Useful links

- Public transport in Łódź: <https://www.mpk.lodz.pl/>
- Tourist information about Łódź: <https://lodz.travel/turystyka/porady-turystyczne/praktyczne/informacja-turystyczna/>
- Best restaurants in Łódź: [https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants-g274837-Lodz\\_Lodz\\_Province\\_Central\\_Poland.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurants-g274837-Lodz_Lodz_Province_Central_Poland.html)

## Quick Tips

- Poland uses PLN (Polish złoty)
- Most shops take card (even small ones)

**For any inquiries regarding the conference, please contact:  
eris.2026@now.uni.lodz.pl**

**We are looking forward to welcoming you in Łódź in October 2026.**