

# International Congress on Community Wellness 2026



## Call for Participation

**Organized by**  
**The National Association of Social Workers in Moldova**  
with support from  
**Alliance for Social Work in Eastern Europe**  
and  
**European Association of Schools of Social Work**

### TOPICS

- Community Wellbeing, Mental Health, and Social Toxicities
- Educational Models, Professional Skills, and Pedagogical Innovation
- Social Work Praxis, Social Entrepreneurship, and Community Organizing
- Migration, Social Cohesion, and Cultural Identity
- Holistic Social Work Practice, Ecological Preservation and Rural Communities

### WE WELCOME

- conceptual papers
- research papers
- case studies
- educational models
- interdisciplinary perspectives
- practice-based case studies and interventions

**Republic of Moldova**  
**April 30th-May 3rd,**  
**2026**

### SUBMISSION & DEADLINE

**[nasw.moldova@gmail.com](mailto:nasw.moldova@gmail.com)**  
Abstract deadline: **March 15th**

ICCW 2026 welcomes educators, students and practitioners in various health related fields working on complex community wellbeing challenges.

**The proceedings will be conducted in English.**

# International Congress for Community Wellness

## The Struggle for Social Work Professionalization in Eastern Europe

### ABSTRACT REQUIREMENTS

- **100-200 words**
- include: title, author(s), affiliation, country, email, 3-5 keywords

### PRESENTATION FORMATS

- Individual presentations: 15 min
- Panel presentation: 60 min
- Workshop: 15-30 min (applied/practical)

### REGISTRATION & FEES

**Congress participation:** Free of charge.

**Optional add-ons** (international participants):

- Medieval Gala Dinner at Sf. Ilie Castle in Voievodatul Carbunei: 50 EUR/person
- Accommodation package (3 nights): 300 EUR/person (upon request)
- Visa support: invitation letters / supporting documents (upon request)

### Preliminary Program

#### 30/04 THURSDAY

**18:00-20:00** - Welcome dinner at the International House Moldova Lounge

#### 01/05 FRIDAY

**08:00 - 09:00** Registration

**09:00 - 09:40** Grand Opening

- Alliance for Social Work in Eastern Europe
- ULIM
- Project Casa Mare
- Vocational Rehabilitation Center VRC Moldova
- Youth Club for Social Entrepreneurship
- Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education

**9:40 - 10:10** Keynote Address

**Christos Panagiotopoulos**, *President of The European Association of Schools of Social Work*

**10:10 - 11:00** Introductory Plenary Session

3 introductory presentations

**11:00 - 11:15** Coffee Break

**11:15 - 13:00** Cluster I

4 presentations and discussions

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**15:00-20:00** Cultural Experience

Rites of Spring Festival and an Evening in Chişinău

#### 02/05 SATURDAY

**09:00 - 10:30** Cluster II

4 presentations and discussions

**10:30 - 11:00** Keynote Address II

**11:00 - 11:15** Coffee Break

**11:15 - 13:00** Cluster III

4 presentations and discussions

**13:00 - 14:00** Lunch break

**14:00 - 15:30** Cluster VI

4 presentations and discussions

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**17:00 - 21:00** Gala Dinner

Seara Medievala at Sf Ilie Castle in Voievodatul Carbunei

#### 03/05 SUNDAY

**10:00 - 14:00**

Meeting of the National Association of Social Workers in Moldova

# International Congress for Community Wellness

## The Struggle for Social Work Professionalization in Eastern Europe

**Dates:** April 30th–May 3rd, 2026

**Main venue:** Free International University of Moldova, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

**Background:** Over the past 12 years, National Association of Social Work in Moldova hosted a major experiment in social work—building, testing, and continuously improving an innovative social work model of education and practice. Initially grounded in Western social work frameworks, this effort expanded through the development of a dedicated curriculum, launch of a Master’s program in Moldova, and organization of six international conferences—two in Moldova and others in partnership with professional associations in Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, and Russia.

As the implementation progressed, the core challenge became clear: integrating the “Western” model with specific challenges and opportunities in post Soviet countries. That real-world tensions have led to **a creative synthesis between Western and Eastern approaches**, resulting in a stronger, higher-level curriculum and practice model with profound innovations. ICCW 2026 is designed to share these discoveries, invite critical reflection, and build a sustained international network for improving social work practice worldwide.

The Congress calls for an interdisciplinary dialogue in three strategic directions:

1. **Dialectic Social Expertise** – positioning the social workers as experts on conflict management with a dialectic approach as the theoretical and methodological platform.
2. **Community Wellness vs. the Medical Model** – exploring the system-based understanding of human health and wellbeing as a viable holistic alternative to the medical model.
3. **Social Entrepreneurship vs. Charity** – examining the empowering sustainable and impact-driven approaches to community development.

