



# WELCOME TO GHENT

## TISSA 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PHD & PLENUM CONFERENCE

**PRE-PHD CONFERENCE**  
AUGUST 19 - 21, 2016

**PLENUM CONFERENCE**  
AUGUST 22 - 24, 2016

The Steering Committee of The International Social Work & Society Academy (TISSA) is very proud to announce that the 14th TISSA Conference of 2016 will be held in Ghent (Belgium), hosted by the Department of Social Work and Social Pedagogy. The Pre-PhD Conference will be held from Friday 19/08/2016 till Sunday 21/08/2016. Following, the Plenum Conference will be held from Monday 22/08/2016 till Wednesday 24/08/2016.

During the TISSA Plenum and Pre-PhD Conference plenary sessions, panel debates and working groups excite the exchange and discussion of current developments and challenges in the social professions. Field visits give the opportunity to meet colleagues from Ghent and learn about their approaches and projects of social work. The social program makes it possible to get an idea of the conditions of daily life and to visit tourist attractions.

The PhD PreConference in conjunction with the Plenum conference provides a unique opportunity for PhD students who conduct research in the field of social services to present their results. A board of professors of international standing from a variety of countries will form a panel to comment on the presentations. The PhD PreConference offers therefore a very valuable occasion to engage in networking with colleagues from European countries.

### FIND OUT MORE

Find out more about the 14th annual Pre-PhD and Plenum Conference by visiting our brand new interactive website on [www.tissa.net](http://www.tissa.net). Don't hesitate to register online and submit your abstract via [www.tissa.net](http://www.tissa.net).

### ABOUT GHENT

According to National Geographic Traveler Magazine, Ghent is the third city in its global ranking of most beautiful cities across the world. Ghent is considered as a lively and vibrant city with more than 70.000 University and University College students each year.

### CONFERENCE THEME: SOCIAL WORK AS A FORUM FOR DEMOCRACY

Western Societies are currently facing enormous challenges which put pressure on the capacity for solidarity and the notion of democracy. Processes of globalisation, neoliberalisation and migration raise fundamental questions about the sustainability of the welfare state itself and the historical allegiance of the Western states towards the idea of human rights as a cornerstone of just societies. These processes affect and challenge social work practitioners and researchers to maintain and develop a strong notion of social work as a democratic human rights practice. In this contemporary context social work practices are often positioned as a 'solution' to social problems and limited to functional answers to given problems, rather than as critical forces which challenge and debate dominant discourses on social problems and solutions. As such, social work should reconceptualise and strengthen its role as a democratic forum, seen as an arena for debate about problem constructions and presented solutions to social problems. This triggers social work in Europe to develop an identity as 'human rights practices'. Therefore, TISSA 2016 invites experts from academic social work research, professional fields and policy to discuss their perspective on the role of social work as a democratic forum and the development of a human rights identity of social work.

### CALL FOR PAPERS

All colleagues and PhD-students are cordially invited to send an abstract of maximum 500 words via our brand new website. Submissions can either represent reflected practical experiences, empirical research, theoretical concerns and/or examples of resistance, conflict and alternates. A scientific committee will evaluate all incoming abstracts. Presentations will be limited to max. 20 minutes. Points for subsequent discussions are welcome. The deadline for the abstracts is May 29th, 2016.