



SOCIAL POLICY ASSOCIATION

THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LECTURERS, RESEARCHERS AND STUDENTS OF SOCIAL POLICY IN THE UK AND INTERNATIONALLY

SPA's International engagement

SPA is an outward-looking association. International, comparative and global aspects of social policy, as well as engagement with scholars residing outside the UK, are at the heart of SPA's mission and activities. We welcome formal collaborations and partnerships with learned societies, scholarly associations, social policy organizations and research networks from other parts of the world, on the basis of reciprocal arrangements.

Types of international collaboration

SPA's engagement with other learned societies, networks and organizations can take the form of one of three types of reciprocal arrangements:

1. Partnership
2. Affiliation
3. Co-operation

International partnership (Type 1)

An international partnership involves SPA engaging in a reciprocal agreement accompanied by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with longer-standing partners or new but well-established partners.

Indicative activities included under this type of engagement are:

- Signing of MoUs
- Encouraging joint conference panels and/or small workshops;
- Promote joint conferences (such as e.g. past SPA/EASP and SPA/DSA events);
- Share membership benefits (conference registration in our conferences at SPA membership rates; membership rates of subscription to our journals and vice versa);
- Reciprocal presentations/publicity of our respective associations in the partner associations' magazines and web sites;
- Contributions to Policy World (e.g. interviews with the partner association's president);
- Encouragement to use our jiscmail lists to promote workshops, news announcements of partner association.
- Potential expansion: opening-up SPA grant proposals and applications for International Conference Support Funds etc. to members of the other associations and vice versa.

International affiliation (Type 2)

An international affiliation involves SPA in less formal exchanges with well-established international partners and policy organisations, aiming primarily to share news and developments with SPA members.

Indicative activities included under this type of engagement are:

- Promotion of SPA events and publications that would be of interest to the affiliate associations' members;
- Encouraging submission of conference panel and paper proposals;
- Reciprocal presentations/publicity of our respective associations in the partner associations' magazines and web sites;
- Contributions to Policy World (e.g. interviews with the affiliate association's president);
- Encouragement to use our jiscmail lists to promote workshops, news announcements of affiliate association.
- Potential expansion: encouragement of affiliates to upgrade their link into formal partnership (Type 1) if compatible with SPA's long-term objectives.

International co-operation (Type 3)

An international co-operation involves SPA engaging in a 'mentoring' role, mainly responding to calls for support from individuals and groups interested to establish Social Policy Associations in their own countries and regions.

Indicative activities included under this type of engagement are:

- Sharing the SPA constitution;
- Sharing know-how and expertise in organising events like conferences;
- Sharing know-how, expertise and contacts in setting-up academic journals;
- Providing pump-priming resources (as e.g. in case of African Social Policy Association, operating out of Kenya);
- Arranging sessions to discuss specific operational issues with our Chair or Secretary
- Potential expansion: encouragement to upgrade links into affiliates (Type 2) if compatible with SPA's long-term objectives.
- Long term strategy: SPA aims to facilitate the creation of an "umbrella" International Social Policy Association comprising national SPAs along a "Commonwealth"/confederal model of horizontal organisation.