Criteria for full membership INSIA

Full membership is open to organisations that fulfil all the following criteria:

a)   Support the purpose of INSIA

b)   Assess interventions in social welfare and/or social care using systematic reviews (for definition see glossary in appendix)

c)   Are non-profit organisations (see glossary)

d)   Are funded by public sources to 50% or more (see glossary)

e)   Have a role in relation to regional or national government

f) Provide free access to reports to other members upon request, subject to financial, legal, and/or confidentiality issues.

Appendix A

Glossary

Contextual transfer

Critical appraisal

Evidence-informed decision-making

Intervention

Memoranda of Understanding

Methodological principles and guidelines

Non- profit organization

Outcome research

Public funding sources

Repository

Social Care

Social Intervention

Social Intervention Assessment (Earlier STA)

Social Intervention research

Social policy

Social Services

Social Welfare

Social Work

Systematic review

Contextual transfer: the process of carrying over and applying knowledge, evidence or skills in one context into a different context. (https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/TransferKnowledge)

Critical appraisal: The process of carefully and systematically assessing the outcome of scientific research (evidence) to judge its trustworthiness, value and relevance in a particular context. It is not the same as assessment of risk of bias. Critical appraisal concerns the way a study is conducted and examines internal validity, but also factors such as generalizability and relevance. Criteria for the appraisal of various components of an evidence claim can be operationalized using a pre-determined checklist or critical appraisal tool.

Evidence informed decision-making: Considering the best available research evidence in policy practice and the individual case decision making processes

Intervention: An intervention is any activity that would modify a process or situation. Interventions may have multiple elements that contribute to their effectiveness. Interventions may be developed at the individual, family, group, organizational, community, and societal levels. Interventions range from single techniques such as motivational interviewing to multielement programs such as assertive community treatment. (sampled from Mark W. Fraser and Maeda J. Galinsky (2010). Steps in Intervention Research: Designing and Developing Social Programs. Research on Social Work Practice, 20, 459-466.)

Memoranda of Understanding (MoU): a type of written agreement signed between two (bilateral) or more (multilateral) parties. It demonstrates a link and a good will between the parties, expressing an intended common line of action. In case a MoU incorporates steps of implementation, it should make a reference to the applicable legal framework, because MoU is not a source of law. It is a written alternative to a gentlemen's agreement.

Methodological principles and guidelines Internationally acceptable set of basic rules and quality criteria proposed to develop guidance taking into account local context and environment.

Non-profit organization: An organisation that is operated for collective, public or social goals. It does not operate as a business aiming to generate a financial profit for its directors, or shareholders; all income is used in pursuing the organisation's objectives and keeping it running. Common examples are charities, social enterprises and mutual businesses.

Outcome research: Outcome research aims to provide knowledge about which interventions work best for clients, patients or users, to what extent, and under what circumstances. This knowledge is important because it allows professionals to make informed decisions based on scientific facts and provides professionals with better conditions to provide the right treatment to the right client, at the right time and with regard to the client's individual characteristics.

Public funding sources: Government funding, or its equivalent, for instance funds generated through taxation; contributions to social health insurance schemes (such as assurance malady) or social security organizations. They can be administered by legal entities accountable to the public or national health system, and other bodies such as ministries, devolved administrations or local government. They can be gathered and distributed at the local, regional or national level. This can include funding for goods and services to improve health and social outcomes including research grants that come from public bodies (e.g., European Union, National Institutes of Health, WHO, or other public research body that allocates public funds). (INAHTA)

Repository: A database of digital content.

Social Care: Social Care refers to all forms of care and other practical assistance for people of any age (from childhood to the older people) who need extra support. This need can include vulnerability arising from maltreatment, social and emotional problems, learning or physical disabilities, mental health problems, or the misuse of drugs or alcohol. It may also include support for family members or other unpaid carers. Social workers and other staff carry out assessments, provide information and coordinate activities to back up this service provision

Social intervention: Social interventions include those that organize social welfare delivery; prevent, diagnose or treat psychological or social conditions; promote health or wellbeing; and provide rehabilitation.

Social Intervention Assessment – SIA: A process that uses explicit methods to determine the value of social interventions at different points in its lifecycle. The process is formal, systematic and transparent. The purpose is multidisciplinary to inform decision-making in order to promote an equitable, efficient, and high-quality social welfare. The dimensions of value for a social intervention may be assessed by examining the intended and unintended consequences of using an intervention compared to existing alternatives. These dimensions often include effectiveness, safety, costs and economic implications, ethical, social, cultural and legal issues, organisational and environmental aspects, as well as wider implications for the clients, relatives, caregivers, and the population. (Adapted from by O'Rourke B, Oortwijn W, Schuller T, the International Joint Task Group (2020). The new definition of health technology assessment: A milestone in international collaboration. International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care 36, 187–190. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0266462320000215)

Social intervention research: Social intervention research includes activities that help define a given problem, develop an intervention to alleviate the problem, investigate intervention components and their unique contribution to problem alleviation, test intervention outcomes and differential effectiveness, and understand the complex processes through which social interventions are implemented and sustained on a large-scale. (Sundell, K. &

Olsson, T. (2017). Social intervention research. In Oxford Bibliographies in Social Work (Ed. Edward J. Mullen). New York: Oxford University Press. Last modified 26 July 2017. DOI: 10.1093/OBO/9780195389678-0254)
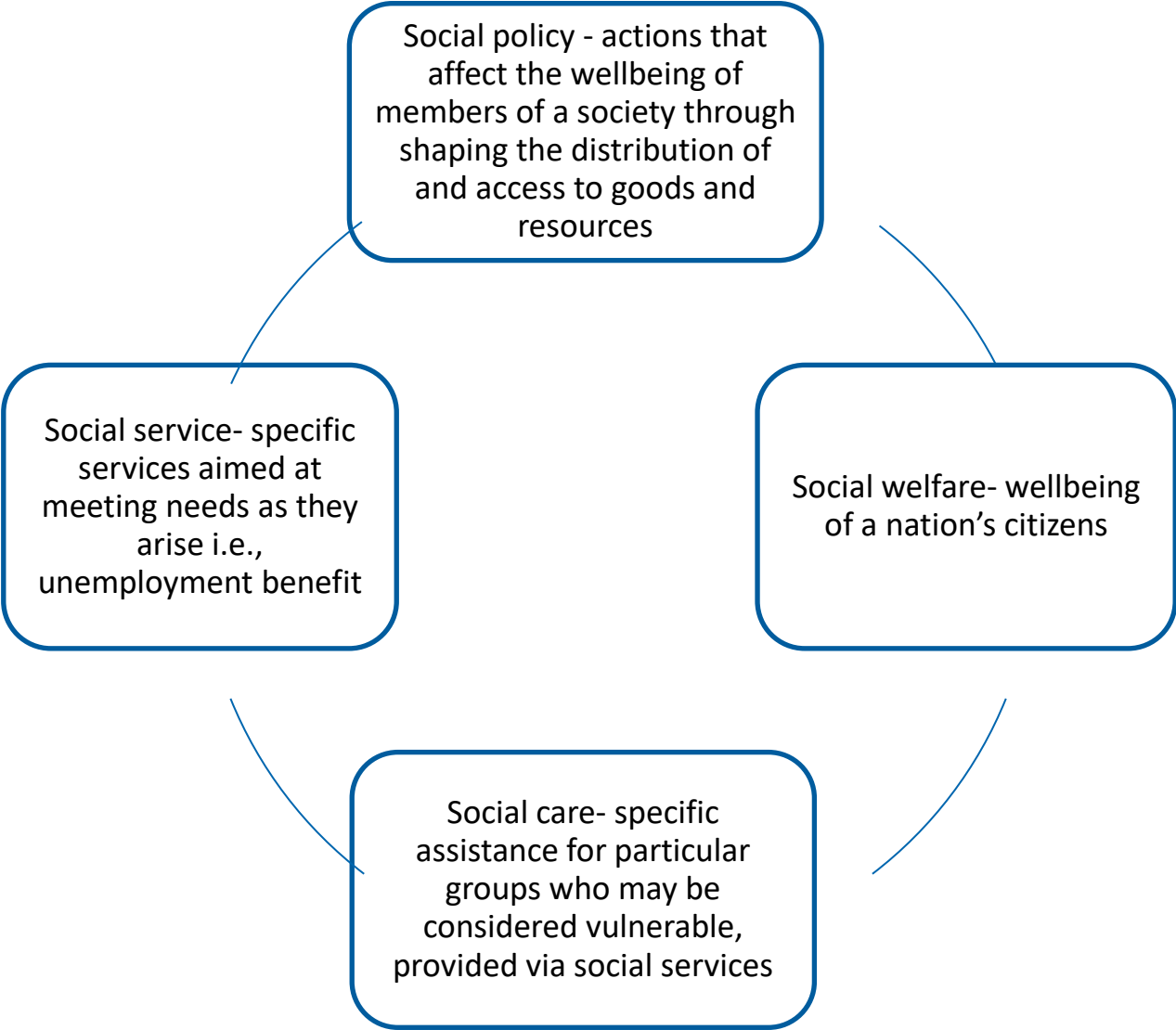
Social policy - actions that affect the wellbeing of members of a society through shaping the distribution of and access to goods and resources

Social welfare- wellbeing of a nation's citizens

Social care- specific assistance for particular groups who may be considered vulnerable, provided via social services

Social service- specific services aimed at meeting needs as they arise i.e., unemployment benefit

Social policy: Actions that affect the well-being of members of a society through shaping the distribution of and access to goods and resources in that society. Social policy is a key responsibility of national governments, but its outcome is dependent on contributions and interventions of all societal stakeholders, including the family (households), the third sector (non-profit organisations, cooperatives and other civil society initiatives), and the economy (the 'market'). (Policy in Aotearoa New Zealand: A Critical Introduction (2005) by Christine Cheyne, Mike O'Brien, & Michael Belgrave - Page 3)

Social Services: Social services are a range of public services provided by the government, private, profit and non-profit organisations. Social services can include benefits, activities, services and facilities such as education, food subsidies, health care, police, fire service, job training and subsidized housing. They tend to be person-oriented and developed to support peoples' fundamental needs, equality of opportunity, build stronger communities, promote social inclusion, and to protect people from harm. Some forms of social care may be provided through social services, although social services are offered to society at a higher level than social care provision, which tends to be targeted at specific vulnerable groups.

Social Welfare: Social Welfare is defined as policies, practices or a group of assistance programs designed to ensure the wellbeing of a nation's citizens to enable them to live a fulfilling life. That is, it is a system that uses public resources to provide organized public or private social services that protects and assists individuals and families who may be disadvantaged for example due to financial hardship.

Social work: Social work is a practice-based profession and an academic discipline that promotes social change and development, social cohesion, and the empowerment and liberation of people. Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work. Underpinned by theories of social work, social sciences, humanities and indigenous knowledge, social work engages people and structures to address life challenges and enhance wellbeing.
https://www.basw.co.uk/resources/global-definition-social-work

Systematic review: A systematic review uses explicit and systematic methods to review pre-existing research to address a specific research question. A systematic review often includes stages that: clarify the focus of the review; identify and describe (map) the relevant research; critically appraise the included studies; and synthesize the findings to answer the review question. There are several kinds of reviews that can be defined as systematic.

Appendix B

Aims of the International Network for Social Intervention Assessment (INSIA)

1. To develop and promote methodological principles and guidelines for INSIA

2. To support international coordination, cooperation, and collaboration in the production of assessments and systematic reviews and to avoid duplication of work

3. To support the use of assessments and systematic reviews produced in other contexts (by identifying, agreeing on and developing tools and methods for critically appraising and improving the contextual transfer of INSIA)

4. To support evidence-informed decision- and policy making in the field of social intervention assessment.

Membership criteria

Full membership is open to organisations that:

1) Assess interventions in social welfare

2) Are non-profit organisations

3) Are funded by public sources to 50% or more

4) Provide free access to reports to other members upon request subject to financial, legal, and confidential issues.

Benefits of membership

1. Networking offers a unique opportunity for SIA leaders and scientific staff to have direct contact with colleagues around the globe. This contact allows sharing information about, and strategies for their work, ultimately aiming to add value for the end users and clients.

2. Workshops, training sessions and webinars to show tools and expertise of importance for the tasks of the organisations.

3. Participation in the Annual Meeting for the membership agencies and organisations. The meeting should be a valuable opportunity for informal networking amongst members and to advance the aims of the Network. This meeting could be planned in conjunction with a workshop or training session to support capacity-building.

4. Access and use of a communication tool with direct contact to members; a service for members to ask questions to other members about assessments, methods and tools, or other specific questions. Responses should be received promptly and may contain links to resources and expert information not available elsewhere.

5. Members interested in a specific area can initiate a working group on that topic, to share expertise and to address challenges encountered in their day-to-day work. Staff in member organisations can also participate on a voluntary basis in such groups.

6. An increasing repository of good practices, tools and methods developed by and available to members of the network.

7. The network can potentially have Memoranda of Understanding with other international external organisations, such as the WHO, e.g. to jointly promote SIA and to meet any other strategic goal of the network.

Governance

1. secretariat.

2. INSIA will mainly be funded by membership fees (initially the secretariat needs to be supported by external public funds).

3. Board members should be elected by the membership and sit on the Board for a maximum time of 2 years but can be re-elected for a 2nd and 3rd term. The number of Board members should be 5 persons to keep the group small and functional. The Board members should represent different organizations, and no more than 2 representing the same country.

Vision

1. INSIA will be a global network with members of publicly financed SIA agencies or SIA organisations that support social welfare decision-making that affects many people.