



Calendar:

- Social Cohesion Workshop – Birmingham March 3-4.
- Social Cohesion Workshop – Paris March 17-18.
- Social Cohesion Workshop – Moscow March 24-25
- Social Cohesion Workshop – Vienna, March 24-25.
- IFSW Europe Delegates' Meeting May, 26-28, Sofia, Bulgaria
- IFSW Global Delegates Meeting July, 27-29, Munich, Germany
- IFSW World Conference July 30-Aug 3, Munich, Germany

Inside Highlights:

- SWAD 2005 reports
- Social Cohesion Workshops
- European Delegates Meeting
- Global Delegates Meeting
- European

President's New Year Message

David N Jones, IFSW European President



I am pleased to send you New Year greetings from the IFSW Europe Executive, Ana Radulescu [IFSW Europe Honorary Secretary] and myself.

2005 has been a significant year for social work in Europe. The debate about what the European social model means has become louder, with different opinions being spoken strongly. The EU Services Directive has provoked a lot of debate and conflict in the Parliament and European Council; it is significant for social work. The Council of Europe has continued its focus on social cohesion. In many countries there has been recognition of the importance of social work but also a debate about what social workers should do and whether this should change.

For IFSW, we had a successful conference in Cyprus. We have an active Executive and the Delegates Meeting made some important decisions. We have launched our social cohesion project using new funds from the global level. For the first time all the places on the EU Permanent Committee are taken and we are developing our work with

the EU. Our team at the Council of Europe has become established and is making good contacts with other NGOs and the staff of the Council. We have relaunched the European Social Worker on the web.

We have more countries wishing to join. Social Work Action Day was a success once again with many countries taking part.

2006 presents many challenges! We must

- deliver the report from the social cohesion project in time for Munich in July and ensure that it gets good publicity

- make real progress in contact with the EU and Council of Europe

- develop our influence on European policy about training and qualifications

- strengthen our partnerships with organisations with similar aims

- do more to work in partnership with service users

- support member organisations and welcome new members

And we must remember that 2006 is the start of our celebration of the 50th birthday of IFSW. At the global level we wish to use the year to strengthen the self confidence and

influence of social work, attract new sources of income and lift our Federation to a new level of operation. This will require hard work and we will also be asking for financial and practical support from member organisations.

So my New Year message is

- enjoy the celebrations of the New Year

- take pride in the daily achievements of social workers right across Europe

- tell others about the important and essential role of social work in building social cohesion in Europe

- come with ideas and enthusiasm to the General Meeting and conference in Munich in July, and

- be ready to put your commitment and energy into our 50th birthday celebrations and help us find new resources to transform our national and international professional networks to a new level of visibility and influence.

With our very best wishes to all social workers in Europe for 2006.

IFSW European President,
Executive members, Representatives and Committee Members

Social Work Action Day - 2005

On November 8, 2005, social workers across Europe celebrated Social Work Action Day (SWAD). IFSW Europe celebrates a Social Work Action Day every year to highlight the Social Work Profession in Europe

The Delegates Meeting decided to highlight: The Role of Social Workers in Europe. It is a part of the project "Social Work Promoting Social

Cohesion" of IFSW Europe. This topic was chosen as many member organisations are concerned about the increasing amounts of new legislation and changing expectations of social workers as well as the severe financial constraints placed on the social sphere in many countries.

Promoting greater public awareness of the difficulties faced by social workers is a key

aim, as often the profession does not receive the recognition it deserves from both politicians and the general public. The privatisation of many aspects of social care is also a new challenge faced by the profession.

Member organisations in European countries arranged activities to celebrate the day. Here are some of the things which happened in Europe:

SOCIAL WORK ACTION DAY - Croatia

The Croatian Association Of Social Workers together with the City of Zagreb and the Zagreb Municipality organised a round table discussion on the topic: "Who works, defines and decides about social work and social workers?"

SWAD was also celebrated by the regional Organisations of Social Workers. Round table discussions were held in Zagreb, Varazdin, Osijek, Sibenik, Varazdin and others. Social workers talked about their role in society and problems they are confronting every day.

On our web site, www.husr.hr, the Croatian

Association of Social Workers is promoting social work and the global conference that will be held in Munich in July. IFSWs Ethical Code was translated and distributed to the members.

We are working on promoting cooperation with regional Associations of Social Workers in order to empower common activities, public relations and presentation, as well as empowering social work and social workers.

Professor Knezevic, from University of Zagreb, Faculty of Law, Department of Social Work (with the assistance of

Ms. Branica) talked about the position of social workers in society and their presentation within society. It is apparent that social workers need to work on improving the way they are perceived by the public.

Moreover, it is necessary to react to negative criticism and, sometimes, inappropriate and spectacular journalist articles appearing in newspapers. Social workers, themselves, are essential in this process. With high quality work a good reputation should follow.

Nevertheless, high quality work demands good conditions. These issues should be discussed further.

SOCIAL WORK ACTION DAY - Norway

Sølvi Slørdahl, Executive Officer

The association carried out several activities in recognition of SWAD. We printed pamphlets and posters which we distributed to the local branches. We also distributed the translated press release from IFSW.

Shop stewards and members distributed this information to work places in some of the district councils around in Norway. In Ålesund (a city in the middle of

Norway) they also set up a stand in a big shopping center to inform people about what social workers do. The FO-students in Lillehammer distributed information in the college. In Fredrikstad (a city in south-east area of Norway), the local newspaper wrote about SWAD. At the University hospital in Tromsø (the biggest city in the North of Norway) the social workers set up a stand with the slogan: "Give yourself pleasure? Talk with a social

worker!" They also made buttons and other hand outs with this slogan.

During the day a lot of patients, relatives and colleagues took this information. The hospital's internal newspaper will publish an item about the event in December. Members in Kristiansand (a city in the south of Norway) invited the local leader of the Muslim community to discuss the situation for the immigrants

Social Work Action Day - Portugal- APSS -

Christina Martins

This is a report on the national activities of the Portuguese association for social work action day 2005:

We prepared a web blog (www.diaeuropaassistentesocial.blogspot.com) to publicize the day. That turned out to be very active and interactive. The blog is still active and receiving responses.

- A national meeting was held in Lisbon on

November 8th, with more than 600 participants, including social workers and social work students. The Minister of Work and Social Solidarity attended the meeting.

- The President of APSS Dr. Fernanda Rodrigues was interviewed on national television.
- A press release about SWAD was issued.

In addition there were

regional activities held around the country:

- The Centre Delegation of APSS held a cultural reception in Coimbra with more than 100 Social Workers and Social Work Students attending. There was a presentation of Social Work Books together with painting and art exhibitions. Musicians performed during this cultural and enjoyable

evening.

- The Madeira Delegation of APSS held a conference during the day attended by 70 social workers and social work students from the Acores's University. The local papers published news about the conference and the President of the Delegation was interviewed for the local television network.

The Role of the Social Worker in the 21st Century – A Literature Review

Professor Stewart Asquith, Dr Chris Clark, Professor Lorraine Waterhouse, University of Edinburgh

A literature review on the role of the social worker was carried out during November 2004 - January 2005 by consultants based at the University of Edinburgh. The review was commissioned by the Scottish Executive to support the work of the independent review group *21st Century Social Work* set up by the Education Minister. The review surveyed a large volume of literature covering social work across much of the developed world. A list of references is appended. The Scottish Executive is making this research report available on-line in order to provide access to its contents for those interested in the subject. The Executive commissioned the research but has not exercised editorial control over the report. This web only report is accompanied by "Insight 25: The Role of the Social

Worker in the 21st Century" also in web only format. Both reports are published by Information and Analytical Services division, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ. If you have any enquiries about these reports please contact the Dissemination Officer on 0131-244-0316. These reports were commissioned by the 21st Century Social Work Review Group to inform their work. Copies of this full report had already been released on the 21st Century Social Work Review website (<http://www.21socialwork.org.uk/>).

Both reports were published on The Scottish Executive website in December 2005. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/47121/0020821.pdf>

The review concludes that

- The 'crisis' in social work is mainly a matter of professional identity

that impacts on recruitment, retention and the understanding of the profession's basic aims.

- Social workers are very much needed to support those affected by poverty, disadvantage and social exclusion.
- There is an urgent need for social work to clarify its professional identity and its distinctiveness compared with other professions. This needs to be viewed with reference to the changing nature of the relationship between worker and client.
- The professional identity of social work need not be inextricably linked to specific organisational structures. Rather, its identity should be based on its core values and principles.
- The evidence suggests there is no logical need for a single structure social work department. The limited research evidence available

suggests that social workers can and do work well and effectively in a variety of multi-disciplinary contexts and organisational settings. Core professional values and commitments are more important than organisational structures.

- Social work has increasingly moved away from its commitments to direct work with individuals, families and communities and away from a preventive role. Social workers may thus be required to fulfil an organisational function that conflicts with professional values and principles and with the reasons that provided their motivation to enter social work in the first place.
- Models from other countries may be suggestive, but change should recognise the achievements since Kilbrandon [a major report which set the organisational framework for state social work in Scotland in 1964].

Social Work Action Day 2005 - Russia

Alexey A. Toporkov, Executive Director

There were a wide variety of events celebrating Social Work Action Day. Based on the responses received, we were able to raise the general awareness of the services provided by social workers and the need for these services in society.

Different activities took place in Russia for social work action day.

The Russian Union of Social Pedagogues and Social Workers involved all regional branches in celebrating Social Work Action Day.

A especially significant event took place in one Russian region. A film about the activities of social workers was shown on television. The following day the Union received many positive responses about the show.

Members of the union organized meetings in many social services agencies.

Also representatives of NGO's and business firms, who cooperate with social service institutions, came to the meetings.

Members in the Siberian region of the Russian Union of SP&SW dressed in special jackets and scarves with a union logo.

Other regions held conferences and round table discussions with social work students in the national universities. Students and volunteers had the opportunity to receive information about

regional union activities and also to learn more about the profession of social work and the structure of social services.

Using questionnaires, social workers questioned people about their knowledge of social work services. Responses show that people worry about their social care services. Most of them know something about social workers and their mission.

Many social service centers held open house visits for the public and lectures about the role of social workers in our community.

Social workers discussed the theme "My profession - Social Work". Other centers of social services held concerts dedicate celebrating the SWAD.

On Social Work Action Day, social workers and staff of the social service centers had the opportunity to talk with their managers about actual problems in social care for

vulnerable populations. These discussions were often reported in the next day's newspapers. In other cities, social workers held meetings and press conferences with the local mayor and city administrations. Many issues were raised about how to best improve the quality of care in social services and how to increase the salaries of social workers. The regional executive directors of the union addressed reporters about the history of SWAD and why the subject, "The Role of Social Workers in Europe" was chosen. The press, in many regions, reported on the events of SWAD.

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SWAD - Spain

We distributed the Spanish translation of the ethics document

In Spain, the Consejo General de Colegios Oficiales de Diplomados en Trabajo Social y Asistentes Sociales prepared the following activities for the Social Work Action Day:

- We published an article about the theme of the SWAD 2005 "The Role of Social Workers in Europe" on our website www.cgtrabajosocial.es and in the Association's newsletter.

- We distributed the Spanish translation of the document "Ethics in Social Work, Statement of Principles" and republished the National Code of Ethics, revised and consistent with the IFSW/IASSW Statement.

Project: Social Work in Europe Promoting Social Cohesion

Nicolai Paulsen, IFSW Europe Executive Committee Member, Chair, Permanent EU Committee

Hansjörg Keller, IFSW Europe Executive Committee Member

Antonina Dashkina, IFSW Europe Executive Committee Member

Ana Radulescu, IFSW European Secretary

As we informed you by email, IFSW Europe is organizing workshops for the project: Social Work in Europe Promoting Social Cohesion.

The hosting countries and the Executive agreed on the dates of the workshops.

The dates are:

- **United Kingdom, Birmingham,**
March 3-4, 2006
- **France, Paris**
March 17-18, 2006
- **Austria, Vienna**
March 24-25, 2006
- **Russia, Moscow**
March 24-25, 2006

Each workshop will start on Friday at 14.00 (Paris 15.00) and will end on Saturday at 17.00. The participants are advised to arrive on Friday morning and travel back on Sunday morning.

We expect **each member country to appoint at least one participant** for a workshop; you **can choose which one is most convenient for you**. As we informed you in the previous e-mails, IFSW Europe will provide support of 250 Euro for travel cost for one person from each member country. The costs for venue as well as accommodation for one night (if needed two nights) will also be paid

by IFSW Europe.

As you know we have a limited budget for this project, but we aim at paying also some of the food for the workshop.

We hope that the 4 workshops organised in 4 different countries will give the member organisations the possibility to participate at a reasonable travel cost.

Please notify the contact person for your chosen workshop-location the name of your representative:

For the workshop in United Kingdom, Birmingham, please contact Nicolai Paulsen at: nicolai.paulsen@dsh-o.dk

For the workshop in France, Paris, please contact Hansjörg Keller at:

hjkastanienbaum@hotmail.com

For the workshop in Russia, Moscow please contact Antonina Dashkina at: rusunisw@mail.ru

For the workshop in Austria, Vienna, please contact Ana Radulescu at: europa@ifsw.org

Please register your country's representative no later than January 31st.

In case your country is not able to send a

representative, you are also kindly requested to inform Ana Radulescu (also by January 31st).

The draft agenda of the workshops is:

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. National reports presentation (Brief presentation of the national reports focused on the specific issue identified in each country)**
- 3. Social work in each country**

- Level of social work education/training
- The role of social workers in your country
- Social workers' role in providing user-access to social rights (services; protection)
- Social workers' role in promoting social cohesion

- 4. Social service structure**

- Service providers (public/private; liberalisation)
- Service users (user involvement; access to social services)

- 5. The future for social cohesion**

- The role of social workers in developing/improving social cohesion
- Approaches in promoting social cohesion

- 6. Social worker's**

organisations influence on the development of social cohesion

- 7. Conclusion** (Define some common points from the reports, for the workshop to present a joint message on the social cohesion development for the participating countries)

The workshop's report will be part of the final report describing social cohesion in IFSW Europe member countries and in Europe as a whole. A draft report is planned to be presented at the Delegates Meeting in Bulgaria in May 2006, while the final report is planned to be ready for the IFSW Global conference in Munich, August 2006.

Further information will be sent to you and the appointed participants by email no later than the first week of February. By then you will be given green light to book your flight. The information will also be posted on our website:

<http://www.ifsw.org/en/p38000545.html>

IFSW European Region

E-MAIL:
europa@ifsw.org

David N. Jones,
 Regional President
 Ana Radulescu,
 Honorary Secretary
 Monica Egan,
 Honorary Treasurer
 Brian Auslander,
 Communications
 Nicolai Paulsen,
 Chair, EU Committee
 Hansjorg Keller,
 European Commission liason
 Antonina Dashkina,
 Membership



We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.ifsw.org

Social Work Action Day 2006

Ana Radulescu, IFSW Europe Honorary Secretary

The Delegates Meeting 2004 of IFSW decided in Adelaide to have a Global Social Work Day in future years. For that reason the Executive Committee of IFSW Europe proposes that the next European SWAD should be linked with the first global social work day in March/April 2007.

November 2006 is very close to March 2007 and the Executive Committee of IFSW Europe proposes to have NO Social Work Action Day 2006.

The member organisations have been asked if they agree to postpone Social Work Action Day 2006 in Europe. If you wish to have a SWAD in November 2006 please make proposals about

the theme and if your organisation would be ready to take responsibility for the work involved.

Each member organization has to answer the following questions:

1. Do you agree to have NO SWAD Europe November 2006?

2. If not: Which theme do you propose and is your organisation ready to take responsibility for the work involved in SWAD 2006?

The responses received by end of December 2005 showed that member organization's opinions vary. For instance Sweden and the Social workers Organisation, Salzburg (Austria) consider that we should not have a SWAD in

2006. On the other hand The Norwegian Union inform us that they have decided to establish an award, "Norwegian Social Worker of the year", as one of their regular SWAD-activities in the years to come; the award will be handed out also in 2006, but in lack of SWAD they will mark the occasion in connection with their big congress in November.

We would like to thank those countries who responded by now and still wait other countries to answer by February 15 to Ana Radulescu (europa@ifsw.org).

The subject will be discussed and decided by the Delegates Meeting in Sofia, 2006.

IFSW Europe Delegates' Meeting Timetable

IFSW Europe Delegates Meeting 2006 take place in Sofia, Bulgaria on 26-28 May. The meeting will start on Friday at 02.00 p.m. end on Sunday at 01.00 p.m.

The timetable for preparing for the European Delegates Meeting is:

December	Send out first notice of Delegates Meeting
January	Call for nominations for European Executive Committee
February	Send out proposed changes to articles in the European statutes Send out request for agenda items to IFSW European Member Organisations
March	IFSW Europe Executive Committee Meeting Send IFSW Europe preliminary agenda for the Delegates Meeting
April	Member organisations return comments and amendments of agenda
May	Send out final agenda and last date for papers Delegate Meeting in Sofia More information can be found on the website.

IFSW Global General Meeting, Munich 2006

January	IFSW Global call for nominations
June	General Meeting papers send out
July	General Meeting in Munich

SOCIAL WORK ACTION DAY - Switzerland

Our section of St. Gallen organized the following activities:

Five politicians were invited to visit three social care institutions (Pro Infirmis, Caritas and the office for youth). After that a round table discussion was organized with parliamentarians, a town councillor and representatives of the three mentioned institutions. Already after ten minutes it was clear, that the financial pressure coming from politicians and the economy was an enormous problem. Somebody said, that one must constantly prove, black on white, how the money is used. But how much control is needed? And how great is the use of social work in society? Solidarity is a basic condition for the survival of a society. It is understandable that our politicians want to know where the money is going. But social work has received much greater attention than others recently.

In order to react to changes in the society, the dialog between politicians and social workers is imperative.

The section of Aargau organized

festivities around the merger of SBS and AvenirSocial. The merger allows for a stronger association. The aim of the section is that Aargau becomes more social. Only a loud and proactive professional association can change the policy of "saving money" at the expense of social programs. The section also organized a competition on the topic: "projects which will make the Kanton Aargau more social!" The jury decided on three projects. Each project received sFr. 4000. The projects make a contribution within the responsibilities of social workers, social pedagogs and youth workers. It is to improve the life situation of disadvantage citizens in the Kanton Aargau.

Our section of central Switzerland organized discussions of social workers, social pedagogs and youth workers.

Recent economic measures in the cantons, other financial issues and the merger of the professional association from SBS to AvenirSocial were topics in the media. The committee requested that professionals of social work discuss the necessity for a professional association and also

about the use of vocational political commitments.

Some of the answers included:

- "I am a member of the Swiss Association of Social Work. Unfortunately, I do not have the time to be more active in the association, but I find it is absolutely necessary to support a professional association".
- "I am a member, but I do not know enough about the association in order to become more active".
- "I do not know why the fees for the members are so high. What good does my membership do for me?"
- "Today, it is important to become a member of a professional association, in order to carry more weight. The single fighter has already lost from the beginning on".
- These were few statements which were certainly only the beginning. We do hope, that such discussions will continue and that we receive more members in order to become a stronger association.

Consultation about the „Proposals for Changes of the Statute of IFSW Europe,, (Constitutional Changes)

The Delegates Meeting in Cyprus discussed a paper „Proposals for Changes of the Statute of IFSW Europe“. No decisions were made. We sent you the paper which was presented. You can also find the Constitution of IFSW Europe on the website of IFSW (www.ifsw.org) Europe.

The Member Organisations are now asked to make comments about the proposed changes and to inform Ana Radulescu (europe@ifsw.org) by February 15. Do you agree with the proposed changes? Do you want to propose other changes to the Constitution?

The Executive proposes that the Delegates Meeting makes decisions about constitutional changes in Sofia 2006 after this consultation.

The President of IFSW Europe will discuss the proposals also on global level if changes on the global Constitutions are needed.