

Draft Work Programme 2017-2018 for IFSW Europe e.V.

EU issues and the European Social Platform

Proposed Action:

- a) To maintain organisational membership of the European Social Platform (SP) and continue networking with colleagues from other SP organisations to raise IFSW Europe's profile and contribute a social work perspective to issues the Platform and other members are pursuing
- b) To appoint a Representative and a support team to coordinate IFSW E's input to the SP Steering Group and Task Forces and engagement with officials and politicians in the European Commission and Parliament and organisations we have developed formal partnerships with.
- c) To pass on information to our members about issues relevant to social work being pursued by the SP and encourage them to link with the national members of other SP networks in their own countries and lobby their MEP's and Heads of State for changes that are required.
- d) Principal amongst such issues will be the need to contribute to the SP's response to proposals arising from the consultation on the Pillar of Social Rights contained in the White Paper on the Future of the EU
- d) The SP's 2017 workplan lists activities it intends undertaking under the following overarching strategic objectives:
 - 1) Leaving no one behind – Prioritising people in vulnerable situations;
 - 2) Reducing inequalities through a just economy;
 - 3) Building bridges – Engaging with civil society;
 - 4) Strengthening the capacity of the Platform's network.
- e) IFSW Europe will give priority to objectives 1 and 2 and members will be encouraged to provide evidence that supports the investment of European Structural and Investment Funds in the health, social care, education and employment services that are required to secure equal access for everybody, including migrants and ethnic and religious minorities.
- f) It will also be important to incorporate a social work perspective in the SP's response to the European Commission's legal migration fitness check (REFIT) which is likely to identify gaps and inconsistencies and scope for streamlining EU legislation on migration. We will also need to contribute examples of innovative social enterprises and support the development of a position on tax justice.