



Delegates Meeting for IFSW Europe e.V. Reykjavik, Iceland, 26-28 May 2017

Agenda item 8.3 Future conferences

IFSW Europe has a history of organising conferences in social work. This has been done together with a national member association and together with other European associations. In July 2012 at the informal regional meeting at the General Meeting in Stockholm, the European region decided to leave the cooperation regarding conferences together with Ensact (European network for social action). The analysis was that our members, the practitioners in social work, got less possibilities to present their good practice at the Ensact-conferences. The decision has resulted in more conferences regarding social work in Europe. During the spring 2017 there's the ESWRA (European Social Work Research Association) conference in Aalborg in April, IFSW conference in Iceland in May, Nordic family therapy conference in Iceland in June, EASSW conference in Paris in June. The region is now about to organise the second IFSW European conference since the collaboration with Ensact ceased. The region is however still members in Ensact and have strengthen the relationship with European Association of Schools of Social Work - EASSW. EASSW is now wondering if IFSW Europe would be interested in organising conferences together in the future. This document will present some pros and cons regarding this.

Pros:

- As written above there are a lot of conferences regarding social work in the region and they all compete to attract social workers, teachers and researchers that have the possibility to attend an international conference. Together the two associations may have a better possibility in attracting a larger crowd.
- The organising work and the responsibility for the European executive as well as the national association would be shared if the region would organise joint conferences.
- Two European organisers may have better possibilities to promote conferences.
- Possibly a lower registration fee with more participants.

Cons

- One of the reasons for IFSW Europe to organise conferences alone has been to enable social workers working in practice to present their work and share it with colleagues. If the region would start a cooperation with EASSW participation of practitioners has to be ensured so that the standards for abstract is different for practitioners than for researchers.
- More organisers might result in more meetings and more time spent on communicating around the conference to make sure that each partner is represented in a good way.
- As ESSW members often have more experience in organising international conferences, Member associations of IFSW Europe could get a lesser role in the organisation and therefore not gain experience to organise international conferences