



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSISTANTS SOCIAUX
FEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE TRABAJADORES SOCIALES

IFSW Europe e.V. Work Programme 2017 -2018

This work programme is presented under the following broad subheadings adopted by the 2013 IFSW Europe e.V. Delegates Meeting:

1. Visibility and Voice
2. Membership development
3. Services for members.

The document “Executive Members Work Portfolio” identifies the executive member who has lead responsibility for designated areas of the work programme.

The executive member/leader may establish a team if s/he considers this to be necessary to complete the task.

“Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work.” (IFSW Definition of Social Work) and constitute the basis for all actions performed by the executive committee of IFSW Europe e.V. in the different areas of the work programme.



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1. COMMUNICATION.

MAIN POINTS:

- To use Google group account, Skype meetings and any other relevant and affordable forms of communication.
- To email on regular bases to members information and updates.
- To carry out Connecting Members Project in order to update the members of the Executive designated to link with individual member organizations and contacts in countries not currently represented.
- To support regional and sub regional communication development.
- To take other relevant actions. To keep regular contacts with external stakeholders.
- To review and update existing communication values, rules and guidelines in relation to internal and external communication of IFSW Europe

A GOAL TO REACH.

- We will try to bring off resources to be able to move towards to:
- To professionalize our external communication areas, in order to improve future results.
- To strengthen the mechanisms of how we are sharing information (website, facebook, e-mail, etc) and our protocols in between IFSW-Europe members.
- To define our Social Media Communication Plan. The SMCP consists on a specific technical plan that indicates the kind of contents that should be shared, the language that should be used and the periodicity contents may be shared. To prepare our Plan as our previous objectives (qualitative and quantitative) are defined, and competitors and other organizations are analysed.



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- To establish the website as the center of our external communication. It is our storefront: all the contents we want to be known, not only have to be shared by emailing. It is important as they will be published in the website even before we will share them in any other social media source. IFSW Europe depends on how external people and stakeholders, not only social workers, see our website.

2. FINANCES

MAIN POINTS:

- Finances and Legal Body maintenance.
- To issue guidance concerning the reimbursement of expenditure incurred by executive members carrying out official duties
- To publish rules and an application form for delegates applying for assistance to attend the Delegates Meeting 2018
- Updates on membership status
- Create a working group on funding strategy for IFSW Eu.

3. MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

MAIN POINTS:

- To welcome and support on the adaptation process to new members on IFSW Europe as well as to promote the active participation of all members



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- To implement the coordination with the IFSW Global in order to coordinate the information with the members and also future new members. As well as, develop a transparent inclusion route in the process.
- To support the development of professionalization Social Work Services

4. IFSW EUROPEAN CONFERENCE 2019

MAIN POINTS

- To continue the process of preparing IFSW European Conference 2019.

5. ENSACT. European Network for Social Action.

MAIN POINTS

- To continue to participate in ENSACT meetings related to the regional observatory of the Global agenda and encourage our members and the wider social work community to Contribute information about new initiatives and service developments to the European Observatory for the Global Agenda.
- To participate in the elaboration on what environmental sustainable social work can and could be.



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6. EU ISSUES

MAIN POINTS

- 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
- 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.
- 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.
- 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
- The SP's 2017 Work Plan 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.
- 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.



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- 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.

7. FRA. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights Platform

MAIN POINTS

- To continue being an active member of the Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP) and engage with other civil society organisations concerned about Fundamental Rights
- To continue fighting for the vigilance of the well being and health of the Fundamental Rights.
- To disseminate information about FRA's research and publications to our members and the wider social work community

8. NETWORKING AND LOBBYING

MAIN POINTS

- To support IFSW Europe members linking with networks and organizations in different fields related to social work



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9. THE SOCIAL WORK DAY 2018

MAIN POINTS

- To call for Action in Europe celebrating 20 years of social work day
- To promote the goals marked on the Global Agenda.
- To publish and promote events and actions around Europe through our Web and Media sources.
- Video message from IFSW Europe.

10. RELATIONS WITH IFSW GLOBAL.

MAIN POINTS

- To form and develop stronger links with the IFSW Global, exploring new paths when possible, and increasing the coordination and communication as much as possible.
- To cooperate with IFSW Global in Executive Meetings, new policies and procedures, as well as when required.
- To co-elaborate and promote proposals to empower regions with IFSW.
- To link our members with the IFSW Global, mediating and increasing internal communication.



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11. NETWORK FOR SOCIAL WORKERS IN EUROPE WORKING WITH REFUGEES

MAIN POINTS

- Develop a policy on social workers role in age determination of unaccompanied minors

12. FIGHTING AUSTERITY, POVERTY, EXCLUSION AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY

MAIN POINTS

- To look for data that can be compared among countries and that set forth how the substantial government expenditure cuts on the social protection system continued increasing the breach of Human Rights in Europe.
- To support members of IFSW Europe, those fighting against Austerity Measures and promoting social protection

13. COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (INGO)

MAIN POINTS

- To maintain and develop our organisational membership in INGO Conference through:
- Actively contributing to capacity building and campaigning and lobbying activities at a European level with INGOs of different backgrounds and vectors of activities;



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- Aiming at participating in the 2 semester meetings of the Conference INGO (January and June) and in the thematic working groups, namely those with close links with the main activities of the professional category (Human Rights Committee, Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges Committee);
- Passing on info about INGO Conference activities in Strasbourg and other parts of Europe;
- Providing information on issues relevant to social work being discussed at INGO Conference meetings to our members and where appropriate lobbying their MEP's and Heads of State for the changes required;
- Using the INGO Conference as a platform for closer cooperation and joint activities with EASSW and ICSW (who are members of the Conference) in influencing the process of eradicating poverty, preventing the violent conflicts, fighting for the rights of transnational migrants and against human trafficking;
- Promoting the European Social Charter and its Complaints mechanism as fundamental instrument for the effective safeguarding of all social rights in Europe;
- Using a practical guide to conduct dialogues in the communities where they are most needed. This user-friendly Dialogue Toolkit can have impact in situations where people want to build social cohesion and the human rights based approach to diversity issues. Toolkit is document made by members of INGO Conference and was successfully used in several countries (<http://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/dialogue>);
- Disseminating information about INGO Conference activities to our members and the wider social work community by using representatives annual reports and the site of the Conference;
- Aiming participating in the main events in Strasbourg (celebration of 40 years anniversary of INGO Conference 25 June; the Day "Europe against the death penalty", 10 October; World Day of eradication of poverty, 17 October; World Forum for Democracy, 9 – 10 November).



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14. HUMAN RIGHTS

MAIN POINTS

- To continue the research related to the Human Rights related to social workers and the people affected by social exclusion
- To continue advocating for human rights for social workers in Europe
- To co-organize with EASSW a Pre Conference “ What is so special about Social work and Human Rights & Challenges for Social Workers across Europe” in June 2017, during the EASSW Conference “Social work education in Europe: challenging boundaries, promoting a sustainable future” in Paris.
- To relate with the work of refugees and make a link between the Human Rights and child protection special for refugee children

15. EAPN

MAIN POINTS

- Actively contributing to capacity building and campaigning and lobbying activities at a European level. This could be enhanced by having some better information about members’ involvement with EAPN. (See c.)
- Passing on info about EAPN’s lobbying activities, and publications to our members.
- Encouraging our members to work more closely with EAPN’s member organisations in their own countries. Consider a survey of IFSW E members to find out what the current levels of engagement with EAPN country networks are and the extent to which IFSW E members are contributing. This would enable IFSW E to contribute more effectively and develop better links.
- Participating in the EAPN Task Force for Poverty and Human Rights and suggestions for examples