



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

IFSW Europe e.V.

Delegates Meeting. Reykjavik, Iceland, 26-28 May 2017

Agenda item 4. Approval and Presentation of Executive members' contributions to report work programme 2016 -2017

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

- **Visibility and Voice**
- **Membership development**
- **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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Welcome by the President,

Dear Members and those interested in the Work Programme 2016-17,

From the IFSW Europe we are proud presenting the compilation document carried out from May 2016 to April 2017. It is been a year of openness and focused on interconnection, trying to generate the necessary protocols to provide rigor to our fundamental pillars. For that reason, we thank to those who have accompanied us in the process for the support they have given to us, also, a warm welcome to the new members, and encouragement to future members and collaborators to join forces for a greater visibility of the profession and the positive reinforcement of our institutions and results. Resulting on a continuous improvement of those on which our action becomes effective.

It has been a year of changes, where we have been trying to put solutions to basic questions of the management, in addition, the Executive Meetings had been holding on Skype meetings, in order to reduce costs and liberate this portion out of budget (as reflected on Work Programme 2016). Same with other meetings and connexions, that

- 2016 September 14
- 2016 October 31
- 2016 November 30
- 2017 January 26
- 2017 February 21
- 2017 March 16
- 2017 April 18

As IFSW Europe new President, and on behalf of the rest of the Executive Members, we hope to continue carrying out the commitment of which we are part, with increasing passion and rigor.



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1. COMMUNICATION

IFSW Europe President, Ana Lima
Secretary Honorary, Lola Casal-Sanchez

- 1.1 Internal executive communication
- 1.2 Internal communication with members
- 1.3 External communication with stakeholders
- 1.4 Communication values, rules and guidelines
- 1.5 Social Media

DEVELOPMENT / ACTIONS

IMPROVING WAYS OF COMMUNICATION

IFSW Europe is a well established, regulated and registered organisation. However further capacity building is required to improve communication and contact with and between members (inward) and to develop our marketing and lobbying/communication with partner organizations (outward).

ACTIONS

- 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 subregional meetings through Skype or by other means of communication
- To Support new associations on how to reach out to members

DEVELOPMENTS/ ACTIONS BY APRIL 2017

IMPROVING WAYS OF COMMUNICATION:

IFSW Europe has improved the level and grade of communication, as a key-point in previous Working Programmes. However we still thinking that we are in an early stage of development as we are ambitious on this topic. As well as, the implementation of our Connecting Members Project, in parallel with a continuous development on marketing and communication (outward), as previously and continuously targeted area.

ACTIONS

- **Skype meetings.** The Executive Meetings had been holding on Skype meetings, in order to reduce costs and liberate this portion out of budget (as reflected on Work Programme 2016).
- **Connecting Members Project:** a new regional distribution, locating an Executive Member on an specific list of members in order to:
 - a) Help to improve communication with members
 - b) Encourage member organizations to become more involved in the work of IFSW
 - c) Support exchange between members
 - d) Encourage new members (The subdivision of members has been presented on the "Executive Members Work Portfolio")



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- 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

- e) New external links and projects, are being develop with stakeholders. Opening our institution to new partnerships, keeping contact with those that we have linked on the past with, but also working on an increased lobby.
- f) We have maintained and implemented the social network, that has kept the information on the web and on facebook, colligate in them the most relevant documentation of the IFSW Europe.

▪ Positioning ourselves:

- a) Joint statement. Children cannot wait: 7 priority actions to protect children in migration (released on 1st December 2016)
- b) A new Europe for people, planet and prosperity for all (released on 12th September 2016)
- c) Joint NGO statement – NGOs strongly condemn new EU policies to contain migration (released on the 27th June 2016)

- **Communication with members and stakeholders.** We have distributed among members and stakeholders important updates and announcements, within short periods of time so members were aware of the activities of IFSW Eu Executive and IFWS Eu representatives

We have maintained and updated a database of member organizations and their representatives, partners and contacts in countries not currently in membership.

- **Social media.** In order to provide visibility over IFSW Europe activities we have worked together with IFSW Global administrator, Pascal Ruding and have upload relevant information on the website as well as facebook



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2. FINANCES

IFSW Executive and Honorary Treasurer, Brian Auslander

DEVELOPMENT / ACTIONS

- 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 2017
- Updates on membership status
- To negotiate with the EU to be a mandated body to answer on European tenders
- To support lobbying for the status of mandated body

DEVELOPMENTS/ ACTIONS BY APRIL 2017

Much of the efforts this past year were toward the transfer of the finances from Germany to Spain.

As of January, 2017, a bank account was opened under the auspices of the Spanish General Council, so that the 2017 membership fees and the remaining bank balance can be deposited and IFSW Europe will have a better functioning financial system.

The executive made a decision that the 2016 budget should be a balanced budget, as opposed to the deficit budget of previous years. Consequently, the executive did not approve travel for themselves or representatives after the delegates meeting.

It was further decided to publish the rules and application form for DM financial assistance as early as possible so that candidates would be able to take advantage of lower airfares and hotel prices and not wait to the last minute.

Regarding the legal body, the committee appointed at the last delegates meeting reviewed the proposed changes and made recommendations to the executive. The executive decided to propose to the next DM the minimum necessary changes to satisfy the German courts, in order to allow legal body maintenance.



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3. MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

IFSW Europe President, Ana Lima

DEVELOPMENT / ACTIONS

- Developing relations with countries with no member and re-establishing relations with former members
- To support the development of social work in new social work countries
- To support the development and build the capacity of professional networks in emerging countries

DEVELOPMENTS/ ACTIONS BY APRIL 2017

- **New Memberships:** welcoming Moldova and Poland since June 2016 at Seoul General Assembly, and Netherland since January 2017. Increasing the institutional visibility internally, and generating new links on those countries.
- A stronger link has been build with the **EASSW and EAWRA**, in order to generate a connection that will benefice the future of Social Work in our region.

4. IFSW EUROPEAN CONFERENCE 2017

IFSW Europe Executive and member of the Steering Committee Maria Rúnarsdóttir
Members of the Steering Committee, Josefine Johansson and Ana Lima

DEVELOPMENT / ACTIONS

- To continue the organization process of the IFSW European Conference 2017 in Reykjavik, Iceland from 28 to 30 May 2017, in partnership with the Icelandic Association of Social Workers

DEVELOPMENTS/ ACTIONS BY APRIL 2017

- Preparation for the conference has been ongoing for the last 15 months. A call for abstracts was sent out in April 2016 and 173 abstracts were received, from 32 countries; **146 abstracts from 21 European Country and 26 abstracts from 10 countries outside of Europe.** 64 abstracts for one hour workshop and 87 for 20 minutes presentations and 22 for poster presentations. Sadly there were some countries in Europe that did not send in any abstracts such as France, Greece, Belgium, Switzerland and Russia.



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- The Programme Committee's aim was to accept as many abstracts as possible but due to limited space for sessions at the venue it was necessary to invite a number of authors shorter presentation time or a poster presentation. Total of 35 one hour workshops and 71 presentations were accepted. In September 2016 authors received notification on their abstracts and registration was opened.
- The draft programme was ready in December 2016 with two **Key Note Speakers; Helga Thorolfsdóttir**, an Icelandic social worker with extensive experience as a humanitarian aid professional but she has been a Cooperation Coordinator for the ICRC, for the last years, situated in Iraq and Iran. Helga's working title is Crossing Borders/Social workers and humanitarian action.
- The other Key Note speaker is a well known speaker in social work, professor **Lena Dominelli** who has published widely in social work and her most recent single authored book is Green Social Work. Lena Dominelli's focus will be on Sustainable societies and Marginalisation. The steering committee sent out a call for video messages from users and/or user organisations so users voices can be heard at the conference.
- **515 participants are registered (26th of April)**, 195 from Iceland and 320 from other countries. The conference will start on Sunday with a reception and end on Tuesday with an Icelandic Party.



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5. ENSACT. European Network for Social Action

IFSW Executive member, Josefine Johansson

DEVELOPMENT / ACTIONS

- To continue to participate in ENSACT meetings 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.
- ENSACT and the European Observatory for the Global Agenda: The European observatory report will be disseminated to all members during spring.
- ENSACT-partners will present the work at a workshop at the Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development in Seoul, Korea, 27th-30th June 2016.
- An abstract will also be sent to the IFSW European Conference 2017 in Reykjavik.
- The ENSACT-partners have decided to continue the collection of examples of good social work practice

DEVELOPMENTS/ ACTIONS BY APRIL 2017

The European region has been represented by Josefine Johansson, Executive member with responsibility to link with Ensact.

The executive has disseminated the **European Observatory Report** and a presentation of the report will be made at the European conference 2017 in Reykjavik.

The president of Ensact held a 10 presentation of the European observatory report in Seoul, Korea



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6. EU ISSUES AND SOCIAL PLATFORM. The European Social Platform

IFSW Europe Representative, Ian Johnston, United Kingdom

Supporting team: John Brennan, Ireland; Fran McDonnell, United Kingdom; Graça André, Portugal

IFSW Europe is a full member of the European Social Platform (SP) which is a civil society alliance of 47 Pan European networks of NGO's fighting for social justice and participatory democracy and campaigning to ensure that EU policies are developed in partnership with people they affect, respect fundamental rights and promote solidarity. These include organisations of women, older people, people with disabilities, people affected by poverty, young people, children and families, gays and lesbians and transgenders.

Based in Brussels, close to the European Parliament, the SP has successfully lobbied the Commission and Parliament about a range of issues of concern to social workers and those using our services.

DEVELOPMENT / ACTIONS

Visibility And Voice. IFSW Europe is working to ensure that the voice of social workers is more prominent in Europe and national campaigns concerning the importance of maintaining the commitment within the EU to address poverty and exclusion and recognise the avoidable suffering and greater expenditure in the long term that will result from failure to do so. This must go hand in hand with addressing the operational needs for good quality and standards in social work practice, including human rights, ethics, professional role, training and qualifications, as well as organisational, contextual and conditional issues related to social work practice.

ACTIONS

- To maintain our organisational membership of the
- European Social Platform and continue networking with colleagues from other Social Platform organisations to raise IFSW's profile and contribute a social work perspective to the issues they are pursuing
- To designate members to join the team representing IFSW at meetings of

DEVELOPMENTS/ ACTIONS BY APRIL 2017

IFSW Europe pays an **annual membership fee** of 737euros and the SP reimburses expenses we incur attending Steering Group Meetings and General Assemblies (8 per year) and participating in networking meetings with EU member countries assuming responsibility for the European Presidency. We therefore receive significantly more funds back from the SP than we contribute. However, our membership of the SP entails a considerable time commitment attending meetings and responding to correspondence.

The SP currently has 6 **Task** Forces addressing:

- Digital Inclusion;
- Inclusion of Migrants;
- EU Funding; Services,
- The Social Economy & Social Enterprises;
- Social Standards;
- Tax Justice.

Some recent **press releases** issued by the SP can be accessed at the following web links:



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the Social Platform's Steering Group and Task Forces and with those organisations we have formal links with

- To support our Brussels based representative, Dalé Kabasinskaitė and effectively engage with the Platform, other key organisations and officials and politicians in the European Commission and Parliament
- To continue to support the Platform's action to secure the exemption of social care services from the scope of the proposed EU/US TTIP agreements
- To pass on information about issues relevant to social work being pursued by the Social Platform to our members and where appropriate encourage them to link with the national members of Social Platform networks in their own countries to lobby their MEP's and Heads of State for the changes required
- To promote engagement with prospective members of the EU particularly those countries where HR abuse is condoned by the authorities and encourage dialogue about how this can be tackled constructively
- To be aware and participate in lobbying about on Going negotiations regarding TTIP, SETA, TISA and other possible trade agreements.
- To continue to support the platform's action to secure the exclusion of health and social services in the context of European Social Models. Collect and disseminate positions from around Europe and link with Global members as appropriate.
- To encourage members to meet emerging service personnel consider readiness to respond to epidemics like Ebola and other major disasters.

- Violence against women and girls ([here](#))
- Law on accessibility in Europe ([here](#))
- Rights NGO cities protection social rights as red line in white paper discussions ([here](#))
- Largest EU alliance of Social NGS calls on decision makers to put social rights at the heart of economic governance ([here](#))
- Pledge support for social rights but not adequate wages for europe workers ([here](#))
- Trade union and civil society representatives launch talks with eu-decision makers on ways towards more public social investment-in europe ([here](#))

In recent years' IFSW Europe has appointed members to a small **working group** designated the Social Platform Team (SPT), which communicates by email and SKYPE conference calls to manage the complex range of work and cross-cutting issues that SP membership and our partnerships with other member organisations generates.

Members of the SPT this year have been Ian Johnston and Fran McDonnell from the UK, Graca André from Portugal and John Brennan from Ireland. IFSW's Brussels based Representative, Dale Kabašinskaitė, resigned from her position following the 2016 Delegates Meeting and has not been replaced.

Ian Johnston has presented IFSW's work with the Social Platform and other partners at the Human Rights Seminar in Zagreb that followed that meeting.

In June, Ian Johnston and Fran MacDonnel attended a **Pre-Brexit event** in London entitled "Social Boom or Bust" organised by the SP to encourage debate and promote solidarity and more recently Ian Johnston delivered a presentation on Digital Inclusion to an SP



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Also ensure that the requirement for Social Services is taken into account.

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Workshop.

Over the past year, Ian Johnston has attended 6 **meetings** of the SP Steering Group and 3 SP Task Force Meetings and contributed to the drafting of position papers and other documents, such as the following publication on Myth Busting which has already been drawn to members' attention.

http://www.socialplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/final_complete_document.pdf

Ian Johnston have also arranged for IFSW E to countersign representations to the European Parliament and Commission and Heads of Member States about issues of concern to social workers, notably the treatment of migrants and refugees.

The SP hold 2 General Assemblies each year. The first of these takes place in October and was attended by Fran McDonnell. Ana Lima-Fernandez, Ian Johnston and Juan Sevilla Rebolo plan to attend the second such event which will be held in Brussels on 27th April 2017.

Pierre Baussand, Director of the SP for the past decade, moved to another job at the end of last year. He is being replaced by Kélig Puyet, who is currently employed at SOS Children's Villages International. Kélig was Institutional Relations Coordinator & Human Rights and Equality Policy Officer at the European Youth Forum, before joining SOS Children's Villages ten years ago, firstly as Head of EU Office, and currently as Head of Global Advocacy. She will join the Secretariat team as Director on 2 May 2017.



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7. EAPN European Anti-Poverty Network

IFSW Europe Representative, Fran McDonnell

The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) is the largest European network of national, regional and local networks, involving anti-poverty NGOs and grassroot groups as well as European Organisations, active in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. It is committed to the participation and empowerment of people experiencing poverty. At present, there are 31 national networks of voluntary organisations and grassroots groups and 18 European Organisations, of which IFSW -E is one. Last year the fee for IFSW -E was 200 Euros.

DEVELOPMENT / ACTIONS

- To maintain and develop our organisational membership of EAPN through:
 - a) Actively contributing to capacity building and campaigning and lobbying activities at a European level
 - b) Passing on info about EAPN's lobbying activities, and publications to our members
 - c) Encouraging our members to work more closely with EAPN's member organisations in their own countries
 - d) Participating in task Force for Poverty and Human Rights

DEVELOPMENTS/ ACTIONS BY APRIL 2017

1. Visibility, institutional voice and fields covered in 2016/17

Fran McDonnell has been the Organisational Representative since September 2015 and Ian Johnston is an executive member of EAPN and attends the Executive meetings (EXCO). In this position, he is not allowed to also act as European Organisational Representative. This position is for three years. Having 2 people involved from IFSW has helped to raise our visibility.

Fran and Ian attended the EAPN General Assembly which took place on 28/29th October in Bruges. The 2016 – 2018 Strategy and Action Plan was agreed. The main priorities are:

- To continue to make progress towards effectively mainstreaming social concerns, reducing poverty and inequality and ensuring that public policies, programmes and intervention reach people living in poverty, including the most disadvantaged.
- To ensure more people with the experience of poverty and social exclusion can actively promote fundamental human rights.
- There are a number of actions that involve countries in contributing data on poverty for example to:



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- a) The Development of National Poverty Watch 'reports' prepared by EAPN members highlighting key trends in poverty and practices in their countries and recommendations.
- b) Short assessment of 2017 EU Country Specific Recommendations with Country Specific Recommendations based on members' national inputs as to whether they have been met.

- EAPN and members to actively monitor and engage with the implementation of key social policy areas, such as investing in children, homelessness and active inclusion and that they should be reflected in European Pillar of Social Rights.
- Development of a Briefing/Position paper on Financing Social Protection, which defends the claim that it is possible to finance high quality welfare schemes in all EU member states and to progressively realise this ambition. The issue of tax justice will be addressed in the Paper.
- Input to the debates and discussions on UK withdrawal from the EU, which seeks to ensure that social outcomes are prioritised in the decisions taken in relation to the exit of the United Kingdom from the EU.

Since the GA, EAPN were successful in their bid with ETUC to develop work on European Minimum Income Scheme (EMIN). Fintan Farrell, the previous acting Director of EAPN, is the Project Manager. The European Parliament is drafting a new report on Minimum Income Schemes as a tool to fight poverty. See the draft report [EP Draft Report, Minimum Income policies as a tool for fighting poverty Feb 2017](#) written by Fintan. EMIN project partners EAPN and ETUC will follow the development of the report carefully.

2. Actions in this period



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- **Actively contributing to capacity building and campaigning and lobbying activities at a European level**

Fran and Ian contributed to capacity building sessions at the GA and have contributed wherever possible feedback on documents, strategy, consultations particularly the Pillar of Social Rights. This can be challenging when there are short time frames, making it difficult to engage with IFSW E members to get feedback.

EAPN requests to lobby appropriate government Ministers and key officials have been sent to members. Some lobbying activities have been successful such as the request sent out to members on 18th January 2017 asking them to lobby their MEPs on the European Parliament report on the European Pillar of Social Rights, as most of the main amendments went as EAPN wanted.

- **Passing on info about EAPN's lobbying activities, and publications to our members.**

Fran is on the mailing list of European organisations representatives and receives consultations, documents and information from EAPN. Relevant information is sent through to the IFSW E President and Secretary for information and circulation, as appropriate. These have included:

- a) Regular newsletters and updates
- b) The European Commission Country Specific Reports 2017 See here. This is a key document in the European Semester cycle when the Commission assesses progress on the Country-specific recommendations, and in theory on progress on the different Europe 2020 targets. These reports are the key documents which form the basis of the Commission's proposals for Country Specific



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Recommendations (CSRs) in May.

- c) The EAPN Position Paper on the European Pillar of Social Rights and their draft response to the Consultation. 21/08/16 <http://www.eapn.eu/15644-2/>. In this position statement EAPN sets out 4 concrete steps to ensure real impact of the Pillar:
1. A new Paradigm: a transformative EU strategy that invests in social rights and reduces poverty and inequality
 2. Invest in concrete measures to guarantee social standards,
 3. Use funds to deliver on social rights – a new EU poverty and inequality programme underpinned by an anti-poverty strategy at all levels
 4. Champion real democracy and participation
- d) The individual EU-PERSON country reports presenting the most up-to-date information and research on the situation for people with disabilities regarding legal capacity law in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Kosovo and Turkey. There have been achievements since 2013 in highlighting and advocating for the domestic law reforms necessary to achieve compliance with Article 12 CRPD. [Click here for reports](#)
- e) The European Commission's White Paper on the 25 March 2017 on the Future of Europe. See [here the **Press Release**](#) and [here for the **White Paper**](#).



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- f) EAPN Publication on Energy Poverty Good Practices
<http://meszerics.eu/pdf/energypoverty-goodpractices.pdf>.

▪ **Encouraging our members to work more closely with EAPN's member organisations in their own countries**

The list of EAPN country networks was sent out to members so that links could be made. However, it would be helpful to develop a more proactive approach to this objective. One option would be to do 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 to, for example to:

- a) consultations such as the Pillar of Social Rights through country networks,
- b) involvement in contributing to data and examples of the impact of poverty in relation to CSRs and the capacity to get involved in National Poverty Watch reports.

This would enable IFSW E Executive and the EO representative to look at how we can contribute more effectively to providing relevant information and responses to consultations in a more organised and timely way. It would also hopefully provide some examples of good practice for IFSW members, who are considering making links nationally with EAPN networks.

▪ **Participating in the task Force on Poverty and Human Rights.**

Fran is representing IFSW-E on the EAPN Task Force on Poverty as a Violation of Human Rights, which is a significant piece of work. It was agreed at the GA that the Task group should have another year to complete the work of developing a Toolkit, to



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develop a legal section and further examples. The work is due to complete in October 2017.

3. List of key points that you consider that should appeared on the Work Programme.

The main action points can remain the same but perhaps in 3 and 4 some specific actions.

- 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.
- As mentioned above this would enable IFSW E to contribute more effectively and develop better links.
- Participating in the EAPN Task Force for Poverty and Human Rights. It would be very helpful if members could provide Fran with examples, by 30th May 2017, of human rights based approaches to:
 - a) Developing political and economic strategies and rights



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based development

- b) Influencing public policy including lobbying / advocacy
- c) Tackling poverty through service delivery at a practice level
- d) Campaigning and alliance building
- e) Awareness raising and capacity building
- f) Taking legal action.

8. FRA. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights Platform

IFSW Europe Representative, Graça André, Portugal

FRA provides independent, evidence-based assistance and expertise on fundamental rights to EU institutions and Members States. In doing so, it helps to make debates, policies and legislation on fundamental rights better informed and target.

The Agency aims to help promote and protect fundamental rights more effectively across the EU. To do this, it consults and cooperates with its partners on: - collecting and analysing information and data through socio -legal research;- Providing assistance and expert advice;- Communicating and raising awareness of rights fra.europa.eu - info@fra.europa.eu

DEVELOPMENT / ACTIONS

- To continue to be members of the Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP) and engage with other civil society organisations concerned about fundamental rights
- To disseminate information about FRA's research and publications to our members and the wider social work community

DEVELOPMENTS/ ACTIONS BY APRIL 2017

- **2016 June. Fundamental Rights Forum - Rights , Respect, Reality: the Europe of Values in Today`s World - Vienna, June 20 -23**

The participation at this Forum besides several conferences, reports 3 important workshops : “ Legal entry channels for people in need of international protection” over the theme Rights based Governance; “ Empowering rights holders: the contribution of professional groups in improving rights fulfilment” over the theme Empowering rights holders; “ What can progressive realisation of economic social and cultural rights mean in the EU, in the context of European Pillar of Social Rights initiative” over the general theme Fundamental Rights compliant sustainable growth.

The 1st WS did bring interesting and opportune debate about the



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refugees conditions to be welcome in Europe and the states and civil society responsibilities or as a pressing group. The 2nd WS did ask our attention to the urgency to accomplish HR with the contributions of several professionals in a multidisciplinary perspective in an efficient strategy to the best aims. Some proposals were planned and contacts exchanged to next steps. About the 3rd WS was important the introduction of European Social Pillar issue and next steps to citizens participation included the calendar of several meetings in European Region. In Portugal the meeting with UE representatives was held at September. It was a good opportunity to participate not only as member of Portuguese Association of SW representative but also sharing with the participants IFSW E Work Plan in view HR realisation and the pertinence of Social Rights accomplishment with Civil and Cultural Rights.

▪ October 2016

Graça André participated as speaker in a Conference about “HR and SW education: challenges and perspectives” sharing all the several steps that was run at IFSW E in view further steps to Social Workers qualification theoretical and practices (Conferences, pre - conferences, Workshops etc...) It was held at Coimbra University, SW School at the EASSW Delegates Meeting. Over a previous contact with FRA - FRP it was possible to reach a lot of documentation that was shared in the conference in a appropriate desk which contents was shared with the participants as possible.

Also at this conference Graça André did participate in a Poster concerning a new project about HR Education to SW near students and practices. This project was inspired by a colleague from USA that was challenged by IFSW E in last World Conference Stockholm when did participate in a WS from European HR Commission. Now is



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developing that research in her country but interested in interchanging it with European Social Workers. This project shall be adapted according the characteristics of European population which did begin in Spain with scales translation and next step will be at Portugal. We are trying to finalise the proposal to share it with FRA in view a further cooperation.

▪ December 2016

Presentation and a Workshop dynamic to SW in Madeira Islands in the celebration of 50th birthday of HR Protocols.

▪ Planning for the celebration of Specific Days at Portugal over International interchanging for Social Work Students and Practitioners:

- a) 20 November - UN HR Child Convention - Expert in Child HR (Austria)
- b) 20 February - Social Justice Day - President of Consejo General de Trabajo Social da Galicia (Spain)
- c) 14-15 March - SW celebration month - WS dynamic about HR and sustainability Expert in HR, Ethics and Sustainability (Germany)



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9. EURORDIS. European Organisation of Rare Diseases

IFSW Europe Representative Cristina Martins, Portugal

Support member Ian Johnston, United Kingdom

IFSW Europe and EURORDIS have been working together to promote awareness about rare diseases amongst the social care workforce and the need for social services support for people living with a rare disease and their families as well as educating sufferers about the help that social workers can offer people of all ages at times of crisis.

DEVELOPMENT / ACTIONS

- To promote the contribution of social work and social care to the support of people suffering from rare diseases and their careers by:
 - a) Contributing as Associate Partner to a European conference on rare diseases - 8th European Conference on Rare Diseases & Orphan Products (ECRD 2016) to be held at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC), Scotland from 26 to 28 May 2016; IFSW Europe have been awarded complimentary places at this conference and we are doing a joint poster presentation.
 - b) Participating at a meeting with social services and stakeholders: INNOVCare - Innovative Patient-Centred Approach for Social Care Provision to Complex Conditions Improving Integrated Care for People Living with a Rare Disease and with Complex Conditions that will take place in Ågrenska, Gothenburg – 9-10 June 2016;
 - c) Participating in Webinars organized by EURORDIS, as invited keynote speakers;
 - d) Promoting Rare Diseases Day through IFSW Europe social media.

DEVELOPMENTS/ ACTIONS BY APRIL 2017

A regular communication occurred between members of the IFSW Europe's team for EURORDIS and Raquel Castro, the Social Policy Manager of EURORDIS.

A web meeting between the IFSW Europe's Representative and Raquel Castro took place on the 15th March 2017 to evaluate the existing partnership with the 2 organisations and actual working relationship between the Representative and the Executive Committee of IFSW Europe.

- Contribution as Associate Partner to the European conference on rare diseases - 8th European Conference on Rare Diseases & Orphan Products (ECRD 2016) held at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC), Scotland from 26 to 28 May 2016;

IFSW Europe was awarded 2 complimentary places at this conference. Ian Johnston and Fran McDonnell attended and Ian delivered a joint poster presentation with colleagues from EURORDIS based in Norway and Romania;

- Participation in a workshop with social services and stakeholders: "Improving Integrated Care for People Living with Rare Diseases and



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Complex Conditions” that took place in Ågrenska, Gothenburg (Sweden) – 8-9 of September 2016. Ian Johnston attended this workshop;

- Promoting Rare Diseases Day and many other EURORDIS’s events and developments through IFSW Europe social media mainly through IFSW Europe’s Facebook group page;
- News from EURORDIS has been disseminated to members through IFSW Europe’s communication tools. However these have not included notes written by the Representative;
- An abstract for the IFSW European Conference 2017 in Iceland about IFSW Europe’s partnership with EURORDIS, has been accepted, under the title: ”Empowering Partnerships: Putting people with a rare disease in the driving seat”
- Supporting the relationship EURORDIS is establishing with the UN through connecting with IFSW UN Representatives; The inauguration of a CoNGO’s new NGO Committee for Rare Diseases took place at the UN in New York on 11th November 2016 and Michael Cronin, IFSW’s Representative at UN in New York, registered for the event and was sent full details of IFSW Europe’s partnership with EURORDIS.
- IFSW Europe has been offered a place at an INNOVCare workshop in Romania in June (1-2) organized by EURORDIS.



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10. EUROCHILD

Network of organisations and individuals working in and across Europe to promote the rights and well-being of children and young people.

DEVELOPMENT / ACTIONS

- To apply for organisational membership of Eurochild to ensure that members are aware of and can contribute to campaigning and lobbying activities that aim to ensure that Europe maintains the commitment to de-institutionalisation and other measures necessary to ensure the health and well-being of all children

DEVELOPMENTS/ ACTIONS BY APRIL 2017

- Application was not fulfilled.

11. THE SOCIAL WORK AND IDENTITY PROJECT

IFSW Europe President, Ana Lima
IFSW Executive member, Manane Petrosyan

The project "Social Work Role and Identity Project" set out to establish an effective baseline understanding of the state of social work across Europe. The project is a regular exercise to help IFSW Europe to be informed and measure the progress of social work across the continent of Europe over years. The main approach is to collect the information through questionnaires focused on core information about the association, as well as themes like social work education, standards of practice and legal aspects of the profession

DEVELOPMENT / ACTIONS

- To continue collecting data and preparing reports

DEVELOPMENTS/ ACTIONS BY APRIL 2017

- The Social Work Role and identity Project started at the delegates meeting in 2011 and was followed up at the delegates meetings 2012 and 2013.
- During 2016-2017 the project has been paused due to the changes on the President and Vice president positions, although a new questionnaire has been developed and new strategies for the projects has been discussed



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12. H2020 PROJECT(S)

IFSW Europe Representative, Ian Johnston, United Kingdom

DEVELOPMENT / ACTIONS

- To participate in 2 further bids led by the European Federation of Nurses (EFN) for Horizon Funding with consortiums that include general practitioners and physiotherapists.
- The first of these concerns the development of ICT skills within the nursing and social care workforce both during professional and post qualifying training and the second bid concerns the development of Integrated Health and Social Care Services.

DEVELOPMENTS/ ACTIONS BY APRIL 2017

Following the successful conclusion of the ENS4Care Project to develop guidance on the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) to support people challenged by illness or disability to maintain their independence, IFSW Europe were invited by the European Federation of Nurses (EFN) to participate in 2 further EU funding bids under the Horizon 2020 Programme.

The first of these funding bids was for a 2-year project concerning the development of IT skills within the nursing and social care workforce during professional and post qualifying training.

Other partners in this bid were:

- European Union of General Practitioners,
- Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union
- European Foundation for Physiotherapy and Physical Activity
- European Nursing Research Foundation
- European Association Working for Carers (Eurocarers).

The second bid was for funding for a 4-year project to develop Integrated Health and Social Care Services.

Other partners in the second bid were:

- European Nursing Research Foundation
- European Hospital and Healthcare Federation
- European Union of General Practitioners
- Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union



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- European Foundation for Physiotherapy & Physical Activity
- European Association Working for Carers
- European Institute of Women's Health

Had these bids succeeded IFSW Europe would have secured funding to engage staff to carry out the developmental work that would have been required. Regrettably however, bidding for these funds was fiercely competitive and neither bid was successful.

Informal contact with EFN about common concerns and the need to develop closer working arrangements between social workers and nurses has been maintained

13. PRIVATIZATION OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES IN EUROPE

IFSW Europe President, Ana Lima
IFSW Executive member, Manane Petrosyan

DEVELOPMENT / ACTIONS

- To set up a working group to consider the impact that the privatization of state provided social services has had on the quality of services provided and the implications of the current policy drive promoting the further development of such services rather than those provided directly by the state
- To formulate an IFSW position paper and action plan on this issue

DEVELOPMENTS/ ACTIONS BY APRIL 2017

- During 2016-2017 the project has been paused due to the changes on the President and Vice president positions. However, a new questionnaire has been developed and new strategies for the projects has been discussed



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14. WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY 2017

IFSW Europe President, Ana Lima
IFSW Executive member, Manane Petrosyan

DEVELOPMENT / ACTIONS

- Call for Action in Europe
- Publishing events and actions around Europe through our media tools (Blog and Facebook)
- Video message from IFSW Europe

DEVELOPMENTS/ ACTIONS BY APRIL 2017

- Since IFSW Europe, we have followed the guidelines of the Global to motivate the different countries to celebrate the World Social Worker Day (WSWD), sharing and spreading the poster, slogan and activities that have been carried out by countries through social networks.
- An IFSW Europe video, posted on IFSW Global Website, where a message was sent to the social workers of Europe putting in value the contributions of the relevance of the Communitarian Social Work and sustainable surroundings.
- We also participated in the event of the WSWD, celebrated by UN, in Geneva, through the president of the region Ana Lima who was part of the inaugural table representing IFSW Global.

15. RELATED WITH IFSW GLOBAL

IFSW Europe President, Ana Lima

DEVELOPMENT / ACTIONS

- Appointment of the European Representative to the Global Agenda
- IFSW Global Executive Meetings, June 2016, Seoul, Korea
- Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development, Seoul, Korea 27th-30th June 2016 - programme committee

DEVELOPMENTS/ ACTIONS BY APRIL 2017

- Constant contact has been maintained through e-mail, Skype meetings and face-to-face meetings with the President and the Secretary General of IFSW Global
- We have collaborated with the UN during the celebration of the WSWD in Geneva



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- Cooperation with IFSW Global on the Review of the Constitution
- Elaboration of proposals to empower regions within IFSW
- Various project proposals have been submitted to the Global Fund
- The Global Executive Committee was held in June after the Seoul World Assembly, 2016.
- Meetings have been held for the organization of the IFSW Europe Conference in Reykjavik (Iceland)
- Work has been done on accompanying the process for the holding of the 2019 Conference IFSW Europe.
- Executive member Josefine Johansson has carried on being the European Representative to the Global Agenda. All activities concerning the Global Agenda have been realised in connection to the European observatory in ENSACT.

16. NETWORK FOR SOCIAL WORKERS IN EUROPE WORKING WITH REFUGEES

IFSW Europe Executive Maria Rúnarsdóttir

DEVELOPMENT / ACTIONS

- To build a network for European social workers that are working with refugees in order to share information on the refugee crisis and to share their work with refugees for example on an informal basis via a Facebook group.
- To organise a workshop on Social Workers in Europe working with Refugees during the IFSW European Conference in 2017, to highlight the social workers' role in supporting refugees

DEVELOPMENTS/ ACTIONS BY APRIL 2017

- IFSW Europe has not had any initiative on this issue the last year. Executive member Maria Rúnarsdóttir has contacted members from IFSW Europe to participate in RAN meetings as requested by RAN. Many initiatives have been established in Europe, where social workers are participating. Maria has established contact with a number of NGO's in this area. At the IFSW European Conference there are several workshops organised around the topic of refugees. It is important to discuss at the DM meeting if there is a need for a network and what should be the aims of it.



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17. NETWORK FOR SOCIAL WORKERS IN EUROPE FROM COUNTRIES LIVING UNDER AUSTERITY MEASURES

IFSW Europe President, Ana Lima

IFSW Executive member, Manane Petrosyan

The goal of this network is to achieve a European covenant against austerity in Europe. This Covenant would involve social workers, organizations of the civil society and

DEVELOPMENT / ACTIONS

- To create a network of social workers in Europe to fight against the Austerity Measures
- To create an internal working group in IFSW-Europe to develop a common message that shows our thoughts and demands
- 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 has led to a breach of Human Rights in Europe. This would be done in collaboration with the Human Rights IFSW team
- To organize a session/meeting at the European Parliament together with the political parties represented in the European Parliament to sign a covenant against austerity

DEVELOPMENTS/ ACTIONS BY APRIL 2017

- During 2016-2017 the project has been paused due to the changes on the President and Vice president positions. However, a new strategies for the projects has been discussed

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

IFSW Europe Representative for the Council of Europe, Fernande Rodriguez, Portugal

IFSW Europe Representative for Vice-President of the Conference of the INGO Antonina Dashkina, Russia

Supporting team Gabriele Stark-Angermeier, Germany; Mira Antonyan, Armenia

DEVELOPMENT / ACTIONS

- To participate in the 2 semester meetings of the Conference INGO (planned to the winter and summer)

DEVELOPMENTS/ ACTIONS BY APRIL 2017

Report on IFSW Europe at European Council will be forward as soon as IFSW representative's report is received

Kindly, find below their report prepared by on IFSW Europe



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- To take part 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)
- To follow and co-operate in activities related with gender issues
- To improve the information to be provided to the affiliated organisations namely via the European Social Worker newsletter
- To encourage national organisations to disseminate the documents and debates in operation in the Conference of NGO

Representative for Vice-President of the Conference of the INGO, can be read below:

During the period of one year Antonina Dashkina visited Strasbourg 4 times and had 14 working days spent in CoE on INGO Conference business.

Antonina Dashkina is a Vice-President of the Conference and the member of the Bureau along with 2 other Vice-Presidents elected for this position.

The Bureau prepares the agenda for the meetings of the Conference of INGOs and its Standing Committee and implements the decisions taken by these two bodies. It also implements the internal and external communication policy of the Conference of INGOs defined by the Standing Committee.

It ensures that all INGOs enjoying participatory status and interested in the work of the Conference of INGOs are involved in it.

It happened that one Vice-President Ms Laura Fratti representing World Association of Women Entrepreneurs attended meetings only once after her election. Another Vice-President Israel Menash representing Catholic Education Association was absent most of the time and was dismissed from his position at the annual meeting in January 2017.

This meant that the main load of the work was placed on our President Anna Rurka. And Antonina Dashkina support was crucial in making agendas of the meetings, running them. The amount of organisational work, correspondence, skype conferences was quite substantial.

During meetings and presentations Antonina Dashkina was also



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explaining the IFSW structure and rules which Antonina Dashkina recommended to use to INGO Conference. Antonina Dashkina cannot imagine our organisation allowing the elected member of the Board not to be present at the meetings AT ALL and to continue holding this quite important status.

During this year the President of INGO Conference Anna Rurka visited Romania, Moldova, Russia, Poland with the fact finding visits. In April it will also be Ireland and in May – Cyprus. Antonina Dashkina was always providing information about our member organisations so that our voice could be heard. For April visit to Ireland on Antonina Dashkina recommendation Irish Association of social workers is commissioned by Council of Europe to organise this important visit.

In April 2016 in Moscow and October in Vladivostok the Russian Union of social workers and social pedagogues organised big events with active participation of the Council of Europe. Information and invitations were sent to IFSW Europe members but unfortunately nobody could be present.

Several documents which were adopted during this year:

- CONF/PLE(2017)RES1
Resolution on 'Protecting the freedoms of association and expression in Turkey under the State of Emergency'
- CONF/PLE(2017)REC1
Recommendation on 'Surveillance of lawyers: the need for standards safeguarding client confidentiality'
- CONF/PLE(2017)DEC1
Support for the letter of the Council of Europe Secretary General on the proposed legislation which would decriminalise certain domestic violence in the Russian Federation
- CONF/PLE(2017)DEC2
Declaration 'The European Social Charter is central to the dialogue between the Council of Europe and the European Union'



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(Turin Process)'

- [Migration Roadmap 2017-2018](#)
- [CONF/PLE\(2016\)REC1 \(EN\) \(RO\) \(RU\)](#)
Recommendation on the protection of human rights defenders in the Transnistrian Region
- [CONF/PLE\(2016\)REC2](#)
Recommendation on health care - older persons

During this year Antonina Dashkina always felt support of Fernanda Rodrigues whom Antonina Dashkina reported and informed after each of Antonina Dashkina visits to Strasbourg. Antonina Dashkina would like to thank her.

19. HUMAN RIGHTS

IFSW Europe Representative Ana Radulesco, Romania

DEVELOPMENT / ACTIONS

- To continue the research related to the Human Rights related to social workers and the people affected by social exclusion
- Continue advocating for human rights for social workers in Europe: prepare a policy paper and organize workshop on Human Rights during the IFSW European Conference in 2017
- To relate with the work of refugees and make a link between the Human Rights and child protection peacial for refugee children

DEVELOPMENTS/ ACTIONS BY APRIL 2017

Report on IFSW Europe on Human Rights will be forward as soon as the IFSW representative´s report is received