**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WIORKERS (IFSW)**

**EUROPEAN REGION**

**Appointment of Designated Representatives to External Organisations**

**to DM Zagreb**

 **13 - 15 / MAI / 2016**

**NAME : ……… Graça Maria André**

**TITLE** : ..........**IFSW E.V. European Contact Person - Global Human Rights Commission**

**NOMINATION** : ...**Dubrovnik DM (April 2009)**

**PARTICIPATIONS from SEPTEMBER 2015 to MAI 2016**

**2015 SEPTEMBER** Organization and coordination of the IFSW Europe Symposium hold at European Edinburg Conference 2015 (venue Stathclyde University). The theme was *Networking and Engagement with Stakeholders,* considering the fields of SW intervention on HR realization with the participation of several projects on the way .The countries that did present their practices were: Armenia ( Bringing together Local, National and International Stakeholders to Develop Social Policies that realize UR of Users -Children); the Nederland and Germany (Cultures and Human Rights – Migrants and Refugees) ; Spain ( Campaign : Social Rights for Human Dignity – Citizens under austerity measures); Sweden ( Empowerment of Users – Excluded Citizens). The session was open by our host, Scottish Human Rights Commission that introduce the theme Scotland`s Action Plan.

The session was organized in 2 parts. In 1rst part the authors practices presentation and at afternoon 3 workgroups did debate questions that did come from the morning presentations reported to theconcept SW as a HR profession and also about the role of IFSW to guide such mandate. One question did remain: people in general did agree with SW as a HR profession but it is missing more concrete orientations from IFSW like a manual to HR realization concerning new challenging problems that citizens and users are living. The session was closed with a short presentation from HR Global Commissioner about the pertinence of such debate forum about HR realization in view SW practices that should be held in every Regional and Global Conferences, next future.

**2016 JANUARY**. Participation at the meeting with the new Director of EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, Mr Michael O`Flaherty. This meeting was hold at Social Platform bureau in Brussels, with the participation of SP members. It was important to ear Mr O´Flaherty about his tasks at EU Agency and his expectations about a more intensive work in cooperation with SP and its several competences in view the accomplishment of HR citizens . Also it was possible as representative from IFSW Europe to have a contact with the FRA coordinator Ms Waltraud Heller and earing about her interest to know more about IFSW in its dimension of a professional organization. It was agreed a next skype meeting with myself and Ian Johnston that was held some weeks later to explain the main aims of IFSW and our work in progress. FRA will share some of its documents at IFSW Europe ( Zagreb DM) asking opinion in view to create more efficient skylls ( HR realization skills) to support the members and reaching new proposals of cooperation.

**2016 MARCH**. Participation in International Week of SW at Saxion Univ ( The Nederland) to present 3 lectures One of them should be about IFSW Europe and its work in partnership with European Organizations. The Lecture with SW students was to put questions and reach more information including the meaning of the World Day of SW celebration ( during that week)

**2016 MAI -**  At the time this report is written we are following the several steps supporting the preparation of a HR Symposium organized by Croatian Association of SW , that will be held at 16 MAI after Zagreb DM . Its aim is to share HR practices with Croatian colleagues on pertinent topics like European refugees crisis and Social Workers work conditions . It will be presented projects from Armenia, Austria, Spain, Croatia. Ian Johnston will participate as Social Platform Team representative. The Symposium local coordination will be by Tatjana Katkic Stanic (Croatian Association) Gonca Polat and Manane Petrosyan ( IFSW European HR Commission).

Also IFSW Europe HR Commission did support the initiative from Romenia and Austrian Association launching the questionnaire to the European SW “ The Social Workers have rights” wich results will be present at DM and should support the HR Symposium work groups.

**JANUARY 2016 to MARCH 2016 –** IFSW Europe HR Commission did try in each month to ask the attention of European SW sending specific messages over IFSW mailing list to important International or European days such as

1 January - New Year Message –Peace Day ; 29 January- International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust;11 February -International Day of Women and Girls in Science; 20 February .- World Day of Social Justice;11 March  - European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism; , 24 March, - International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims.

**Other participations (in Portugal) also like IFSW E.V. European Contact Person- Global Human Rights Commission also with presentations under the general theme “Social Work as a Human Rights Profession”**

**2015 OCTOBER –** Presentation at Oporto University, Psychology Faculty from the Invitation by the Students Association to talk about Human Rights, Justice and Citizenship with an intensive debate with the students that were missing more information about such themes

**2015 NOVEMBER** – Sessions (3) to 45 practiciens in Workgroup methodology in view HR users support and ethical dilemmas debate. A request from a local team from Health Ministry

**2015 DECEMBER –** Participation at International Conference organized by Portuguese and Brasilien SW to inform about IFSW Europe Work Plan, its team, competences and priorities. This invitation was addressed to IFSW Europe President who was not available to participate and did invite HR Contact person GA.

**2015 DECEMBER**- Organization of UN HR day ( 10DEZ) at the Catholic Univ. In Lisbon with the invitation of a colleague from Innsbruck SW School ( SW and the Gift) and with a Portuguese expert (Justice, Poverty and HR.)

**2016 FEBRUARY** – Presentation at Lisbon at Univ Lusófona adressed to students, teachers and SW practiciens about SW and Human Rights in challenging times.

**Further Appointment**

Now **I am not interested** to be re-appointed for a further period as IFSW Europe e.V. European Contact Person for the Global Human Rights CommissionI

 I am really interested in following my role at **Fundametal Rights Platform as IFSW Europe Representative** in .cooperation with the next team of HR Commission reinforcing a network at the IFSW. I would like to help Social Workers to become Human Rights mediators since we have realized how much it is pertinent over our diary practices and professional interchanges. Also it was confirmed by the growing interest of each IFSW EU participant and challenged by the last complex events that are affecting Europe.

Also I feel stimulated for belonging to SPT and the topics on its agenda, with the specific task on HR issues.( 3 Pillar)

Also I hope that the next steps we, European HR Commission, did agree in Edinburg (SET 2015) with our Global HR Commissioner can go on in a more intensive cooperation over the World with the participation of the new Regional contact persons in view HR realization according each local priorities.

I am very thankful to all the colleagues that did cooperate with our HR Commission for all my mandate (2009-2016) bringing and sharing their practices and competences, becaming our pre-conferences and Workshops in good steps of learning and more engagement in HR realization.

A special thank you to Gonca Polat ( Mai 2014)and Manane Petrosyan ( September 2015)that did access me last years

To Nicolai Paulsen and Cristina Martins as IFSW European Presidents with whom I did work thank you for all the opportunities you did allow me to accomplish my task.

Graça Maria André

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