



IFSW Europe e.V | REPORT ON WORK PROGRAMME 2015-2016

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.

Executive Committee meetings 2015-2016:

- Web meeting, 22 October 2015
- Web meeting, 30 November 2015

- Porto, Portugal, 29-30 January 2016, combined with a joint meeting with the President of the European Association of Schools of Social Work (EASSW)

- Reykjavik, Iceland, 18-20 March 2016, combined with a joint meeting with the steering and programme committees of the IFSW European Conference 2017

IFSW Europe Delegates Meeting in Zagreb, 13-15 May 2016



WORK PROGRAMME 2015-2016	DEVELOPMENTS / ACTIONS BY APRIL 2016	REPORT ON WORK PROGRAMME 2015-2016 BY APRIL 2016
<p>1. Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Honorary Secretary . Designer . Emailing members with information and updates on actions . Google group account (executive members) . Skype meetings . Blog . Facebook . Website . ESW - European Social Worker – newsletter . IFSW Europe – News . Media work productions . Power point presentations . Production of papers with guidelines to help the integration of new executive members and delegates from members organisations . Connecting members project . Press and press release strategy . Organization of Delegates Meetings 	<p><u>Improving ways of communication</u></p> <p>IFSW Europe is a well established, regulated and registered organisation. However further capacity building is required to improve communication with members (inward) and to develop our marketing and lobbying/communication with partner organisations (outward).</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Integration of new executive members and honorary secretary . Continue working with the designer to develop IFSW Europe’s promotional material, brand and message to the wider social work community and other key stakeholders, as described on her work programme . Publish regular update and progress reports on IFSW Europe’s Blog and Facebook . ESW – Produce 2 editions a year . IFSW Europe – News - to publish periodically . Review and where necessary revise Executive Members Work Portfolio throughout the year. . Connecting Members Project-to review and update the members of the Executive designated to link with individual member organisations and contacts in countries not currently represented. . Paper: Communication values with guidelines to executive committee members to be revised and re-issued. 	<p>The communication team, comprised of the President, Cristina Martins, the Honorary Secretary, Joana Malheiro and the Designer, Maria Mónica completed all actions as described with the exception of the ESW - European Social Worker – newsletter, due to the lack of capacity of the President in pursuing that task.</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Paper: Requirements for hosting the Annual Delegates Meeting to be revised periodically . Website: to continue updating the website directly by the communication team . To prepare a video message for WSWD 2016 . To update the lists of contacts (members organizations, associations of social workers, partners, media, etc.) and make this available to members . Dissemination of IFSW Europe publications among members, partners and media 	
<p>2. Finances</p>	<p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Appointment of the Honorary Treasurer of IFSW Europe . Finances and Legal Body maintenance . To review the 5 year Budget . 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 2016 . Updates on membership status 	<p>Executive member Brian Auslander was appointed to the role of Honorary Treasurer but the fact that the bank account is still in Germany is slowing the process of the transition of duties from Gabriele Stark-Angermeier to Brian.</p> <p>← Brian and Gabriele have worked through the German court's requirements for changes in IFSW Europe e.V. Statutes, which are being presented to the Delegates Meeting for approval. .</p> <p>← No progress has been made on the review of the 5 year Budget.</p> <p>No progress has been made on developing guidelines for</p>



		<p>executive reimbursement as Brian was appointed to the position only in October 2015 following the delegates meeting. However, as the major expenditure for the executive are travel costs to attend official activities, it is clear to all executive members that they are expected to use the least expensive travel option available.</p> <p>← Rules and an application form for delegates applying for assistance to attend the Delegates Meeting 2016 were issued and we have received 6 requests for funding for the DM.</p> <p>←</p> <p>← The membership list has been updated and invoices sent to all members requesting payment of current and previously due fees.</p>
<p>3. Membership development</p>	<p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . To continue the Review of Membership in IFSW “Networking with”: . Developing relations with countries with no member and re-establishing relations with former members 	<p>The “Review of membership in IFSW”, discussed at the 2014 and 2015 Delegates Meetings, has been carefully considered by the Executive and a new proposal is being presented on the work programme for 2016-2017.</p>



		<p>Communication with former members and with countries with no members, with whom IFSW Europe is networking, has continued to be developed through direct contact with the Secretary and the President or by the Executive Member designated in terms of the Connecting Members Project.</p> <p>Member at Large Salome Namicheishvili has continued to develop close relations with Moldova's social work organisations, encouraging and supporting them to join IFSW. Moldova will participate as an observer in the DM 2016 and will work on becoming members of IFSW.</p>
<p>4. IFSW European Conference 2017</p>	<p><u>Actions:</u> . To continue the organization process of the IFSW European Conference 2017 in Reykjavík, Iceland from 28 to 30 May 2017, in partnership with the Icelandic Association of Social Workers</p>	<p>The organisational arrangements for the IFSW European Conference 2017 on the theme of "Marginalization and Social Work in a Changing Society" were reviewed by the IFSW Europe Executive at their meeting in Iceland from 18th to 20th of March 2016 and considered to be</p>



		<p>progressing well.</p> <p>Members from the Icelandic Association of Social Workers and Executive members of IFSW Europe from the Conference's Steering and Programme Committees discussed the proposed programme and agreed on the call for abstracts. This was sent to all IFSW Europe member associations on the 1st of April 2016 with a request that they pass it on to their members and each prioritize five workshops or presentations to send to the Programme Committee in Iceland, before 1st of June 2016.</p> <p>Members of the Steering Committee representing IFSW Europe are Josefine Johansson and María Rúnarsdóttir and members of the Programme Committee from IFSW Europe are Brian Auslander and Ana Isabel Lima.</p> <p>IFSW Europe Executive members visited Harpa, the Conference Venue.</p>
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<p>5. ENSACT, European Network for Social ACTION</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>The European region has been represented by Josefine Johansson, Executive member with responsibility to link with Ensact, at both ENSACT-meetings occurred this and last year.</p> <p>IFSW Europe has been encouraging members to send in examples of good social work practice, research and policies, which resulted in 32 examples from all around Europe.</p>
<p>6. EU issues and Social Platform,</p>	<p>Visibility and Voice IFSW Europe is working to ensure that the voice of</p>	<p>Ian Johnston from the UK has been coordinating a small</p>



<p>The European Social Platform</p>	<p>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.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <p>a) 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</p> <p>b) To designate members to join the team representing IFSW at meetings of the Social Platform's Steering Group and Task Forces and with those organisations we have formal links with</p> <p>c) To support our Brussels based representative, Dalé Kabasinskaité and effectively engage with the Platform, other key organisations and officials and politicians in the European Commission and Parliament</p> <p>d) 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</p> <p>e) 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</p>	<p>working group designated the Social Platform Team (SPT) to deal with the substantial volume of work generated by the Platform and ensure that our perspective as social workers informs representations about important social policy issues that are being made to the European Commission and Parliament. Members of the SPT this year have been IFSW Europe's Brussels based Representative, Dale Kabasinskaite, Fran McDonnell from the UK, John Brennan from Ireland, Graça André from Portugal, Mira Antonyan from Armenia, Nicolai Paulsen from Denmark and Ana Radulescu from Romania. There will be a presentation of the Platform's work over the past year at the Delegates Meeting</p> <p>Progress concerning our stance on the EU/US TTIP negotiations and the reluctance of some countries seeking EU membership to outlaw HR abuse are being addressed by Member at Large Salome Namicheishvili</p>
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	<p>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</p> <p>e) 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</p>	
<p>7. EAPN, European Anti-Poverty Network</p>	<p><u>Actions:</u></p> <p>. To maintain and develop our organisational membership of EAPN through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Fran McDonnell from the United Kingdom was appointed to represent IFSW Europe at EAPN last year.</p> <p>Fran has secured a place on a new Task Force on Poverty and Human Rights that EAPN has just established.</p> <p>Further information on IFSW Europe's link with EAPN will be presented at the DM.</p>
<p>8. FRA, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights Platform</p>	<p><u>Actions:</u></p> <p>. To continue to be members of the Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP) and engage with other civil society organisations concerned about fundamental rights</p> <p>. To disseminate information about FRA's research and publications to our members and the wider social work community</p>	<p>Graça André from Portugal was appointed to represent IFSW Europe at FRP last year.</p> <p>Graça represented IFSW Europe at a meeting with FRA's new Director arranged by the Social Platform in Brussels and followed this up with a teleconference about IFSW Europe's response to FRA's annual report.</p>



<p>9. EURORDIS, European Organisation of Rare Diseases</p>	<p><u>Actions:</u> To promote the contribution of social work and social care to the support of people suffering from rare diseases and their carers by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Underpinning our partnership with EURORDIS with a joint Memorandum of Understandingb) Contributing as Associate Partner to a European conference on rare diseases to be held in Edinburgh - 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	<p>Ian Johnston from the UK was appointed to represent IFSW Europe at EURORDIS last year.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Guidelines for the Training of Social Workers and other care staff have been produced.</p> <p>Joint workshops were delivered at the Courage in Social Work Conference in Helsinki and the IFSW European Conference in Edinburgh last year.</p> <p>A Memorandum of Understanding between the 2 organisations has now been signed.</p>
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<p>10. EUROCHILD, Network of organisations and individuals working in and across Europe to promote the rights and well-being of children and young people.</p>	<p><u>Actions:</u> . 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</p>	<p>Eurochild share IFSW Europe's desire to develop a closer working partnership but a formal application for organisational membership has yet to be lodged.</p>
<p>11. The Social Work Role and Identity Project 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</p>	<p><u>Actions:</u> . To continue collecting data and preparing reports</p>	<p>Member at Large Salome Namicheishvili has continued leading this project work.</p> <p>The working group of the project, while meeting in Edinburgh, agreed to develop a questionnaire about the requirements for social</p>



<p>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</p>		<p>workers to start working in various European countries. However, the Executive decided not to send out a questionnaire from this project this year as members receive at the same time many different questionnaires and feedback is low.</p> <p>A project-working group meeting will be held in Zagreb to discuss the draft questionnaire..</p>
<p>12. Project: Economic Crisis in Europe- Challenge and Response of Social Work Profession</p> <p>The main aims of the project are:</p> <p>a) To present information about “the response of social workers/social work organizations to the ongoing economic crisis at the national levels.</p> <p>b) To discuss and decide on actions for social work organisations in an international level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exercise advocacy, empowerment and lobby at European level; - Support and engage with member organisations and 	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . To disseminate the Book with the results of the Stage II Project Report among members, partners and media . To continue the development of the link between the project and actions arising from the IFSW Global Agenda within the European Region 	<p>The Book: “Economic Crisis in Europe-Challenge ad Response of Social Work Profession”, launched at the last year’s delegates meeting in Edinburgh, has been widely disseminated among members, partners and media.</p> <p>http://ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Book-Economic-Crisis-in-Europe-2015.pdf</p>



<p>social workers in countries most affected;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Express at high levels (governments, EU, etc.) the responsibility of social work profession for human rights and ethics by presenting alternative ways of dealing with the crisis and austerity. <p>c) To discuss and develop a working plan for the next years to respond to the effects of economic crisis.</p>		
<p>13. ENS4Care Thematic Network Evidence Based Guidelines for Nursing and Social Care on the Deployment of eHealth Service The main objective of the project is the development of evidence based guidelines for the implementation of eHealth services in nursing and social care, building on existing good practices amongst the participants of the Network, sharing and transferring knowledge across European regions. The ultimate goal of ENS4Care is</p>	<p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . To continue to actively contribute to the ENS4Care project coordinated by EFN, European Federation of Nurses by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Disseminating the guidelines produced by the project to our members and the wider social work community utilising the European Social Work Research Observatory, conferences and other training events b) Ensuring that the potential contribution of Information Communication Technology (ICT) and eHealth in supporting people challenged by illness or disability to live as independently as possible in the community is recognised c) Promoting the development of "Social Prescribing" and other preventative approaches that realise the potential of telecare and other 	<p>Ian Johnston has been assisted by Dale Kabasinskaite, John Brennan and Fran McDonnell with this important EU funded 2 year joint project with the European Federation of Nurses (EFN) and 22 other partners. The Project was successfully concluded at an event held in the European Parliament in December and the action identified in this work programme has been carried out.</p> <p>IFSW Europe has accepted an invitation by EFN to participate in 2 further bids for Horizon</p>



<p>the establishment of a sustainable mechanism to support nursing and social care research in the field of ICT enabled integrated care.</p>	<p>specialised equipment to enable people to live independently in their own homes d) Exploring the scope for a bid for Horizon funds for a further joint project with EFN to develop more integrated social and healthcare services in the community</p>	<p>Funding to develop e.Skills in the nursing and social care workforce to realise the potential of ICT and to promote Integrated Health and Social Care Services and these have now been submitted to the EU . Further information about these exciting developments will be presented to the Delegates Meeting.</p>
<p>14. To support the development of social work in new social work countries</p>	<p><u>Actions:</u> . To support the development and build the capacity of professional networks in emerging countries</p>	<p>Member at Large Salome Namicheishvili has continued developing this work.</p> <p>The following activities took place, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing to support social work capacity development in Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia within the framework of the project funded by European Union Shaping sustainable social change in Eastern Neighborhood Countries by strengthening Social Workers and their Associations”; - Continuing to support social work development in Moldova



		<p>through providing technical assistance to establish social work association in Moldova and help to become member of IFSW;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing a support statement for social workers at the national day of social work in Armenia; - Supporting the First Congress for Social Work Professionalization and Entrepreneurship in Post-socialist Countries to be held in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, in June 1-4, 2016. The main purpose of the event it to promote the international-standards-based social work profession in post-socialist countries and to stablish an effective and sustainable network of social work representatives from post-socialist countries.
<p>15. Privatization of social work services in Europe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . 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 	<p>Member at Large Salome Namicheishvili is taking the lead of this area of responsibility. Briefing paper on global trade agreements was prepared which outlines background information on the agreements and major concerns for social workers and</p>



		<p>social workers standpoints;</p> <p>A questionnaire was developed by the working group and with great support from BASW to gather information and address this issue from IFSW Europe's members. The report based on the questionnaires is being prepared and will be presented at the DM.</p>
<p>16. World Social Work Day 2016</p>	<p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Call for Action in Europe . Publishing events and actions around Europe through our media tools (Blog and Facebook) . Video message from IFSW Europe 	<p>The theme for the WSWD 2016 was Promoting the Dignity and Worth of Peoples.</p> <p>IFSW Europe informed all members and encouraged them to celebrate WSWD throughout Europe.</p> <p>IFSW Europe promoted WSWD celebrations at the national level via our media tools.</p> <p>IFSW Europe Executive Members have cooperated with IFSW Global in order to promote WSWD activities.</p> <p>IFSW Europe and the European Association of Schools of Social Work (EASSW) agreed to work</p>



		<p>together for this year's celebration of World Social Work Day and a joint video message was produced for the occasion. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gam_FqnoCVI</p> <p>Celebrating World Social Work Day in Brussels, Belgium - 14th March 2016 - "Working in Partnership to Promote the Rights, Dignity and Worth of Refugees in Europe"</p> <p>IFSW Europe along with the EASSW and the Union Professionnelle Francophone des Assistants Sociaux (UFAS), IFSW's Belgian member, celebrated World Social Work Day 2016 at the European Economic and Social Committee (Comité Économique et Social Européen) in Brussels, Belgium on March 14th.</p> <p>Ian Johnston, IFSW Europe Representative to the European Social Platform and Liliane Cocozza, President of UFAS were the main responsible persons for the planning of the event and</p>
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		<p>both chaired the session's event.</p> <p>Josefine Johansson, Executive member of IFSW Europe did a presentation at the event describing the role that social workers have in promoting Dignity and Worth of refugees and migrants from the reception of refugees on the shores of the Mediterranean to the asylum countries in the North of Europe. A transcript of the proceedings in French and English will be available shortly.</p> <p>Photos from the Brussels' event are available on the following link: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/hpvi1mdtqphcwla/AADwFY7--PLBxHpAsLJJKiBa?dl=0</p>
<p>17. Related with IFSW Global</p>	<p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Global Agenda – European Representative . Executive Meeting, June 2016, Seoul, Korea . Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development, Seoul, Korea 27th-30th June 2016 - programme committee . Cooperation with IFSW Global on the Review of the Constitution 	<p>The 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.</p> <p>The Executive Committee of IFSW Europe went through the proposal of changes of the IFSW</p>



		<p>Constitution and drafted comments and made amendments to the proposal of new constitution and by-laws to be presented to the Global Executive and for discussion at the Delegates Meeting.</p> <p>The Regional President and Member at Large for Europe will make a presentation of the work related with IFSW Global at the Delegates Meeting</p> <p>.</p>
<p>18. Network for Social Workers in Europe working with Refugees</p>	<p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . To build a network for European social workers that are working with refugees, in order to share information on the refugee crisis . To promote the dignity and worth of peoples for the celebration of World Social Work Day 2016 in Europe, with a relevant focus on the situation of the refugees . To organize a Symposium on Social Workers in Europe working with Refugees during the IFSW European Conference 2017, to highlight the social workers' role in supporting refugees 	<p>Executive member María Rúnarsdóttir is taking the lead of this Network.</p> <p>A blog was created in September 2015, after the Delegates Meeting in Edinburgh that has been helpful for social workers to follow up on the situation in Europe. Secondly a closed Facebook page was created for the members of the Scandinavian Associations for Social Workers to share information and discuss different issues such as policy changes in the countries and social workers</p>



		<p>responses.</p> <p>IFSW Europe celebrated World Social Work Day with an event in Brussels, Belgium on the 14th of March in collaboration with EASSW and UFAS: “Working in Partnership to Promote the Rights, Dignity and Worth of Refugees in Europe” (more on item 16)</p>
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IFSW Europe e. V. Statements and Joint Letters with Partners:

IFSW Europe e.V. [Joint Letter from Civil Society to HLG Simplification](#) (released on the 13th April 2016)

IFSW Europe e.V. [Statement to end child marriages](#) (released on the 24th March 2016)

IFSW Europe e.V. [Message from EASSW and IFSW Europe following the terror attacks](#) (released on the 24th March 2016)

IFSW Europe e.V. [Message in solidarity with the Russian people following the plane crash](#) (released on the 18th November 2015)

IFSW Europe e.V. [Message to our French colleagues following the terrorist attacks in Paris](#) (released on the 16th November 2015)



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IFSW Europe e.V. [Message in solidarity and Call for urgent support for burn victims of Bucharest fire accident](#) (released on the 14th November 2015)

[Joint open letter to the European Council](#) – Time to act to ensure children’s rights in the EU’s migration policy: 10 action points (released on 30th October 2015)

IFSW Europe e.V. [Message in Solidarity with the Turkish people following the brutal attack on peace demonstration](#) (released on the 14th October 2015)

IFSW Europe e.V. [Motion on Exclusion of Social Work Services from Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership \(TTIP\)](#) (released from the Delegates Meeting September 2015)