

I had 22 years of professional experience in a field of Social Work and Social Policy Sector started as a social worker practitioner, and last 14 years I acquired through work on social policy as president of Croatian Association of Social Workers, and as a member of different Committee and working groups, and as head of Department for Social Policy of Croatian Ministry of demography, family, youth and social policy I work on, develop and propose new social policy and strategy in Social Welfare System, consulting, preparing and proposing new government strategies and activities.

As a president of Croatian association of social workers I was a member of different working groups propose and suggest Government an expert opinion and advice in process of reform of social policy and complies with international regulations and conventions, try to rise up standards and professional value of social workers.

I was coordinator and leader of pre-accepting activities in the field of social inclusion in Croatia, and coordinate process of preparation of Croatia for full participation in the Open Method of Coordination in the field of social inclusion.

I was also a member of IFSW Europe Executive from 2007 to 2011 and last two years from 2016.

In that time Croatian Association of social Workers got 1. ENSACT Conference of social profession in Dubrovnik. My position in Executive and active role help my Association to grow up, to empower our professional and organizational capacity and became partner to Croatian Government in a field of Social Policy.

I was also as a member of Executive, actively engaged in ; project on EU level Social work standards meeting human rights; Economic Crisis in Europe: Challenge and Response of Social Work Profession, Charters of the Rights of Social Workers.

From my experience on the European level we have to see, recognize and respect differences between Association of Social Workers and adopt our working programme for those who need advocacy and support and who don't have enough own resources to fight for better standards and professional social work and better conditions of service users.

Protection of human rights and social justice is our basic professional role but it is not the same to be a social worker in Denmark, England, Spain, Poland, Croatia, Hungary, Rumania, Armenia or Greece.

We should be more visible for social workers in a lot of Eu countries who don't have strong professional association and fighting every day with austerity, poverty, violation of human rights, and social exclusion, and also fight for their rights as social workers.

Unique Europe is an "utopia" but unique and more powerful EU Association of social workers can be reality.

Exchange knowledge, experience and best practice between social workers from different countries with different challenges and conditions is best way to recognize and develop new way and became more powerful and visible on European policy maker level. Than we can make a difference!

I wish to continue working on the impact on the European Pillar of Social Rights, support regional communication development, strengthen contact with organizations who are not active involve, use my position as an expert in European Commission for protection of right of the children to represent in the same time European Association perspective and to organize a group who will work together on „Austerity , poverty, exclusion and social inequality“ and have a Statement and presentation on Ministry conference in a time of Croatian presidency of EU in 2020.

Zagreb, 12. May 2018.

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