

IFSW Europe e.V. REPORT WORK PROGRAMME 2017 -2018

REPORT

DELEGATES MEETING, BUCHAREST, MAY 2018

This work programme is presented under the following broad subheadings adopted by the 2013 IFSW Europe e.V. Delegates Meeting, and it has been continued, revised and reinforced over recent years:

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

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

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

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



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1. COMMUNICATION

Ana I. Lima Fernández, the IFSW European President, will present the report on communication.

Main actions approved in the Delegates Meeting 2017 and the summary:

- Google groups, Skype and other Social Media Sources has been used for meetings as well as for the benefit of the organisation. Updating, informing and sharing practices with the member organisations. Social Media and online resources are key in the present and future of IFSW EU. All deadlines and periods have been achieved and more members than in 2016 have replied and contributed to campaigns, questionnaires and projects (as Oxford University Press Bibliography, Gaps between the Practice and the Education in Social Work, or applying to celebrate a workshop related to European Social Pillar and our Regional Project).
- **Regional and sub-regional level of communication** has been developed. This has been accomplished on both the Global and the member organisations level. IFSW Europe has contributed to it without the resources needed to activate a Social Media Communication Plan (SMCP), and for 2018, with the New IFSW Website, we hope that between the member's contributions and the actions from Executive, this goal will be reached.
- **Communication values** are constantly in development. Our society and our profession change, as well as IFSW as organisation. We have managed to share news in IFSW website. In 2018 we have increased the number of articles shared, and we hope that the new web site will allow us in 2019 to not only continue, but increase this level of performance.



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• The Executive is developing a **PowerPoint** with the essential information that must be shared. A tool for those who are representing IFSW Europe at any point and will be able to project it where they are presenting. At the moment, it still in development, but we hope that it will be an useful tool that will standardize our presentations.

COMMENTS.

- A SMCP or a professional approach to it, involves and requires a wide range of resources, rather than just time or perseverance. The Executive members cannot do it alone. It will require active contributions from members to increase the news and good practices shared within IFSW Europe. This will not only because it would bring a better understanding of our profession, it is because it would bring visibility of our work and our profession too.
- Since 2017 DM, where it was pointed out, "IFSW Europe e.V had to make the activities of their members more visible and demonstrate the impact that they had. It was important to make IFSW Europe information available for all practitioners and be accountable". During this year the executive have worked to publicize the activities of our members.

2. FINANCES

Brian Auslader, The IFSW Europe Treasurer, will present the report on Finance.

Main actions approved in the Delegates Meeting 2017 and the summary:

• Finances and Legal Body maintenance – The main action has been moving the bank account to Spain. It is currently under the administration of the Spanish Association. IFSW Europe is registered in Germany as a non-profit organization and we



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need to organize all our documents of the German recognition and submit them to the bank in Spain to request the opening of an IFSW bank account. All of this is moving very slowly.

- To issue guidance concerning the reimbursement of expenditure incurred by executive members carrying out official duties
 a draft of the guidelines will be submitted to the delegates for comment and approval.
- To publish rules and an application form for delegates applying for assistance to attend the Delegates Meeting 2018 the form and rules were sent to the members and we received 8 requests for assistance. 7 of the 8 requests were approved. The last was not approved because it was the second request from the same country and the rules allow for the funding of only one delegate per country.
- Updates on membership status we have requested that global send us the list of member organizations and the number of members in each one.
- Create a working group on funding strategy for IFSW Eu. a group was formed at the last delegates meeting and we hope to present their ideas to the delegates for discussion at this year's meeting.

COMMENTS.

The financial situation of IFSW Europe improved this year because of the profit from the 2017 regional conference. We feel that it is still important to budget based on the regions annual income and to refrain from deficit budgeting.



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3. MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Ana I. Lima Fernández, the IFSW European President, will present the report on membership development.

Main actions approved in the Delegates Meeting 2017 and the summary:

- From the Executive, we have continued with our duty to re-engage and reinforce links with member organizations. The Executive is open to inform and to support any member organization, as well as any new organization, about IFSW and its plans for future. An increased participation from members has been searched since 2016, reason why our regional project, among many other activities, are based in open consultations and to online participation.
- New members are welcome. However, IFSW Europe is not expecting much change for 2019. 2017 and 2018 have been addressed to internally reinforce the communication with organizations that are members already.
- Professionalization of Social Work services is a long distance race. At the moment, Europe, in this topic has important gaps between countries (members or not) that we have to try, and we will continue trying to palliate. IFSW Europe has been fully focused on their impact on the European Pillar of Social Rights, by not refusing any chance to contribute to it and with aditional actions too.

COMMENTS:

• To prompt members to check and analyze the resources available on the Website needs to be on our agenda. Those resources not only help to understand deeply the organization and the possibilities that each member has. These documents are also there to be challenged, evaluated and developed.



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• Documents are mostly in English, so not every country has the chance to be able to share them or to use them in their own countries. However, there are open to be translated and the Executive will be always open to clarify any question related to them.

4. IFSW EUROPEAN CONFERENCE 2019

Ana I. Lima Fernández, the IFSW European President, will present the report on IFSW Conference 2019.

Main actions approved in the Delegates Meeting 2017 and the summary:

- The OBDS and the IFSW EU have signed the Conference's contract, held a couple of meetings and started with the conference's program and details already. Herbert Paulischin from the Austrian Association of Social Workers joined the Executive to present the preparations for IFSW Europe Conferences 2019, as briefing from our last meeting.
- The first meeting of the steering committee was held on February 2, 2018 between IFSW Europe (Ana Lima, President and Ana Radulescu, Vice President) and members of OBDS
- The highlights proposed for the conference are:

Target groups: Back to the roots. The Conference will focus on social work practitioners. The purpose is to organize a Conference that has a clear impact on the practice of social work and include the next generation of Social Workers. There is a strategy to involve social work students. Also, the aim is to have affordable admission fees.

Venues: The conference will be held at the City Hall of Vienna and at several local social agencies and universities, in order to keep the cost for venues down. The proposal is to organize seminars in local venues and agencies around the city. These seminars will be repeated 4 times along the whole conference and the intention is to have 4



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workshops/seminars at 8 different places. Agencies will be encouraged to involve users in workshops taking place in their location.

- To facilitate the mobility of participants among the different venues, there will be no lunch. However, finger food/snacks will be served in all locations. The organization will provide public transportation tickets
- The structure proposed for the conference is looking to stimulate, promote and favour Social Workers who practice. As well as the proposed "low and affordable conference's price" (about €450 normal fee for non-members, €400 normal fee for members, and €90 for students...) to encourage practitioners to attend.

Principles of the Conference: Methodical, Political, Professional innovation, Human rights, Dignity

• Theme: Social Protection & Inclusion (that may be changed). The conference will try to approach the 10 topics under the Social Pillar Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion.

COMMENTS:

• IFSW Europe has struggled initially to arrange the host for IFSW European Conference 2019. The Executive is content that we have managed to find a new host the Austrian association OBDS. We are in close collaboration to ensure a successful conference in 2019.



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5. ENSACT. European Network for Social Action

Josefine Johansson, the IFSW European Executive Member, will present the report on European Network for Social Action.

Main actions approved in the Delegates Meeting 2017 and the summary:

- IFSW Europe has been represented at both meetings with ENSACT. During the year president Thea Meinema (ICSW) has left her position and no other partner has had the capacity to take over the presidency. ENSACT has had the regional observatory of the Global Agenda for the last four years. Since the work of the Global Agenda Observatory will not continue in a joint collaboration between IFSW, ICSW and IASSW it's likely that the regional observatories will cease to exist. ENSACT has had a discussion on what the purpose of the network should be in the near future. This discussion will continue during the rest of 2018.
- A presentation of the European Observatory Report was made at the IFSW European Conference in Reykjavik in May 2017.
- A call for contributions of good examples of social work and social policies promoting community and environmental sustainability was made in October 2017. The examples have been provided by social work practitioners, educators, policy makers and researchers from social work organisations and social development institutions in Europe. The contributions submitted are related to sustainable communities and economic development in the traditional core areas of social work, but also in other social professions and social actions. A regional observatory report to the Global Agenda has been compiled by Lola Casal Sanchez and Thea Meinema. Even though the contributions were fewer than in 2016 the report gives a broad picture of social work and social policies performed in Europe.



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6. EU ISSUES – European Social Platform

Fran Mcdonnell, the IFSW Representative to the European Social Platform, will present the report.

The full report is available here

- To maintain organisational membership of the European Social Platform (SP) and continue networking with colleagues from other SP organisations to raise IFSW Europe's profile and contribute a social work perspective to issues the Platform and other members are pursuing
- To appoint a Representative and a support team to coordinate IFSW E's input to the SP Steering Group and Task Forces and engagement with officials and politicians in the European Commission and Parliament and organisations we have developed formal partnerships with.
- To pass on information to our members about issues relevant to social work being pursued by the SP and encourage them to link with the national members of other SP networks in their own countries and lobby their MEP's and Heads of State for changes that are required.
- Principal amongst such issues will be the need to contribute to the SP's response to proposals arising from the consultation on the Pillar of Social Rights contained in the White Paper on the Future of the EU
- The SP's 2017 Work Plan lists activities it intends undertaking under the following overarching strategic objectives:



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- 1. Leaving no one behind Prioritising people in vulnerable situations;
- 2. Reducing inequalities through a just economy;
- 3. Building bridges Engaging with civil society; 4) Strengthening the capacity of the Platform's network.
- IFSW Europe will give priority to objectives 1 and 2 and members will be encouraged to provide evidence that supports the investment of European Structural and Investment Funds in the health, social care, education and employment services that are required to secure equal access for everybody, including migrants and ethnic and religious minorities.
- It will also be important to incorporate a social work perspective in the SP's response to the European Commission's legal migration fitness check (REFIT) which is likely to identify gaps and inconsistencies and scope for streamlining EU legislation on migration. We will also need to contribute examples of innovative social enterprises and support the development of a position on tax justice.

7. FRA. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights Platform. Graca André

Graça Maria André, the IFSW Representative to FRA will present the report.

The full report available <u>here</u>.

Main actions approved in the Delegates Meeting 2017:

• To continue being an active member of the Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP) and engage with other civil society organisations concerned about Fundamental Rights



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- To continue fighting for the vigilance of the well being and health of the Fundamental Rights.
- To disseminate information about FRA's research and publications to our members and the wider social work community

8. NETWORKING AND LOBBYING

Ana I. Lima Fernández, the IFSW European President, will present the report on networking and Lobbying.

Main actions approved in the Delegates Meeting 2017 and summary:

- From IFSW, we are constantly working to increase the visibility of the role of social workers all over the region. This is addressed through partnerships with other organizations such as the UN, the European Social Platform, ENSACT, EAPN, FRA, INGO, among other organizations, NGO's, groups and projects.
- During 2017, many other new links have been explored or are in negotiations at the moment. The ESN and RAN are examples of what IFSW Europe is looking for as new partnerships. Negotiations are open, not as members, but as collaboration partners. The same is true for EURORDIS, as IFSW is interested in the network as collaborator rather than members. Other partnerships have been decline for now, but keeping good relationship for the future such as with EFFE.
- Towards the end of 2017, and the beginning of 2018, IFSW Europe has held a different approach, a renewed vision, mainly focused on IFSW EU internally. A path that will be taken for the next two years (2017-2019), and that has been put into practice with the Regional Project. One goal of the project is to "visualize the Social Workers in the European Pillar of Social Rights", and fits the regions a very own desire to find increased relevance and impact in the European Parliament. Since the project has started, meetings, political summits and events have taken place. A huge step for IFSW Europe is to carry the Social Workers perspective to the political level.



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- The link between members and the executive is crucial, for lobbying and networking. The executive has taken this into account. Ana Lima has visited and had meetings with France and Portugal, meeting the presidents of these member organizations, and to know more about their expectations, activities and to identify ways of collaboration. From those meetings some difficulties and proposals have raised as well as leading to greater collaboration.
- Other seminars, conferences and events have contributed to our network and are helping us to regain strengths for lobbying at European and Global Level. In Lisbon, Portugal, Ana I. Lima attended the conference "Challenges placed at Social Service: Present and future". Here she shared the European challenges for Social Work. In Pisa, Italy, Lima was part of a conference where Guy Shennan, chair of BASW, from UK, also participated. The Pisa conference was a celebration related to the Social Work Day 2018, in the context of an International Workshop "Assistenti Sociali in Temp di cambiamento. Percorsi formative e sviluppo professionale" (Social Workers on Time of Change. Training courses and professional development) organized by Pisa University (Dipartamento di Science Sociale Politiche). There Ana Lima was meeting the presidents of BASW and Italian Association, exchanging reflections, analysis, information and good practices on the profile of education in social work and political advocacy of professional social work organizations. And also, Lima has been in Melilla, Spain, in an international seminar, "Working with young asylum seekers and refugees age determination" on unaccompanied minors, in which Ana Lima addressed the conference on the role of social work when working with children and teenagers in these cases. This action will lead to the creation of an International Research Center on the subject with the participation of the president of IFSW Europe. This topic is very important for Social Work since it has increased a lot since 2015 and it is a subject that requires an international approach.



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• IFSW Europe has also contributed to a new Bibliography of Social Work in Europe which will be available in summer 2018, edited by David N Jones and Ana Isabel Lima with help from CGTS (Spanish association). Oxford University Press publishes online bibliographies that are intended to help academics, students and researchers to source relevant literature.

COMMENTS:

• Unfortunately, of the working groups created by the DM, not many have been continued. The Executive Board members are very busy in their own associations, the region and from global. It is important to empower our members to contribute, but not to overload them.

9. SOCIAL WORK DAY 2018

Ana Radulescu, the IFSW European Vice President, will present the report on the World Social Work Day 2018.

Main actions approved in the Delegates Meeting 2017 and summary:

- Ana Lima has sent a **message from IFSW Europe** as President as it has been done in previous years. This video has been posted, among others on the Website of IFSW Global, and it has been shared in media sources. In addition, Ana Lima has participated with Ana Radulescu (Vice President) in New York on the UN celebration of the WSWD 2018. As well as in other conferences, events and celebrations where IFSW Europe was represented and Social Work celebrated as a profession.
- Ana Radulescu (Vice President) made a presentation in the UN Geneva at an event dedicated to WSWD 2018;



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• **Global Agenda** has been promoted not only on the Social Work Day. "Working towards environmental and community sustainability", it's been a part of our activities, and has also been a part of the good practices that our members has developed. See ENSACT.

10. RELATIONS WITH IFSW GLOBAL

Ana I. Lima Fernández, the IFSW European President, and Ana Radulescu, the IFSW European Vice President, will present the report.

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



11. NETWORK FOR SOCIAL WORKERS IN EUROPE WORKING WITH REFUGEES

Maria Rúnarsdóttie, the IFSW European Executive Member, will present the report on network for social workers in Europe working with refugees.

Main actions approved in the Delegates Meeting 2017 and summary:

- At the Delegates Meeting 2017 a statement was approved on the role of social workers in age determination of unaccompanied minors. The Delegates Meeting agreed to develop a policy or a position statement on age determination. The secretary general proposed to make it a global policy.
- In order to create a working group to develop a policy, the executive have reached out to members of the region that have experience in working with age determination of unaccompanied minors. The secretary general asked the regional presidents and vice-presidents to nominate persons. A working group with representatives from North America, UK, Denmark and Sweden has been set up. A first draft has been sent out by mid April but so far there has been no feedback.

12. FIGHTING AUSTERITY, POVERTY, EXCLUSION AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY

Tatjana Katkic, the IFSW European Executive Member, will present the report on fighting austerity, poverty, exclusion and social inequality.

Main actions approved in the Delegates Meeting 2017:

13.



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- To collect data, that can be compared among countries, that shows how governmental budget cuts in the social protection system affect Human Rights in Europe.
- To support members of IFSW Europe who are fighting against austerity measures and promoting social protection.

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

Antonina Dashkina and Fernanda Rodrigues, the IFSW European Representatives, will present the report.

The full report is available <u>here</u>

- To maintain and develop our organisational membership in INGO Conference through:
- Actively contributing to capacity building and campaigning and lobbying activities at a European level with INGOs of different backgrounds and vectors of activities;
- Aiming at participating in the 2 semester meetings of the Conference INGO (January and June) and in the thematic working groups, namely those with close links with the main activities of the professional category (Human Rights Committee, Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges Committee);
- Passing on info about INGO Conference activities in Strasbourg and other parts of Europe;
- Providing information on issues relevant to social work being discussed at INGO Conference meetings to our members and where appropriate lobbying their MEP's and Heads of State for the changes required;



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- Using the INGO Conference as a platform for closer cooperation and joint activities with EASSW and ICSW (who are members of the Conference) in influencing the process of eradicating poverty, preventing violent conflicts, fighting for the rights of transnational migrants and against human trafficking;
- Promoting the European Social Charter and its complaints mechanism as a fundamental instrument for the effective safeguarding of all social rights in Europe;
- Using a practical guide to conduct dialogues in the communities where they are most needed. This user-friendly Dialogue Toolkit can have impact in situations where people want to build social cohesion and the human rights based approach to diversity issues. The Toolkit is a document made by members of INGO Conference and was successfully used in several countries (http://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/dialogue);
- Disseminating information about INGO Conference activities to our members and the wider social work community by using representatives annual reports and the site of the Conference;
- Aiming at participating in the main events in Strasbourg (celebration of 40 years anniversary of INGO Conference 25 June; the Day "Europe against the death penalty", 10 October; World Day of eradication of poverty, 17 October; World Forum for Democracy, 9 – 10 November).

15. HUMAN RIGHTS

Ana Radulescu, the IFSW European Vice President, will present the report on Human Rights



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

16. E.A.P.N.

Fran McDonnell, the IFSW Representative to the European Social Platform, will present the report.

The full report is available <u>here</u>

- 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 EU members to find out what the current levels of engagement with EAPN country networks are and the



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extent to which IFSW E members are contributing. This would enable IFSW E to contribute more effectively and develop better links.

• Participating in the EAPN Task Force for Poverty and Human Rights and suggestions for examples