



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

IFSW Europe e.V. Work Programme 2018 - 2019

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.

MAIN POINTS: Context

- To use Google group account, Skype meetings and any other relevant and affordable forms of communication.
- To email, on regular basis, information and updates to members.
- To encourage members to use IFSW Website, and contribute to it sharing news and experiences.
- To support members contact with the Executive and to strengthen contact with organizations in countries not currently represented.
- To support regional and sub regional communication development.
- 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.

GOALS TO REACH:

- To encourage members to use and to advertise the new IFSW website as key resource of our external communication.
- To professionalize our internal and external communication in order to reach a wider audience through the effective use of the web site and social media.
- To increase our organisational influence in order to support our member organisations and help them to reach a larger impact.
- To continue strengthening the sharing of information (website, Facebook, e-mail, etc) between IFSW-Europe members.
- To share and support the activities of our members so they generate a wider impact.



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2. FINANCES

MAIN POINTS:

- To open a bank account in the name of IFSW EU
- To update the information about the legal body to the German authorities as needed
- To implement the guidelines for expense reimbursement
- To publish the availability of delegate meeting financial assistance in January, 2019 in order to allow delegates to make reservations early at the cheapest fares possible
- Update the numbers of members in each member organization in order to bill fees accordingly
- Continue the working group on funding strategy for IFSW EU.

GOALS TO REACH:

- Update the legal body as needed.
- Elaborate a funding strategy in order to obtain external funding;

3. MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

MAIN POINTS:

- To welcome and support new members of IFSW Europe and to promote the active participation of all members
- To support the development of professionalization Social Work Services, as well as the professional profile of Social Workers from all Europe.



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GOALS TO REACH:

- To increase the visibility of the member´s contributions about best practices, events and conferences. Encouraging members to use IFSW as a network to increase awareness of their activities and collaboration with other members.
- To encourage member´s involvement on relevant social work topics and issues.

4. IFSW EUROPEAN CONFERENCE 2019

MAIN POINTS

- To continue the productive collaboration with the Austrian association OBDS in preparing the IFSW European conference 2019.

GOAL TO REACH:

- To organise a conference with broad participation that will strengthen the profession and Social Work in Europe;

5. ENSACT. European Network for Social Action.

MAIN POINTS

- To participate in ENSACT meetings to discuss and establish how this broad network can be useful for all its different partners.
- To help disseminate the European Observatory Report of 2018 in order to spread good examples of Social Work and Social Policy in Europe.



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GOAL TO REACH:

- To promote the social work contribution to community and environmental sustainability in Europe.

6. EU ISSUES - SOCIAL PLATFORM

MAIN POINTS

- 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 coordinate the appointment of 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 implementation of the Pillar of Social Rights and developments flowing from the White Paper on the Future of the EU and to respond to the Social Fairness package consultation launched by the European Commission on 13th March 2018.



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- The SP's 2018 workplan lists activities it intends undertaking under the following overarching strategic objectives: Leaving no one behind – Prioritising people in vulnerable situations; Reducing inequalities through a just economy; Building bridges – Engaging with civil society; 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 and contribute examples of innovative social enterprises and support the development of a position on tax justice.
- It will also be important to work with the Social Platform and other partners to raise issues of concern to social workers with candidates in the European Parliament elections and to support a flagship event the Platform intends holding in Lisbon in November on the anniversary of the proclamation of the Pillar of Social Rights.

7. FRA. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights Platform

MAIN POINTS

- The broad subheadings adopted by the Work-Program 2017-2018 were: visibility and voice; membership development and service to the members, according to the principles of social justice, human rights and respect for diversities.
The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) over Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP) where IFSW – E is affiliated has the special role to realize Human Rights developing a lot of steps that brings information, reflection and discovering new ways to put it into practice. So it is urgent:
 - To share the information among the members on time in a cooperation between the European Executive and FRA Representative (to plan new strategies).



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- To find the position of a Coordinator (or a member in the Executive with this role) that could support all the representatives establishing a permanent link among them in view to inform them, but more importantly to hear their proposals, urgent strategies, and giving support to realize their mission.
- To organize an adequate budget at the IFSW-E with priorities that will allow each representative, to participate at least in one of the most important external organization meetings that they represent. It is very important to meet the colleagues face to face and better understand the mission of each organization giving visibility to IFSW-E and sharing its proposals.
- To establish IFSW-E Work Program priorities according to specific vulnerable areas among FRA, (to connect. to reflect. to act) e.g.: equality and non discrimination; racism, xenophobia and related intolerance; Roma integration; asylum visas, migration borders and integration; information society, privacy and data protection; rights of the child; access to justice and victim`s rights; EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and its use by Member States. It means to enjoy the pedagogic side of FRA policies, identifying and disseminating examples of good practice to duplicate it.
- To ask by IFSW – E EC a specific reinforcement of SPT network in view of strengthening the bond between FRA and EAPN representatives working in cooperation with HR Commission representative and confirming the approach to the other European Civil Organizations, since we consider that “Poverty is the worst HR violation”.

GOALS TO REACH:

- To continue participating as much as possible with key organisations as FRP and FRA.
- Make social work with different vulnerable groups more visible.

8. NETWORKING AND LOBBYING



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MAIN POINTS

- To support IFSW Europe members linking with networks and organizations in different fields related to social work.
- To link our outputs and projects with other relevant fields where policy is decided that will affect our profession at many levels.
- To encourage members to share their experiences and connections with the rest of the members in order to facilitate a greater impact.

GOAL TO REACH:

- To develop this area and take it to next levels among the regional project and the support of/to our member organizations.

9. THE SOCIAL WORK DAY 2019

MAIN POINTS

- To call for Action in Europe celebrating the social work day.
- To promote the goals marked on the Global Agenda.
- To publish and promote events and actions around Europe through our Web and Media sources.
- Video message from IFSW Europe.

GOALS TO REACH:

- Strengthen the visibility of social work and social workers.
- Spread the actions of our members on WSWD in order to inspire and show the impact that WSWD has every year.

10. RELATIONS WITH IFSW GLOBAL.

MAIN POINTS:



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- To develop stronger links with the IFSW Global, exploring new paths when possible, and increasing the coordination and communication as much as possible. As well as to inform and report information to the new president, increasing awareness of the region and its issues.
- To keep cooperating with IFSW Global in Executive Meetings, Commissions and new policies and procedures, when required.
- To promote proposals to empower regions with IFSW.
- To link our members with the IFSW Global, mediating and increasing internal communication.

GOAL TO REACH:

- To reach a better awareness, internally and externally, of the IFSW as a global organisation, rather than only as a region. Informing and encouraging members through the website to explore the information and events in other regions.

11. NETWORK FOR SOCIAL WORKERS IN EUROPE WORKING WITH REFUGEES

MAIN POINTS:

- Develop a policy on social workers role in age determination of unaccompanied minors
- To start a working group with social workers

GOALS TO REACH:

- To develop a policy that can help our members strengthen the importance of a multi-professional assessment in age determination towards policy makers.



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- To develop a network for social workers in Europe working with refugees to share experience and strengthen them in having influence on policy makers and those in charge of services.

12. FIGHTING AUSTERITY, POVERTY, EXCLUSION AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY

MAIN POINTS

- 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 continued increasing the breach of Human Rights in Europe.
- To support members of IFSW Europe, those fighting against Austerity Measures and promoting social protection

GOALS TO REACH.

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

MAIN POINTS

- 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);



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- 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;
- Promoting the European Social Charter and its Complaints mechanism as fundamental instrument for the effective safeguarding of all social rights in Europe;
- Promoting the Dialogue toolkit to build social cohesion and approach diversity issues to members;
- 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 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).

GOALS TO REACH:

- 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 the violent conflicts, fighting for the rights of transnational migrants and against human trafficking;

14. HUMAN RIGHTS

MAIN POINTS



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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 relate with the work of refugees and make a link between the Human Rights and child protection special for refugee children.
- To ask by IFSW – E EC a specific reinforcement of SPT network in view of strengthening the bond between FRA and EAPN representatives working in cooperation with HR Commission representative and confirming the approach to the other European Civil Organizations, since we consider that “Poverty is the worst HR violation”.

GOAL TO REACH:

- Make violations of human rights because of poverty more visible to members, policy makers and other stake holders.

15. EAPN

MAIN POINTS

- Follow up on the survey of members’ involvement with national EAPN networks to encourage further links. This could include doing a briefing to members who includes information about the survey, the work of national EAPN networks and links to country contact details.
- Work with the Executive on developing a database of member policies etc, which would support representatives, and working groups to contribute more effectively to ongoing consultations and developing policy papers.



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- Follow up on the possibility of working more closely with organisations such as IASSW and ENSACT to access relevant research about poverty.
- Contribute to EAPN capacity building, campaigning and lobbying activities at European and national levels, in particular the drive to secure minimum income for all citizens (<https://emin-eu.net/about/>) by supporting the European Minimum Income Network (EMIN) bus tour.
- Passing on useful information about EAPN's policies, activities, and publications to our members.
- Circulate links and promote the Handbook on Change, Hope and Justice: A rights - based approach to Poverty, when available

GOALS TO REACH.

- Strengthening our members on how to work with eradication of poverty.
- Visualise social work and how social workers can contribute to the eradication of poverty and to ensure human rights for all no matter income.