

IFSW EUROPE:

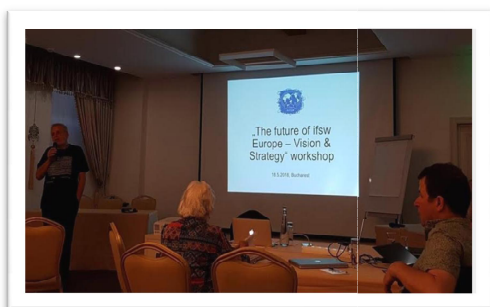
REGIONAL REPORT 2017-2018



Introduction:

By May 2018, IFSW Europe has members in 39 countries with 41 member association, and over 123.000 social workers represented by the member associations. Also in May, the European Region celebrated its annual **Delegates´ Meeting in Bucharest 2018**, hosted by AsproAs and supported on field visits by the Romanian College of Social Workers. A successful event that was attended by 21 (with proxies up to 26) members, and that was opened with a Workshop on **“The future of IFSW Europe-Vision & Strategy”**.

The workshop was chaired by Herbert Paulischin (Executive supporter, member of



AsproAs, and International representative in Austrian Association, as well as over 30 years of experience in IFSW) and debated in working groups that were following a SWOT analysis with two axes. First on what we want/need. And second what we offer/contribute. Our members were actively participating in clarifying our vision and strategy in how to reach our goals,

future steps that can be taken and the consequences of the paths that those steps involve. The workshop warmed members up and contributed to a high level of participation during the three days meeting, representing two the “before and after” that every Delegates Meeting must involve.

Our Work Programme has been redesigned and the focus of our resources re-prioritized. Our members are a key resource to success, but it will be the executive’s duty to ensure and provide their actions with the visibility and support that they deserve. The same goes for our representatives, who will have the responsibility to carry out projects, to impact in partner organizations and produce a symbiotic relationship with our collaborators. That will be the commitment for the region over this new period.

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Participation still is a challenge that requires/involves time and resources, and, for most of the member organizations, an effort that is hard to fulfill. For this reason, we understand the difficulties to take part in any project or event, and we are focused on reinforcing our internal links, empowering those that who participate less, and contacting those that who are less engaged to understand why and to consider what else we can do to change it for the better. We are caring for those organizations that contact and share, and there are places in our plan to try to expand their impact.

As the European region's executive team, we will need to lead by example, as well as to try to involve others and be transparent with our members. This spirit has been visible in the celebration of our Delegates' Meeting 2018, in Bucharest.



Institutional Visibility:

Our vision:

<<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>>

Delegates' Meeting 2017

From IFSW Europe, we are constantly working to increase the visibility of the role of social workers all over the region. This has been addressed mainly through working in partnership with other organizations such as the UN and WHO, or the European Social Platform, ENSACT, EAPN, FRA, CoE-INGO, among other organizations, NGOs, groups and projects.

In the latest months of 2017, and the beginning of 2018, IFSW Europe has also added a renewed vision mainly focused on IFSW EU internal approach, where we will not be based so much in contributing or collaborating with others, rather be focused on our very own outputs. We can be focused and also address with our meager resources our own projects.

It's has been clear on the Delegates' Meeting that we must be focus on communication, internal and external. This is by far one of the biggest challenges affecting similar organizations. Not only for the resources needed, such as time, staff and financial resources, but also by the gaps between members and the structures and capabilities of each organization. That is the reason that the work plan has been redefined and reduced. More outputs in less targets, and a year to build up the internal links. The main resource to reach this target will be the new IFSW website and members' connections.

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An example of this new path has been taken since we adopt the regional project last Delegates' Meeting 2017, and for two years (2017-2019), ending on the Regional Conference in Wien 2019. It has been successfully put into practice with the Regional Project, where the goal to "visualize the POV of the social workers in the European Pillar of Social Rights", through "**Social workers for transformational and sustainable social protection in Europe 17-19**", that fits our statement and where we are looking for an increased relevance of IFSW EU in the European Parliament.

Finances: Treasurer's report

For first time in years our region closed the financial year with a balanced budget. The Executive expects to maintain this for the next financial year 2018-19. Membership fees are the same 0.20 pence per member since 1993 meaning that our income increased only with the addition of new members in the region. Over the years, the region approved deficit budgets slowly depleting our financial reserves. In 2017 the executive and the delegates approved an "austerity" budget that limited spending to the level of our annual income from membership fees. This was successfully implemented and the region benefited from an unexpected profit from the regional conference to restore some of the reserves in our accounts. Over the past two years our impact and visibility were limited by budgetary constraints, but we hope that we will face a different scenario this year.

Financially, 2017 has been a challenging year for IFSW Europe as we were having budget restrictions from inherited practices. This year 2017-2018, we were able to manage our budget to allow a face-to-face executive board meeting (Vienna, February 2018) in order to coordinate with the OBDS regarding the 2019 conference; as well as to agree and discuss details with our Romanian colleagues for our delegates' meeting in Bucharest and coordinate ourselves as Executives.

IFSW Europe's budget is still based, mainly, on the collection of membership fees. These are based on the number of members in each organization. While we are a large region as far as the number of associations, many of our associations either do not collect fees from their members or have a very low number of paying members, so their membership fees to the region are also very low. Most of the Eastern European members pay less than €100 while several of the Western European members pay over €1,000. These fees give us a budget of about €24,000 each year.

This income is then used to fund our executive committee's costs, the cost of the delegates' meeting each year, membership fees to several European organizations, such as the Social Platform and the European Anti-Poverty Network, and to fund our representatives to attend meetings and events of European social organizations. Costs for the delegates meeting include several thousand Euros budgeted as financial assistance for delegates from low income associations to attend the delegates' meeting.

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Several years ago, the region registered as an NGO in order to be eligible for EU funding. We have participated in several social projects together with other organizations which are funded by the EU. This participation allows us to input the social work perspective to these projects and to increase our visibility. Of course, these funds are earmarked for the project and are not part of our operating budget.

At the last delegates' meeting, the executive was charged with examining ways of increasing income. One possibility being explored is raising the membership fees which have never been increased since they were implemented many years ago. Another is to become much more active in applying for project funds through the EU and other bodies. We have a small committee looking into this and will report to the delegates' meeting in May.

Finally, there is the issue of profit sharing with the association that organizes the regional conference every other year. This is problematic since the reality is that most conferences do not make a profit. In addition, it raises the dilemma of lowering registration fees so that more members can attend as opposed to having a higher fee in order to make a profit.

Financial Working Group: It has been revitalized after our Delegate's Meeting, and will focus on:

- Explore costs vs. benefits-which expenses best promote IFSW Europe goals
- Knowledge sharing through technology
- To continue exploring options for increased income
- Mobilize social workers to be part of the organized social work community

Regional Fund Project:

Added to what we have said already about the project, it is necessary to understand that IFSW Europe has voted unanimously that the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) should be the main focus of activities in 2018-2019.

However, there are also good "windows of opportunity" to affect policies related to social work such as: gender equality and work-life balance; long-term care; childcare; disability; and access to essential services. It is important that social workers are involved in the implementation of the EPSR to ensure that the European Pillar of Social Rights bring positive changes to people's lives.

In November 2017 we attended the Social Summit where the European Pillar of Social Rights was jointly proclaimed by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission. Since then, IFSW Europe has developed its own statement, planned and conducted workshops and consultations that will be presented at upcoming events over 2018 and 2019.



IFSW European Conference 2019:
Social Protection and Human Dignity
8-11 September 2019, Vienna.



The OBDS and the IFSW EU are advancing on the preparations for IFSW European conference 2019, including opening the website www.ifsw2019.com where information will be available and it is possible to subscribe to the newsletter too.

The steering committee meeting was held including IFSW Europe (Ana Lima, President and Ana Radulesco, Vicepresident) and members of OBDS (as the President Alois Pözl and the Treasurer Maria Sommeregger), as well as supported by other committees (with figures as Herbert Paulsichin and Jochen Prusa) and by every human and material resource from both institutions. Also, IFSW Global is the organization in charge of looking after the requirements, and to provide support with protocols, procedures and experience.

The highlights proposed for the conference are:

Target groups: *Back to the roots* and focus on social work practitioners. The aim was to organize a Conference that had a clear impact on the practice of social work and include the next generation of Social Workers.

Affordable fees: limiting registration fees to be affordable to practitioners.

The City Hall of Vienna and Venues: To have affordable fees the proposal was to organize the Conference at the City Hall, and to organize dislocated seminars in local entities, agencies and universities.

Early Registration		Standard Registration	
regular	€ 350,-	regular	€ 450,-
ifsw members	€ 300,-	ifsw members	€ 400,-
ifsw friends	€ 280,-	ifsw friends	€ 380,-
students	€ 100,-	students	€ 120,-

Service Users: Workshops and seminars will try to bring the views and experiences into the conference.

Sustainable: to accomplish and to second the targets marked on Global Agenda

The structure: The conference is looking to stimulate, promote and favor social workers mostly from the practice area.

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Principles of the Conference: Methodological, political, innovative professional interventions, human rights, dignity

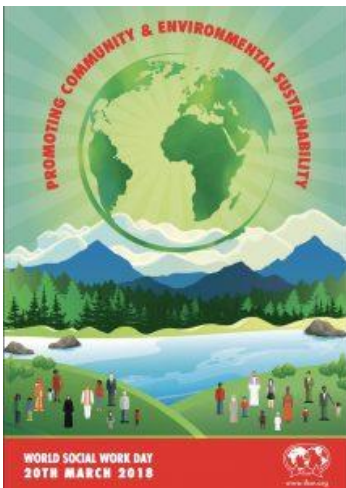
Theme: Social Protection & Inclusion (that may be changed). The conference will try to approach the 10 topics under the Social Pillar and the social Pillar Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion.



SAVE THE DATE: IFSW EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

8.-11. September 2019
Vienna

WSWD 2018



The region is always committed to the celebration of the WSWD and this year, Ana Lima and Ana Radulescu have contributed and coordinated it. The President has sent to IFSW the video from the President and apart, as a region the executive has support Ana Radulescu who assumed the task of coordinate the outputs, as well as the Global has request and coordinate with her the representation of the region in Geneva, at the UN celebration, where she presented IFSW Europe statement of the Regional Project << *Social workers for transformational and sustainable social protection in Europe*>>. A statement, under the IFSW Europe Project, that would be disseminated among IFSW Europe members and sent to their national governments. The statement will also be sent to EU parliamentarians.

It was agreed at the IFSW European executive meeting, that Ana Radulesco also coordinates the activities to celebrate the WSWD 2018 with the support of Kristina Koskuluoma (Finland) and Herbert Paulischin (Austria). Ana Radulesco proposed that the celebrations of WSWD 2018 recognize that it was a European initiative. The proposed activities included recording a video with the history of WSWD celebrations at IFSW Europe. In 2018, it will be the 20th anniversary of WSWD, which was an initiative originally in IFSW Europe, more specifically by Kristina Koskuluoma (Finland) and Herbert Paulischin (Austria). Also we want to create a Facebook page of WSWD together with Global



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Policy on age-determination of unaccompanied minors

A group has been created from experts from the region. We still waiting for a representative from BASW and only one other region has submitted a name: North America. The group will start the work in March although there might still be a lack of representation from all regions.

It is needed to hold a conference that could be supported by all. IFSW global is responsible for all regional conferences, as well as for signing off on all bids and asses if a conference fulfilled the aims of the profession and if it supported the work and reputation of IFSW global. An Israeli bid was not accepted by global under the contention that it would harm the reputation of IFSW, something that IFSW Europe must consider as an own decision and look forward to support future bids as much as possible, as we are now running out of time for the next conference.

OUP Social Work in Europe - A BIBLIOGRAPHY

IFSW Europe has 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. Each bibliography provides around 150-200 relevant citations and is divided into sections, each with a short summary introduction. There are around 10 citations in each section, with around 80 words summarizing the content of each citation as well as the usual publishers information and, where it exists, the website reference (URL). There is a charge for online access.

The Social Work in Europe bibliography breaks new ground (probably) by including references to texts in national languages as well as texts in English. Each national association in Europe was invited to submit four texts giving a basic introduction to social work in that country, showing the breadth of social work studies across the continent. Each citation has a brief summary in English. The countries which responded to the request are: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Kosovo, Moldova, Northern Ireland, Norway, Romania, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, and Wales. It is hoped that it will be possible to add additional countries over time. OUP likes to revise the Bibliographies to keep them up to date so this could be a rolling programme.

If other regions are interested in preparing a similar bibliography, they should contact David N. Jones. OUP might be interested to explore proposals.

Reported by: IFSW Europe- 04/06/17

Ana Isabel Lima Fernández- President IFSW Europe.

With the support and collaboration of **Ana Radulescu –IFSW Europe Vice-President.** And IFSW Europe **Executive Members.**



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