



IFSW Europe e.V.

Minutes Delegates Meeting 2018

Bucharest, Romania, 18-20 May

COUNTRIES IN ATTENDANCE:

1. Armenia
2. Austria
3. Azerbaijan
4. Belgium
5. Croatia
6. Denmark
7. Finland
8. Georgia
9. Germany
10. Iceland
11. Ireland
12. Israel
13. Italy
14. Macedonia
15. Malta
16. Moldova
17. Norway
18. Portugal
19. Romania
20. Russia
21. Spain
22. Sweden
23. Switzerland
24. UK

OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

- Global coordinator of global agenda



1. WELCOME AND FORMALITIES

1.1 Welcome and opening of the DM

The President of IFSW Europe e.V Ana Lima, opened the Delegates Meeting and welcomed all delegates. She informed that 26 European member organizations were registered for the Delegates meeting

She thanked the Romania Association for hosting and organizing the meeting

1.2 Presentation from the Romanian Associations of Social Workers and the Romania National College of Social Work

Herbert Paulischin on behalf of ASproAS and Ioan Durnesco on behalf of the Romania National College of Social Work, welcomed the delegates to Bucharest and made a presentation of both associations

Ana Lima-Fernandez wished all members a successful and nice meeting and informed about practical and logistic aspects.

1.3 Procedures for the Delegates Meeting

Appointment of the Chair.

Ana Lima proposed Ana Radulescu as Chair of the DM

Appointment of Parliamentarian. The Chair proposed Nicolai Paulasen (Denmark) as Parliamentarian

- *Proposed: Finland*
- *Seconded: Sweden*
- *Carried: unanimously*

Appointment of Tellers. The Chair proposed Manane Petrosyan (Armenia) and George Dimitz (Austria) as tellers

- *Proposed: Portugal*
- *Seconded: Norway*
- *Carried: unanimously*

1.4 Approval of the agenda

The Chair presented the agenda and explained that the following items on the agenda were modified:

- Finance Report from the Treasurer, accounts 2017
- Approval report work program 2017 – 2018
- Presentation of candidates for IFSW Global positions
- Approval work program 2018-19

David Jones (United kingdom) asked about the procedure to present a statement or the approach in case any urgent matter raised. The Parliamentarian proposed to welcome any statement until the end of the second day of the DM, 7.30 when the meeting closes.



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Denmark – Proposed to add under any other business an item to present ideas on how to share knowledge and increase the funding of IFSW

Tatjana Katvick (Croatia) – Proposed to include an extra point under item 4 to report on fighting austerity, poverty and social exclusion

The Chair asked to vote on the agenda with the amendments presented

- *Proposed: Ireland*
- *Seconded: Moldova*
- *Carried unanimously*

2. Minutes of the Delegates Meeting 2017

2.1 The Delegates Meeting held in Reykjavik, Iceland on 26th-28th of May 2017

Ana Radulesco informed that the minutes of the Delegates Meeting held in Reykjavik, Iceland were circulated on July 10th, 2016 and again in preparation for this meeting.

2.2 Matters arising from the minutes

John Brennan (Ireland) requested to add the notes of the discussions of the working groups on Item 7 (there were registered only on item 10)

David Jones (United Kingdom) requested to add the link to “IFSW Europe Resolution on the Role of Social Workers in Age Determination on Unaccompanied Children” on the document.

2.3 Approval of the minutes

The Chair asked if the Minutes of the 2017 Delegates Meeting with the amendments could be approved

- *Proposed: Russia*
- *Second Portugal*
- *Carried unanimously*

3. Presentation, discussion and future strategy on The European Social Pillar Project

Josefine Johansson chaired this item

Ana Radulesco informed about the origin of the project and highlighted the main achievements of the project. Since September 2017 – May 2018, 8 members organizations from Spain, Denmark, France, Croatia, Slovak, Austria, and Belgium shaped the working group of this project. They had the responsibility to elaborate a policy statement on social workers contribution to future of Europe and their perspective to an adequate and sustainable social protection.

Ian Johnston, IFSW Europe Representative to European Social Platform, and the IFSW Social Platform Team (John Brennan, Graça Maria André and Niels Christian Barkhoit) were part of the communication and contribution.



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One of the main actions was to Networking & Lobbying and connecting with the European Semester. On September 2017, IFSw Europe Vicepresident had an informal meeting with Mr Jeroen Jutte, Head of Unit “Employment and Social Aspects of European Semester”.

The project aimed also to connect with the European parliament. Herbert PAULISCHIN (Austria) had a meeting with Mr Josef Weidenholzer, European Parliament (MEP), Social & Democrats – Vice President, and informed Mr. Weidenholzer who expressed his support for the project and accepted the invitation to send our message to the European Parliament.

Another important part of the project was to take part during relevant events such as the “Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth” in Gothenburg. Annual Convention for Inclusive Growth 2018 - #ACIG2018. United Nation Geneva Celebration of World Social Work Day

At this moment the budget of the project was 5000€. This was the original budget

Questions and comments were invited from the floor.

Fran McDonnell (United Kingdom) acknowledged the initiative and pointed out that working on the European Pillar of Social Rights was not a new initiative. The IFSW Eu working group at the Social platform was working on the topic before this project started, she pointed out that the initiative of development a proposal to work on the Social Pilar was proposed by the SP team. She also informed the delegates that Ian Johnston was no longer the IFSW Europe representative at the Social Platform because he did not agree on the process neither to the involvement of the Social Platform team in the project.

She also stated that the project had plenty of opportunities to involve social workers around Europe, and informed that the social platform team had several ideas and proposals that wanted to share and work together with the Executive

John Brennan (Ireland) also commented that as member of the working group at EAPN and the Social platform the voice and the perspective of social work was always presented at European level and initiatives

Delegates from *Belgium, Russia, and Armenia* also acknowledged the aim of the project and insisted that the Social Pilar Project should also involve non-European Union Countries. *Fernanda Rodrigues (Portugal)* expressed that the project should pursue developing actions that impact at national level and suggested to link the principles of the Social Pilar to the local and national social circumstances

Herbert Pauslishin (Austria) informed that during the IFSW Europe regional Conference, there will be a workshop to present the results of the project and that space will create an opportunity to link the project to the participants of the conference, to social workers, as well as to several politicians that have been already invited

Ana Radulesco thanked all the positive commented and summarize that the main two goals of the projects were lobby at European level and involve members at national level. These requires the active involvement of IFSW European members organizations

The Chair, Josefine Johansson, asked if the report could be approved

- *Proposed: Germany*
- *Second Norway*
- *Carried unanimously*

The Chair, Ana Radulesco, asked the election officer to explain the election process and inform about voting rights, candidates and deadline for nominations.



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John Brennan informed that all delegates registered were eligible to vote and each member was entitled to have two votes. During the delegates meeting 2 executive members and 2 deputies positions needed to be appointed, each position would serve for two years. The two candidates with the highest number of votes would take a position on the Executive and the candidate who get 3rd and 4th number of votes would be the two deputies.

4. Presentation of the Executive Committee's written report for approval and Presentation of Executive members' contributions to work programme

4.1 Finance Report from the Treasurer, accounts 2017 and legal body maintenance

Brian Auslander, IFSW Europe Treasurer reported on the budget for 2017 based on the Financial report documented distributed on May 8.

He informed that IFSW financial situation was positive and the change of the bank account to Spain was successful and completed. For 2017, IFSW budgeted 24.000,00€ and expenses were 19.972,00€. IFSW Europe had collected more membership fees (22) and the regional Conference in Reykjavik provided a benefit of 18.637,00€. The ending balance of 2017 was 23.056,61€

The total amount spent by IFSW Representatives in 2017 was 0€. Brian Auslander remarked that IFSW Representatives were asked by Ana Lima to send in advance a proposal about the meetings and the expense that they expected to have. Any proposal was received.

Brian Auslander reported on the maintenance of the legal body. Last year IFSW Europe changed its Constitution to enable the German authorities to update the registration of the legal body of IFSW Europe. Gabriele Stark-Angermeier, IFSW Europe member from Germany was the link person for IFSW Europe to submitted the documents to the German court, however, due to her new position at her organization was not able to be active on this regard. Brian Auslander stated that it seemed that a new administrative officer in the German association could take on this responsibility.

IFSW Europe Treasurer reported that Herbert Paulischin supported IFSW Europe in the task of contacting Gabriel and some German colleagues to update the legal body situation

Questions and comments were invited from the floor.

David Jones (United Kingdom) asked on the legal consequences of not having the legal official documents updated. Herbert Paulischin stated that as far as he knew, the main risk was that IFSW Europe could lose their NGO status if they were not up to date.

4.2 Communication

Ana Lima, IFSW Europe President reported on the communication activities

The main tools used to communicate were emails and IFSW Europe website. IFSW Europe President informed that IFSW global was developing a new website where the regions and the members would have more visibility, although the features were not totally decided. Ana Lima also reminded members that if they wanted to share any information there was a communication



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form. Members could fill in the form and the executive and the honorary secretary will forward and disseminate the information among members

In addition, she recalled that had sent a google questionnaire to collect information on specific topics to collect information to prepare articles and reports based on IFSW Europe perspective

Questions and comments were invited from the floor

Ana Radulesco highlighted that the great success of WSWD2018 on social media thanks to the form that all members sent. She encouraged members to share their activities on WSWD2019

4.3 Professionalization

Manane Petrosyan reported on the professionalizing project with support of the document Social Workers in Collaboration for Social Change in Eastern Neighbourhood Countries (Appendix 1)

She mentioned that the main challenges in east European countries was that everybody could assume the functions of social work, no matter if people had or not education on social work. Also, in some countries the education of social work at university level was something recently, and countries as Georgia and Armenia had started a working process with the government to establish criteria and requirement to develop a registration of social workers with education on social work

Since the professionalization project started in 2015 a regional project was in place with the involvement of National Associations of Social Workers from 4 countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova. The focal point was to foster professionalization of social workers through strengthened Social Work Associations and the collaboration with government institutions, educational institutions, civil society organizations, service users, and the communities on a national and regional level.

The project results were presented at the final conference held in Georgia (Tbilisi) and showed that thanks to the project social workers' associations in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Moldova improved their capacities to strengthen their 10.500 members as well as 160 local organizations.

Questions and comments were invited from the floor

Herbet Pauslich (Romania) added that the professionalization project was funded by the EU with 1.800.000€. At the moment, when the project started the Moldova Association of social work did not exist, so the partner was the Nursing Association.

Vadim Tarna (Moldova) declared that the real problem in the country was that people who lead social service development were not qualified as social workers and many had nursing qualifications. *Mentor Boja, (Kosovo)* followed on the discussion and shared that they also experienced a similar problem and in the country they had people who are developing functions of social work when they did not have any qualification as social workers.



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Several delegates, *Denmark, Belgium, Armenia*, stressed the relevance of the project to strengthen social work profession and also remarked that the project was great examples of using IFSW power to influence national developments and help each other to build capacity

4.4 European Network for Social Action (ENSACT) including the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development

Josefine Johansson reported on the collaboration between IFSW Europe e.V and ENSACT with the use of a power point presentation (appendix II). She introduced the origins of ENSACT and how it won the bid to be the European Observatory of the Global Observatory linked to the Global Agenda and the European report. She informed that after the last President of ENSACT, Thea Meinema resigned it was decided that the presidency was going to rotate.

The second European report was writing by Lola Casal-Sanchez and Thea Meinema and would be part of the global report that would be launched during the join conference. Apart from the examples of key note Lena dominelli from IFSW Europe conference in Reykjavik and the IFSW project on the European social pillar, there were several other members of IFSW Europe that also contributed to the report,

- BASW with the boot out austerity march,
- the Armenia association of social workers for their work to contribute to the social well-being of vulnerable groups for example children and families at risk, our hosts the Romania association of social worker
- AsproAs about their work on social work in emergency and specific situations and their contribution to WHO developing a Emergency plan for risk communication,
- The Spanish General Council of social workers for their conference on building sustainable communities

David Jones, Global coordinator of global agenda also reported on this item and acknowledged the job done by Josefine Johansson, Lola Casal-Sanchez and Thea Meinema. He informed that in Dublin it will start a consultation process to develop an strategy for 2020. The two years consultation process aims to establish the priorities and vision for the next global agenda, and it will require the participation of all delegates. The process was not clear year, but there was a clear commitment by the three presidents IFSW, IASSW, ICSW to have a new social work agenda.

He also stressed that it was difficult to collect good practice although it was important to have a document with the knowledge and practice of social work so everybody could listen and know the social work vision. He explained several examples where the global agenda is used in university, governments public school, etc.

Questions and comments were invited from the floor

Ana Radulesco added how the Global Agenda was a successful and useful tool when the Un asked about the vision of social work

Denmark (Nicolai Paulsen) expressed his concern about why there were so few responses and suggested to focus on the SDG and on the material that already existed to develop a vision of SW



4.5 Social Workers in Europe working with refugees

Maria Rúnarsdóttir reported on how this item was proposed during the DM in Edinburg in 2016. However, because several networks and platforms started working on this topic, IFSW Europe agreed not to develop its own network and considered more effective to collaborate with the networks already existed.

She proposed members to think and discuss what strategy the delegates wanted to follow regarding working with refugees in Europe

Questions and comments were invited from the floor

There were no matters arising

4.6 Support to member associations

Tanja Katkic reported verbally on the proposal for this project with the use of a power point presentation (Appendix III).

She reported that the goals of this project was to try to reach and contact countries who were not represented in IFSW, and establish a working group at regional level, to share and update information, assist members to make more visible their national organizations, and support the development of new organizations

Some of the countries that were reached were, Bulgaria and Moldova but the proposal was to reach more countries and assist them to get more political influence on the field of social work, support them on their activities and increase the visibility of their national association among their members and among the national stakeholder

Questions and comments were invited from the floor

There were no matters arising

4.7 Fighting austerity, poverty social exclusion and inequality

Tanja Katkic reported on the activities of this project with the use of a power point presentation (Appendix IV). She summarized the actions of IFSW regarding fighting austerity, poverty, social exclusion and inequality since the economic crises and mentioned also some actions of member associations of IFSW Europe who had been engaged in a great variety of activities challenging austerity, poverty, social exclusion and inequality

She proposed to develop an action that allow IFSW Europe to elaborate materials and policies on EU level and proposed to organize actions together with other partners of social workers, as NGOs, political agents, etc to cooperate and lobby together against Austerity, Poverty, social exclusion and Inequality. Tatjana Katkic proposed to shape a working groups to analyze all material available at IFSW Europe and exchange experiences and accessing best practice example from across a countries



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Tatjana Katkicv stated that the idea for this project would be to organize two and prepare a Symposium on IFSW Europe conference in Vienna 2019. Also, she noted that it would be needed to organize campaigns, and social actions to support the development of different models of social development and social innovations as opposed austerity, poverty, exclusion and inequality

Questions and comments were invited from the floor

There were no matters arising

The Chair closed the Delegates Meeting for the day

5. Report IFSW Europe internal and external representatives

5.1 Council of Europe

Antonina Dashkina, reported on the activities of the INGO Conference of the Council of Europe following the report circulated on 5th May 2018

She introduced the history of the Council of Europe and explained the difference between the Council of Europe and the European Union. She summarized her path as Vice-President of INGO Conference of the Council of Europe during one term and emphasized that the current Honorary President of the INGO Conference of the Council of Europe, Mrs. Annelise Oeschger was a social worker from Poland. Antonina Dashkina expressed that would be important to work with her and keep working to increase the impact of IFSW and the social work profession at the Council of Europe. Antonina Dashkina informed that the committee visited 3 countries each year to assess the work capacity of NGOs. After the visit, a report was always launched. In 2018 the countries visited were Macedonia, UK, Armenia

She also acknowledged and thanked the work of Fernanda Rodrigues, IFSW Europe Representative at the European Council

5.2 Human Rights

Ana Radulesco, IFSW Europe representative at the Global Human Rights Commission, reported on the activities under this item. She explained that the commission kept working on the same lines as the previous year and the main discussions were around implications for social workers in some countries where there was not guarantees of Human Rights

Last year, IFSW Global Human Rights Commission launched a first report and the proposal was to elaborate a second report. She encouraged IFSW Europe delegates to send their ideas, proposals to include the Social Work European perspective, vision in this second report.

She also informed that during IFSW Global Delegates Meeting in Dublin there will be elections for IFSW Global Human Rights Commissioner, Nigel Hall will end his mandate



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5.3 Ethics

5.4 European Social Platform

5.5 European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)

5.6 Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP)

John Brennan, IFSW Europe member of the Social Platform team and of the EAPN team reported together with Fran McDonnell, IFSW Europe representative at EAPN and support member of Social Platform team, on the four previous items with the use of a power point presentation (Appendix V). They presented the priorities where IFSW Europe should focus during the year on the different networks

They highlighted that establishing partnerships and membership allowed IFSW EU to get over its limited capacity and have more influence in areas where otherwise, IFSW would never be presented. Also, it raised IFSW's profile and ensured that social work values were reflected in European policy

Social platform. Fran McDonnell emphasized that the main priority was to appoint an IFSW Europe Representative as Ian Johnston resigned last year. Also, she noted that it was needed to shape a support group to coordinate IFSW E's input to the SP Steering Group and Task Forces. She informed about the role, functions, meetings, etc. that members on this group would develop and encouraged delegates to submit their nominations and join the SP team. Fran McDonnell, proposed to consider creating "sub-groups" so delegates could join the SP team for some specific topics

She proposed that IFSW Europe Executive should work on the following tasks:

- Implementation of the Pillar of Social Rights, the White Paper on the Future of the EU and the Social Fairness package consultation and
- Focus on 2 strategic objectives: Leaving no one behind – Prioritising people in vulnerable situations and reducing inequalities through a just economy. There are working groups in these topics.
- Raise issues of concern to social workers with candidates in the European Parliament elections
- Support a flagship event the Platform intends holding in Lisbon in November on the anniversary of the proclamation of the Pillar of Social Rights.

EAPN - European Anti Poverty Network. Fran McDonnell explained the results on the survey launched last year and presented at the end of the DM 2017. She stated that many IFSW Europe member organizations were already involved with national EAPN networks and encouraged members to keep establishing alliances and links at national level.

She also emphasized the need to have access to information and proposed to develop a database of member policies etc, which would support representatives and working groups to contribute more effectively to ongoing consultations and developing policy papers. In addition, Fran McDonnell suggested to follow up on the possibility of working more closely with organizations such as IASSW and ENSACT to access relevant research about poverty and other issues as well



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as to contribute to EAPN capacity building, campaigning and lobbying activities at European and national levels.

FRA European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. Fran McDonnell reported on behalf of Graça André, IFSW Europe Representative at FRA. She stated that the main challenges for the future was to develop a clear strategy on how better share information with members in coordination with IFSW Secretary as part of an adequate information strategy.

She informed that FRA strategic Plan was 2018-22 and Graça proposed that IFSW develops a strategic plan to establish its priorities for two years period. It would allow IFSW to participate in working groups where the vision of social work could be incorporate.

Graça André stated on her report that on October 2017, FRA agreed that IFSW Eu could publish a brochure on SW Guidelines for good practice in developing a training methodology for Educators, SWs, and students based on a Human Rights approach. Graça André proposed the Executive to develop a plan of action to elaborate the document

Council of Europe / INGO. Fernanda Rodrigues presented her report and highlighted the advantages and beneficiaries of having a representative at the Council of Europe. Representatives participated and attended mainly the side events on specific topics where it was easy to see and learn about the different approached from different countries. Fernanda Rodrigues remarked that by attending these meetings, IFSW could collected the documents and statements and circulate them among IFSW members. She also emphasized that having a representative at the Council of Europe provided an opportunity to IFSW Eu to reinforce contacts and involvement of the national political representatives with regular members the Council of Europe.

Committee of Ethics – Fran McDonnell reported on behalf of Jane Shears, IFSW Europe Representative at the Global Ethic Committee. The main topic for this commission along last year was the revision of the Ethical principles of Social Work together with IASSW.

During IFSW General Meeting in Dublin, the Global Commissioner will present a global report to be discussed

Questions and comments were invited from the floor

Antonina Dashkina (Russia) expressed that it was needed to develop a strategy to develop activities that link IFSW Europe with these different organizations

Herbert Paulischi (Romania) pointed out that IFSW Europe already had two documents regarding social work and human rights. One of them was on Child Right and the other on social work and human rights. The documents were made with contributions from members and he emphasized that it was important to use the document that IFSW Europe already had. Ana Radulescu added that this proposal came up during the DM in Reykjavik. The possibility of having a guideline of SW on Human Rights on FRA website will have a great impact on social work and on our members due to the international relevance of FRA. Ana Radulescu encouraged delegates to send their practices and proposals to prepare the draft of the dc

Ruth Allen (UK) acknowledged the work of the representatives and asked if they could present



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what were the achievements and what was the impact of the work they had done on IFSW, what were the progresses along the year. Fran McDonnell explained that the reports of the representatives aimed to show the achievements and the progresses, however, if they were not clear depicted the representatives would welcome any suggestion

Ana Radulescu, IFSW Eu Vicepresident, emphasized that the effort or the actions of one year could not make a big impact, because the effort of several years was what made impact. She stressed that partnerships and membership were needed because it was the only way how social work vision could be explained by social workers themselves. Ruth Allen (UK) agreed with the comments and expressed that members needed to feel and perceived the changes, the impact of being on these networks. She stated that it was important to establish a dialogue, so members could share the understanding of what the progressions were

6. Role of IFSW Representatives

John Brennan presented this item and explained that the representatives wanted to bring this discussion to the DM to propose new ways of involving members in the work they developed. He informed, that due to high workload it was needed to consider different ways of participation. It was needed more support to get access to more data base, more documents. Also, he informed that it was needed to look for a representative for the SP, someone who took over the position of Ian Johnston who left last year

He also emphasized that the aim of this discussion was to develop a formal working procedure between Representatives and Executive. John Brennan stressed that the Social *Platform* team expected to be much more involved in the Project on the Social Pillar as this was an issue discussed during the last DM in Reykjavik. The Representatives wanted to establish a clearer collaboration procedure and one suggestion was to identify 1 executive for 1 Representative, that would facilitate the communication, the possibility of organizing meetings, etc.

John Brennan manifested that for the representatives it would be helpful to discuss how the role and the work can be integrated and supported by the Executive and associations as well as to debate on the better ways to have access to information and data to contribute the social work perspective more effectively and speedily

Questions and comments were invited from the floor

Herbert Paulischin (Romania) suggested to invite IFSW eu representatives to participate in local and national events such as national Conference, it was a common and positive practice with Ian Johnston. *Fernanda Rodrigues (Portugal)* stated that the actions of the Representatives should be included on the work program

Nicolai Paulsen (Denmark) emphasized the need to have a clear collaboration procedure between the Executive and the Representative, and to have a consistent link between both. Also, he pointed out that the collaboration procedure should not create a parallel team to the Executive and stated that the structure of the representatives should remain integrated in the Executive. A lot of lobbying was done via the representatives so cooperation is important. Nicolai also recommended to look for way to support the work of the SP platform, and he suggested to aske



colleagues on the organization members if any of them would like to join these teams, the collaboration did not have to remain among the delegates.

The Chair informed that members would have more time to discuss this item when they break the working groups to debate on the work program

7. Policy on social workers and age determination of unaccompanied minors

Josefine Johansson introduced how this policy was proposed during the Delegates Meeting in Reykjavik and asked members to reflect if they wanted to keep having this item on the work program. She informed the challenges to develop this policy and pointed out that each country had its own reality and that made hard to define a common ground to create this policy. However, she stated that there was demand for this policy and people were asking for it. The IFSW General Secretary stated that this could be a global policy and maybe there was a discussion in Dublin.

Questions and comments were invited from the floor

Mira Antonyan (Armenia) informed that international organizations as Save the Children also worked on age determination and suggested to establish links with them. *Tatjan Katvic (Croatia)* added that the Croatia Association was a member of the Euro Committee for rights and it would be also positive to link with the work of this organization as well as the information and the standards that they have set to include the perspective of social work

8. IFSW European Conferences

8.1 The IFSW European Conference 2019 in Vienna

Alois Poelzl and Herbert Pauslishin reported on the organization of IFSW Europe regional Conference using a video and power point (appendix VI)

The theme of the Conference come from a combination of the principles of the Social Pillar as well as from the Global Agenda "Social work strengthening relationship at the heart of thriving healthy and peaceful communities"

Herbet Pauslischin highlighted the main points on the structure of the Conference

- **Target groups:** The Conference will 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. Also, the aim was to have limited admission fees and have affordable fee.
- **Venues of the Conference.** Conference at the city hall of Vienna, and at several local social agencies and University of Vienna which is also a co-organizing The proposal was to organize dislocated seminars in local entities and agencies. These seminars will be repeated 4 times along the whole conference. Agencies will be encouraged to involve users, however, no specific workshops with will be organized.



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On Sunday afternoon, there will be a panel discussion on European Social Policy with the assistance of some European Parliaments. This will be an opportunity for IFW Europe to present the role of social work at the European social Pillar and the project.

Conference registration starts Sept 8th 2019 4pm and on Monday 9th there will be a conference party.

The website of the Conference www.ifsw2019.org

Georg Dmitiz (Austria) informed that the Yunion_Die Daseinsgewerkschaft recently joined the board of the organizing committee.

The chair and the delegates acknowledge the efforts and the good work on the preparations for the ISFW Europe Regional Conference 2019

8.2 Future conferences

Nicola Paulsen in his role as Parliamentarian proposed that for future calls to host IFSw regional Conferences the document should clear reflect the procedure, it should include the capacity of IFSW Europe to decide independently or not from IFSW Global. Also, the call for bids should be launched soon and IFSW global should be also informed with a clear schedule of the procedure

Herbert Paulischin (Romania) pointed out that before the Conference in Iceland the procedure was that the delegates decided and voted during the Delegates Meeting the venue of the regional Conference. The voting was taken 3 years in advance. He proposed to go back to this procedure

Ana Radulescu noted that the Executive asked IFSW global to set clear guidelines for future and informed that the invitation for bids will come forward soon.

Members informed on their national Conferences

- **Romania.** X National Conference. Sustainable intervention in communities. 22 June 2018 –
- **Armenia** International Conference in Social protection « social Justice and Social protection- S October 31 – November 9.
- **Finland** Nordic Social Work Conference “Theme r November 21-23
- **United Kingdom** “Owing our future” 13th. There will be a social walking on June 12th
- **Iceland** Icelandic National conference. February. Iceland Safety for Children new thinking new approaches
- **The Netherlands** Symposium on Social Work and Human Rights. October 4th –
- **Azerbaijan** – Conference on “Child development account”– August.
- **Croatia** October 17th – 19th “Social Work between social policy and practices”
- **Austria** – National Conference “Social Work gives the courage to lead Human Right. November
- **Portugal** - V National Conference “Social Work and Human Development” October 25th
- **Belgium** – Conference on Fighting poverty – October



9. Approval report work program 2017 – 2018

The Chair asked if the report on the Work Program could be approved

- *Proposed: Russia*
- *Second Armenia*
- *Carried unanimously*

John Brenna presented the nominations for IFSW Europe Executive. He informed that he removed himself from the position as election officer as he presents his own nomination

Ruth Aleen (UK) is appointed as new nomination officer

- *Proposed: Israel*
- *Second Armenia*
- *Carried unanimously*

10. Work program 2018-2019

Josefine Johansson introduced the procedure to discuss and debate on the items to include and approve on the work program.

She acknowledged the work done by the delegates during the DM in Reykjavik when they prioritized the actions and topics that should be included on the work program

This year the Executive proposed to work again in groups, so the delegates will decide and prioritize the items that should be included in the work program. Herbert Pauslichin (Germany) together with Niels Barkholt (Denmark), Tatevik Karapetyan (Armenia), Marjana Dumancic (Croatia) and Adela (Romania) recalled the main ideas from the workshop on IFSW strategy that was held during the morning of the first day of the DM

- Involvement
- Sharing
- Knowledge sharing
- Integration rather than working through reporting
- Social Workers could transform weakness and threats into opportunities
- A threat also be also seen as a strength

10.1 Working groups to discuss proposals for the work programme

The delegates were asked to discuss in groups the work program 2017 - 2018 and report on their feedbacks.

Table 1 – Denmark, The Netherlands, Romania, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Russia

General wish to restructure the work programme, e.g. gather all the “representations” in different organizations

- Communication, prioritize.



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- a) dot 2 under main points/goals:
 - o To reach members and to give IFSW Europe a stronger voice among members and their members
 - o Information 3-4 times a year directed to members and their members/students – simple, direct, few prioritized items (not all), easily to translate
- b) Dot 3 under main points:
 - o To encourage/develop methods for members to use the IFSW Europe website, face book, and other social media – by short texts and/or photos
- Finances, prioritize
 - a) To continue focus by the working group on funding strategy for IFSW Europe, including elaborate a funding strategy and promote joined strategies/approaches
- Membership development, prioritize
 - a) The Executive will work with a more clear prioritized strategy to attract, include and approach existing and potential 2-3 members in the period, who are not currently involved/linked to IFSW Europe now
 - b) To support and share national membership mobilization approaches to give a spin off to why also join the IFSW Europe membership (sharing strategies/methods to organize members)
- Items + 7. + 8. + 11. + 13. + 15, prioritize
 - a) To prioritise clear simple communications about our inputs and outcomes for the different organisations
- Social work day 2019, prioritize
 - a) Link to the UN social work day event in Geneva
- Fighting austerity, ...
 - b) Main goals, add: - to consider a strategy to help members, who eventually meets limitations in ways to express their concern about austerity nationally
 - c) Goals to reach, add: - To prioritize clear simple communications about cases of activities against austerity and outcomes within different member organizations
- Human Rights, ...
 - a) Main goals, add: - to consider a strategy to help members, who eventually meets limitations in ways to express their concern about human rights
 - b) Goals to reach, add: - To prioritize clear simple communications about cases of activities for human rights within different member organizations

Table 2 – Armenia, Portugal, Finland, Bulgari, Moldova

How can we give IFSW Europe more voice and visibility?

- Let others talk on behalf of social workers (IFSW)
 - c) other professionals/disciplines; celebrities; journalists; bloggers; beneficiaries
 - d) TEDx talks
 - e) Involve businessmen in European conferences (as honorary guests)
- Mission needs to be clearer: the members should speak about IFSW Europe and not the Executive
 - a) Beneficiaries speaking about the role of social workers in their life/ involvement in TEDx talks
- Activation of FB Page
- Live Streaming
- A Separate blog, who will manage it? – internship for students
- Produce more interactive materials
 - a) Education: Include IFSW/organization in SW programs (to attract more young people)



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- b) Highlight IFSW during our meetings with local governments (become more proactive and going to show yourself)
- c) Good Practice Prize/ Competition
 - WSWD Cake Campaign – getting orders and delivering to SWs offices
 - Organizing meeting in the countries which are not yet members or are very passive

Making us visible will attract new members/ Albania, Lichtenstein, Greece, Andorra, Hungary, Monaco are missing

How can we support membership development?

- Members area with access for all members (IFSW website) (with calls, projects, etc.)
- Applying for grants (ILO, EU, etc.) - as a network of 42 organizations and use that as a credibility – paid person-project writer
- Organization of Twinning projects between Associations
- To delegate/invite IFSW speaker to countries for conferences/meetings/fundraising events (participation fee at the lecture)+ certificated webinars (10 or 15 \$/monthly)
- Language barrier: translation services
- Partnerships with universities also, not only among associations

Table 3 – Ireland, Kosovo, Azerbaijan, Macedonia, Georgia,

- Add to the introduction:
 - a) The plan should be underpinned by and demonstrate connection with:
 - b) SDGs
 - c) European Social Charter
 - d) Global Agenda
 - e) Pillar of Social Rights
- 2. To put in the workplan for the Executive to develop with the representatives a structure to support the representatives
- 3.(1.)
 - a) Consider whether to put a link on the website to important dates in the calendar
 - b) Put contacts for different associations on the website
 - c) Have a private forum for member organizations on the new website
 - d) Each member to update their details
- 4. (3)
 - a) Develop the idea of twinning and identify partnerships
 - b) Send template for Expression of Interest in the representative's support team to associations after 3 weeks of the Executive meeting.
 - c) Propose a workshop to share experiences, strategies and legislation about recognizing the SW profession.
- 5.(12). Fighting Austerity:
 - a) To encourage members to mark Elimination of Poverty day with publicity and events
 - a) Use information, contacts and projects both within the Federation and partnership organizations such as EAPN to achieve objectives.

Table 4 – UK, Italy, Belgium, Austria, Malta

- Less words - more pictures



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- a) we should receive summaries with concise and selected information about main topics in international meetings and platforms - along with the links to the more detailed information.
- A dedicated ifsw-europe website
 - b) visual
 - c) very user friendly
 - d) includes possibility of blogs, or placing questions
- facebook and twitter should be used!
- ifsw-europe should be present in media
- ifsw-president should address European Politicians

The Chair informed that the Executive will discuss the feedbacks provided and will present a new proposal for work plan 2018 – 2019 to be voted on the third day of the DM.

11. Approval of the annual accounts and the report of the auditors

11.1 Report from the auditor 2017

IFSW Europe Treasurer, Brian Auslander presented the report of the auditors for 2017 that approved the finance report presented with an income amounts up to 54,802.00€ and the expenditure amount up to 13,778.32€

The Chair asked if the auditor reports for 2017 could be approved by the delegates meeting

- *Proposed: Norway*
- *Seconded: Sweden*
- *Carried unanimously*

11.2 Presentation and approval budget 2018

Brian Auslander presented the budget for 2018 and informed that the executive proposed to unify the budget for travel of the representatives under one only item “Travel Representation” This item would, they travel cost of the Executives when they attend an event to represent IFSW Europe. He also remarked that representatives or delegates should inform as soon as possible the Executive on the possible expenses they could have when the participate in events representing IFSW Europe

David Jones (UK) proposed to vote together the budget 2018 and 2019. The next Delegates Meeting will be held in September 2019, so to provide formal authority to the Executive to invest money, it was needed to have an approval. Nicolai Paulsen, as Parliamentarian, clarified that budgets are always proposal and the Delegates could always on the next delegates Meeting make the adjustments needed

The Chair asked to vote the proposal of voting together the budget for 2018 and 2019. The budget of 2019 will be the same as for 2018.

- *Proposed: UK*
- *Seconded: Iceland*



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- *Carried unanimously*

The Chair asked to approve the budgets for 2018 and 2019

- *Propose: UK*
- *Second: The Netherlands*
- *Against: Iceland*

Maria Runarsdóttir (Iceland) proposed to add one item to the budget of 2018 and 2019 and allocate money for the new website of IFSW. Ana Radulesco pointed out that the structure of the website was covered by IFSW Global, however, the practical daily working things, the maintenance cost, etc. had not been discussed.

The Chair informed the delegates that the Executive wanted to have more time to discuss how to incorporate this new item on the budget and asked if the budgets 2018 and 2019 could be voted tomorrow

The Chair asked if the budget for 2018 and 2019 could be approved by the delegates meeting on the Third day of the DM so the executives will have time to discuss it

- *Proposed: UK*
- *Seconded: Iceland*
- *Carried unanimously*

On Sunday 20th, the treasurer presented the new budget and explained that in 2018 budget, the executive allocated 1000€ to a new item named website. In 2019€, the money allocated under the same item website was 2000€ as security in the event to fulfill and maximize what IFSW Europe could do with the new website

The Chair asked the members to vote IFSW budget 2018 and 2019 with the new items of expenses for the website

- *Proposed: Denmark*
- *Seconded: Malta*
- *Carried unanimously*

12. Ratification of the general and financial policies of IFSW Europe e.V.

12.1 Decision on the annual membership dues (regional fees)

Brian Auslander informed that in 2017, 22 members organization paid their IFSW Europe membership fees. This was a higher number than usual. The total amount collected was 24,392.39.

The treasurer started that IFSW membership fee had not been increase since 1988 and the fee structure had not been modified in all these years. Brian Auslander ask the delegates to discuss and share their options about increasing the fees, modifying the structure of membership fees, establishing fixed amounts, etc.



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Questions and comments were invited from the floor

Members from *Denmark and Norway* expressed that the budgets on their organizations were already approved so it could not be possible to change the structure of the membership for 2019. They also suggested to identify other fundraising opportunities, such as project fundraising to increase IFSW Europe financial capacity

Liliane Coccozza (Belgium) stressed that there was a lack of balance between the membership fee paid to IFSW Global and the one paid to Europe. She emphasized that members should pay more to IFSW Europe. Austria proposed to increase the membership fee this year

Guy Shennan (UK) remarked that any increases on the membership fees should be better articulated and link to clear strategies with and explanation on the impact and the outcomes expected. *Simone Gremminger (Switzerland)* followed this commented and asked for a better explanation about why the fees had to be increased. She also pointed out that there were delegates with no capacity to vote on this issue without having the approval of the organizations. She recommended that the executive prepares a proposal for next year and send it in advance, so members could discuss it in their associations.

David Jones (UK) called a point of order and asked for clarification to keep with the discussion.

The Parliamentarian clarified that the delegates could only decide membership fees for 2019. Any vote to increase the membership fees for 2020 could be modify during the DM 2019

The Chair explained that Austria made a proposal to increase the membership fee 50€

- *Proposed: Austria*
- *Seconded: Belgium*
- There was not voting. Austria withdrew the proposal and suggested to consider the proposal from *Simone Gremminger (Switzerland)*

The Chair asked to vote if the Membership Fee for 2019 could stay on 0.20€ /member

- *Propose: Moldova*
- *Second : Denmark*
- *Carried unanimously*

12.2 Review of activities and accounts of IFSW Europe e.V.

Already reported on previous items

12.3 Appointment of an independent auditor

The Chair asked to vote to keep working with the same auditors of the Spanish General Council of Social Work

- *Proposed: the executive*
- *Seconded: Croatia*
- *Austria – Abstain. There was no information on the cost*



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12.4 Maintenance of the legal body

Brian Auslander summarized the issues already reported on item 4.1 and Herbert Pauslishi added that he was in touch with Gabriele Stark-Angermeier to update the names of the executive members registered in the German court. The names corresponded to the board from 2009.

Because of her new role in her organization Gabrielle was not able to update the registration. Herbert Pauslishi added that there was a new administrator in the German association and hopefully, she would take this issue forward. He clarified that IFSW Europe registration was valid although IFSW could not get updated documents on roles and leadership etc.

13. Consideration and amendments to the Articles and Bylaws of IFSW Europe e.V.

13.1 Proposed amendments to the Articles

13.2 No amendments were proposed.

13.3 Amendments to the Bylaws

No amendments were proposed.

13.4 To consider any proposals for amendments to be voted on in 2019

No amendments were proposed.

The Chair informed that the deadline to present statement had finished and no statements were submitted

The Chair closed the Delegates Meeting for the second day

14. Reports from IFSW President and Secretary General (IFSW Global)

Josefine Johansson chaired this item and informed that Ana Lima, IFSW Eu President and Ana Radulescu, Vicepresident of IFSW were the representatives at IFSW Global Executive

Josefine Johansson informed that a video message from the General Secretary, Mr. Rory Truell would be projected

14.1 Report / communication / information of IFSW Global

Ana Lima explained that the global executive met in Basel and in NY and the main duty for her and for Ana Radulescu was to convey the needs, the ideas and expectations of the region to the Global Executive. She informed that had a draft regional report to present during the General Meeting in Dublin and encouraged members to send her their ideas and proposals to include



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them on the regional report

Some of the key issues covered during the Delegates Meeting in Bucharest were already included on the global agenda and on WSWD. Ana Radulescu added that she attended the UN session in Geneva during the WSWD celebrations and together with Ana Lima they were both attending the celebration on WSWD in New York.

Ana Lima reported that some of the topics that they had discussed at the global executive related to the revision of social work ethic, the development of a global policy on unaccompanied minors and age determination, the strategy on how to meet the gaps between education and practice, ... This topic would be further discuss during the General meeting in Dublin.

Related to the Educational Global interim Commission, Ana Lima informed that the region presented two commissioners, Andres Arias (Spain) and David Jones (UK), each of the represented the academics and the practices respectively.

She stated that for the region the main two challenges on his cooperation with IFSW Global were to develop a policy on procedures on setting up regional conferences and to establish a procedure to work with the new website.

Questions and comments were invited from the floor

There were no matters arising

14.2 IFSW Global Conference 2019 in Dublin

Anna Deneher from Ireland summarized on the preparations for the Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development that will be held in Dublin next July with the support of a power point (appendix VII). The title of the conference was “Environmental and Community Sustainability | Human Solutions in Evolving Societies

Anna Deneher presented on the range of speakers and the fact that the conference will have input from people who used services and activists as well as familiar, high profile faces. This included service user workshops and presentations.

There will be no paper programme printed, info will be on

Anna Deneher informed that some of the speakers including Mary Robinson, Vassilis Ioakimidis, and others local speakers were from Ireland and rest of Europe

Questions and comments were invited from the floor

Ruth Allen (United Kingdom) acknowledged the effort and good work of the Iris Association of Social Work and stated that they British Association of Social Workers collaborated on several items such as organizing the field trip to Belfast, She emphasized that it was a pleasant and successful collaboration.

The Chair acknowledge the good job of the Irish Association and wish them a successful



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Conference

14.3 Future Conferences

Ana Lima informed that the next IFSW global conference will be in Calgary in Canada in 2020. The IASSW and ICSW will have separate conference in Rimini, Italy. She recommended members to address any questions on this regard to IFSW global

14.4 How do we breach the gap between theory and practice?

David Jones David Jones informed that the IFSW Internal Education commission as shaped to develop a strategy to meet the gap between the education and practice of social work and help IFSW to think about qualifications and education on Social Work

He was appointed as European Representative but so far, the Chair of this Commission Vassilis Ioakimidis had not organized any meeting or proposed any contact to regional commissioners. During the General Meeting in Dublin there will be a report and he stressed that somehow, he hoped that regional commissioners were involved to support the report, otherwise he manifested that could not support the report. David Jones also explained that the future of the Commission will be discussed and decided in Dublin

There were two statements on the website regarding the purpose of this commission which raised several concerns about the purpose of the commission and about the way how members heard about the Commission.

David Jones expressed that the needed of bringing closer social work practice and education was shared by almost all members of IFSW and the IASSW, however, the legal capacity of IFSW to establish an accreditation process on social work education could be questionable

Josefine Johansson invited Ana Lima and Ana Radulescu to present their point of view as members of the Global Executive

Ana Lim and Ana Radulescu expressed their concern about the mission of the Commission and about the process. They informed that during the Global Executive held in Basel in June 2017, the global executive approved to shape a global commission on education. The aim was to prepare a proposal on how to meet the gap between practice and education and discuss the proposal during the General Meeting in Dublin. It was never agreed to present the commission via statement on the website

Questions and comments were invited from the floor

Herbert Paulishin (Austria) acknowledged the report of David and expressed his concerns, about the statement that IFSW Global Secretary made during World Social Work Day 2018 in New York He pointed out that the capacity to join or to break partnerships relayed on the delegate meeting as it stated on IFSW Global Constitutions. The two-statements launched on IFSW website without informing the organization members neither the delegates placed the members in a very difficult position. The message of the statements impacted on the daily activities and in many



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projects and process where associations members were involved. He also pointed out, that the process was not clear regarding the appointment of one of the global commissioners specially the role of Vassilis Ioakimidis. There was no a clear information if he represented the schools or IFSW.

Fernanda Rodrigues (Portugal) followed on the comments made by Herbert Paulishin and stressed the lack of transparency on the process as well as the lack of information. She stated that members did not have any capacity nor any information to answer all the questions they received from their academic colleagues

Nicolai Paulsen (Denmark) thanked David for his report and expressed his concerns about the poor communication from IFSW global leadership, about how this topic was approached, about how the statements were launched, etc. He suggested that the regional commissioners and the executive should ask a clear feedback to the Commission and request a clear mandate. Nicolai expressed that IFSW needed to develop a global position on social work education, however this should not be left on the only hands of the President and of the General Secretary. IFSW needed a global position but the commission should not be working on 'merger' but could look at the grounds for better cooperation.

The Chair asked to vote on the Report of IFSW Global matters

- *Proposed: Norway*
- *Seconded: Finland*
- *Abstain. Belgium*
- *Approved*

14.5 Presentation of candidates for IFSW Global positions

Josefine Johansson explained that during the IFSW Global Meeting that will be held in Dublin there would be elections for IFSW Global President and for IFSW Europe Vicepresident. She explained that Silvana Martinez (Argentina), Noel Muridzo (Zimbabwe) and Antonina Dashkina (Russia) were the three candidates.

Antonia Daskina presented her nomination to the delegates

For the position of IFSW Europe Vicepresident, Josefine Johansson informed that there were two nominations, Ana Radulescu (Romania) and John Brenna (Ireland). The both candidates presented their nominations

15. Elections

Ruth Allen, election officer explained that there will be elections of 2 positions for IFSW Europe executive. Four nominations were received, and each person was given a few minutes to make a presentation.

A vote took place with the results as follow:

- Niels Christian Barkholt (Denmark) – 19 votes



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- Fernanda Rodrigues(Portugal) 12 votes
- Tatjana Katvick (Croatia) – 10
- John Brennan (Ireland) – 9 votes

Ruth Allen informed that Niels Christian Barkholt (Denmark) and Fernanda Rodrigues (Portugal) would serve for 2 years in the Executive. The deputy members, Tatjana Katvick (Croatia) and John Brennan (Ireland) would serve for 1 year

Ana Radulescu and Ana Lima acknowledged the work of Josefine Johansson (Sweden) during the last 4 years as Executive Member; she thanked the executives and the delegates for the wonderful experience. Also, Manane Petrosyan (Armenia) got recognition for her contribution to the labor of the Executive during the last two years. She expressed her gratitude to the executive and to the delegates, too

16. Approval work program 2017

The Chair presented the new version of work plan 2018 – 2019 and explained that all proposals were considered to make the program realistic, concrete and plausible. It was also pointed out that to increase the capacity of IFSW Representatives, members would be invited to collaborate on specific topics

The Chair asked to vote the new version of the work plan 2018-2019

- *Proposed: The Netherlands*
- *Seconded: Ireland*
- *Carried unanimously*

17. Consideration of any other proposals

17.1 Statements

No statements were proposed

17.2 Delegates Meeting 2019

The Chair asked members to vote if the next Delegates Meeting 2019 could be held in Vienna on September 6-8, before the celebration of IFSW Regional Conference

- *Proposed: Denmark*
- *Seconded: Romania*
- *Carried unanimously*

17.3 Presentation of the results of the collaboration IFSW with OUP on Social Work Bibliography”

David Jones reported on this initiative with the support of the power point (appendix VIII) He



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summarized the developments of the project and reminded that each organization was asked to submitted 4 contributions. In total, 20 countries were involved on the project.

He presented several examples of bibliographies received and remarked that for instances it was the first time that there were publications of the development of social work in Europe. He stated that the origin, topic, countries, field of the publications were really diverse which also showed the own diversity of the profession

The publication will be online in August / September and it was published by Oxford University Press.

17.4 Other proposals

No other proposed raising

18. Appointment of external and internal representatives of IFSW Europe e.V.

18.1 Representative of IFSW Europe e.V. for the Council of Europe – and a support team for this person

- Representative: Fernanda Rodrigues (Portugal)
- Support members: Ruth Allen (UK)

18.2 An IFSW European contact person to the Global Human Rights Commission – and a support team for this person

No nominations were received

18.3 An IFSW European contact person for the Global Permanent Committee on Ethics – and a support team for this person

- Representative: Jane Shears (UK)
- Support member : Gabriele Stark-angermeier

18.4 IFSW Europe e.V. Election Officer. The European Elections Officer is a European appointment just for European elections within the frames of the IFSW European Delegate Meeting.

- Election officer : Ruth Allen (UK)

18.5 IFSW Europe e.V. Representative to the European Social Platform - and a support team for this person, designated as the Social Platform Team

- Representative: John Brennan (Ireland)
- Support members: Fran McDonnell (UK) and Graca André (Portugal)



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18.6 IFSW Europe e.V. Representative to the European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN) - and a support team for this person

- Representative: Fran McDonnell (UK)
- Support member: John Brennan (Ireland)

18.7 IFSW Europe e.V. Representative to the Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP) – and a support team for this person

- Representative : Graca André (Portugal)
- Support member : John Brennan (Ireland)

19. Any other business

Simone Gremminger (Switzerland) informed that Avenir Social will write an open letter to the Executive to express their concern about the process leading to the censure of the Israel Association

Hebert Pauslichin asked if there would be an informal European delegates meeting during the General Meeting in Dublin. Ana Radulescu informed that there will a regional meeting where the vice-president position will be voted

Close of the meeting

The Chair thanked the delegates for the successful meeting and to the Romania Association. Also, she thanked and acknowledged the work and efforts of the Executive, the contributions of Ian Johnston and Fran McDonnell at the SP, the assistance of Nicolai Paulse as Parliamentarian, the support of David Jones during the DM, the elections officers, the tellers and the screen notes, and Lola Casal-Sanchez for her labor as Honorary Secretary

The Chair formally closed the meeting at 13h10.



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20. Appendix 1

Social Workers in Collaboration for Social Change in Eastern Neighbourhood Countries

Budget: EUR 1.075.413

Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova

Project period: August 2015 to May 2018

Cooperation: Ifsawerk International (IHWI)

Partners: Georgian Association of Social Workers (GASW);
Armenian Association of Social Workers (AASW);
Azerbaijan Social Work Public Union (AZSWPU);
Nursing Association of the Republic of Moldova (NARM)

Donors: European Union and
Austrian Development Cooperation

Target groups and Beneficiaries:

- >> 4 Social Work Associations: 40 staff members, 10.500 members and supporters
- >> 180 local CSOs active in the social field
- >> Vulnerable groups in need of social support: elderly, single mothers, children with special needs
- >> Public and private stakeholders related to social work: local municipalities, educational and health care institutions, police, religious representatives

>> Support is Good, Professional Social Work is Better <<

Project Background

In the last years many countries of the Eastern Neighbourhood region have been in the process of reforming the pension and the health insurance system, elaborating the new legislation on social insurance and social services, reviewing the role of the community and local authorities in implementing social actions by bringing them closer to the community as well as recognizing the role of civil society in social assistance. Professional social work plays an increasing role in these processes. By combining prevention, compensation and rehabilitation measures, as well as addressing needs on the community level before they worsen, it contributes to developing a cost-effective social welfare system while ensuring an immediate positive impact on the quality of lives of a country's citizens. Nonetheless, several social fields lack to this day a regulative framework and sustainable funding structures. Even though social workers have organised themselves into social work associations over the past 10 years, social work is still not a fully recognized and regulated profession in most countries. Moreover, many service providers and organisations do not have sufficient access to state of the art know-how and need targeted training opportunities to effectively address the manifold social problems of their countries.

Project Goal

Contributing to the well-being of vulnerable groups, achieving greater social justice and working towards social change in all project countries, through fostering the professionalization of Social Workers and empowering local CSOs regarding social service delivery.

Key results achieved:

4	160	15	471	16	3500
Social Work Associations strengthened as competence centers	local CSOs directly strengthened	small grants awarded	Associational managers trained	concepts successfully considered in policy making process	direct beneficiaries and stakeholders reached



Pillar 1 Professionalization of Social Workers Associations

Goals & Results

Strengthen Associations to become centers of competence for state and non-state actors in the social field:

- >> 4 Strategic documents for Associations developed
- >> 1 Operational plan elaborated
- >> 4 Fundraising strategies in place
- >> 2 Study visits organized (Georgia and Austria)
- >> 24 days of trainings rendered: communication, IT, fundraising and advocacy/lobbying/IR
- >> Informational services for members improved: newsletter, website, social media

Strengthen the role of Associations as advocates for social reform and social justice:

- >> GASW & AASW: Concept papers on Social Work Professionalization developed
- >> GASW & AASW: Active contributions to draft Law on Social Work
- >> NARM: Concept of inter-sectorial cooperation in provision of homecare services developed and approved by Ministry
- >> AZSWPU: Evaluation of academic social work education
- >> Regular and active multi-stakeholder dialogue on a national and regional level: 37 conferences / round tables conducted
- >> Organization of Regional Conference in Tallin



Pillar 2 Empowerment of local CSOs

Goals & Results

Strengthen capacities of local CSOs for improved service delivery and inter-sectorial cooperation:

- >> Database comprising 600 CSOs active in the social field and their training needs compiled
- >> 18 training days on social work and organizational development for 160 NGOs organized in Armenia, Georgia and Moldova
- >> 'Social Club' for networking and knowledge exchange among social workers established in Georgia
- >> Regular regional meetings conducted with approx. 600 Associations' members
- >> 15 Small grants awarded to 24 local organisations





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Success stories: Small Grants Component

Grants awarded: 15 grants awarded to 24 local organisations
Budget: EUR 540.000 (on average EUR 36.000 per project)
Duration: 8-10 months (06/2017-03/2018)
Component Goal: Strengthening local CSOs to contribute to family preservation / strengthening and improved service delivery to vulnerable families, through social work practice, increased community participation and inter-agency or inter-sectorial partnership

Key results achieved:

44 studies / handbooks / training modules elaborated	187 info meetings and awareness raising measures conducted	2320 direct social work beneficiaries reached	1267 stakeholders (social workers, CSOs, authorities, media, etc.) empowered	81 regional / local networks established
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Armenia: National Database on alternative care options for better informed policy decisions

The Armenian NGOs 'Child Protection Network' and the 'Foster Parents Association' have conducted the first ever research in the field of alternative care options (foster care / kinship / guardian / adoption) for children left without parents' care in Armenia. The research comprised two stages: first, standardized interviews in all Armenian provinces were conducted to identify families providing different types of alternative care. Second, over 100 in-depth interviews with different stakeholders and 16 case studies with beneficiaries concerned were implemented with support of local service providers and regional administrations. The main results are a database of official and non-official care givers and a comprehensive overview of current gaps in alternative care, which can be used by relevant stakeholders in designing or improving local policies and referral mechanisms.

Georgia: Functioning inter-sectorial cooperation for family preservation

Living in a former shelter for IDPs under constrained and harmful conditions, a family of seven persons regularly attracted the attention of local authorities due to substance abuse, violence, and a resulting conflictual family life. The children have been taken into foster care several times, but the wish from both parents and children was to stay together as a family. Based on thorough needs assessment by social workers, a set of measures has been implemented following an inter-sectorial approach, involving various stakeholders such as state social workers and psychologists, as well as representatives of the local community, small grant beneficiary 'Our Home Georgia' and another local NGO. Measures involved psycho-social counselling, training in parenting skills, improvement of living conditions, support in finding a job, resulting in a successful step-by-step process of family preservation and reintegration into local community.



Moldova: Better together - Community involvement in social work practice

In Orhei and Calarasi district of Moldova small grants beneficiary 'ADPI Humanitas' initiated, after a comprehensive needs assessment of local families, a network to support the parents of children with special needs - the 'School of Parents'. It provides a place for the parents to exchange experience and increase their knowledge, and get support through direct social and psychological counselling by social workers. Parents feel more confident in handling their family life and learn about specialized leisure, medical and educational options for their children. The 'School of Parents' holds monthly meetings with a constant participant number of 11 parents.



Success Story Azerbaijan: Strengthening the Social Workers' Association

>> AZSWPU has been established in 2009. Despite the fact that it has a professional board and staff members in the crew, our organization has never been involved in comprehensive institutional capacity building activities. Within this project, we have developed AZSWPU's Strategy and Operational plan for the next three years which helped our team to merge activities in specific directions, determine priorities and unite efforts and resources to ensure the realization of our mission - to promote and regulate the Social Work profession in Azerbaijan. New projects were developed in line with the annual operational plan. Determining strategic goals has helped us a lot to spend our resources wisely and take opportunities effectively without being too broad in our sectorial focus <<

Lamiya Rzayeva, Executive Director Azerbaijan Social Work Public Union





Appendix II

Global Agenda European Observatory

Josefine Johansson
 Member of the IFSW European Executive
 Representative in Ensact



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

Background ENSACT



European Association of Schools of Social Work **EASSW**
 European association of training centres for social-educational care-work **ETSET**
 International Federation of Educative Communities **FICE Europe**
 International Council on Social Welfare **ICSW Europe**
 International Federation of Social Workers **IFSW Europe**
 PowerUp, service users in social work learning partnership
 Social Work and Health Inequalities Network **SWHIN**

- ✓ Seven European and global organisations join forces
- ✓ covering the whole of Europe
- ✓ with a wide diversity of perspectives and target audiences
- ✓ and a shared vision of a more inclusive society, a stronger role for service users, and a closer cooperation between professionals

European observatory

- In 2014 Ensact made and won the bid to be the European observatory of the Global observatory linked to the global agenda
- The first European Observatory report was made in 2016 by professor Kerstin Svensson from 32 examples submitted from 16 countries
- For this report a call for good examples of promoting community and environmental sustainability was made in October 2017
- Deadline was 31 of January
- The report have been made by Thea Meinema and Lola Casal Sanchez



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



- The examples in the report are divided into
- *Sustainable development*
- *Social development*
- *Social work and Social development policies*
- *Social work interventions under emergencies*
- *Austerity measures*
- *Access to services and empowerment of individuals, groups and communities*
- *Sustainable social work practices with groups at risk*



- Sustainability is a multi-dimensional and flexible concept that is actually too broad and open to allow a concise presentation. It would be beneficial for social work to have more focused directions for various issues related to sustainability
- Austerity measures are generally seen as counterproductive and threatening to social work in general and to the sustainability of communities
- It is important to reinforce and to further build the political identity of the social work profession as it is ideally placed to contribute to social policy at local, national and global levels
- Engaging with individuals and groups to develop sustainable and strong communities can only take place through encouraging their active involvement and on the basis of their own needs and strengths
- The Social development Goals might provide a useful tool for social workers to actively implement and monitor sustainable development at regional, national and global levels



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Whats next?

- The global report will be presented in Dublin
- Since there will not be a joint conference in 2020 the regional observatories will likely cease to exist
- What will be the purpose of Ensact from now on?



Appendix III

Fighting austerity, poverty, exclusion and social inequality

Tamara Kukulic Stokic, IFSW Europe Executive

What is so common about austerity, poverty, exclusion and social inequality for Social Workers across Europe????

How governmental policy in the social protection system affect Human rights in Europe?!

- Social workers in their daily work in the "conflict of roles" between the rules set by the system and "supportive" role of social work, and the protection and advocacy of human rights in general.
- As the practice with the theory substantially define social, economic and social changes and crises, as well as personal relations in reforms and processes of change the key question is are we as professionals willing to take responsibility for a radical change for ourselves and our clients?!
- As a practitioners we have to open discussion about role of social workers and responsibility for advocate for human rights of our clients and social workers in the same time by fighting austerity, poverty, social exclusion and inequality.

**Only 20% of the Government have been asked Social work
association to be engage in national programs**



What we learn from the past project?

- In 2010, IFSW Europe start the project „Economic crisis in Europe”; chalange and response of social work proffesion
- Since financial crises start in 2007/8 people facing redundancy
- Politican use to blame minority and disadvantaged and vournable group
- War and economic consequences; migrants, asylum seekers

Consequences

- Austerity measures imposed on national budgers particularly affecting welfare and social care budget
- In the same time people are seeking more support from social welfare adn social work services
- Preventive serveces are cut which lead to more crisis situation
- Increases in powerty, particularly child powerty, income disparity and inequality, increases children being taken into state care
- Increases social problems such as drug and alcohol addiction, explatation, helth inequalities, mental illness and distress, homeless people

Consequances for social workers

- Great increses in workload
- Massive loss or shrinking of resources for supporting people, families, children, unemployed and especially marginalized and discrimmincted people
- Deterioration in working condition an increase in stress, burnout
- Member associations of IFSW Europe have been engaged in a great variety of activities challenging austerity, powerty, social exclusion and inequality

But

- **Goverments do not use the expertise and experience of the social work profession to help with solutions**



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Fighting austerity, poverty, exclusion and inequality

Start with;

- To look for a data that we can compare
- To shape a working group to analyze all the material available IFSW Europe
- To research how cuts on the social protection system and poverty reflected on human rights and social exclusion
- To exchange experiences and accessing best practice example from across a countries

Final:

- To elaborate materials and policies on EU level and propose action together
- To involve „partners” social workers, NGOs, political agent to cooperate and lobby against Austerity, Poverty, social exclusion and Inequality

Colecting data

- Use results from the project 2013. and follow up questionnaire and compare results
- Use Eurostat data for:
- Relative poverty rate by age group (children, adults, elderly)
- The rate of material deprivation
- Unemployment rate by age group
- Groups at the highest risk of poverty and social exclusion (elderly, single parent families, families with 3 or more children, minority)
- Rate/number of person who left school or are not in education

Colecting data:

- Rate/number of persons living in families without employees
- Number of beneficiaries receiving social assistance
- The amount of social assistance; for single person and family (by member)
- Average salary in the state
- The rights that can be achieved by beneficiaries in the social welfare system (amount of money)
- Services that can be provided by users in the system (people living in poverty)



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Future actions

- Having 2 workshops hosting by member organisation next year until IFSW Europe conference in Vienna/ september 2019.
- Prepare and propose Symposium on this topic; together engaged association/members
- Make conclusion
- Organize campaigns, and social actions to support the development of different models of social development and social innovations as opposed austerity, poverty, exclusion and inequality
- Participate with an active role in ministry conference on this topic 2020. during the Croatia presidency on Eu

Thank you!



Appendix IV

Support to member association

Tanja Katkic Stanic, IFSW Europe Executive

Regional development

- Try to reach and contact countries who are not currently represented
- To establish google group on regional level, or about same important issues or have Skype meeting
- To get european activities and perspective more visible to national organisation
- To share and update information
- Executive are linked with individual member organisation and countries
- to share good practise
- to support regional or subregional meetings
- To support new Association

What we can do to make our activities more visible to members of national organisation?





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Differences and common things

- Strong develop professional association; involve in policy making, „partners” to the Government, high standards
- Association with enough capacity; dealing with professional issue, try to raise standards of profession
- Association with lack of capacity and resources in a process of reestablish in „new” Association, need organisation, financial, and professional support to be link to a „twin association”
- Association who need more support to be more involved in European activities
- **But all: promote social work profession, standards, human rights and social justice**
- **Need: to form and share identity to be more visible on European level (have more influence on policy makers in EU)**

Similar challenges

- **No professional association**
- **Members are involved after full time job**
- **Lack of resources**
- **Lack of support from members**
- **Conflict of the different roles of social work**
- **Strong political influence on a field of social work**
- **For members is not visible the role of National association as a member of European Association**

What social workers in Europe want?

- More opportunities for exchanging experiences and accessing best practice examples from across the countries / more active approach
- workshops meeting, chat rooms, Skype discussions, regional symposium, conferences etc.
- Frequent „face to face” meeting, providing motivation, support and ideas
- More work on roles and identity
- Support a partnership with other organisation
- Support less „well off” organisation to participate



Appendix V

Presentation ISFW Representatives: Fran McDonnell, Ian Johnston, John Brennan, Graca Andre and Fernanda Rodrigues

Joint IFSW Europe External Representatives Report

Fran McDonnell, Ian Johnston, John Brennan, Graca Andre
and Fernanda Rodrigues

Membership of European Organisations

- Currently members of Social Platform, EAPN, FRA and Council of Europe/INGO
- Strategic discussion about membership of European organisations alongside IFSW projects
- How the work is integrated and supported by the Executive and associations
- Partnerships and membership make the most of IFSW EU limited capacity and gives us more influence
- Raises our profile and can ensure social work values are reflected in European policy
- Expands members contacts, knowledge base and information is shared more widely with members

Key issues from Representatives reports Social Platform –Ian Johnston, Fran McD

- To appoint a Representative and a support group to coordinate IFSW E's input to the SP Steering Group and Task Forces
- Contribute to key SPs objectives that fit with IFSW E's priorities:
 - Responding to proposals arising from the implementation of the Pillar of Social Rights, the White Paper on the Future of the EU and the Social Fairness package consultation
 - Focusing particularly on 2 strategic objectives: Leaving no one behind – Prioritising people in vulnerable situations and reducing inequalities through a just economy;
 - Providing evidence that supports the investment of European Structural and Investment Funds in the health, social care, education and employment services to secure equal access for everybody,
 - Raise issues of concern to social workers with candidates in the European Parliament elections
 - Support a flagship event the Platform intends holding in Lisbon in November on the anniversary of the proclamation of the Pillar of Social Rights.



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EAPN – Fran McDonnell Priority future actions for IFSW

- Follow up on the survey of members' involvement with national EAPN networks to encourage further links – possible briefing with 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.
- Follow up on the possibility of working more closely with organisations such as IASSW and ENSACT to access relevant research about poverty and other issues.
- 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

Priorities from FRA – Graca Andre

- To share FRA information among IFSW-E members on time, as much as possible, in coordination with IFSW Secretary as part of an adequate information strategy;
- To establish IFSW work priorities every 2 years, that link with the FRA strategic Plan 2018-22. FRA has priority areas of intervention linked to vulnerable groups against which we could evaluate SW practices and provide good practice models;
- FRA agreed last October 2017 that IFSW-E should publish a brochure on Guidelines for good practice in developing a training methodology for Educators, SWs, and students based on a Human Rights approach.
- To agree a budget for the FRA representative that will allow participation at least once per year, in the main events of FRA to share and exchange IFSW projects, giving visibility and reinforcing mutual cooperation;
- To participate at next FRA HR Forum in Wien in Sept 2018, to present the development of the Guidelines based on the concept SW as a HR profession. (FRA expected to accept).

Priorities from Council of Europe/INGO - Fernanda Rodrigues

- To guarantee in a regular basis the attendance in the plenary and working groups activities of the INGO;
- To participate on some specific groups, namely those closely linked with our mission (eg. extreme poverty, gender issues, democracy, wellbeing and social cohesion);
- To disseminate the main documents and statements, and try that they circulate among IFSW national members;
- To reinforce contacts and involvement of the national political representatives regular members the Council of Europe;
- To follow up and suggest country visits to access the national social situation;
- To reinforce the visibility of Social Work the INGO Conference initiatives and in the leader positions

21. Appendix

Joint IFSW Europe External Representatives Report
Fran McDonnell, Ian Johnston, John Brennan, Graca Andre and Fernanda Rodrigues



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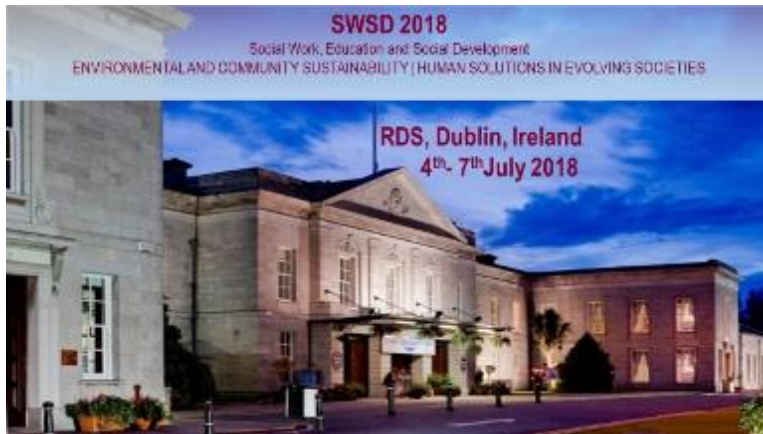
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Role of the Representatives and how do we move forward?

- How can the role and the work be integrated and supported by the Executive and associations e.g.
 - having one group/team for all the reps with a nominated Chair and a link to a member of the Executive to ensure ownership of the work?
- What would help to engage members in the agenda?
- How can we have access to information and data to contribute the social work perspective more effectively and speedily?
- How do we achieve "succession planning"?



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Keynote Speakers



Mary Robinson

The Importance of
Community Involvement in
Working for Climate Justice



Margaret Alston

Social Work, the SDGs and
environmental disasters:
crossing borders and
crossing boundaries



Larry Alices

Intersectionality, Knowledge
and power: A decolonizing
look for the practice of
social work



Clarity Blackstock

Reconciliation, Social
justice and Children's
Engagement

SWSD 2018
Dublin | Ireland
RDS | 4th - 7th July

Keynote Speakers



Falme Group
United -
Joe Donohoe

People Place
Partnership: Regeneration -
Lessons For Community Work:
A case study of Fedma
Missions Regeneration



Walter LeVendola

Achieving Sustainable
Community Development: The
Case for a Social Technology
BN of Rights



Vasilisa Ioakimidis

Social Work, violence and
resistance: a tale of two
professions



Bhavna Ushita

Path of Social Justice for
Women in India: Mapping
the Terrain

SWSD 2018
Dublin | Ireland
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Keynote Speakers



Contradictions and the process of change: reflections from a divided Ireland

John Pinkerton



Within the spheres of our influence: Social work and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Vishanthie Sewpaul



Programme Topics

- Linking environmental and sustainable development
- Role of social workers in fulfilling the UN's sustainable development goals
- Income, wellbeing, employment and poverty
- Relationship-based practice: promoting the importance of human relationships
- Evidence informed interventions
- Strengthening education to meet the needs of communities
- Identity, discrimination and social exclusion
- Community development and social enterprise
- Health, mental health and disability
- Conflict, violence, migration and human trafficking
- Engagement with people who use services
- Rights of families and children
- Life span perspectives and issues
- Ensuring the sustainable and ethical use of technology in human services (hustia)
- Women's voices forward shown



Statistics

Registration Stats

- **1,973 Delegate Registrations as of May 15th**
- Registrations from 87 Countries

Programme Stats

- 1,028 Oral presentations
- 71 Workshops
- 48 Symposia
- 187 Short Papers
- 1,144 Posters





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Field Visits

- Field Visit 1- NICVA (community NGOs) Belfast Full-day 3rd July
- Field Visit 2- St. Michael's House (disability)
- Field Visit 3- Fatima Groups United (housing)
- Field Visit 4- Pavee Point (ethnic minority groups)
- Field Visit 5- Focus Ireland (homelessness)
- Field Visit 6- TUSLA (children and families)
- Field Visit 7- Gateway Mental Health Association (mental health)
- Field Visit 8- St. Mary's Hospital (older people)
- Field Visit 9- The Grow Dome Project (environment)
- Field Visit 10- Community Gardens, Mud Island (environment)
- Field Visit 11- husITa, University College Dublin, IT Services (technology)
- Field Visit 12- Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum (mental health)

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