



# International Federation of Social Workers

European Region  
europe.ifsw@ifsw.org

## The Agency / Network:

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)  
Fundamental Rights Platform ( FRP)

## Name of the Representative:

Graça Maria André

## ACHIEVEMENTS FOR IFSW EUROPE

1. Representing IFSW E and the Social Work values and principles in view of Human Rights realization; to represent the aims of our organization at a Regional and Global level and the wider affiliated members;
2. Being in touch and reaching pertinent information as much as possible from FRA publications through its online newsletter or/and from other events. Also giving feedback and sharing it among the IFSW E affiliated members specifically related with the most challenging issues for Social Work practices, research and/or education ;
3. Approaching the FRA – FRP board members in view of a more dynamic strategic cooperation between both organizations;
4. Being integrated in IFSW E Representatives team and reinforcing cooperative initiatives.

## ACTIVITIES / EVENTS

1. Participation in the “Fundamental Rights Forum – connect.reflect.act” held by FRA (Vienna-Sept 2018) under the thought : “ Let`s seize this opportunity to build new networks, learn about what is making a real difference and galvanise our own work”. The main topics : RightsTech; RightsCulture; RebuildingTrust; SharedNeighbourhoods; HumanRightsMatter; MyRightsareyourRights. As an IFSW E representative I had the opportunity to share information about our European Conference to be held in Sept 2019, and as I was in “face to face” contact, I also asked for support from the FRA bureau , to support IFSW E with WS or field visits, issue that I have shared with IFSW E EC. for a further formal proposal which was done.
2. Presentation in the National Congress of Portuguese Social Workers (Oporto – October 2018) about FRA HR Forum, held in Vienna ( Sept 2018) and its main findings and questions, stimulating the debate among Portuguese SWs .
3. Participation in the 1st birthday of European Pillars of Social Rights, SP organization in Lisbon, (Nov 2018), through conferences, several WS and field visits. It was possible to make International interchanges with the specific mention of IFSW E a European organization in partnership with FRA – FRP, reinforcing fundamental rights realization;
4. Participation in the III Macaronesia Congress in Cape Verde ( Africa) . (May 2019) This meeting joined the Azores ( PT) ; Madeira ( PT): the Canary Islands ( SP) and Cape Verde Islands. Through this meeting, these countries have tried to share



knowledge, practices and build cooperative interventions in view of new answers to the local social problems, facing future challenges. The Congress theme was Social Work: Human Rights, Justice, and Social Inclusion. It was an important opportunity to share with the participants and speakers about the IFSW ( Regional and Global) and FRA, like a partner . The report was addressed to IFSW E EC.

5. Participation in several web meetings (2018-2019), promoting more coordinated activities between IFSW E representatives, under the coordination of John Brennan (SP), joining the different representatives from Social Platform, EAPN, FRA and Council of Europe/INGO.
6. Feedback answering to the several questionnaires, reports, work plans, (2018-2019) sent by FRA bureau such as “ Do civil society organizations cooperate with National HR Institutions?”( to update 2010 report on National HR Institutions) or “FRA consultation on the awareness use and implementation of the Charter by civil society organisation” or more recently input on the “FRA Work program 2021”, through the questionnaire from the FRA Director’s note.

## CHALLENGES

1. Information - To be supported as much as possible by IFSW E Executive Secretary to be shared at the right time with affiliated members, the FRA information according to the FRA representative`s requests;
2. FRA guidelines and diversity - To try to move FRA guidelines in practices, as most of them imply local adaptation more than information, which is not easy because of the diversity of IFSW E.
3. Priorities and FRA strategic Plan - At least to find the best strategy among some affiliated members, to enjoy a “ comfortable” percentage of FRA guidelines and appliance in view of real HR realization in advance. So to establish IFSW E work priorities every 2 years, that link with the FRA strategic Work Plan. FRA has priority areas of intervention linked to vulnerable groups against which we could evaluate SW practices and provide good practice models.
4. IFSW E Project - To reach a good cooperation with other representatives to go on with the IFSW E Project “Social Workers for transformational and sustainable social protection in Europe”.
5. Dislocated Seminar at FRA bureau - The presentation at the FRA bureau, during the next European Conference Program (10 Sept – 2pm – 5pm - dislocated seminar ) of a training methodology for Educators, SWs, and students based on a Human Rights approach, developed by 3 SWs, under the topic “Living Together in One World: Human Rights and Sustainable Development in Action”. This dynamic will try to develop more adequate tools to implement HR in the SW practices.

## OTHERS

1. To build an organized, strategic and engaged team near the FRA representative to develop the work that is missing, saving the cooperation with other representatives namely HR Global Commission Representative to Europe.