

**International Federation of Social Workers**

**European Region**

**Representative Report 2021-22**

**Organization:**

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights ( FRA)

Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP)

**Representative :**

Graça Maria André (gandre@net.sapo.pt)

Moving forward, the FRA strategic plan 2018-2022 identifies five priority areas that will guide the Agency’s work each year during this period. These include:

* Identifying trends: collecting and analyzing comparable data;
* Contributing to better law making and implementation: providing independent advice;
* Supporting rights-compliant policy responses:  providing real-time assistance and expertise;
* Effectively promoting rights, values and freedoms;
* Strengthening cooperation with national and local Fundamental Rights (FR) actors: working with communities of support.

The worsening of the international situation after the war in Ukraine (Feb 2022) led the FRA to adapt and redirect its interventions and also to working more intensive in coordination with other European Organizations.

**\_ Reporting initiatives promoted by FRA** some of that in cooperation with institutions of the European Union, (EU) sharing it among pertinent civic organizations (national and international level) where I have participated e.g : *EPRS on-line policy roundtable. A Union of Rights and values: where are we on Fundamental Rights (FR) in UE today*?( Mai 22) .

 According FRA Director statement, are persistent : exclusion of some groups such as gypsies and jews; hate crime in social networks and media; distance between the law and what happens in civil society; socio-economic inequalities.

Now, the war in Ukraine the most devasting stelling of HR, that touch and violate women. men , children HR with a wider impact of HR inside EU .

 According FRA Director, it was introduced in its work plan to act on the consequences of the war, such as:

* Stronger achievements in EU to improve FR ;
* Protection of rights linked with the protection of vulnerable groups rights ;
* HR realization with our engagement of respecting FR ( ex. digitalization) ;
* Europe not seen as an island but integrated over the world and with a sophisticated system of HR protection;
* European Charter of Rights is the “ most” of HR protection to be applied
* Partnership at our societies means to achieve FR working together ;
* Stimulating people to be informed ( educated) and using FR arguments as good values reinforcing framing messages .

Document to share: **FRA Report 2022** ( Jun. 22) ( fra.europa.eu)

“ …Moving forward, governments should involve national human rights or equality bodies in monitoring that EU-funded recovery measures follow fundamental rights. These should particularly seek to:• fulfil the social rights of people most affected by the pandemic;• assess and adjust, if necessary, EU-funded measures to ensure they respect and foster social rights;• ensure the use of EU recovery funds is not incompatible with either the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)…”

**Other key fundamental rights issues** mentioned in FRA Report include: Child Rights; Migration; Racism.

**FRA Questionnaires** answered: Consultation on members participation in Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP) ( Feb.22) ; Consultation on User Satisfaction Survey ( Feb.22).

**Activities carried out and achievements for IFSW Europe**

\_ Participation in the online meetings of the various IFSW initiative like IFSW Global GM (Mai 2022) and IFSW Europe DM as FRA representative. (Mai 22);

\_ Participation and dissemination FSW Europe webinar – Developing eco-wisdom . Leave no one behind (Mai22);

\_ Sharing as much as possible IFSW / policies orientations among SW colleagues, students, at national and international level .( seminars by invitation at National and International Universities to SW students, also Erasmus Students) as FRA representative and in view IFSW mission ;

\_ Participation at People`s Global Summit “ Co- building a New Eco-Social World . Leaving no one Behind”( Jun-Jul 22), with the presentation in video “ Despite all Conflicts and Problems: living, teaching and working together is possible” (André, G. and Walz, H. ).

**Other European Organizations Initiatives participation**

\_ Following on-line debates and information seminars/forums that could instruct me on current challenges and guidelines more pertinent. Whenever possible in these forums I was also able to ask questions, give input and make proposals from the perspective of Social Work, e-g : *Civil Society Organizations . Key actors for the future of Europe (Nov. 21); Human Rights Forum-EU NGO (Dec. 21); EESC – Conference on the future of Europe (Feb . 22) ; Civil Society Days “ Society for an economy that works for people and planet” (Mar.22); 14th European Forum on Rights of the Child 2022- Bringing Children to the Center: Empowering, protecting and Including Children ( Sept. 22).*

 **Initiatives in view SW and HR realization, at World Day of SW (March 2022)**

Launch of the printed Portuguese version of the e-book “Social Work, Human Rights and Intercultural Relations”. This book is in its original version. in e.book , in English under the coordination of Graça André and Antonela Jesus. In an edition of the Portuguese Catolica Univ. 2020. It .compiles a set of texts by European authors of various nationalities. This e-book is integrated into the IFSW website and freely accessible from 2021. The translation into a printed Portuguese edition was the initiative of the coordinators in order to be able to more easily disseminate the book through the Official Portuguese Language Countries (PALOP) and also in Portugal to colleagues and students less familiar with the English language. It was launched in several universities as well as in National delegations of the Portuguese Association of Social Work. (APSS), promoting the organization of seminars on the subject.

This book is being circulated in Cape Verde and Guinea – Bissau. Efforts are underway for collaboration protocols with APSS (Portugal).

The Cape Verde Social Work Association has initiated efforts to join the IFSW.

 **Proposals that shall be reinforced according priorities to be voted at next IFSW – E DM Assembly ( Berlin OCT 22) and following on:**

**1**.To engage and support the new generations of Social Workers that have new problems at their practices from Ukraine war impactus , reinforcing the support to IFSW European Project. **See:** „A Social Europe is Possible. The New Generation of Social Workers” (2020) .

**2.**To reinforce the information about IFSW mission near the SW Schools and promoting the creation of a curriculum in view „Education to the Peace” according SW Ethical Principles and most recent IFSW guidelines . To include in International Collaborative Social Work Learning - WP point 10.3 .**See** also**:** “Developing eco-wisdom . Leave no one behind”(Mai 22). IFSW E– Project..**See** also :”Beyond the pndemic: exploring SW ethics and values as a contribution to a new eco-social world, Banks, S. and Cains, L. , (Mar.-Jul- 22).

3**.** To disseminate among Social Workers and affiliated members the guidelines of „The People’s Charter for an Eco-Social World” ( People`s Global Summit “ Co- building a New Eco-Social World . Leaving no one Behind”( Jun-Jul 22)) to its opportune accomplishment .

4. To think in a further “task force” in view to promote strategies near European Institutions, in view the Rights protection of climate refugees that are reaching Europe. It aims to support them to recuperate their ( survival basic) goods after climate disasters , considering such groups the less responsible for such disasters . **See** also: “Assessing current migration trends: Environmental change, environmentally induced migration and legal protection under EU law” ( Macieira de Sousa, Rita, 2020, in “Social Work, Human Rights and Intercultural Relations”, e.book , IFSW website freely accessible, pp83-100).

5. All the projects that were included in IFSW – E Work Programme “Policy development and Social Actions etc,..( points 9., 10., 11. Work Programme 21-22) are pertinent and shall be updated as much as possible according the most recent challenges, reaching new collaborators and contributions.

Lisboa, 14th October 2022

Graça Maria André

IFSW Europe e.V

Representative to the

Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP)

EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)