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IFSW European Report

2021-2022

Ana Rădulescu – President IFSW Europe

John Brennan – Vice-president IFSW Europe

on behalf of the IFSW European Executive:

Brian Auslander, Birthe Povlsen,

Josien Hofs, Paola Pontarollo

Fjolla Muçaj (Deputy Member)

IFSW Europe’s 2021-2022 annual report highlights the European Region most significant achievements in 2021-2022.

This report provides an overview of IFSW Europe work together with our member organisation network. They contain:

* Key achievements in projects implemented by IFSW Europe;
* Reflections by IFSW European Executive, representatives and member organisations on the response in the time after the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic;
* Key achievements that highlight the main outcomes of IFSW Europe’s activities, including our members, in Ukraine and in the neighbour countries, during the time when Russia launched a military offensive in Ukraine;
* Activities initiated as a result of an unprecedented energy crisis in Europe that’s pushing the economy closer to a recession and posing serious questions about the region’s climate change ambitions.

IFSW Europe’s work programmes reflect the priorities and the main focus areas of IFSW Europe for the corresponding period and describe objectives and planned activities.

Despite the exceptional circumstance Europe has faced over the recent years, IFSW Europe has demonstrated its capacity to adapt to a constantly changing social and economic environment while maintaining the highest quality standards of its activities.

In Europe, social workers' visibility and voice contributed to policy actions and improved outcomes. IFSW Europe accompanied and provided the necessary space for knowledge sharing for social workers in Europe to build up resilience and to come out stronger of this challenging and uncertain time.

IFSW Europe SPECIFIC ACHIEVEMENT ON KEY TOPICS:

>>>> IFSW Europe move forward in these challenging times and support the establishment of the **Association of Social Workers in Ukraine (UNASW)** in September 2022. This was a common effort of IFSW Europe members and social workers in Ukraine.

>>>> IFSW Europe initiated a strategic development of support for people in Ukraine.

More information is available here:

<https://www.ifsw.org/social-work-in-ukraine/>

>>>> IFSW Europe launched the European Conference on Social Work 2023.

More information is available here:

<http://ifsw2023.org/>

>>>> IFSW Europe is part of a project that has been approved by the European Commission to be financed on the topic: **Increasing Responsiveness to Citizen Voice in Social Services Across Europe**.

The project will start on March 2023 and new information will be provided soon.

>>>> IFSW Europe approved a new project on **Eco-wisdom for social workers, leaving no one behind**.

Information are available here:

<https://www.ifsw.org/regions/europe/projects/>

>>>> IFSW Europe finalised the IFSW Europe Poverty Watch Report 2022.

>>>> IFSW Europe will host the IFSW Global Executive Committee meeting in Prague 2023.

IFSW Europe had the following MAIN PRIORITIES FOR ACTIONS:

1. **Strengthening the national associations of social workers and to uphold the social worker contribution to the decision-making process at their national level.**

IFSW Europe became active in supporting and endorsing our members in their activity at the national level and make their activity visible at the European level:

* Endorse the position of The British Association of Social Workers, Social Workers Union, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Social Work Association and several partner organisations have co-signed a letter to the Home Secretary, Priti Patel, opposing inhumane and unlawful draft guidance recently published in support of the proposed Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill ([Read more](https://www.ifsw.org/social-workers-write-to-priti-patel-opposing-inhumane-police-bill-that-discriminates-against-romani-and-traveller-families/)).
* The Irish Association of Social Workers (IASW) Anti-Racism Advisory Group and our social work colleagues in Ireland and around the world stand in disbelief at the atrocities inflicted by Russian forces upon the people in Ukraine ([Read more](https://www.ifsw.org/the-irish-association-of-social-workers-iasw-crisis-in-ukraine-highlights-social-and-racial-inequalities-among-ethnic-minority-groups-fleeing-for-their-lives-from-the-warzone/)).
* The Israeli Union of Social Workers calls for the Palestinian Social Workers to join them in dialogue to explore how the two unions can communicate and work together advancing the profession in the region ([Read more](https://www.ifsw.org/israeli-union-of-social-workers-invites-palestinian-union-to-build-communication-and-cooperation/)).

**2. Boosting the exchange of knowledge in Europe**

Effective knowledge and expertise sharing between social workers are the IFSW Europe's greatest asset. Only through sharing knowledge we were able to work effectively with people in need and grow at both an individual and professional level in the context of COVID-19.

## Webinar 15 March 2022 - VOICES FROM THE BORDERS:  SOCIAL WORK RESPONDS TO THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN UKRAINE ([Read more](https://www.ifsw.org/webinar-voices-from-the-borders-social-work-responds-to-the-humanitarian-crisis-in-ukraine/))

This webinar had more than 1000 registrations.

* IFSW EUROPE – Webinar – Developing Eco-Wisdom – Leave No One Behind! May 24th 2022 ([Read more](https://www.ifsw.org/ifsw-europe-webinar-developing-eco-wisdom-leave-no-one-behind-may-24th-2022-18-00-19-30-cet/))
* IFSW Europe contribute to the Social Summit: ‘Co-building a New Eco-Social World: Leaving No One Behind’ ([Read more](https://www.ifsw.org/social-work-has-a-critical-role-to-play-in-transformational-change-in-co-building-our-shared-futures/))
* International social work education programme in the NETHERLANDS endorsed by IFSW ([Read more](https://www.ifsw.org/international-social-work-programme-in-the-netherlands-endorsed-by-ifsw/))

**3. Improving the visibility and the voice of social workers in topics that affect the provision of social services and the life of people.**

* IFSW Europe promoted the civil dialogue in the European Semester process ([Read more](https://www.ifsw.org/improving-civil-dialogue-in-the-european-semester-process/)).
* IFSW Europe – beyond the pandemic: exploring social work ethics and values as a contribution to a new eco-social world ([Read more](https://www.ifsw.org/ifsw-europe-beyond-the-pandemic-exploring-social-work-ethics-and-values-as-a-contribution-to-a-new-eco-social-world/))
* IFSW Europe has organised coordination of professions and community responses to the needs of refugees as they flee Ukraine ([Read more](https://www.ifsw.org/ifsw-action-on-ukraine-crisis/))
* Preparation of the IFSW EUROPE POVERTY WATCH REPORT 2022 ([Read more](https://www.ifsw.org/ifsw-europe-invites-social-workers-and-their-associations-in-europe-to-contribute-to-the-ifsw-europe-poverty-watch-report-2022/))
* IFSW EUROPE takes part in discussion on the development of social policies to support Ukrainian refugees ([Read more](https://www.ifsw.org/ifsw-europe-is-part-of-the-discussion-regarding-the-development-of-social-policies-to-support-ukrainian-refugees/))

**4. Developing policy statement that reflects the priorities and position of social workers.**

* IFSW statement on the political crisis at the Belarus / Polish borders ([Read more](https://www.ifsw.org/ifsw-statement-of-the-political-crisis-at-the-belarus-polish-borders/)).
* Social workers across Europe speak up against the destruction of human and civil rights ([Read more](https://www.ifsw.org/social-workers-across-europe-speak-up-against-the-destruction-of-human-and-civil-rights/))
* Age with Rights: IFSW EUROPE supports the global rally on 3 March 2022 ([Read more](https://www.ifsw.org/age-with-rights-ifsw-europe-supports-the-global-rally-on-3-march-2022/))
* Social workers stand together against war ([Read more](https://www.ifsw.org/social-worker-stands-together-against-war/))

**5. Promote the new social workers challenges**

The New Social Workers of IFSW Europe hold a series of webinars from different European Countries:

## 5.1. International Exchange Webinar, 27th May 2022: The Netherlands ([Read more](https://www.ifsw.org/international-exchange-webinar-ifsw-europe-new-social-workers-project/))

## 5.2. International Exchange Webinar, 17th June 2022: Portugal ([Read more](https://www.ifsw.org/international-exchange-webinar-ifsw-europe-new-social-workers-project-portuguese-social-work-student-movement/))

## 5.3. International Exchange Webinar, 29th July 2022: Spain ([Read more](https://www.ifsw.org/international-exchange-webinar-ifsw-europe-new-social-workers-project-maria-perez-bandera-spain/))

## 5.4. International Exchange Webinar, 31st August 2022: Portugal ([Read more](https://www.ifsw.org/ifsw-europe-new-social-workers-international-exchange-webinar-31st-august-2022-at-5pm-cest/))

## 5.5. International Exchange Webinar, 29th September 2022: Georgia ([Read more](https://www.ifsw.org/ifsw-europe-new-social-workers-international-exchange-webinar-friday-30th-september-2022-at-5pm-cet/))

These projects are part of the IFSW *Europe Project: A Social Europe is possible! The new generation of social workers (*[*Read more*](https://www.ifsw.org/regions/europe/projects/)*).*

**6. Engaging in Networking and lobbying**

To be able to do that, we significantly increased our cooperation with the relevant partners in Europe. IFSW Europe has Representatives to the following institutions and networks:

* Council of Europe
* United Nations
* European Social Platform
* European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)
* Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)
* International Psychogeriatric Association (IPA)
* Eurochild

IFSW Europe also had representatives in the following Committees of IFSW Global:

* IFSW Global Education Commission
* IFSW Global Ethic Commission
* IFSW Global Indigenous Committee

**7. The cooperation between our member organisations**

IFSW Europe opened a public call to support social workers helping people fleeing from the war zone. All European member organisation offer support to social workers inside Ukraine, at the borders or in their own country.

**8. Ensuring an efficient management of projects**

During the reporting period, IFSW Europe had under implementation the following projects:

### 8.1. Project: *Community Social Work Centre and Social Work Hub Ukraine*. Date of implementation: July 2022 – ongoing. Projects Co-Funded by IFSW Global.

### Project: *Developing eco-wisdom for social workers – leave no one behind*. Date of implementation: March 2022 – ongoing. Projects Co-Funded by IFSW Global.

### Project: *A Social Europe is Possible! The Young Generation of Social Workers are the Spearhead of Change!* Date of implementation: 2020 – on going. Projects Co-Funded by IFSW Global.

### Project: *Social Workers for Transformational and Sustainable Social Protection in Europe.* Projects Co-Funded by IFSW Global. Date of implementation: 2017-on going.

More information on the IFSW Europe are available here:

<https://www.ifsw.org/regions/europe/projects/>

**9. Ensure an administrative and financial management of the organisation**

During the reporting period, IFSW Europe proceed with specific activities of the financial and administrative management:

* A new system of financial reporting has been organised;
* Updates on the Legal Body have been achieved;
* IFSW Europe updated the page on the European Commission Platform.