

IFSW Europe Report

2022-2023

Ana Rădulescu – President IFSW Europe

John Brennan – Vice-president IFSW Europe

Period: October 2022 - May 2023

This report outlines the activities and achievements of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) in Europe for the period of October 2022 to May 2023. During this period, IFSW Europe has been active in promoting the social work profession, advocating for the rights of social workers, and addressing social issues that affect the communities they serve.

We wanted to extend our deepest gratitude to each of our member organisation and every one of you for your outstanding contributions to IFSW Europe's recent accomplishments. Thanks to your hard work, dedication, and teamwork, we have been able to achieve some truly remarkable milestones regarding our social work profession.

Your tireless efforts, commitment, and perseverance have been instrumental in helping IFSW Europe reach its goals and objectives. Your contributions have not gone unnoticed, and we are extremely grateful for everything that you have done.

We are excited to continue collaborating with all members of our organization as we move forward towards achieving even greater things. We deeply appreciate the invaluable contributions made by each and every one of you, and we want to express our heartfelt gratitude once again. Thank you for being an essential part of IFSW Europe and our team and for your unwavering commitment to our shared goals.

ACTIVITIES

During this period, IFSW Europe organized several events and initiatives to promote the social work profession and advocate for the rights of social workers. These activities include:

I. Projects

**Project: Eco-wisdom for social workers, leaving no one behind**

Date of implementation: March 2022 – ongoing

Projects Co-Funded by IFSW Global

The project aims to promote the involvement of the social work profession in supporting the most vulnerable people, particularly in the context of global warming. It is widely recognized that those in vulnerable circumstances are likely to bear the greatest burden of the consequences of climate change, despite having the smallest carbon footprint. However, the crucial role of social workers in this area is still often overlooked in many countries.

This document represents a first step towards investigating and developing ideas to establish an IFSW Europe policy on the subject. By sharing our thoughts and experiences, we hope to inspire and learn from each other, and ultimately strengthen the capacity of social workers to address the challenges facing vulnerable communities in the context of global warming.

IFSW Europe is committed to continuing its work in this field and welcomes your participation in the discussion group.

Here's the link to the interim report (2023) prepared by Josien Hofs: <https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Report-Project-Eco_wisdom-for-social-workers-leaving-no-one-behind.docx>

**Project: A Social Europe is Possible! The Young Generation of Social Workers are the Spearhead of Change!**

Date of implementation: 2020 – on going

While the project has come to an end, our discussions over the past few years have shown that this remains an important topic for many of our member organizations. At the Delegates Meeting in Berlin 2022, we discussed the importance of continuing to invest in improving strategies for new social workers entering the labor market.

Given the complex and rapidly changing conditions in which we work, IFSW Europe recognizes a major responsibility to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and good practices. We are committed to sharing this learning experience with our young colleagues and students in social work. We believe it is our responsibility to prepare the next generation of social workers to have a clear vision, practical strategies, and the ability to transform the EU Social Pillar into a reality for the people. We want social work professionals to push forward reforms and policy measures at the national level.

Therefore, it is vital that IFSW Europe ensures our young colleagues are ready to get engaged now and become our spearhead of change.

### Project: ****Social Workers for Transformational and**** ****Sustainable Social**** Protection in Europe.

Date of implementation: 2017-on going.

Social workers have a critical role to play in implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights. As professionals who work directly with individuals and communities, social workers are well-positioned to help ensure that the rights and principles outlined in the Pillar are realized in practice. This includes promoting access to education, employment, and social protection, as well as supporting the social inclusion and empowerment of disadvantaged and marginalized groups.

Social workers can also help to identify and address systemic barriers to the realization of these rights and advocate for policy measures that promote social justice and equality.

In order to fulfil this mission, IFSW Europe collaborates with the European Social Platform, the European Commission, the European Parliament, and other relevant networks, including the European Social Network.

IFSW Europe continues to play an active role in monitoring the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) and ensuring that the perspectives of social workers from the front line are brought to the attention of policy makers at the decision level.

Here's the link to the interim report (2023) prepared by John Brennan: <https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/ESP-Rep-Report-to-IFSW-Europe-DM-2023.docx>

### Project: ****Increasing responsiveness to citizen voice in social services across Europe****

This is a Horizon *Europe Research and Innovation Action* “The future of democracy and civic participation”. Start date: 1 March 2023, 36-month project.

Read more about the project here:

<https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Briefing-note-RESPONSIVE.pdf>

**Read more about the IFSW Project here:**

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

**II. Developing the social work profession and empowering social workers in - Ukraine**

Developing the social work profession and empowering social workers in conflict zones requires collaborative efforts and a comprehensive approach. IFSW Europe receives support from members across Europe, as well as from other regions such as Japan.

These are some of the contributions that IFSW Europe did to achieve our goals in Ukraine and establish models of social worker involvement in assisting people in the most challenging zones:

* **Project: Community Social Work Center in Kamianets-Podilskyi**

The funding for this project is provided by IFSW Europe through donations.

The aim of the Community Social Work Center is to provide a safe and nurturing environment for IDP who have fled the conflict zone in Ukraine. Our team offers emotional support, opportunities to connect with others, and access to activities designed to facilitate the release of trauma. The project is implemented in collaboration with the Raion Kamianets-Podilskyi UKraine and the Association of Social Workers in Ukraine.

* **Project: Social Partnership Investment**

IFSW Europe is providing funding for this project through donations with the goal of establishing and maintaining a network of volunteers to assist in community support and the advancement of social services in Ukraine.

* **Project: Improvement of shelter conditions for internally displaced people in the district of Kamjanez-Podilskyj, Khmelntytskyj region, Western Ukraine**

The project is funded by Volkshilfe Austria in the period; 01 January 2023 – 31 arch 2024.

* **Project: Prevent, protect and provide for children in Ukraine and the future they dream of**

This project is financed and implemented by ERIKS Development Partner (hereafter ERIKS) and Association of Social Workers in Romania (ASproAS). The implementation of the project is supported by both IFSW Europe and the Association of Social Workers in Ukraine. The project aims to strengthen child protection systems for children on the move in the Kamianets-Podilskyi district in

Ukraine – by establishing emergency support services for children on the move and strengthening the existing network of social services in the same region. The project is implemented in collaboration with IFSW Europe, Raion Kamianets-Podilskyi UKraine and the Association of Social Workers in Ukraine.

* **Project: Inovarea în serviciile sociale din Ucraina**

The project it is financed by FEDERATIA ONG-URILOR SOCIALE DIN TRANSILVANIA, Romania. The objective is to train a cohort of 25 social workers and social work students in the development and implementation of social services. Through collaboration with IFSW European member organizations, the trainees will acquire the necessary expertise and knowledge to create innovative concepts for various social services that meet the needs of the community.

**III. IFSW Representation**

We significantly increased our cooperation with the relevant partners in Europe. IFSW Europe has Representatives to the following institutions and networks:

* Council of Europe – Ruth Allen
* United Nations – Herbert Paulischin
* European Social Platform – John Brennan
* European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) – Birthe Povlsen.

LINK EPN Report: <https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/IFSW-Europe-Report-on-EAPN-2023.docx>

* Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) – Enric Torras
* International Psychogeriatric Association (IPA) – Gerry Nosowska
* Eurochild – Anna Deneher

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

* IFSW Global Education Commission Nicolai Paulsen
* IFSW Global Ethic Commission – Gabriele Stark-Angermeier
* IFSW Global Indigenous Committee – Margaretha Uttjek

**IV. Webinars**

Since October 2022, IFSW Europe has organized and participated in several webinars organised by ourselves in IFSW Europe or other European agencies that we engaged with during the period.

These webinars cover different topics related to social work and provide an opportunity for social workers to learn and share their experiences.