



Report of IFSW Europe Regional Representative/Commissioner

For Delegates Meeting 2024

Please send this report to europa@ifsw.org by 20th October 2024

Your name	Nicolai Paulsen
Your association	Danish Association of Social Workers
Commission or Organisation where you represent IFSW Europe	Global Education Commission
Date of report	20. October 2024
When did you start being the representative?	November 2019
Do you have a support person/group?	Yes; and for the period 2023-2024 it is: Graca André (Portugal), Karin Landsbergen (NL), Janet Walker (UK) and Marcin Boryczko (Poland)
Do you wish to continue for the year 2024/25?	No; I want to step down as the regional representative. While I am available for a support group, if this is appropriate.
If you wish to continue, do you need a support person/group?	-
Please list the main events and meetings you attended between June 2023 and September 2024	One web-meeting with the Global Education Commission (2.2.2024). Four web-meetings with the European support group (9.10.2023; 4.12.2023; 29.1.2024; 16.5.2024). IFSW Global General Meeting (1.-3.4.2024). A joint meeting with Global Education Commission and Global Indigenous Commission (2.4.2024).



<p>Please describe other work you undertook in your role (e.g. policy work, writing, contributing to webinars etc)</p>	<p>Contributing as IFSW Europe representative within the EU Responsive project.</p>
<p><i>Please describe your main achievements in this role in the last period</i></p> <p>The main regional activities – reflecting an ongoing roll-out of the Global Standards – have in 2023-2024 been linked to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Feedback on the global proposal on the structure and terms of reference for the Global Commissions. 2) Participation and input to the EU financed Horizon Europe research and development project on RESPONSIVENESS TO CITIZEN VOICE IN SOCIAL SERVICES, where IFSW Europe is one of several partners. The project is framed around the concept of ‘responsiveness’ within social services as a new way of thinking about democracy and co-creation in the context of citizen-government interaction. 3) A dialogue about THE RECRUITMENT OF SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS – and how several Europe countries experience a decrease in the number of applicants for the social work education programmes. The reason seems to be manifold, and is explained by a demographic development (declining youth cohorts and high employment in unskilled jobs), that the education programs are financially starved (the social work lecturers have poor conditions and the number of hours for students are reduced), that the social work profession's reputation is weakened (poor working conditions, poor salary, weakened power of professional action in practice), etc. A first draft for a questionnaire was developed and feedback was given, and a follow up is still to be produced. The aim is to gather information from all IFSW E member countries, to map the European situation on the subject RECRUITMENT OF SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS, including the recruitment of social work professionals. 4) A preparatory talk about ECO SOCIAL WORK IN PRACTICE AND IN EDUCATION – and how climate change will affect us all, especially people in vulnerable circumstances. One answer is that education focusing on Eco Social Work is needed in the universities, and for 	



professionals as well. From an ecological point of view, you could say that eco-wisdom requires a paradigm shift in ethics / professional ethics as well as a critique of the central values as self-reliance and the individualistic approach of problems in social policy and practice.

If you wish to continue in your role, please list your key objectives/aims for the next year.

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