**IFSW Europe**

**Minutes Delegates Meeting 2024**

 25-27 October 2024 - Lisbon

**VOTING COUNTRIES IN ATTENDANCE:**

1. Austria
2. Armenia – proxy to ASproAS Romania
3. Azerbaijan
4. Denmark
5. Finland
6. France
7. Germany
8. Greece
9. Hungry
10. Iceland
11. Ireland
12. Italy
13. Israel
14. Malta
15. Netherlands
16. Norway
17. Portugal
18. Romania
19. Spain
20. Sweden
21. Switzerland – online on ZOOM
22. Turkey – online on ZOOM
23. United Kingdom

All participating countries were in good standing with IFSW Europe

Also in attendance

1. Rory Truell – General Secretary for IFSW Global

2. Priska Fleischlin – observer IFSW Global

3. Michael Rassel – coordinator of RESPONSIVE project

**Friday, 25th October**

1. **Welcome and introductions**

Ruth Allen – President of IFSW Europe and chair of the meeting, opened the meeting, introducing herself and Andreas Kikvik – Vice President of IFSW Europe.

Agenda of the meeting was both available online and offline (copies made available in the room).

The voting cards for each country were handed to each country in the room.

**2. Formal opening of the Delegates Meeting**

**3. Overview of aims and procedures for the Delegates Meeting (DM) including:**

**3.1 Notice of elections for executive vacancies**

It was announced that elections will be held on Sunday morning. Some of the nominations have come let and the Executive Committee (EC) will verify them and once it is done, they will all be made available online before the vote.

**3.2 Notice of appointment and renewal of representatives**

The renewal will be made during this Delegates meeting. A new representative is sought for CINGO.

**3.3 Ways of working together throughout the sessions**

Brief discussion about the need for open and collaborative discussion and keeping to time.

**4. The Minutes and Matters Arising from the Delegates Meeting 2023**

* *Proposed: Netherlands*
* *Seconded: Denmark*
* *Carried: unanimously*

The Minutes document has been distributed by email after the last Delegates Meeting from 2023. The document was made available online on the IFSW platform for the Delegates Meeting prior to the present meeting. They were adopted unanimously in the current meeting.

For the legal body update, on the minutes there needs to be a very clear record related to official positions that are elected during the Delegates meeting. Beside the person elected for the available position, it should also register the person that approved the nomination.

**The parliamentarian of the meeting –**IFSW Executive propose Nicolai Paulsen (Denmark) – appointed by applause.

**Tellers of the meeting:**

Proposal for Jane Shears (United Kingdom) to be the 1st **Teller** and Jaana Manssila (Finland) to be the 2nd **Teller** of the meeting – they were unanimously approved.

* *Proposed:United Kingdom*
* *Seconded: Denmark*
* *Carried: unanimously*

**The person taking the minutes –** IFSW Executive proposed Teodora Dobre (IFSW Europe Honorary Secretary) as Minute Taker.

* *Proposed: Denmark*
* *Seconded: France*
* *Carried: unanimously*

**Election Officer for the Delegates Meeting 2024** IFSW Executive proposed Josien Hofs (The Netherlands)

*Proposed: Austria*

*Seconded: Malta*

*Carried: unanimously*

**5. Call for any other business not already on the Agenda**

Ruth Allen asked if there are any other topics that need to be added to the Agenda – none requested.

Ruth Allen announced that 4 late papers were sent just before the start of the meeting:

1 .[Late item Motion for IFSWE DM Oct 2024](https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Late-item-Motion-for-IFSWE-DM-Oct-2024.pdf) together with the late item from Spain both related to migration. Proposal to take it as a discussion on the 3rd day of the meeting and agree to do the work to explore them further. Agreed that Spain and Ireland would do this together.

All in favour to add it to the agenda

2 ,[Late item from Hungarian association – the significance of a common vocabulary for SW in Europe](https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Late-item-from-Hungarian-association-the-significance-of-a-common-vocabulary-for-SW-in-Europe.pdf). Proposal to take it as a discussion on the 3rd day of the meeting if there is time and agree to do the work to explore them further after the meeting.

All in favour to add it to the agenda

3 .[Late item IFSW proposal regarding support for Romani and Traveller issues and social work](https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Late-item-IFSW-proposal-regarding-support-for-Romani-and-Traveller-issues-and-social-work.pdf). Proposal to take it as a discussion on the 3rd day of the meeting and agree to do the work to explore them further after the meeting.

All in favour to add it to the agenda

**6. Approval of the Agenda**

The Agenda for the meeting has been unanimously approved in the room.

**7. Presentation of the IFSW Europe Annual Report of activities and achievements against the workplan 2023/4**

Ruth Allen presented [Item 7 Report of Progress on our Workplan 2023-2024](https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Item-7-Report-of-Progress-on-our-Workplan-2023-2024.pdf) .The document was already updated online on the website.

It’s been a period of great change. The President and Vice President were elected at the IFSW Europe Delegate’s meeting in Panama in April 2024 in Panama. Ruth Allen took time to acknowledge and thank the people involved in the Executive in the recent past (Ana Radulescu, John Brennan, Teodora Dobre)

Lots of projects have been ongoing in this period. Lots of discussions will be held in this DM and this will add to the workplan 24/25 and enrich it.

On communication, there have been improvements via email and website posts. Also, we are on social media platforms. During this meeting the Executive will collect ideas on which platforms work best for the members.

On finance – IFSW Europe has increased their financial balance in the last years. This will be covered in the Treasurer’s report.

On projects – will report more on those during the allocated time in the meeting. The EU funded Responsive project will have a dedicated working session on the second day of the meeting. Another European-budgeted project will be announced – COCOSO. The involvement with research projects has been a great addition to the work of IFSW Europe.

On support for members – discussed the webinars and training offered to facilitate sharing and learning.

On IFSW European Conferences – the 2023 conference required a lot of effort from the Czech association and IFSW E Executive and succeeded with 500 participants. For 2025 an update will be delivered on the 3rd day of the meeting by colleagues from Norway.

On IFSW Europe Representatives to European institutions/bodies – fantastic work achieved by a consistent group. On the second day of the meeting there will be more detailed discussions on their involvement and work.

On relationships with IFSW Global – will continue to have representation for IFSW Global commissions and contribute to the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development process. Ruth and Andreas have taken up their roles on the Global Executive.

Gabriele Stark – Angermeier (Germany) – thanked the Executive for all the hard work they poured into this.

Greece – raised the issue on addressing more in the report – like conflict in the middle east for example. Ruth Allen acknowledged the importance on having continuing conversations around all important events happening in Europe and work together on finding ways to support those in need.

**8. Finance report**

**8.1 Treasurer’s report 2023/4**

Financial report was delivered by Brian Auslander, IFSW Europe Treasurer.

The report was made available online: [Item 8 IFSW Europe Treasurer report 2023](https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Item-8-IFSW-Europe-Treasurer-report-2023.pdf) The Treasurer reported on year 2023 during the first day of the Delegates Meeting. The main resource to be able to fund the main activities of IFSW Europe is the membership fee – Brian thanked everyone for paying and contributing.

Two big challenges with the budget were related to projects in Ukraine and another big one was the Conference in Prague from 2023.

At the end of 2023 the total bank balance was: 280, 426.93 Euro

A sum of approximately 30,000 Euro is received annually from the membership fees. This is our main operating budget, augmented by any surpluses from events/conferences and projects.

Total expenditures and operating expense were presented for 2023 and up until the 1st of October 2024. The total expenditures for projects were also presented.

Approval of the Treasurer’s report 2023-2024

* *Proposed: Greece*
* *Seconded: Germany*
* *Carried: unanimously*

**8.2 Auditor’s report – 2023/4**

This report was not completed in time for this meeting. The Auditor’s report will be sent to all and an online vote of members will be taken in early 2025.

**8.3 Presentation of initial budget proposals for 2024/25**

The Ukrainian project still has a balance that needs to be decided upon.

The Honorary Secretary fee is proposed to go from 3000 Euro/year to 4000/year. Also, the support for organizing the Delegates Meeting was proposed to be raised from 3000 Euro/year to 5000 Euro/year.

Questions from room:

1. What is the exit strategy from Ukraine? –

Ruth Allen confirmed that the Executive Committee is working on a strategy for the remaining budget and the project expenditure. Ana Radulescu shared a short update on what is currently happening in the Ukraine. Some finance will still be spent until the end of the year. The focus in Ukraine is now transferring knowledge locally so they continue projects and activities there sustainably.

1. In the proposed budget for 2025 some budget lines will be increased from 2024. Where will the IFSW Europe take the money from to cover these changes?

Brian Auslander (Treasurer) report that there have been underspends on expenses in the past years (during Covid in particular) and there is a “cushion” (reserves) that allows IFSW Europe to make the current proposed adjustments. There are reserves of about 80,000 Euro that IFSW Europe can rely on at the moment. There is also some undesignated income from projects which is adding to our total reserves in the current and coming year. Discussion about how and whether to raise the membership fee for ongoing sustainability (which has been the same for many years) is needed and will be held with members perhaps in the next DM.

**9. Update from IFSW Secretary General**

Rory Truell was present at the meeting. He gave an update related on the Global work.

1. Policy Paper – about structures of commissions. The paper is out to vote at the moment. The members should have received and email with the voting system by now. In Panama they presented the Paper. The consultations started then and after 2 months the final form was sent out, with great input from IFSW Europe. The Paper aims to bring all people involved in the work of IFSW together to decide on clear roles and involvement.
2. The collaboration between IFSW Global, the International Council of social workers, and International Association of Schools of Social Work is working well. . They work together for:
	1. The next Social Work Global Conference which will be held in Kenya in 2026 - In the spirit of ‘Harambee’, which means ‘all pull together’ in Swahili, we invite you to join us in Nairobi for a conference focused on collaboration and sustainable development in social work.

 Date: 26th – 29th June 2026

 Venue: Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC), Nairobi, Kenya

* 1. World Social Work Day 2025 – Date: 3rd Tuesday of March 2025, the Theme will be launched and shared during the first week of December 2024
1. Global social worker working conditions is an ongoing project.
2. Other IFSW Regional events
	* 1. Asia-Pacific will organize a conference in Sri-Lanka
		2. Africa will also organize a conference – the French speaking part
3. The Good Governance review – a motion was raised in Panama by IFSW Europe. A process followed – there is a working group set in place with 2 people representing each region (the president or vice president of the region and another member). They have already started the work; the next step is to rank issues raised – prioritising them and being continuously open to new issues that may arise. They are committed to being transparent – every member can ask for documentation any time.

Questions from room: Following up on Panama meeting-commissions paper and evaluation of the Panama meeting?

Motion of the assessment of the meetings in the future – also raised during Panama meeting?

Rory: 2 papers were postponed for voting in Panama: Structure of commissions policy – this one is being voted online now

Renewal of the Humans rights commission – misunderstanding about the proposal, so it’s also being processed and under review to clarify further on.

The Evaluation has been worked on and the Global prepares an official response that will be shared soon.

**10. Report from IFSW Europe President, the Turkish Association and IFSW Secretary General on field visit to earthquake zones in August 2024**

The Association of Social Workers, SHUDER, in Turkey, represented by Ramazan Yüksel, President of the Association, with support from İrem Coşansu Yalazan, presented a report about the support they have received in Turkey, both from IFSW Global and IFSW Europe. They extended their gratitude for the events IFSW Europe was able to organize to empower social workers in Turkey (like symposium, online trainings) and underline the importance of receiving support for countries that are affected by natural or man-made disasters.

Ruth Allen briefly presented the visit that herself, Rory Truell (General Secretary for IFSW Global) and Machiko Ohara (President of Asia-Pacific region) made to Turkey in August 2024.

The first day was closed after this presentation.

**11. IFSW Europe President’s report and introduction of framework for forward strategy and work plan**

Ruth introduced the Annual Report, circulated in the papers for the meeting, and talked through main content. The discussion on the forward strategy and work plan was deferred to the next day.

**Saturday, 26th October**

Ruth Allen opened the meeting.

Marianne, a student from Portugal presented a project done together in collaboration between National Association of Social Workers in Portugal (APSS) and the Movement of social work students (MESS).

Ruth Allen announced that two new people have joined the meeting today: Margareta Uttjek (Sweden) – Representative to the Indigenous Commission and Michael Rasell - coordinator of RESPONSIVE EU-funded project.

Proposal to have Michael Rasell in the room for the day:

* *Proposed: UK*
* *Seconded: Iceland*
* *Carried: unanimously*

**12. The work of IFSW E Representatives and Regional Commissioners, and proposals**

**Plenary introduction and group discussions**

The representatives in the room were invited to present themselves and their work shortly.

* Birthe Povlsen (Denmark) – Representative to EAPN and also member of the Executive Committee
* Geraldine Nosowska (UK) – Representative to International Psychogeriatric Association
* Josien Hofs (The Netherlands) – lead of eco-social project and member of the Executive Committee
* Margareta Uttjek (Sweden) – Representative to the Indigenous Commission
* Anna Deneher (Ireland) - Representative to Eurochild

Participants in the room chose one table of discussion. For the online participants Anna Deneher presented her work with Eurochild.

Ideas were gathered and the Executive Committee will include them in the next steps of working plan.

**13. The work of IFSW E Representatives and Regional Commissioners**

**Group discussions**

Second session of the day continued the focus on the work of representatives.

* Enric Torras (Austria) – FRA
* Kristine Evertz (Netherlands) - Human Right’s Network
* Ruth Allen (United Kingdom) – CINGO
* Herbert Paulischin – UN regional commission

This group discussed human rights.

* Nicolai Paulsen (Denmark) – Regional Education Commission
* Gabriele Stark – Angermeier (Germany)m– Global Ethics commission
* Omar Mohamed (United Kingdom) – New social workers group

Participants in the room chose one table of discussion. For the online participants Ruth Allen had a conversation related to her work in CINGO and in the Children’s Rights Steering Committee of Council of Europe.

Ideas were gathered and the Executive Committee will include them in the next steps of working plan.

**14. The RESPONSIVE Project: Presentation, discussion and interactive session**

Presentation was carried in the room by Michael Rassel, Ana Radulescu and Nicolai Paulsen.

Ana Radulescu spoke about the importance of having EU funded projects in IFSW Europe and how significant it is that IFSW Europe is part of a research project like RESPONSIVE.

Michael Rassel continued the presentation with updates from the project and share the research findings so far.

Project title: “Enhancing the responsiveness of social services to citizen voice across Europe”

Project aim: to study and enhance the responsiveness of social services to input from diverse citizens.

Four types of social services are in scope:

1.Services for persons with disabilities

2.Services for mental health

3.Child protection and family services

4.Services for young people at risk of social exclusion

Definition of “responsive social services” = organisations that learn and change their operations on the basis of input from people using their services.

11 project partners and 4 providers of social services

•2 NGOs

•2 local authorities

•1 NGO for training and evaluating social services

•5 universities

•International Federation of Social Workers –Europe

**Project update**

1. Legal, policy and organisational frameworks (2023)
2. Experiences of participation by people who use services (2023)
3. Activist, campaign and artistic perspectives (2024)
4. Practitioner and organisational perspectives (2024)
5. Innovations and pilot projects (2025)

**Recommendations for social service organisations**

1. Develop participation by people who use social services in core decision-making and governance structures.
2. Promote an organizational and professional culture that prioritises citizen participation, knowledge and co-creation
3. Conduct an internal review of how participation and user feedback are conceptualised, operationalised, gathered, distributed and utilised.
4. Publish feedback from users and responses from management.
5. Use proactive outreach and a range of participation formats to collect views from the full breadth of people using your service.
6. Provide understandable information about the functioning of the service and the professional practices implemented.
7. Allocate staff and financial resources for participation activities
8. Training for staff about working in participatory and dialogical ways
9. Support for citizens to act in participation and in voicing their needs and ideas
10. Create participatory structures within associations of social service directors and social work practitioners.

**Next important step with IFSW Europe’s involvement:**

**Survey of social services in Europe** –led by IFSW Europe

1. Aim: give a wider picture of factors shaping responsiveness in social services across Europe, including practice experiences. Online survey will go live November. Deadline: 20 December 2024. Open to all countries and types of social service. Expected result: approx. 4-6 responses from 18 EU countries, total n = 90.

The session ended with Nicolai Paulsen describing the next step of the project where IFSW Europe is co-lead. A draft of the survey was given to every person in the room, to test the questionnaire tool that IFSW Europe with partners from project have developed so far to be part of the research related to Practitioner and organisational perspectives about responsiveness.

**15. Reminder of election process on morning of Day 3**

All the papers for all of the executive nominees were uploaded online on the webpage. There will be votes for 3 members and 2 deputies, more explanations will be provided in the morning.

Each nominee will have 3 minutes to present themselves. Afterwards the votes will be carried out in the room. Approved proxy votes may also be used. The Tellers and the Election Officer will support the process from beginning to end.

Also, the on the last day, the Executive Committee will confirm the Representatives for IFSW Europe. CINGO needs representation. IFSW Europe are also looking for support members.

**16. Strategy and workplan 2024 – 2026**

**Plenary and Group Work**

Ruth Allen presented the DRAFT Strategic themes and proposed work priorities.

Some of the proposed themes are:

* Building stronger member associations
* Influencing European and national social work policies
* Developing and defending social work practices and identity
* Supporting and defending social workers at work
* Advocating within European and global bodies
* Lobbying and campaigning
* Improving internal and external communication
* Finances and business development
* IFSW Europe conference
* Plan for the future of IFSW and social work

Delegates were invited to have discussions in group for 15 minutes.

Key feedback from audience was: “it’s a good plan, maybe a little bit too ambitious but we do like to see interest in all areas. Maybe to add something about support to social workers that are working in war zones or in areas affected by natural disasters.”

“The themes need to be prioritized as the plan is too ambitious. Also, think of strategies to help members that are not that active in the organization.”

“The main points are clear but the description has to be clear enough to help engage to action. It’s important to establish a system that supports associations.”

People were invited to continue to reflect on this and sent comments to the Executive

The final version will be sent for an online vote of members early in 2025.

**17. Motion and proposals from the New Social Workers Project Group**

Omar Mohamed introduced the motion briefly. Together with the new social workers group they presented the main points of the motion:

This motion proposes an addition to the work programme under

“NEW PRIORITIES TO TAKE FURTHER” - “Investing in new social workers and building a network to sustain new talent in IFSW Europe”

* Promote New Social Workers on Regional and Global levels
	+ Define new social workers as students or those within 5 years of employment.
	+ Encourage involvement at local, regional, and global levels.
	+ Ensure new social workers are represented at Delegates Meetings and governance groups.
	+ Present a motion on their future at the 2026 General Meeting.
* Establish a New Social Workers Network
	+ Create a network for new social workers to share ideas, build leadership, and engage in projects.
	+ Election of a new social worker as Chair of the network through the network itself, who then is supported by an Executive Committee member.
	+ Include members nominated by associations and observers not yet affiliated with member organizations.
	+ Support project initiatives and funding applications.
* Support in developing a Policy Paper
	+ Draft a strategy for promoting new social workers, with input from the European Executive Committee.
	+ Discuss the paper at the 2025 Oslo conference, addressing issues like talent promotion, financing, and fostering an intergenerational ethos.

Feedback from the room was collected and also clarifications were made:

“How can the associations ensure that a new social worker gets involved with the Delegates Meetings? The New social worker group can offer support in doing so, promoting idea that at least an observer to the Delegates meeting is a new social worker.”

“As feedback, maybe not use the word talent – as we are promoting everyone in their work.” – “maybe use sustain new voices rather than the word talent.”

“The new social workers are invited to be part of the support groups.”

“This is an important challenge for IFSW Europe, the definition of new social worker is really comprehensive and also the suggestion to have at least one observer that is a new social worker is a good one and we have to go back to our association and see how we integrate this.”

“The Global supports the proposal also. There is a time when the older generation makes room to the new generation. An important question is: are our structures fit for the following generations?”

“All associations are challenged to include the new social workers as it is important and it’s really beautiful and good.”

“a reflection question: why separate the new social workers? – the associations should have the goal of involving young or new and find ways to make them part of structures.”

Proposal to accept the motion:

* *Proposed: Italy*
* *Seconded: Germany*
* *Carried: unanimously*

**SUNDAY, 27th October**

A few items were changed on the agenda for the day.

The day started with 2 short presentations from representatives to global commissions followed by a Legal body update.

Jane Shears (United Kingdom), Global Ethics Commissioner, made a short IFSW Ethics Commission update for IFSW Europe Delegates Meeting 2024.

Current workplan focus:

* Identify support teams in the regions – commission structure
* Partnership working with IFSW Commissions
* Partnership working with the Social Work Ethics Research Group
* IFSW research funded project on ethical issues in relations to digital working and AI in social work practice and education – University of Ljubljana lead
* Regional facilitated conversations
* Review and revise Statement of Ethics Principles

Priska Fleischlin (Switzerland), Global UN Commissioner, gave an update on the UN Global Commission work, in Geneva. A team of 5 social workers represents IFSW in Geneva. The work they do includes: approaching UN agencies to find collaboration, organize events (Human rights, Indigenous, Ethics), submit written statements focusing on specific Human rights issue, for example, bringing social work perspective to UN and representing IFSW Global and all its regions in relation to these topics.

**18. Presentation and approval of the revised high-level strategy and work programme 2024 – 2026**

The following topics were added to the discussion related to the Work programme for 2024-2026:

* Reference to a commitment to de-colonisation
* to establish an assessment tool to use inside IFSW Europe – for accountability and transparency.

The comments from the current meeting will be taken and put into a revised document before Christmas 2024. The document will be sent out for consultation, to incorporate any more feedback and comments. The proposal is to organize an online vote and/or organize a special Delegates meeting (an online meeting of about 1h30) to vote on it, sometime in January.

* *Proposed: Malta*
* *Seconded: Austria*
* *Carried: unanimously*

The current Delegates Meeting agrees to leave the finalization of the process to the Executive Committee:

* *Proposed: Ireland*
* *Seconded: Greece*
* *Carried: unanimously*

**19. Finance**

**Appointment of an independent auditor 2024**

IFSW European Executive was proposed to continue to work with same auditor that has carried out the IFSW Europe audit since 2020:

Steffen Jäger

Steuerberater/Tax Advisor

Unigarant Berlin GmbH

Steuerberatungsgesellschaft

Treuhandgesellschaft

Alexanderplatz 1

10178 Berlin

Homepage: <http://www.unigarant.de>

* *Proposed: United Kingdom*
* *Seconded: Azerbaidjan*
* *Carried: YES unanimously*

**Approval of the Budget 2025**

The proposed budget for 2025 must be finalised in relation to the Work Programme 2024-2026. The work plan and budget will be circulated and voted on online in early 2025.

Brian Auslander (Treasurer) notes that IFSW Europe accepts the membership numbers declared to IFSW Global to issue the separate IFSW Europe membership fee invoice (0,20 cents/member/country). There are some discrepancies with membership numbers being higher than declared by some members. The members were asked to be sure they update the Global membership numbers in January 2025. There will be no change in the IFSW Europe membership fee this year.

The majority of the budget is collected from membership fees with some money coming from external project funding. There is a need for a strategy to bring more money through projects in the future.

**Proposal:** The Honorary Secretary fee is proposed to go from 3000 Euro/year to 4000 Euro/year. Also, the support for organizing the Delegates Meeting was proposed to be raised from 3000 Euro/year to 5000 Euro/year.

**Proposal: Approval of the proposed Budget for 2025 will be finalized in early 2025 by online vote OR at a special online Delegates meeting organized all together with approving the Work Program 2024-2026.**

* *Proposed: Germany*
* *Seconded: Norway*
* *Carried: YES unanimously*

IFSW Europe membership fee – proposal to keep it at 0,20 cents/member/country

• Proposed: Germany

• Seconded: Denmark

• Carried: YES unanimously

**20. Election to the European Executive**

Presentation of the candidates

The candidates presented themselves and their motivation to being part of the Executive Team:

1. **Susanne Both (Denmark) – from Danish Association of Social Workers**
2. **Enric Torras (Austria) – from OBDS Austria**
3. **Lucía González López (Spain) – from Consejo General del Trabajo Social Spain**
4. **Kristine Evertz (Netherlands) – from BPSW, Netherlands**
5. **Monti Alessandro (Switzerland) – Avenir Social Professional Association of Social Workers**
6. **Paola Pontarello (Italy) – ASSNAS Italy**

The IFSW European Executive before elections of the Delegates meeting 2024:

President of IFSW European Region – Ruth Allen – United Kingdom (2024-2028)

Vice-president of IFSW European Region – Andreas Kikvik – Norway (2024-2026)

IFSW European Treasurer – Brian Auslander – Israel (2023 – 2025)

European Executive Committee Member – Paola Pontarollo - Italy (2022-2024) **- THIS POSITION WAS OPEN FOR ELECTION**

European Executive Committee Member – Josien Hofs – Netherlands (interim 2024) - **THIS POSITION WAS OPEN FOR ELECTION**

European Executive Committee Member – Birthe Povlsen – Denmark (interim 2024) - **THIS POSITION WAS OPEN FOR ELECTION**

The vacancies:

The Elections Officer confirmed:

i) There are three vacancies for members of the Executive and two vacancies for deputies. There are six nominations as reported at the start of the meeting. All the applications and personal CVs have been available online, on the Delegates meeting page: <https://www.ifsw.org/delegates-meeting/>

ii)A ballot paper per country was handed in the room with the names of the candidates

iii)each country was invited to vote for 3 candidates in the first round – 2 members elected for 2 years and the 3rd one for 1 year

iv)in the second-round (if necessary) people would vote for 2 deputies (mandate for 1 year each)

The nominations:

The IFSW Europe Election Officer was **Josien Hofs (Netherlands)** reported that the following people were nominated:

1. **Susanne Both (Denmark) – from Danish Association of Social Workers**
2. **Enric Torras (Austria) – from OBDS Austria**
3. **Lucía González López (Spain) – from Consejo General del Trabajo Social Spain**
4. **Kristine Evertz (Netherlands) – from BPSW Denmark**
5. **Monti Alessandro (Switzerland) – Avenir Social Professional Association of Social Workers**
6. **Paola Pontarello (Italy) – ASSNAS Italy**

**Voting was carried out on Sunday held on 27th October 2024.**

All voting members in the room or having provided an agreed proxy vote voted by secret paper ballot, collected and counted by the appointed Tellers. The process was overseen by the Appointed Elections Officer, Josien Hofs.

The election was finalized in one round according to IFSW Europe voting procedures

Josien Hofs – the Election Officer – presented the voting results

**Voting results for the Executive Members, Sunday 27th October 2024**:

Total votes: 22 countries voting, 1 country abstained.

**Susanne Both (Denmark) – 19 votes – accepted the member position for 2 years**

**Kristine Evertz (Netherlands) – 18 votes – accepted the member position for 2 years**

**Enric Torras (Austria) – 14 votes – accepted the member position for 1 year**

**Paola Pontarello (Italy) – 8 votes – accepted deputy position for 1 year**

**Lucía González López (Spain) – 7 votes – accepting deputy 1 year**

**Monti Alessandro (Switzerland) – no votes**

**FINAL RESULTS AFTER VOTING:**

Members elected for the Executive Committee:

1. **Susanne Both (Denmark)** – was elected as **member** of IFSW Europe Executive Committee for **2 years**
2. **Kristine Evertz (Netherlands) -** was elected as **member** of IFSW Europe Executive Committee for **2 years**
3. **Enric Torras (Austria) -** was elected as **member** of IFSW Europe Executive Committee for **1 year**

Deputies for the Executive Committee:

1. **Paola Pontarello (Italy)** – was elected as **deputy** for 1 year
2. **Lucía González López (Spain)** – was elected as **deputy** 1 year

The IFSW European Executive after the election process at Delegates meeting 2024:

PRESIDENT OF IFSW EUROPEAN REGION **– RUTH ALLEN (UNITED KINGDOM) (2024-2028)**

VICE-PRESIDENT OF IFSW EUROPEAN REGION **– ANDREAS KIKVIK (NORWAY) (2024-2026)**

IFSW EUROPEAN TREASURER **– BRIAN AUSLANDER (ISRAEL) (2023 – 2025)**

EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER - **Susanne Both (Denmark) (2024 – 2026)**

EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER - **Kristine Evertz (Netherlands) (2024 – 2026)**

EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER - **Enric Torras (Austria) (2024 – 2025)**

EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DEPUTY – **Paola Pontarello (Italy) (2024 – 2025)**

EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DEPUTY – **Lucía González López (Spain) (2024 – 2025)**

**21. Appointment of the representatives**

For each position of representative there was only 1 person expressing interest.

No new person came forward as main representative for CINGO. Ruth Allen agreed to continue until another representative came forward

Because of this no election was needed.

The updated list with IFSW Europe representatives is the following:

Birthe Povlsen – EAPN – REPRESENTATIVE

John Brennan – EAPN – SUPPORT MEMBER

John Brennan – ESP – REPRESENTATIVE

Birthe Povlsen - ESP – SUPPORT MEMBER

Enric Torras – EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) – REPRESENTATIVE

Ruth Allen – CINGO – REPRESENTATIVE

(Theresa Hofmann came forward as new support member CINGO)

Marcin Boryezko – Human Rights Network

Kristine Evertz – Human Rights Network

Ruth Allen - Human Rights Network

Anna Deneher – Eurochild – REPRESENTATIVE

Geraldine Nosowsaka – International Society for Ageing - REPRESENTATIVE

Regional representatives of Global Commissions:

* Gabriele Stark-Angermeier continues as the Regional Representative for the Ethics Global Commission
* Margaretha Uttjek continues as Regional Representative for the Indigenous Commission
* Herbert Paulischin is standing down as Regional Representative for the UN Global Commission – Geneva Office.
* Nicolai Paulsen is standing down as Regional Representative for the Education Global Commission

Hertbert and Nicolai were warmly thanked for all their work in their regional commission roles.

The Regional Representative roles for the UN and Education Commissions will be advertised as early as possible, once the new process for appointment has been agreed, under the new policy.

The ongoing representation of IFSW Europe in the UN Vienna office will be further discussed and decided upon in discussion with the UN Global Commissioner.

**Support teams for Representatives**

A full list of support team members will be confirmed and circulated after the meeting as not all were present in the meeting.

**22. IFSW European Conference 2025 – update**

IFSW European Conference on Social Work 2025 information:

**Date: 6-8 October 2025**

**Location: Oslo, Norway**

Theme of the conference: Green Social work

Climate change

UNs sustainability goals

Indigenous peoples’ perspectives

Website: [www.ifsw2025.no](http://www.ifsw2025.no)

Open Call for Paper presentations and Workshops will be launched at the beginning of December 2024.

**23. IFSW European Conference 2027 – Open the call for bids**

The official invitation has been launched. A formal call will be sent out via email to all member association.

**24. IFSW Delegates’ Meeting 2026 – Call for offers to host**

The official invitation has been launched. A formal call will be sent out via email to all member association.

**25. Legal body – update**

Herbert Paulschin (Austria) offered an update. In 2002 IFSW Europe decided to have a legal body, created a constitution and submitted in 2009, registered in the court in Berlin, at the time the Treasurer was from Germany and it made sense to combine with the bank account. And then things began to fall apart.

In 2017 IFSW Europe changed constitution but no update has been made to the court since 2012. 5-6 years ago, the Executive started to repair but there are still lots of updates to do to the court and lots of papers to be submit. The court has issues in understand IFSW structures (as there are 2 levels Global and Europe)

They had 3 requests:

-an official recognition of Ana Radulescu’s signature, legalized through a notarium from Romania

-articles of the associations - the 2012 constitution was not accepted and IFSW Europe has to go back to the 2009 constitution and make amendments to that one

-repair some of the minutes (going back to 2020) – adding not only names but also the name of the association for example.

To update the elections for President and Vice President which are made at the Global level, IFSW Europe will organize a special Delegates meeting during the General meeting of the Global and consider that official, recording meetings and translate that part to update on the legal body.

The work on this will continue further on, with the support of Herbert.

**27. Any other business**

The 3 late items that were accepted unanimously on the first day to be part of the agenda for Delegates meeting 2024 were presented shortly during this last session.

1. [Late item from Hungarian association – the significance of a common vocabulary for SW in Europe](https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Late-item-from-Hungarian-association-the-significance-of-a-common-vocabulary-for-SW-in-Europe.pdf).

It was agreed with the proposer this would be discussed at a subsequent meeting of the proposer and members of the Europe Executive and may be brought back to the next Delegates’ Meeting.

1. Late item Manifesto For a European pact on Migration and asylum (Irish and Spain motion combined) – the motion was agreed with the proposers to be the first paragraph of the paper. All of the points are recognized as being important.

Adoption of the motion (first paragraph being the motion):

* *Proposed: Ireland*
* *Seconded: Spain*
* *Carried: YES unanimously*
1. [Late item IFSW proposal regarding support for Romani and Traveller issues and social work](https://www.ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Late-item-IFSW-proposal-regarding-support-for-Romani-and-Traveller-issues-and-social-work.pdf). – it will go back for consideration to the Executive Committee.

Thanks to all participants for a successful and productive Delegates’ Meeting

**CLOSE OF MEETING**