

Region: IFSW Europe for IFSW General Meeting 2022

Country Members of the region

IFSW Europe consist of 34 active countries:

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|-------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| 1. Armenia | 13. France | 25. Moldova |
| 2. Austria | 14. Georgia | 26. Netherlands |
| 3. Azerbaijan | 15. Germany | 27. Poland |
| 4. Belarus | 16. Greece | 28. Portugal |
| 5. Belgium | 17. Hungary | 29. Romania |
| 6. Bulgaria | 18. Iceland | 30. Russian Federation |
| 7. Croatia | 19. Ireland | 31. Spain |
| 8. Cyprus | 20. Israel | 32. Sweden |
| 9. Czech Republic | 21. Italy | 33. Switzerland |
| 10. Denmark | 22. Kosovo | 34. Turkey |
| 11. Faroe Island | 23. Luxembourg | 35. United Kingdom |
| 12. Finland | 24. Malta | |

The following countries are not active yet in the IFSW European activities: Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia republic of North, Monaco, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine.

Names, countries, and positions of the Executive

Ana RĂDULESCU (Romania) – President

John BRENNAN (Ireland) – Vice president

Member of Executive:

Brian Auslander (Israel) – Treasurer

Josien HOFES (Netherlands)

Birthe Povlsen (Denmark)

Rubén Masía Martínez (Spain)

Deputy Members

First Deputy Member

Paola Pontarollo (Italy)

Second Deputy Member

Fjolla Mucaj (Kosovo)

IFSW European Honorary Secretary

Teodora DOBRE (Romania)

Name, countries of the representatives in the different commissions

- Representative to European Social Platform - John Brennan (Ireland)
- Representative to INGO / Council of Europe – Ruth Allen (UK)
- European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) – Graça ANDRÉ (Portugal)
- European Anti-Poverty Network - Birthe Povlsen (Denmark)
- United Nation, Geneva – Swetha RAO DHANANKA (Switzerland)

- United Nation, Vienna – Herbert PAULISCHIN (Austria)
- Eurochild - Anna Deneher (Ireland)
- International Psychogeriatric Association (IPA) - John Brennan (Ireland)
- IFSW Global Education Commission - Nicolai PAULSEN (Denmark)
- IFSW Global Ethic Commissions - Jane SHEARS (United Kingdom)
- IFSW Global Human Rights - Marcin BORYCZKO (Poland)
- IFSW Global Indigenous Committee - Margareta UTTJEK (Sweden)

In January 2022, all IFSW Europe Representatives met online with the IFSW European Executive. From the meeting a webinar was planned (see below).

[New members this year](#)

No new members

[Report on the Regional Delegates Meeting](#)

IFSW Europe held its Delegates Meeting online, on 8-11 October 2021. Member organisation from 28 countries were represented.

We plan to hold a Delegates Meeting in Berlin in October 2022. The meeting will be held in a hybrid format.

[Report on the Regional Conference](#)

The conference took place online, on 11-13 October 2021.

<http://ifsw2021.eu/>

We already start to prepare the next IFSW European Conference in 2023 in Prague.

[Report on General Activities and Achievements during the period in the Region](#)

In 2020-2021, IFSW Europe had a number of main priorities for actions:

1. However, in 2022, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent war there led to unprecedented activity by social workers in the region. Social workers are working at the borders with Ukraine to support the thousands of refugees that have fled the war. This work continues at the borders and in those many countries receiving these refugees.

The IFSW European Executive set up an on-line fund-raising facility to help support social workers who are working at the borders with Ukraine. Many of these social workers are volunteering to work at the borders. To-date, we have received €26,000 and pledges of donations from a number of IFSW member organisations.

2. Strengthened participation in key EU processes and dialogue with decision-makers
IFSW Europe was active in the following groups:

- Social Platform Task Force on Social Services Paper: The drafting of the Platform's paper on Social Services, 'Quality Social Services for All', was finalised and was ratified at the Social Platform General Assembly. Given the centrality of social services to social work, we played a strong role in developing this policy paper. It was adopted by the Platform in 2021.

- Social Platform Task Force on EU's Long-Term Care Report: The Task Force which was given a very short period to respond the EU Social Protection Committee draft 'Long Term Care Report'. Participated in preparing a Platform response. The SP made a written submission and made an oral presentation following publication of the EU Commission's final Report in June 2021.
- Social Platform Task Force on Minimum Wages: This Task Force finalised the 'Social Platform position on Adequate Minimum Wages in the European Union' which was ratified earlier this year. Birthe Paulsen (Denmark) led on this topic for IFSW Europe.
- IFSW Europe Social Pillar Working Group (WG): Influencing the action-plan on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights was the core focus during the year. The IFSW Europe Working Group drafted a template for IFSW Europe's national member organisations and this work is on-going. We contributed an IFSW Europe position paper on the EU Commission's EPSR's Action Plan Consultation 'Have your say on reinforcing Social Europe'

3. Continue cooperation with European institutions and networks

We continued our cooperation with European Institutions and Networks. IFSW Europe continue to work with 6 European Institutions and Networks for which we had a team of 12 people from 7 countries.

We also had cooperation with European Social Network and Association of School of Social Workers, as well as with WHO European Centre for Primary Health Care (organising an ONLINE Webinar: "Shaping the Future of PHC: What do young professionals have to say? On 23 June 2021).

4. We continue our activity at the IFSW Global

We continued our representation at the global level:

- Education Commission
- Global Human Rights Commission
- Global Permanent Committee on Ethics
- Indigenous Commission

5. Create diverse learning space where we, as the social workers network, become stronger.

Webinars:

- ONLINE MEETING: IFSW Europe - Internal Communication Webinar, 28 April 2021.

Topics:

- EU Commission's Action Plan (AP) - The European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) - Update on other documents and actions relevant for social workers in Europe

- ONLINE MEETING: Age assessment – tools used by social workers in age determination of unaccompanied migrant children
3th March 2021; Konstantina Kranou (Greece)

- ONLINE MEETING: Adequate Minimum Wages
10th of March 2021; Birthe Povlsen and John Brennan
- ONLINE MEETING: "The Young Social Workers Agenda for the Future of Social Work" March 15, 2021. Moderator: Omar Mohamed. Support provided by Herbert Paulischin
- ONLINE MEETING: IFSW European webinar - IFSW Europe work at the Council of Europe's INGO, 25 May 2021.
Speakers: Gerhard Ermischer - President of the Council of Europe's INGO; Ruth Allen – IFSW European Representative at Council of Europe's INGO and Member of Conference of INGOs Standing Committee.
The focus of the webinar:
 - - social workers contribution to the decision-making process at the Council of Europe's INGO
 - - and to the implementation of Council of Europe's INGO programmes thus ensuring their relevance to social workers and social services.
- ONLINE MEETING: Helping each other in a populist political environment 29 June 2021.
Gerry Nosowska (UK); David Jones (UK).
- ONLINE MEETING: 18 March 2022 Eurocarers' webinar on the 'Together Project: A Whole Family Approach for Young Carers'. John Brennan participated on behalf of IFSW

5. Communications - We promoted the diverse work of our members through events celebrated Work Social Work Day 2021

- WSWD 2021: 16th March 2021: Ubuntu: I am Because We are – Strengthening Social Solidarity and Global Connectedness
- At the European level, we celebrated in 2021, together with the partners:
WEBINAR: "TIME TO DELIVER ON SOCIAL EUROPE!" 18 MARCH 2021, Social Platform
- WEBINAR: Impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of Professional Care Workers and strategies to address these needs, International Psychogeriatric Association (IPA) and Global Ageing Network, 11 March 2021
- WEBINAR: "THE YOUNG SOCIAL WORKERS AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE OF SOCIAL WORK", 15 March 2021
- WSWD 2022: 15th March 2022: Because of the war in the Ukraine the planned webinar 'Ubuntu: I am Because We are – Strengthening Social Solidarity and Global Connectedness' was cancelled and instead a webinar 'Voices from the Borders' was arranged to hear from social workers in Ukraine and at the borders speak about their experiences and tell us what way we can meaningfully help
IFSW Europe also participated in an EU Commission webinar on responses to the war in the Ukraine
- WEBINAR : 29th March 2022: Ethics research on social work practice during Covid-19. This webinar was coordinated by Jane Shears, IFSW Global Ethic Commissions Representative

- A Webinar on social work, climate change and environmental sustainability was to be held in early 2022, but this was postponed because of the war in the Ukraine. It is proposed to have this webinar soon
 - Europe was extremely active with almost all countries organizing their own event. The Executive members have been invited to participate in national events. Due to COVID, these activities could take part online. Nevertheless, the existing restrictions on traveling could not stop us to meet around the continent, to share our experiences and to support each other.
6. Continue our projects at the European level

IFSW Europe is running 3 projects funded by IFSW Global:

- a. IFSW European Project 2018-2021 – European Pillar of Social Rights
- b. IFSW European Project – A Social Europe Is Possible! The New Generation of Social Workers
- c. Identify the threats to human rights in relation to the delivery of social services during the covid-19 pandemic and social workers response (2022-2024)

7. Publications

IFSW EUROPE POSITION PAPER ON THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS' ACTION PLAN

<https://www.ifsw.org/ifsw-europe-position-paper-on-the-european-pillar-of-social-rights-action-plan/>

Key Planned Activities and Events for 2022

1. COMMUNICATION

- 1.1. Increase Online Visibility - Knowledge sharing – organise webinars and publish about the activities of our member organisation
- 1.2. Increase Internal Communications - Increase the contribution of member organization to the activity of IFSW Europe Representatives;
- 1.3. Increase communication with IFSW Europe partners - Ensure continuity between IFSW Representatives and our partners;

2. FINANCE

- 2.1. Prepare applications for external funds and access external resources for specific activities;
- 2.2. Ensure efficient management of IFSW Europe finances;

3. MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- 3.1. Support member organizations to develop more active arrangements for mutual support and development, such as monthly webinars for our members to facilitate sharing and learning;
- 3.2. Develop social work professional networks for peer support and learning;

4. IFSW EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

- 4.1. Provide the necessary support to members for organizing IFSW conferences in 2023. We have expressions of interest from two member countries

5. IFSW Representatives

- 5.1. Engage social workers in the work of IFSW Europe and to represent us in contact with our partners;
- 5.2. Ensure coordination between the IFSW Europe agenda and the activities of IFSW Europe representatives. To help achieve this aim, set up a facility via the Executive Committee for all Representatives to meet periodically to coordinate activities and plans.

6. NETWORKING AND LOBBYING

- 6.1. Engage with EU institutions (including the EU Commission and Parliament), UN, Council of Europe and the other networks in Europe to further the voice of social work;

7. THE SOCIAL WORK DAY 2022

- 7.1. Create and promote all over Europe common key messages within the Global Agenda theme of 2022;

8. RELATIONS WITH IFSW GLOBAL

- 8.1. Ensure IFSW Europe representation to the IFSW Global Commissions;
- 8.2. Contribute to the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development process
- 8.3. Engage in the Eco-social Summit

9. POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL ACTIONS

- 9.1. Develop policy statements that reflect the priorities of IFSW Europe member organisations;
- 9.2. Develop IFSW Europe documentation/information packs on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights to support member organisations in advocating for its full implementation.
- 9.3. Explore and develop positions on the growth of populism and other threats to human rights for the practice of social work and our role in promoting social justice
- 9.4. Identify the threats to human rights implicit in some national policies in relation to the delivery of social services during the covid-19 pandemic
- 9.5. Set up a consultation mechanism to define 'social services' from an IFSW Europe perspective. Definition to be brought to the next Delegates meeting for ratification.
- 9.6. Participate in the 2022 Poverty Watch Survey coordinated by EAPN

10. ENSURE AN EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF THE PROJECTS

- 10.1. IFSW European Project (2018) – European Pillar of Social Rights
- 10.2. IFSW European Project (2020) – A Social Europe is possible! The new generation of social workers
- 10.3. IFSW European Project (2022)– Identify the threats to human rights in relation to the delivery of social services during the covid-19 pandemic and social workers response

11. NEW PRIORITIES TO TAKE FURTHER

- 11.1. Green Social Work & Climate Change
- 11.2. International Collaborative Social Work Learning

11.3 Engage in the IFSW project on working conditions and to disseminate the findings with particular reference to the European context'

IFSW European Delegates Meeting decided that in 2022 we will organise a face-to-face meeting in Berlin, Germany in October.