



PROFILE AND CURRICULUM VITAE OF NOMINEE

This profile and Curriculum Vitae is an IFSW Bylaws requirement and informs voting members of your experience and abilities for the position. It also provides valuable information for the IFSW office. By completing and signing it you are agreeing to be a nominee for this position. Please ensure that the completed form is no longer than five (5) pages using a Times New Roman 12 font and with margins no smaller than 0.75 cm on each side.

IFSW Position to which you seek nomination

IFSW Europe Regional Vice President, International Federation of Social Workers

Candidate's Name and Country

Alessandro Monti, Switzerland

Social Work and Other Educational Qualifications (include institution and date)

- Certificate of proficiency in business administration, Frauenfeld / Bern, 1968
- Bachelor in Social Work, University of Applied Sciences for Social Work, Zurich, October 1993 (Insigni cum laude);
- Masters in Sociology, University of Basle, February 1995 (Insigni cum laude); inclusive studies in ethnology.
- PhD in Sociology and philosophical pedagogics, University of Basle, April 2018 (Insigni cum laude)
- Practical Instructor, University of Applied Sciences for Social Work, Berne; January 2014
- Part of Certificate of Advanced Studies CAS; Specialises in international protection, Bern University of Applied Sciences, December 2018

Professional Affiliations

- German teacher and carer by Asylum organization for the canton of Zurich (November and December 1993)
- Social Worker in the City of Zurich (Various functions) from 1994 – 2007;
- Head of Section in Federal Office of Justice, Bern from 2007 – 2014;
- Head of Section in the Consular Directorate for the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Bern (from 1.5.2015 – 1.6.2020 Head of Section, after Reorganization of Consular Directorate new Senior Advisor for the Directorate until today.
- Lecturer at the University of Applied Sciences for Pedagogic, Zurich, March 2004 – April 2005;
- Representative of the Zurich University of Applied Sciences in the Specialised Conference on Social Work of the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences (SASSA) as a Member of the “International Affairs Commission”; for 2001-2005;
- President of the Education and Research Commission of Swiss Social Welfare Switzerland (2014-2016)

Professional Leadership Experience over the past decade

From 2007 – 2020; Head of Section in Federal Office of Justice and Head of Section in the Consular Directorate in the Foreign Affairs (responsible for supporting Swiss nationals living abroad with social assistance)

National Association and Leadership Experience over the past decade

- Representative of the Zurich University of Applied Sciences in the Specialised Conference on Social Work of the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences (SASSA) as a Member of the “International Affairs Commission”; for 2001-2005;
- President of the Education and Research Commission of Swiss Social Welfare Switzerland (2014-2016)
- Member of the International Commission of the Swiss Association of Social Workers (AvenirSocial) since 2016

Community / Volunteer and Leadership Experience over the past decade

Note: Both functions were nationally orientated as well as voluntary work:

- Representative of the Zurich University of Applied Sciences in the Specialised Conference on Social Work of the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences (SASSA) as a Member of the “International Affairs Commission”; for 2001-2005;
- President of the Education and Research Commission of Swiss Social Welfare Switzerland (2014-2016)

Are you aware of the description, role and responsibilities attached to the position you wish to have within the IFSW Executive?

Yes, I am very aware of the task and the expectations. I have studied the Position Requirement, the Terms of Office and the Position Duties and Responsibilities. If you compare your description with my professional experience and my studies, you will find that there are many similarities.

I am fully aware of the task at hand and the expectations that come with it. Having thoroughly reviewed the Position Requirement, the Terms of Office, and the Position Duties and Responsibilities, I am confident in my understanding of what is required. Upon comparing the outlined criteria with my professional experience and academic background, it is evident that there are numerous similarities. This alignment reinforces my belief that my qualifications uniquely position me to fulfill the role effectively, leveraging my expertise to meet and exceed the outlined expectations.

If the answer is YES, please respond to the following questions:

a) What are the three most important responsibilities towards IFSW:

The responsibilities towards the IFSW are manifold. In trying to circle the three most important issues, I would name the following: 1. The good reputation of the IFWS is of particular importance (publicity); 2. The ethical principles of the IFWS are of fundamental importance. In addition, there is the orientation towards human rights; 3. These principles always guide our work at IFSW and they should be at the forefront of our co-operation with all colleagues and institutions and serve as a guideline in our daily work.

b) **What are the three most important responsibilities towards your Region:**

- Raise awareness about how national cooperation must also be reflected at a European level; the different professional organizations must work well together. The internal perspective of social work is in international interaction. Today's crises can only be solved by sharing tasks on an equal footing. Social work has social problems and how to address and overcome them as its object.
- Raise awareness that social work has a legitimate function to fulfil within society, both at national and European level.
- Our own profession as well as our own scientific approach are based on an ethical foundation. This is universal and thus combines the national and international dimensions.

c) What are the three most important responsibilities towards your national association?

- To illustrate the international dimension of social work to the national association using the example of the work of the European association;
- To raise awareness of the subsidiarity of solving social problems: Should it be tackled at national or European level?

- Organize educational events in your own country to raise awareness of the international dimension of social work.

Please demonstrate:

- Commitment to the goals of IFSW as laid down in the Constitution

In brief, I am committed to the following principles of the IFSW: Social Justice, Human Rights, Shared Responsibility and Respect for Diversity. These views should be based on social work theory and draw on other knowledge from the human and social sciences, as well as indigenous knowledge. After my studies in ethnology, I consider this last knowledge to be particularly important.

- Possession of language(s) capabilities (preferably bilingual)

I have a very good command of both German and Italian. I also have skills in French. I will undoubtedly have to deepen my knowledge of English with studies if I am offered the honourable position at the IFSW. I am a Swiss citizen as well as an Italian national. As a child of migrant workers, I am particularly aware of their special role as a minority in a state.

- Identification with the region you represent, mainly by residence, work experiences, and knowledge of the main language(s) spoken in the region

I identify with the region I represent, especially through my place of residence, my professional experience and my knowledge of the main language(s) spoken. Because I am related to Italy, I also feel deeply connected to this country. I have work experience in Germany, Italy, France and especially in England / London. My wife is Japanese. So I also know a culture that is non-European. But I can also recognise the similarities between the cultures, as well as the culture-specific aspects.

- Practical wisdom and objective interest in international affairs

I had the pleasure of organising an event in my village. The guest was Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker. The exchange with this personality deepened my affinity for the international. He was co-president of the Club of Rome. My sociological studies made me realise the interconnectedness of the world. My political role model is Helmut Schmidt, the former German Chancellor, who introduced the topic of globalisation into the debate at a very early stage. Today's crises, the pandemic, poverty, war and climate change have greatly expanded our view of the world as a whole. Europe has an important role to play in today's world, not least on the basis of its values, such as the welfare state, democracy and the rule of law.

- Willingness and capacity to devote time to assume work responsibilities in the Executive or Regional Committee

I will retire in September 2024. I am in good health and in good mental shape. Many people at this age have great responsibility and are able to fulfil it - think of Joe Biden, Olaf Scholz and Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker. I am also planning to write an academic thesis on the philosophical foundations of social work. This work will help me to reflect on practice. To this end, I am working with the Academy of Humanities and Social Sciences in the Social Work working about the theory of social work.

- Ability, in so far as possible, to attend Executive or Regional Committee meetings

I worked at the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. I was head of the section for social assistance for our fellow citizens abroad. Our consular service supports our citizens worldwide. During my work I travelled abroad. This is an activity I am used to.

- Participation, so far as possible, as delegate of the General Meeting or attendance at IFSW Conferences

My time resources are available. I have the opportunity to take part in events. This is absolutely compatible with my current life situation.

- Any other information relevant to your nomination

Our profession still suffers from feelings of inadequacy. This circumstance is understandable from the history of the social work profession and also has to do with the fact that the subject of social work has little prestige. It is important to me to work against this basic attitude and to show that social work is a science. However, it is essential to promote awareness of social work and show that it has a lot to offer on issues of poverty and social justice. It combines interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity in a unique way. And it has role models in Nobel Prize winner Jane Adams. I consider it an honourable task to help the IFSW realise its own concerns as well as the aforementioned tasks in a prosperous Europe, and I would like to play my part in this.

Signature and Date

7.2.2024 Bern



Alessandro Monti