



INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR COMMUNITY WELLNESS

APRIL 30TH - MAY 3RD 2026
CHISINAU, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA





CONGRESS IN NUMBERS

- 4 days
- 100+ participants
- 4 major social work associations: IFSW, IFSW Europe, EASSW, Eurasia Forum of Social Work
- 27 speakers
- 16 international speakers
- 11 national speakers
- 13 countries represented
- 4 major venues / community spaces
- 3 strategic directions for follow-up

COUNTRIES:

Moldova, Romania, Switzerland, Germany, Poland, Italy, India, Slovenia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Russia, Belarus, USA.



ICCW 2026

ORGANIZERS AND PARTNERS

ORGANIZERS:

- National Association of Social Workers in Moldova
- AO Project Casa Mare
- Youth Club for Social Entrepreneurship
- Vocational Rehabilitation Center for Mentally Ill "VRC Moldova"

PARTNERS:

- Free International University of Moldova / ULIM
- European Association of Schools of Social Work / EASSW
- International Federation of Social Workers / IFSW
- IFSW Europe
- Eurasian Forum of Social Work

MOLDOVA AS A SPACE FOR INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK DIALOGUE

It was a particular honour for the Congress to welcome high-level representatives of EASSW, IFSW, and IFSW Europe. Their presence strengthened the international relevance of the event and positioned Moldova as an emerging space for dialogue on social work education, professional development, community wellbeing, and social solidarity.

In this sense, ICCW 2026 also served as an important moment of professional anticipation and regional reflection ahead of the Joint Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development, which will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, on 26–29 June 2026, under the theme “Harambee for Sustainable Shared Futures.”



**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF SOCIAL WORKERS**



**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF SOCIAL WORKERS EUROPE**



**EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOLS OF SOCIAL WORK**

April 30th 2026 WELCOME DINNER at the International House Moldova Lounge

The Congress opened with a welcome dinner at the International House Moldova Lounge, bringing together international guests, national speakers, organizers, and institutional partners in an informal yet meaningful setting. This initial gathering provided an important opportunity for networking, dialogue, and relationship-building, establishing a collaborative atmosphere for the academic and professional exchanges that followed throughout the Congress.



May 1st 2026
CONGRESS DAY 1
at the Free International University of Moldova



Opening Ceremony

- The Opening Ceremony, which set the stage for an international dialogue on the future of community wellness, with contributions from representatives of **ULIM, ANEASM, IFSW, IFSW Europe, EASSW, and the Eurasian Forum of Social Work.**

Keynote Address

- The keynote address by **Pascal Rudin, Interim Secretary-General of IFSW**, focused on rebuilding collective wellbeing, justice, and resilience in a fragmented world.

Introductory Plenary Sessions

- Featuring presentations on the Community Wellness Model, Dialectical Social Expertise, and rural tourism as a model of social entrepreneurship.

Community Wellbeing, Mental Health, and Social Toxicities

- The cluster explored youth resilience, anxiety and depression, community-based support, innovative interventions, and the strengthening of families facing vulnerability.

May 1st 2026 RITES OF SPRING FESTIVAL at Moldovan Village Buciumul



As part of the **International Congress for Community Wellness 2026**, the **Rites of Spring Festival** created a vibrant space for cultural exchange, creativity, and community engagement.

The festival brought together artists, cultural organizations, local initiatives, international guests, families, and community members through artistic performances, workshops, an artisan fair, cultural presentations, and shared spring traditions.

Beyond its cultural program, the festival highlighted the important role of heritage, art, and intercultural dialogue in strengthening social cohesion, fostering a sense of belonging, and promoting collective wellbeing.

May 2nd 2026 CONGRESS DAY 2 at the Free International University of Moldova

The second day of the ICCW 2026 continued with academic discussions, international exchange, and reflections on the future of social work and social expertise.

The program addressed **key themes** such as innovative social education, community-led research, social entrepreneurship, digital social protection, migration, rural vulnerability, ageing, and the impact of crises on vulnerable groups.

The day opened with greetings from **representatives of national social work associations from Moldova, Italy, Russia, Belarus, Slovenia, and Azerbaijan**, emphasizing professional solidarity and international cooperation.

Key contributions included the presentation by **Mariusz Granosik, Vice-President of EASSW**, on community assistance and community-led research, as well as the interactive workshop led by Michael Trödel on democratic courage and youth engagement.

Overall, Day 2 strengthened professional dialogue, networking, and cooperation between participants, universities, civil society organizations, and international partners.



May 2nd 2026 CĂRBUNA STUDY VISIT Carbuna Voievodship in Ialoveni District

From Theory to Community Practice: Cărbuna as a Living Model

The visit to Cărbuna offered participants an opportunity to experience community wellness beyond the conference room. Through the Castle of Sf. Ilie and the Cellar Pestera Balaurului, participants engaged with rural heritage, local entrepreneurship, cultural memory, and the potential of villages to become spaces of social innovation and community regeneration. They met the local mayor Constantin Cecoi, a social worker by education, who presented how he is implementing the Community Wellness Model in the village of Carbuna.



May 3rd 2026

CONGRESS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS IN MOLDOVA at the Free International University of Moldova

The final day of the ICCW 2026 was dedicated to the National Congress of NASWM and focused on the current challenges and development perspectives of the social work system in the Republic of Moldova and brought together representatives of academia, public institutions, professional organizations, and local communities.

The day opened with official remarks from **Vadim Țărnă, Vice-President of NASWM**, and **Mariana Lucinschi, President of NASWM**, followed by an introductory plenary session featuring research on social assistance services in Moldova and the Community Wellness Model.

The thematic panels explored four complementary dimensions of “ecology”: **Traditional Ecology** — cultural heritage, identity, and social cohesion; **Natural Ecology** — rural environmental issues and their social impact; **Technocratic Ecology** — digitalization, wellbeing, and social relations; **Bureaucratic Ecology** — social assistance reform, institutional change, and community development.

The Congress concluded with a final reflection session, reaffirming the need for an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to community wellness and the importance of collaboration between professionals, institutions, academia, and civil society in building more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable communities in Moldova.



NASWM STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES AFTER ICCW 2026

Strengthening Social Work Education and Continuous Professional Learning

- NASWM will continue to promote continuous professional education through advanced learning opportunities, MSW-level programs, and specialized training modules developed in cooperation with universities and international partners.

Reconnecting Rural Communities, Ecology, and Youth Engagement

- A key priority is to support rural development through Community Wellness Model and Răut Sacrum project.
- Promote environmental education, youth engagement, and actions aimed at increasing the attractiveness and sustainability of rural communities
- Encouraging and motivating young families to return or move to rural areas by creating stronger opportunities for community life, local development, and long-term wellbeing.

Building Professional Solidarity and Collective Empowerment

- NASWM aims to strengthen the professional community of social workers in Moldova by promoting advocacy, collaboration, mutual support, and a stronger collective voice between practitioners, academia, public institutions, and civil society.