



## PROFILE AND CURRICULUM VITAE OF NOMINEE

### **IFSW Position to which you seek nomination**

IFSW President

### **Candidate's Name and Country**

**Ana RĂDULESCU**

Romania

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

- PhD in Sociology (University of Bucharest, 2004)
- Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Theology (University of Bucharest, 1995)
- Certified Trainer (2007)
- Certified Evaluator of Professional Skills (National Authority for Qualifications, 2012)

### **Professional Affiliations**

- International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) – Member; former President of IFSW Europe (2019–2024); former Global Vice-President and member of the Global Executive
- ASproAS (Professional Association of Social Workers, Romania) – General Director
- University of Bucharest – Associate Professor, Faculty of Sociology and Social Work
- Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Romania – Former Advisor to the Minister (social policy and legislation); contributed to the development of social policies and legislation in the field of social services
- Collaboration with the European Social Network on the development of country reports for the European Semester of the European Commission, the Crisis Management Framework for Social Services, and the European Social Services Index
- Collaboration with the World Bank on social policy development and system-level reform initiatives.

### **Professional Leadership Experience over the past decade**

With over 30 years of professional experience, my leadership has focused on strengthening social services and the social work profession in a context of increasing complexity, pressure, and evolving needs, with particular emphasis on social services reform and responsiveness, crisis and disaster response, workforce development and mental health, and policy development at European and international level.

As President of IFSW Europe (2019–2024), and as a member of the Global Executive and Global Vice-President (2021–2023), I have played a central role in shaping the strategic direction of the federation at regional level and contributing to its global positioning.

I have consistently brought the realities of social work practice into European and global discussions, ensuring that the experience of professionals and services is reflected in policy and strategic dialogue. This has included engagement with the European Commission, contributions to the European Pillar of Social Rights, and involvement in international initiatives related to human rights, extreme poverty, and the recognition of the profession.

I have also contributed to the development of frameworks supporting social services in responding to crises and increasing pressure, including work at European level within the European Social Network.

### **National Association and Leadership Experience over the past decade**

In my role as General Director of ASproAS, I have been directly involved in strengthening the national association and supporting the development and recognition of the social work profession in Romania, while maintaining active connections with social workers organisations in other regions.

My work is closely connected to practice, working directly with social work practitioners and services to support their daily activity under increasing demand, workforce pressure, and mental health challenges. This has included organising professional activities, facilitating dialogue, and creating spaces for reflection, learning, and peer support.

I have also ensured that the national association remains connected to international developments, bringing relevant perspectives into national practice and supporting meaningful participation in professional dialogue. In Romania, I organise the National Conference in Social Work (19th edition in 2026), bringing together social workers from different fields and countries in a shared space for exchange and learning.

At the same time, I have been directly involved in crisis and disaster response, supporting social workers working with communities affected by emergencies and people displaced by war. This work has required coordination, rapid response, and close collaboration with social work practitioners on the ground.

### **Community/Volunteer and Leadership Experience over the past decade**

My community and volunteer work has been closely linked to disaster and crisis response, where I have been directly involved in supporting affected communities.

Through my work with ASproAS, I have worked alongside social workers in the field, mobilising and guiding social work practitioners to provide timely and relevant support in emergency situations. This has involved both direct engagement and coordination, linking professional knowledge with immediate community needs.

I have also supported responses to displacement caused by war, working with social workers and services to address urgent and complex situations.

Beyond emergency contexts, my work has focused on developing community-based responses and strengthening professional practice. This includes supporting the transition of newly graduated social workers into the labour market, as well as practitioners working in prisons, disability services, services for older people, and domestic violence.

I have led teams of social workers in developing practical procedures across different areas of practice, including disaster response, support for displaced persons, mental health and oncology settings, multidisciplinary teams in community centres, and services for victims of domestic violence. This work has focused on creating practical tools grounded in real experience, to support social work practitioners in complex contexts.

In addition, I have contributed to the development of community initiatives, including building community centres that provide integrated support for people experiencing poverty, with a focus on social inclusion and labour market activation.

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

**YES:**

**NO:**

**X**

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

- a) What are the three most important responsibilities towards IFSW:
- To uphold and actively promote the core values of IFSW—human rights, social justice, and professional dignity—by ensuring they are consistently reflected in practice, decision-making, and public positioning, particularly in a context of austerity and increasing pressure on services and professionals.
  - To strengthen IFSW as a credible and influential global voice by clearly articulating the realities facing social services today—including austerity, mental health challenges, and workforce pressure—while ensuring greater attention to the wellbeing of professionals and amplifying the voices of people with lived experience.
  - To contribute to coherent, transparent, and responsible governance by ensuring decision-making is inclusive, accountable, and grounded in practice, while modelling the standards IFSW promotes and supporting the meaningful participation of people with lived experience in decision-making processes.
- b) What are the three most important responsibilities towards your Region:
- To represent the diversity of the region while promoting shared values of human rights and professional standards, acknowledging differences across countries while maintaining a common professional foundation.
  - To strengthen national associations and support their capacity to respond to increasing pressures on social services—including workforce challenges, mental health needs, and the sustainability of the profession—by reinforcing organisational capacity, improving access to resources, and expanding their activities and influence.
  - To facilitate collaboration and mutual support within the region by encouraging the exchange of practice, solidarity, and joint initiatives between associations, building on this priority from my time as President of IFSW Europe and strengthening it in a more consistent and structured way.
- c) What are the three most important responsibilities towards your national association?
- To strengthen the national association as a key actor in representing and protecting the profession, including advocacy for social workers, strengthening professional standards, and improving service quality.
  - To ensure a meaningful connection between IFSW and the national level by bringing international priorities closer to practice and supporting active engagement in global processes.
  - To promote access to international knowledge, collaboration, and opportunities, supporting the development and visibility of the profession at national level.

**Please demonstrate:**

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

Over time, I have contributed to the processes that have shaped the Federation’s Constitution and priorities, including through my role as President of IFSW Europe and as a member of the Global Executive. My commitment is therefore not only aligned with IFSW objectives, but grounded in how these have developed over time.

My work has focused on translating these objectives into practice, including promoting responsiveness in social services, supporting professionals responding to crises, and contributing to the recognition and protection of the profession.

I have also contributed to policy and system-level processes reflecting these goals, including the European Pillar of Social Rights, the recognition of social work within quality frameworks for social services, and the development of the Crisis Management Framework within the European Social Network. This has also included collaboration with UNICEF, engagement in UN initiatives on extreme poverty and human rights, and dialogue with the European Commission on the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy (2024–2029).

At IFSW Europe, I have contributed to strengthening the focus on responsiveness in social services, linking human rights, social justice, and professional dignity with the capacity of systems to respond to complex needs.

### **Possession of language(s) capabilities (preferably bilingual)**

I work fluently in English and Romanian and have extensive experience working across different cultural and professional contexts within Europe and other regions of the world.

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

I am based in Romania and have long-standing involvement in European professional and institutional contexts. My work is closely connected to the realities of social services across the region, through collaboration with national associations, public authorities, and practitioners.

Through my role within IFSW Europe, as well as my experience as IFSW Global Vice-President, I have worked closely with professional associations across different regions. This has strengthened not only my understanding of the European context, but also my perspective on how regional realities connect to global dynamics.

I have built a strong professional network that includes social workers and associations from across regions, allowing me to engage with Europe in a way that is both grounded in practice and internationally connected. As an Associate Professor at the University of Bucharest and a practitioner involved in disaster and crisis response through ASproAS, I remain closely connected to both professional training and frontline realities. This ensures that my understanding of the region is practical, current, and rooted in real experience.

My work at European level, including collaboration with European institutions and participation in regional initiatives, has strengthened my ability to engage with the region while remaining attentive to broader system and policy developments.

### **Practical wisdom and objective interest in international affairs**

My engagement in international work is grounded in practice, particularly through direct involvement in disaster and crisis response in different countries, beyond Europe. These experiences have shaped my understanding of how social services function under pressure and in rapidly changing contexts.

Working in such situations has required the ability to adapt to different systems, cultures, and levels of resources, and to respond in ways that are flexible and context-sensitive. This has reinforced my focus on approaches that are realistic and applicable in practice, not only at policy level.

I have learned that international work requires not only shared values, but also the ability to understand differences between systems, institutional contexts, and capacities. This shapes my approach to finding common ground and supporting responses that are relevant across diverse settings.

I approach international cooperation with a balanced and objective perspective, combining professional values with an understanding of policy, institutional, and cultural realities. My focus remains on what can concretely support professionals and improve services in different contexts.

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

I am committed to dedicating the time and attention required for this role. My previous experience within IFSW, including as President of IFSW Europe, member of the Global Executive, and Global Vice-President, has involved sustained engagement and responsibility.

This experience has strengthened my ability to manage responsibilities, prioritise effectively, and ensure continuity in my contribution. I am prepared to maintain this level of commitment.

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

I am able and willing to participate consistently in Executive and Regional Committee meetings, both online and in person. This has already been demonstrated through my previous roles within IFSW, which required regular and active participation over time.

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

I have consistently participated in IFSW General Meetings and international conferences, both as a delegate and in leadership roles. My involvement has included active contribution to discussions, decision-making processes, and the exchange of professional perspectives at regional and global level.

**Any other information relevant to your nomination**

I bring a leadership approach grounded in practice, collaboration, and responsibility, with experience in working with and supporting social workers teams across diverse contexts, and in connecting policy, practice, and the voices of people using services.

I have the full support of the ASproAS team—an experienced and committed professional community with strong knowledge of and active engagement in the work of IFSW—which strengthens my capacity to contribute effectively and responsibly to the work of the Federation.

I also bring long-standing involvement within IFSW, including participation in the 50th anniversary celebrations in 2006 and involvement in marking the 50th anniversary of IFSW Europe in 2015.

I would be honoured to contribute to the preparation of the 2028 World Conference in Paris (SWSD 2028), marking 100 years of the social work profession.

Signature and Date

25 March 2026  
Bucharest

