



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS  
FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSISTANTS SOCIAUX  
FEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE TRABAJADORES SOCIALES

## IFSW Europe e.V. | REPORT ON WORK PROGRAMME 2013-2014

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This work programme is presented devised in the following broad subheadings:

- > **Visibility and Voice**
- > **Membership development**
- > **Services for members**

The organigram paper “**Executive Members Work Portfolio**” (attached) was developed and agreed by the executive committee members as a basis for the annual work programme of IFSW Europe e.V.

Each executive member has lead responsibilities for designated areas of the work programme.

The executive member/leader may establish a team if he/she considers this to be necessary to complete the task.

“**Principles of Human Rights and Social Justice are fundamental to social work**” (quoting the Definition of Social Work) and constitute the basis for all actions performed by the executive committee of IFSW Europe e.V. in the different areas of the work programme.

### **Executive committee meetings 2013-2014:**

- Lisbon, 7 December 2013
- Edinburgh, 1-2 February 2014
  
- Web meeting, 17 May 2013
- Web meeting, 20 September 2013
- Web meeting, 25 October 2013
- Web meeting, 11 March 2014 (extraordinary)
- Web meeting, 24 March 2014
- Web meeting, 28 April 2014



## WORK PROGRAMME 2013-2014

### 1 | COMMUNICATION

- > Honorary Secretary
- > Emailing members with information and updates on actions
- > Google group account (executive members)
- > Skype meetings
- > Blog
- > Facebook
- > Website
- > ESW - European Social Worker - newsletter
- > Media work productions
- > Power Point presentations
- > Production of papers with guidelines to help the integration of new executive members and delegates from members organisations
- > Connecting members project
- > Press and press release strategy
- > Organization of Delegates Meetings

## DEVELOPMENTS / ACTIONS BY APRIL 2013

### IMPROVING WAYS OF COMMUNICATION

IFSW Europe is a well established, regulated and registered organisation. However further capacity building is required to improve communication with members (inward) and to developing our marketing and lobbying / communication with partner organisations (outward).

### ACTIONS

- > Integration of new executive members and honorary secretary
- > Regular updates on blog and facebook
- > ESW - 2 editions a year
- > Paper: Executive Members Work Portfolio to be revised periodically
- > Paper: Connecting members project- to revise distribution of countries periodically
- > Paper: Communication values with guidelines to executive committee members to be revised periodically
- > Paper: Requirements for hosting the Annual

## REPORT ON WORK PROGRAMME 2013-2014 BY MAY 2014-

IFSW Europe has secured the services of a professional **designer**, Maria Mónica, who is working with Cristina Martins on the area of communication. One of her responsibilities is to organize graphically all key documents and produce new standard material for IFSW Europe.

IFSW Europe sent out a Call for an **Honorary Secretary** by March 2014. The process of evaluation of candidates for final selection is still in progress.



WORK PROGRAMME 2013-2014

DEVELOPMENTS / ACTIONS BY APRIL 2013

REPORT ON WORK PROGRAMME  
2013-2014 BY MAY 2014-

- Delegates Meeting to be revised periodically
- > Website: to continue training from the global communication officer, René Schegg for updating the website directly by the communication team
- > Video message for WSWD 2014
- > Collection and updates on the lists of contacts (members organizations, associations of social workers, partners, media, etc.)

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**2 | FINANCES**

**ACTIONS**

- > Appointment of the Honorary Treasurer of IFSW Europe
- > Finances and Legal Body maintenance
- > To prepare a 5 year Budget
- > To issue guidance concerning the reimbursement of expenditure incurred by executive members carrying out official duties
- > To publish rules and an application form for delegates applying for assistance to attend the Delegates Meeting 2014
- > Updates on membership status

**5 YEAR BUDGET**

Progress has been delayed on account of time constraints faced by the Treasurer Gabriele Stark-Angermeier. Maria Moritz has recently taken over responsibility for this requirement and a draft budget is now attached.



## WORK PROGRAMME 2013-2014

## DEVELOPMENTS / ACTIONS BY APRIL 2013

## REPORT ON WORK PROGRAMME 2013-2014 BY MAY 2014-

### 3 | MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

#### ACTIONS

- > The review of membership in IFSW for proposals to the DM 2014 and GM 2014
- > “Networking with”:
  - Developing relations with countries with no member and re-establishing relations with former members

The review of membership dues in IFSW Europe has been discussed by the Executive and proposed changes will be presented for discussion at the Delegates meeting in Madrid.

Work on revising the global membership questionnaire is also in progress.

### 4 | ENSACT

European Network for Social Action (ENSACT)

#### ACTIONS

- > Evaluation of the Istanbul Conference and proposals for culture-change for the IFSW European Conference 2015s

#### ENSACT ISTANBUL CONFERENCE

The 2013 ENSACT conference offered participants a wide range of key note presentations, symposiums and workshop sessions, accompanied by a stimulating and diverse study visit and social program. No formal evaluation of the event was carried out but anecdotal evidence suggests that the 626 participants felt that it had been a very worthwhile and enjoyable experience. Unfortunately anticipated sponsorship was not forthcoming with the result that there was a net loss of 8,551.40 euros. (Expenditure: 221.169.40 euros and Income: 212.618.00 euros).

TASW has accepted responsibility for the deficit



and IFSW and the other ENSACT Partners have not had to contribute. The final budget outturn for the Conference has been approved by ENSACT.

#### **ENSACT**

Hakan Acar is now representing IFSW Europe in ENSACT. Following the Istanbul Conference, Nol Reverda, President of ENSACT resigned and has been replaced by Thea Meinema.

ENSACT now plan to meet twice a year. The next meeting will be held in Utrecht or Paris on 23rd May 2014.

IFSW Europe has commented on a draft statement ENSACT has prepared concerning the network's future mission, vision and focus. Members of the Executive have responded.

## **5 | IFSW EUROPEAN CONFERENCE 2015**

### **ACTIONS**

- > Call for expressions of interest to host the IFSW European Conference 2015
- > To decide on expressions received
- > To start organization process of IFSW European Conference 2015

A proposal by BASW to host the conference on 7th to 9th September 2015 in the city of Edinburgh in Scotland has been accepted. The Executive met BASW representatives and visited the proposed venue on 31st January and the theme for the event will be **“Celebrating the achievements of social work partnerships in Europe”**



## WORK PROGRAMME 2013-2014

### 6 | EU ISSUES AND

#### SOCIAL PLATFORM,

The Platform of European Social NGOs

#### FRAND,

Fundamental Rights Working Group

## DEVELOPMENTS / ACTIONS BY APRIL 2013

### VISIBILITY AND VOICE

IFSW Europe is working to ensure that the voice of social workers is more prominent in Europe and national campaigns concerning the importance of maintaining the commitment within the EU to address poverty and inclusion and the cost, in terms of avoidable suffering and greater expenditure in the long term, of failing to do so.

### ACTIONS

- > Networking with colleagues from other Social Platform organisations, raising IFSW's profile and the perspective of SW's and responding to their agendas
- > Participation in meetings with our Brussels based representative, Dalé Kabasinskaité and with Ariella Degenaro at the Social Platform about our representation on the Working Groups and our Member Organisations
- > Passing on info about the Platform petitions about EU Structural Funds to our members
- > Preparation of job description for individuals appointed to represent IFSW (E) on SP Working

## REPORT ON WORK PROGRAMME 2013-2014 BY MAY 2014-

Formal presentations showcasing IFSW Europe's activities delivered over the past year include conferences in Montevideo, Uruguay, Algarve and Lisbon (Cristina Martins, Graca André and Maria Moritz), Marbella, Murcia and Brussels (Ian Johnston).

Joint activities with other EU Civil Society Organisations include contributions by Ian Johnston to:

The development of guiding principles for the training of social services staff to support people suffering from rare diseases - Copenhagen (9th Oct) and sessions at the European Parliament on the Criminalisation of Homelessness (18th Sept), Youth Unemployment (7th April), the Spring Alliance Manifesto (8th April) and Unconditional Basic Income (10th April).

IFSW has continued to be a very active member of the European Social Platform. Over the past 12 months the Platform has produced policy papers and effectively lobbied the European Parliament, Heads of Member States and other decision makers about a range of issues affecting social services, notably poverty and social



## WORK PROGRAMME 2013-2014

## DEVELOPMENTS / ACTIONS BY APRIL 2013

Groups and orgs like EAPN. Preparation of a factsheet about SP Working Groups and to receive nominations from member organisations

> To consider applying for organisational membership of Eurochild and participating in their t 2013 Annual Conference in November in Milan

> To engage members from countries where HR abuse is condoned by the authorities in a dialogue about how this can be tackled constructively

> Progress the work started on a Human Rights Wall chart and a Strategy for our work on Human Rights in 2013-2014

## REPORT ON WORK PROGRAMME 2013-2014 BY MAY 2014-

exclusion, unemployment, tax justice, human rights, migration, care, public procurement, social investment, bias violence, inequality, access to banking facilities, anti-discrimination, economic and monetary union, civil dialogue and the Annual Growth Survey and Country Specific Recommendations. In the lead in to elections to the European Parliament the Social Platform and colleagues from the trade union movement and other major social development organisations have updated the Spring Alliance Manifesto demanding measures that will secure the future well-being, solidarity and quality employment of all citizens, all within planetary boundaries. Cristina Martins and Ian Johnston represented IFSW E at the Social Platform GA in Brussels on 24th April 2013. Over the course of the year IFSW has made representations to President Barroso and Heads of all EU Member States about the need to ensure that the target to eliminate poverty and exclusion is retained in future spending plans and Ian and IFSW Europe's Brussels based representative, Dalé Kabasinskaité, have continued to attend the SP Working Groups and actively contribute to the Platform's important work streams.



The Working Groups are now being replaced by Task Forces on key issues and members will be provided with information about how they can become more directly involved in SP activities at the DM.

The Executive have not had the capacity to form a strategic alliance with Eurochild this year.

Salome Namicheishvili has opened up a dialogue with colleagues from some of the countries where HR abuse is condoned by the authorities.

Further work is required to ensure IFSW's global and regional HR initiatives are effectively coordinated and targeted.

## 7 | EAPN

### European Anti-Poverty Network

#### ACTIONS

- > Participation in EAPN meetings to consider how our members can work more closely with that organisation
- > Passing on info about EAPN's petitions about EU Structural Funds to our members

IFSW's Real Rights Global Campaign was triggered by Ian Johnston's participation in a capacity building event in Estonia hosted by EAPN and Dignity International in May 2013. Ian also combined attendance at EAPN's GA in Belgrade on 13th June 2013 with a meeting with our 2 prospective Serbian member organi-





sations to encourage them to form the necessary Coordinating Committee to join IFSW. Dalé Kabasinskaité, Ian Johnston and Graça André have represented IFSW at other EAPN events in Brussels and members have been alerted to EAPN's campaigns and publications and encouraged to form links with EAPN's national members in their own countries.

## 8 | FRA

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights Platform

### ACTIONS

- > To participate in the annual FRP meeting in Vienna
- > To continue work with civil society organisations

The annual FRP-meeting took place 10-11 of April 2014 in Vienna. Very lively discussions and the strong demand on the EU-commission to revise policies with a focus on human rights, social rights, cultural rights. The main task of the coming years will be to restore trust in EU politics and politicians, listening to the demands of people and not only the demands of lobbyists. Another problem is a lack of awareness people have about their rights, specifically victims of domestic violence, hate crimes and children do have little knowledge and awareness. This was found in all investigations published during the last 4 years.



So the main themes and problems under challenge are:

> Asylum and refugees and demands of civil society to actions of the Mediterranean Task Force, Roma policy, hate crime, child rights and women's rights, nonviolence, rights of disabled, rearranging finances to safeguard rights of disabled, migrants, women and children.

**ACTIONS**

**9 | THE SOCIAL WORK AND IDENTITY PROJECT**

The project "Social Work Role and Identity Project" set out to establish an effective baseline understanding of the state of social work across Europe.

> To continue collecting data and preparing reports

The project working group developed 2 new thematic questionnaires in 2013/14: 1. Scope of social work practice, 2. Social workers' working conditions. The collected data is now being



## WORK PROGRAMME 2013-2014

The project is a regular exercise to help IFSW Europe to be informed and measure the progress of social work across the continent of Europe over years. The main approach is to collect the information through questionnaires focused on core information about the association, as well as themes like social work education, standards of practice and legal aspects of the profession

### 10 | PROJECT: ECONOMIC CRISIS IN EUROPE - CHALLENGE AND RESPONSE OF SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION

THE MAIN AIMS OF THE PROJECT ARE:

- > To present information about “the response of social workers/social work organizations to the ongoing economic crisis at national levels.
- > To discuss and decide on collective action by member organisations at an international level:
  - Exercise advocacy, empowerment and lobby at European level;
  - Support and engage with member organisations and social workers in countries most

## DEVELOPMENTS / ACTIONS BY APRIL 2013

### ACTIONS

- > To start implementing an action-plan for the project
- > Development of a link to liaise the project with the activities for the Global Agenda within the European Region

## REPORT ON WORK PROGRAMME 2013-2014 BY MAY 2014-

analysed and a report on the results will be presented to the Delegates Meeting in Madrid. Please see attached the Role and Identity Project Summary Report by Salome Namicheishvili.

Members of the project working group are “Hakan Acar, Gabriele Stark-Angermeier, Salome Namicheishvili and Maria Moritz.

The project has been completed in two stages:

- > **Collecting Data** from members regarding the response of social work to the economic crisis: A questionnaire, drawn up by the working group was sent (in August 2013) to members and 11 members (Austria, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Israel, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and United Kingdom) responded.
- > **Workshop**: Portugal, Austria and Macedonia responded to the formal call to host the work-



## WORK PROGRAMME 2013-2014

## DEVELOPMENTS / ACTIONS BY APRIL 2013

## REPORT ON WORK PROGRAMME 2013-2014 BY MAY 2014-

affected;

- Express at high levels (governments, EU, etc.) the responsibility of the social work profession for human rights and ethics by presenting alternative ways of dealing with the crisis and austerity.

> To discuss and develop a working plan for the next years to respond to the effects of economic crisis.

shop. Portugal's offer to hold it in Lisbon was accepted and the Portuguese Association are thanked for making the organisational arrangements and for their hospitality. The meeting took place from Dec. 6-7 2013 and provided an important opportunity for delegates from Georgia, Austria, Germany, Turkey, Croatia, Spain, UK, Ireland, Israel, Russia, Portugal and Romania, to share information about the impact of the crisis in their respective countries. Representatives of EAPN and Eurordis also made presentations in the workshop. This created an opportunity to discuss common ways to work together with other European institutions. **The Project Report will be presented at the Delegates meeting.**

### 11 | PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS DIRECTIVE

> The Professional Qualifications Directive is essential to enabling professionals to start a new business or to find a job in another Member State requiring a specific qualification for a specific professional activity. The proposal aims at simplifying rules for the mobility of professionals within the EU by offering a European Professional Card to all interested

### ACTIONS

IFSW Europe will continue to contribute actively in the process.

The EU-Commission has launched a call of interest in implementing the European professional card (EPC) and 112 professional associations answered this call, 3 social workers organisations, IFSW-Europe e.V., Association of Social Workers of Greece and from UK the College of Social Work. Unfortunately the commission decided to promote only the extension



## WORK PROGRAMME 2013-2014

professions which would allow easier and faster recognition of qualifications. It also clarifies the framework for consumers, by inviting Member States to review the scope of their regulated professions and by addressing public concerns about language skills and the lack of effective alerts about professional malpractice, notably in the health sector. This proposal was based on the answers on the Green-Paper (2011).

## DEVELOPMENTS / ACTIONS BY APRIL 2013

## REPORT ON WORK PROGRAMME 2013-2014 BY MAY 2014-

for the professional card to three more professions, engineers, mountain guides, real estate agents ( doctors, nurses, pharmacists, architects, dentists, midwives and veterinary surgeons are on the list already) . The commission considers that there is more assessment necessary of all other interested associations. The assessment process is scheduled to be started by the first quarter of 2014. Dalé Kabasinskaité represented IFSW at a briefing session in Brussels on the proposed developments on 12th February. The European parliament has voted in favor to extend the EPC to the named three additional professions. Conclusion: there will still be a long way to go for social work to become an automatically recognized profession with implementing the EPC for social workers. It might be helpful for accelerating the process to be recognized as a health-profession. This must be discussed within the profession and IFSW.

### 12 | TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL WORK IN NEW SOCIAL WORK COUNTRIES

#### ACTIONS

> To develop a statement in solidarity with countries in the Caucasian region

The statement was developed in support of social work development in the South Caucasus region (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia). The statement was launched on March 18, 2014,



WORK PROGRAMME 2013-2014

DEVELOPMENTS / ACTIONS BY APRIL 2013

REPORT ON WORK PROGRAMME  
2013-2014 BY MAY 2014-

> To support the development and build the capacity of professional networks in emerging countries

World Social Work Day. Please see attached.

The statement in support of Ukrainian people and social workers was developed in response to Ukrainians' struggle for better future. The statement was launched on February 21, 2014. Please see attached.

On behalf of IFSW, Europe Salome Namicheishvili was presented at the Conference in Antalya, Turkey, 21-25 August, 2013 "Models of Social Work Practice in the Region: Challenges, Achievements and Future Plans". The vast majority of the countries presented at the conference were from the former soviet union where social work practice is emerging. Salome Namicheishvili made a speech on Social Work Ethics as the contact person to Global ethics committee.

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**13 | WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY 2013**

**ACTIONS**

- > Call for Action in Europe
- > Publishing events and actions around Europe through our media tools (blog and facebook)
- > Video message from IFSW Europe

The theme for the WSWD 2014 was Social and Economic Crises – Social Work Solutions. IFSW Europe informed all members and encouraged them to celebrate WSWD throughout Europe. Year by year more and more social workers celebrate WSWD.



IFSW Europe promoted WSWD celebrations at the national level via social media and its official web tools. IFSW Europe executive members have cooperated with IFSW Global in order to promote WSWD activities.

IFSW Europe has also published a video message jointly with BASW to celebrate WSWD and promote IFSW European Conference 2015 in Edinburgh.

#### 14 | RELATED WITH IFSW GLOBAL

##### ACTIONS

- > Global Agenda – European Representative
- > Development of a bid for the Global funding to do sub regional workshops to further promote IFSW Europe
- > Executive Meeting, Melbourne, Australia 2014
- > World Conference on Social Work and Social Development Melbourne 2014 - programme committee
- > Cooperation with IFSW Global on Definition of Social Work

GLOBAL AGENDA AND AGENDA OBSERVATORY:  
the first report about the Agenda activities is to be launched at the 2014 World Conference in Melbourne. This meant a very tight schedule to submit contributions and the experience shows this has to be revised and extended. The European contributions were characterized by the impact of the crisis, low capacity of social workers to engage in additional work on observatory contributions. Regarding the high professional level of social work in Europe the output of submitted reports was rather disappointing. The focus in Europe was mainly on the impact of social policies and how social work can take



influence to change social policies that are driven by austerity rather than investing in people's potentials. In this context, it is to the credit of social workers around Europe that examples of positive and creative practice can be identified, frequently in projects managed jointly with service users and local communities. Social work practice almost always confronts **social and economic inequality** and seeks to support people to improve their circumstances and therefore to reduce their inequality. These examples illustrate this in respect of strengthening capacity for employment and earning income (including managing the consequences of economic migration and family breakdown); supporting people to challenge and overcome discrimination as a result of disability, sexual orientation, exclusion from health services and aging; developing proposals to make financial benefit systems work more effectively so as to deliver financial support where it is needed; working to provide the best care and education for children who are not able to live with their natural parents. Appealing to all: Please do start with the work on the next observatory report right now and





spread the information. The main theme for the next period is: **Promoting the dignity and worth of peoples**

## 15 | ENS4Care THEMATIC NETWORK

### EVIDENCE BASED GUIDELINES FOR NURSING AND SOCIAL CARE ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF EHEALTH SERVICE

The main objective of the project is the development of evidence based guidelines for the implementation of eHealth services in nursing and social care, building on existing good practices amongst the participants of the Network, sharing and transferring knowledge across European regions.

The ultimate goal of ENS4Care is the establishment of a sustainable mechanism to support nursing and social care research in the field of ICT enabled integrated care.

### ACTIONS

> To contribute to the preparation of a bid for funding coordinated by **EFN**, European Federation of Nurse, if the bid is successful to ensure that joint guidance produced conforms to social work values and principles and supports and empowers those requiring services.

> To promote the development of "Social Prescribing" and other preventative approaches and realise the potential of telecare and other specialised equipment to enable people to live independently in their own homes.

> To disseminate and promote the material produced to our members and the wider social work and social care community utilising the European Social Work Research Observatory, conferences and other training events.

Ian Johnston has been representing IFSW Europe on the ENS4Care project which involves 24 partner organisations representing nurses and other health professions, service users and carers. EU funding has been awarded for a 2 year period and Ian attended the inaugural partners meeting in Warsaw in December.

A briefing note and request to disseminate an initial questionnaire aimed at identifying services already exploiting the potential benefits of ICT to care situations was sent to member organisations on 21st February and Ian Johnston and Dalé Kabasinskaitė attended a General Assembly of the partner organisations in Brussels on 9th April. Members will be provided with feedback on the response to the initial questionnaire and full details about this important project at the DM.



## WORK PROGRAMME 2013-2014

### 16 | TIMEBANK

Time Banking is an innovative form of reciprocal exchange based on mutual support, and is a highly effective system for promoting active citizenship, the growth of social capital and community empowerment. Time Banks build on strengths, both individual and organisational, and recognise that everyone in a community has something to offer.

Time Banks value all kinds of reciprocal help and skills people can offer each other. There is no exchange of money – the fundamental concept is that everyone's *time* is valued equally: one hour = 1 time credit. Members 'deposit' their time by giving their skills and expertise to others and can 'withdraw' their time credit when they need something for themselves.

Time Banking recognises people and organisations as assets, promotes reciprocity and builds trust and mutual respect between members.

## DEVELOPMENTS / ACTIONS BY APRIL 2013

### ACTIONS

> Cooperation with the British Association of Social Workers- **BASW's** International Development on their proposal of setting up of a Time Bank with members of IFSW Europe.

IFSW member organisations with skills and knowledge to offer can choose to join the Time Bank and indicate what resources (a knowledge and skills exchange rather than a financial exchange) they can offer to other members.

A co-ordinator will manage the database of membership and reciprocal exchange activity.

BASW's contribution to the Time Bank may include, for example:

- Recruitment of a co-ordinator, or include the co-ordination role within an existing or proposed administrative post
- Set up administrative systems to broker and record exchanges amongst members
- Monitor and evaluate activity with a view to potentially extending the scheme to

## REPORT ON WORK PROGRAMME 2013-2014 BY MAY 2014-

Only 4 member organisations responded to a questionnaire aimed at determining the level of interest in developing a time bank within IFSW Europe distributed on 19th October 2013. Further information about the concept of time-banking and the potential benefits for member organisations was sent to members along with another questionnaire on 6th March 2014. The response to this will be considered and further action determined at the DM.



WORK PROGRAMME 2013-2014

DEVELOPMENTS / ACTIONS BY APRIL 2013

REPORT ON WORK PROGRAMME  
2013-2014 BY MAY 2014-

members world-wide

- Advice on setting up member organisations
- Organisational development and capacity-building
- Workforce development - Training packages / courses (various TBC)
- Video-conferenced joint seminars on specific interest areas
- Password protected access to the Knowledge Hub
- Mentorship to newly emerging member organisations