



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

IFSW Europe e.V. | REPORT ON WORK PROGRAMME 2014-2015

This work programme is presented under the following broad subheadings adopted by the 2013 IFSW Europe e.V. Delegates Meeting:

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

The document “**Executive Members Work Portfolio**” identifies the executive member who has lead responsibility for designated areas of the work programme. The executive member/leader may establish a team if s/he considers this to be necessary to complete the task.

“**Principles of social justice, human rights, collective responsibility and respect for diversities are central to social work.**” (IFSW 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 2014-2015:

- Porto, 11-12 October 2014
- Tbilisi, 1-2 May 2015

- Web meeting, 18 June 2014
- Web meeting, 27 January 2015
- Web meeting, 25 February 2015
- Web meeting, 8 April 2015
- Web meeting, 1 June 2015
- Web meeting, 7 August 2015



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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 SEPTEMBER 2015

IMPROVING WAYS OF COMMUNICATION

IFSW Europe strives to be 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
- > Continue working with the designer to develop IFSW Europe's promotional material, brand and message to the wider social work community and other key stakeholders, as described on her work programme
- > Publish regular update and progress reports on IFSW Europe's Blog and Facebook
- > ESW – Produce 2 editions a year
- > Review and where necessary revise Executive Members Work Portfolio throughout the year
- > Connecting members project - to review and

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> Joana Malheiro has been formally appointed to the position of Honorary Secretary of IFSW Europe and commenced her duties in August 2014.

> Since then the communication team has been comprised of the President, Cristina Martins, the Honorary Secretary, Joana Malheiro and the Designer, Maria Mónica.



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update the members of the Executive designated to link with individual member organisations and contacts in countries not currently represented.

> Paper: Communication values with guidelines to executive committee members to be revised and re-issued.

> Paper: Requirements for hosting the Annual Delegates Meeting to be revised periodically

> Website: to continue updating the website directly by the communication team

> To prepare a video message for WSWD 2015

> To update the lists of contacts (members organizations, associations of social workers, partners, media, etc.) and make this available to members

2 | FINANCES

ACTIONS

> Appointment of the Honorary Treasurer of IFSW Europe

> Finances and Legal Body maintenance

> To review the 5 year Budget

> To issue guidance concerning the reimbursement

> Fran McDonnell was appointed to the role of Honorary Treasurer and aimed to start her duties by January 2015 but resigned from the Executive on February 2015. Gabriele Stark-Angermeier undertook to continue her duties till the Delegates Meeting in September 2015.



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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

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> A report on Finances and Legal Body maintenance will be presented at the Delegates Meeting 2015.

> No progress has been made on the review of the 5 year Budget.

> The President and the Honorary Secretary have worked on the rules and application form for delegates to apply for funding to attend the Delegates Meeting and have gathered all applications received, for evaluation and action by the Treasurer.

> The President, Honorary Secretary and Executive Member Josefine Johansson have been gathering information on membership status of IFSW Europe.

Work carried out by this group has included the production of a new standard email, invoice and receipt of membership fees and communication with the Global Secretariat to receive the most updated information on IFSW membership. The group has also evaluated carefully the membership situation from earlier years in order to determine the exact IFSW Membership in the European Region.



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3 | MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

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ACTIONS

> The continue the review of membership in IFSW

“Networking with”:

> Developing relations with countries with no member and re-establishing relations with former members

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> A group comprised of the Executive Member, Josefine Johansson and Member at Large, Salome Namicheishvili, has reviewed membership dues in IFSW Europe and carried out a survey of members. The findings have been considered by the Executive and conclusions and recommendations will be presented for discussion at the Delegates Meeting in Edinburgh.

> The President and Member at Large have contributed on the revision of the global membership questionnaire. The new questionnaire was approved by the IFSW Global Executive and is being sent to IFSW Members by the Global Secretariat.

> The Hellenic Association of Social Workers joined again IFSW by August 2015.

> Member at Large Salome Namicheishvili participated in the International Conference for advancement of Social Work in Countries with Transitional Economy held in Moldova on 23-25 June 2015. She delivered a keynote speech about the role of social work associations in the development of social work from a



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Georgian and IFSW perspective as well as encouraging Moldova to join IFSW. Moldova will participate as observers in the DM 2015 and will work on becoming members of IFSW.

> Communication with countries with no members with whom IFSW Europe is networking with has increased and this was evident during WSWD 2015 celebrations.

4 | ENSACT

European Network for Social Action (ENSACT)

ACTIONS

- > Participation in ENSACT meetings
- > Evaluation of future engagement with ENSACT

> Hakan Acar, Executive Member with responsibility to link with Ensact has participated at the Ensact meetings on 26th September 2014 and 18th March 2015 in Geneva.

> ENSACT presented a Bid for the European Observatory for the Global Agenda and was accepted. Therefore, following ENSACT meeting in Geneva in March 2015, it was agreed that data from our members would be collected. ENSACT is using an online platform to collect data about "good practices" available at www.ensact.com.



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5 | IFSW EUROPEAN CONFERENCE 2015

DEVELOPMENTS / ACTIONS BY SEPTEMBER 2015

ACTIONS

> To continue the organization process of the IFSW European Conference 2015 in Edinburgh Scotland in partnership with the British Association of Social Workers (BASW)

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- > The Conference Agreement between IFSW Europe e.V., BASW and IFSW Global was signed by the President on 15th July 2014.
- > Members of the programme committee of IFSW Europe, Fran McDonnell, Josefine Johansson, Salome Namicheishvili and Hakan Acar, have contributed to the selection of the workshop proposals received for the Conference.
- > Members of the Steering Committee representing IFSW Europe, Josefine Johansson and Mira Antonyan joined the first steering committee meeting that has occurred for the organization process of the Conference on the 2nd March 2015 and have participated in further group meetings since.
- > A report about the organization process of the IFSW European Conference 2015 will be presented to delegates prior the Delegates Meeting 2015.
- > A Call for expressions of interest to host the IFSW European Conference 2017 was sent out by the 2nd of February 2015 and a decision on expressions received took place at the Executive Meeting in Tbilisi in May 2015.



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A proposal by the Icelandic Association of Social Workers to host the conference on 28th to 30th May 2017 in the city of Reykjavík in Iceland has been accepted.

The President and Steering committee member, Josefine Johansson, have already began the organization process of the IFSW European Conference 2017 with Maria Rúnarsdóttir, President of the Icelandic Association of Social Workers. The theme for the Conference will be: "Marginalization and Social Work in a Changing Society"

6 | EU ISSUES AND

SOCIAL PLATFORM,

The Platform of European Social NGOs

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 exclusion and the cost in terms of avoidable suffering and greater expenditure in the long term of failing to do so.

An IFSW Europe Social Platform Team comprising Ian Johnston, Dalé Kabasinskaité, Fran McDonnell, John Brennan, Anna Denehan, Graca André and Mira Antonyan has been established. A report on the work of the group will be presented to the DM and delegates will be given an opportunity to discuss the stance IFSW should take in relation to current issues the Platform are addressing and suggest issues that might be pursued in the future.



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ACTIONS

- > Networking with colleagues from other Social Platform organisations, raising IFSW's profile and the perspective of SW's and responding to their agendas
- > Designate members to join the team representing IFSW at meetings of the Social Platform's Steering Group and Task Forces and support our Brussels based representative, Dalé Kabasinskaité to effectively engage with the Platform, other key organisations and officials and politicians in the European Commission and Parliament.
- > Pass on info about issues relevant to social work being pursued by the Social Platform to our members and encourage them to lobby their MEP's and Heads of State where appropriate.
- > Review and refine the briefing paper sent to members in advance of the 2014 Delegates Meeting outlining the expectations of individuals appointed to represent IFSW (E) on SP Working Groups and orgs like EAPN
- > To engage members from countries where HR abuse is condoned by the authorities in a dialogue



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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 2014-2015

7 | EAPN

European Anti-Poverty Network

ACTIONS

> To continue to actively participate in EAPN capacity building, other meetings and campaigns and encourage our members to work more closely with EAPN's member organisations in their own countries

> Passing on info about EAPN's lobbying activities, and publications to our members

8 | FRA

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights Platform

ACTIONS

> To participate in the annual FRP meeting in Vienna

> To continue to engage with other civil society organisations concerned about fundamental rights. To disseminate information about FRA's research and publications to our members and the wider social work community

> The designated representative, Maria Moritz, was unable to attend the 2014 FRP Meeting and FRA is currently reviewing its activities and doesn't plan to hold the customary annual FRP meeting in 2015. There will be a presentation of work that FRA has carried out over the past year that is relevant to social work at the DM



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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.

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

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ACTIONS

> To continue collecting data and preparing reports

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The following actions took place:

> CORE QUESTIONNAIRE

The core questionnaire about the member associations was edited, namely the information about the financial aspects were taken out.

Please see annex #4: Revised core questionnaire, 2015.

It is decided by the Executive Committee that the core questionnaire is gathered annually by IFSW Europe with the annual payment.

Namely the following steps will be taken from September 2015:

- The revised core questionnaire will be sent to members to complete in September with the given deadline of December 31st.

- The collected information will be shared with IFSW, Europe treasurer. Based on the gathered information she/he will prepare an invoice for member countries (as the questionnaire has information about # of membership). If the completed questionnaire is not submitted by



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the member country, then the invoice will be prepared based on the last year information.

> The core questionnaire will be gathered at the European level, which in its turn will be shared with the global. There is no need to collect this information twice at the European as well as global level.

> THEMATIC QUESTIONNAIRE

Executive suggests to collect information from member associations about what are the requirements for social workers to start working in various European countries. The collected information will be posted at the IFSW Europe website. The new brief questionnaire on this topic will be developed by the working group in 2015 and data collection will take place in 2016. Please see detailed report on this by Salome Namicheishvili.

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

ACTIONS

> To present the final report with conclusions and recommendations and implementing an action-

> The Project leader, Hakan Acar, worked with the former Executive member Fran McDonnell and the Honorary Secretary Joana Malheiro on



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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 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.

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- plan for the future
- > To produce a leaflet with the results of the Project for dissemination among members, partners and media
- > To continue the development of the link between the project and actions arising from the IFSW Global Agenda within the European Region

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- the revision of the final Report before going for printing.
- > The President and the Designer worked for the layout of the publication of the Report.
- > A Book “Economic Crisis in Europe - Challenge and Response of Social Work Profession - Stage II Project Report” has been published and will be launched at the Delegates Meeting 2015.

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

ACTIONS

IFSW Europe will continue to express the social work profession’s interest in and willingness to actively contribute to these developments.

No Action



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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 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).

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We will also explore the possibility of closer involvement with the Expert Group established to pilot the proposed the European (EPC) with colleagues from the European Federation of Nurses (EFN) and the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) who now regulate Social Workers and a number of health professional groups in England, both of whom are represented on that group.

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

ACTIONS

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

Various activities were carried out in this direction. Please see detailed report by Salome Namicheishvili on this.



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13 | WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY 2015

DEVELOPMENTS / ACTIONS BY SEPTEMBER 2015

ACTIONS

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

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- > The theme for the WSWD 2015 was Promoting the Dignity and Worth of Peoples.
- > IFSW Europe informed all members and encouraged them to celebrate WSWD throughout Europe.
- > IFSW Europe promoted WSWD celebrations at the national level via our media tools.
- > IFSW Europe Executive Members have cooperated with IFSW Global in order to promote WSWD activities.
- > IFSW Europe has published a video message to celebrate WSWD 2015.
- > The President, Member at Large and Executive Member, Hakan Acar, participated at the WSWD event at the UNAIDS in Geneva on 17th March 2015.

14 | RELATED WITH IFSW GLOBAL

ACTIONS

- > Global Agenda – European Representative
- > Development of a bid for the Global funding to do

- > The Executive Member Josefine Johansson was appointed as the European Representative to the Global Agenda.
- > There were no Call for Bids for the Global



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sub regional workshops to further promote IFSW Europe

- > Executive Meeting, Melbourne, Australia July 2014
- > World Conference on Social Work and Social Development Melbourne 2014 - programme committee
- > Cooperation with IFSW Global on Definition of Social Work

Funding in 2014 and 2015.

- > The President and former Member at Large Maria Moritz participated at the Global Executive Meeting in Melbourne on 5th July 2014 prior to the General Meeting.
- > The President participated at the Global Executive Meeting in Melbourne after the General Meeting on 8th July 2014.
- > The President and Member at Large Salome Namicheishvili participated at the Global Executive Meeting in Geneva on 15-16 March 2015.

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 partici-

ACTIONS

- > To continue to actively contribute to the ENS4Care project coordinated by EFN, European Federation of Nurses, 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

A comprehensive report on the progress of this project will be presented at the DM



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pants 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.

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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

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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

ACTIONS

- > To support the British Association of Social Workers- **BASWs**' proposal to engage with the member organisations who have expressed an interest in developing the Time Bank concept to explore the kind of activities that these members could assist one another with and how such reciprocity between members might be promoted and supported through the establishment of Time Banking system which credits and debits members for the number of hours of assistance they give or receive from other members.

No Action



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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.

**17 | PRIVATIZATION OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES
IN EUROPE**

ACTIONS

> To set up a working group to consider the impact that the privatization of state provided social services has had on the quality of services provided and the implications of the current policy drive promoting the further development of such services rather than those provided directly by the state

> To formulate an IFSW position paper and action plan on this issue.

No information received from the working group on this area



IFSW EUROPE E.V. STATEMENTS AND LETTERS OF SUPPORT:

Letter in support to the social work professionals on strike in Iceland (released on the 17th June 2015)

Letter in support of the Order of Social Workers in Portugal (released on the 25th May 2015)

Statement in support of social workers in Georgia (released on the 30th April 2015)

<http://ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Statement-of-IFSW-Europe-e.V.-in-support-of-social-workers-in-Georgia.pdf>

Statement in support of social workers in Croatia (released on the 5th February 2015)

<http://ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Statement-of-IFSW-Europe-e.V.-in-support-of-social-workers-in-Croatia.pdf>

Statement on Paris attack (released on the 8th January 2015)

<http://ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Statement-of-IFSW-Europe-e.V.-on-Paris-attack--JE-SUIS-CHARLIE.pdf>

Statement on Social Work for Peace and Self-Determination – Peace is the way (released on the 15th August 2014)

<http://ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Social-Work-for-Peace-and-Self-Determination-Peace-is-the-way.doc>

Statement in Support of the people of Turkey following the Coal Mine Tragedy (released on the 23rd May 2014)

<http://ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Statement-of-IFSW-Europe-e.V.-supporting-the-people-of-Turkey-following-the-Coal-Mine-Tragedy.doc>

Press Release on cuts in expenditure on social services (released from the Delegates Meeting on the 16th May 2014)

<http://ifsw.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/IFSW-Europe-e.V.-Press-Release-Delegates-Meeting-2014-.doc>