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THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL WORKER



international federation of social workers european region

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Special points of interest:

- New Year's Message from the Vice President
- Annual Report by David N. Jones
- Read Articles from British Association of Social Workers and Consejo General de Trabajadores Sociales and the Association of Trained Social Workers (APSS) from Portugal

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Happy New Year to 165000 European social workers

Season Greetings – Happy New Year to 165000 European social workers and their representatives, all joined within IFSW, bringing social work in Europe together and forward.

2006 has been a year of change within IFSW Europe, changes of executive committee members bringing forward three new members and two new deputies, change of presidency and a vacancy on the Honorary Secretary position. This has internally presented us for new and challenging ways of approaching our tasks.

2007 shall be a year of new activities, orchestrated by the member organisations and a complete team of officers of IFSW Europe.

Europe is debating *social cohesion* at several levels. Social workers in Europe are part of this debate, and we will present our recommendations in the coming year. The Council of Europe has inspired our discussions, while EU now also has tabled the issue.

IFSW Europe started by identifying our common understandings of the term – *social cohesion* – seen as a reflection of daily social work practice. A common understanding, which shall challenge other percep-

tions.

The results show a responsive profession who acts in a changeable internationally affected context. Social workers, whose role and possibilities differ as we face social cohesion in a local context. Still the transnational exercise among representatives for social work practitioners has strengthened the national member organisations for social workers in their role as social policy actors within the local context.

I find we must strengthen the vision about Social Work as a useful and needed tool in developing democratic and independent environment for all people. We shall ourselves tell the story about social

work practice – also through research, documentation and development. Strengthen the visibilities of our specialities – similarities and differences, as well as specific demands for quality.

IFSW Europe is not alone, but cooperates closely with a number of partners who all wants to improve a social Europe. European Network for Social ACTION (ENSACT) is the newest platform for this cooperation bringing together professional social work practitioners, social work providers, social work training, studies and research. Also we cooperate with NGOs through their platforms, e.g. the Social Platform – and with union-platforms, like EPSU (European Federation of Public Service Unions).



WORK IN PROGRESS ...
DELEGATE'S MEETING IN MUNICH - JULY 2006
From left: Antonina Dashkina, Anthea Agius, Ingri-Hanne Braenne, Nicolai Paulsen, Barbara Molderings

Continued from previous page ...

We will soon meet in Parma for joined European Conference, and we aim at meeting for a joined conference again in 2009. For the latter part we received three offers to host the 2009 event – Croatia, Bulgaria and Finland. These offers are now being investigated, focusing on representation, capacity and financial liability.

Before the upcoming Delegate Meeting in Parma we hope to have a new appointed Honorary Secretary for IFSW Europe in place. Following a call for applicants, we have received applications from 25 persons. A very impressive result, which is now being evaluated.

A special farewell

2006 was the year where we had to say farewell to a truly friend and activist of IFSW, former European Executive Committee Member Hansjörg Keller, who passed away mid August following an unexpected heart failure. Hansjörg was known by social workers across Europe, as former President of the Swiss member organization and as member of the IFSW European Executive Committee until May 2006. He became only 48 years old. Hansjörg was a committed and instrumental social work association builder, both in his home country and internationally. With his extroverted nature, highly developed social skills and his humour he always was a great asset at gatherings. Among his many tasks for IFSW he was a main architect in developing the European Social Work Day. He also supported the IFSW Global Office in relocating to Switzerland in 1999. He will be sadly missed by a large number of friends and colleagues across Europe and around the world.

Big changes within the IFSW European team

David Jones, president for IFSW Europe until August 2006, when he was elected President for IFSW Global, and replaced by Nicolai Paulsen. Brian Auslander and Hansjörg Keller were replaced by Ingri-Hanne Bränne and Anthea Agius as European Executive Committee Members, and at first Barbara Molderings replaced Monica Egan, who then returned filling the vacant seat after Nicolai, as he was elected European president. ... On top of these

changes IFSW Europe lost our Honorary Secretary for the past four years, as Ana Radulescu unexpectedly decided to resign, following the Delegate Meeting in May.

Thank you to all of these good colleagues who have stepped down from European positions in 2006, thank you for your work and support for the development of IFSW Europe specifically and social work in general. And a warm welcome to the new IFSW European team, who will bring us into 2007 and forward.

Happy New Year on behalf of the European Executive Committee – and see you in 2007

Nicolai Paulsen

IFSW Regional President for Europe

The IFSW European team is now:

IFSW Europe Executive Committee

Nicolai Paulsen, Denmark - IFSW Regional President Europe

Barbara Molderings, Germany - IFSW Europe, Honorary Treasurer

Anthea Agius, Malta - Executive Committee Member
Ingri-Hanne Braenne, Norway - Executive Committee Member

Antonina Dashkina, Russia - Executive Committee Member

Monica Egan, Ireland - Executive Committee Member

Tatjana Kathic Stanic, Croatia - 1st Deputy of the Executive Committee

Cristina Martins, Portugal - 2nd Deputy of the Executive Committee

Council of Europe

Gabriele Stark-Angermeier, Germany

Permanent EU Committee

Chair: Barbara Molderings, Germany

Member: Georg Dimitz, Austria

Member: Marjut Kosonen, United Kingdom

EDITOR'S NOTE

Editing this journal and communicating with social workers about their activities has given me a thought-provoking overview of the way that all the work of the European region really ties in and comes together ... the projects for instance, have made us realise that as a profession social workers know and have an analytical understanding of the problems, we have methods and skills which we use daily all over Europe to work with the solutions; it is clear that we have a valuable message and contribution for society ... we now have to find the best and most effective way of being heard! The latest project suggests that "social action" could be one important way of getting this message across. It also shows that "social action" means different things to different colleagues and is used by colleagues to different degrees ... could this be the way forward for our discussions? I invite you all to make use of this publication to let the IFSW and other social workers across Europe know what your views on such issues!

In the meantime ...

DO send the ESW to all your members and contacts!
DO submit an article for the next edition of the European Social Worker!
DO send your comments positive and negative alike!

And finally ...

DON'T forget that **YOU** are the European Social Worker!

Wishing you a pleasant reading
over a peaceful Christmas and
Prosperous New Year,

Anthea Agius
IFSWE
Executive member

Social Change (so' shel chanj) *n.* 1. The structural transformation of political, social, and economic systems and institutions to create a more equitable and just society. 2.

Social Change

Proponents target the underlying causes of critical social problems such as homelessness, discrimination, and poverty. 3. While a variety

of organizing and advocacy methods are utilized, social change organizations are characterized by the activism, cooperation, persistence, and dedication of their members. (example: An association of persons with developmental disabilities working collectively to address issues of discrimination by empowering its members to advocate for themselves and collectively challenge service providers, government agencies, and other institutions to ensure equal access and rights for all persons with developmental and other disabilities.) **syn.** community empowerment, just society, common good, grassroots democracy, accountability. **ant.** status quo, charity, business as usual, temporary solutions.

Check out the following links

The Platform of European Social NGOs (the Social Platform) is the alliance of representative European federations and networks of non-governmental organisations active in the social sector, promoting social justice and participatory democracy by voicing the concerns of its member organisations. The Social Platform and its members are committed to the advancement of the principles of equality, solidarity, non discrimination and the promotion and respect of fundamental rights for all, within Europe and in particular the European Union. www.socialplatform.org

GET INVOLVED Voluntary groups and individuals across the world can share local news, views, good practice and debate in areas of common mental health concern. Visit www.one-worldmentalhealth.org and www.communicatormentalhealth.org

ESN e-newsletter on social inclusion is now online at: <http://www.socialeurope.com/inclusion/enewsletter/june06.htm>
It has news on the preparation of the NAPs/Inclusion, examples of good practice in the area of antidiscrimination and integration, news on ESN's inclusion seminars and a review of annual conferences.

“FERTILITY TOURISM” REQUIRES A SOCIAL WORK RESPONSE

In recent years, there have been increasing reports of couples, primarily from wealthy countries, seeking fertility treatment abroad, because such treatment is illegal or otherwise unobtainable in their own country or because it can be obtained more cheaply in the destination country.

The British Association of Social Workers' Project Group on Assisted Reproduction (PROGAR) is concerned about two particular practices, a global trade in “donor” eggs and surrogacy.

In the absence of appropriate regulation, these practices threaten the physical and mental health of “donors” and surrogates, who are offered comparatively lucrative financial inducements to become a “donor” or surrogate, as judged by the material standards of their own country, but who may be poorly informed of the physical and psychological risks to which they may be exposed, and may not be provided with adequate aftercare.

In India, for example, where thousands of women die each year as a result of pregnancy and childbirth, young women are recruited to be surrogates for western couples for around US\$5000 - equivalent to six years' salary for a school teacher – but a fraction of the cost charged by a western surrogate in countries where commercial surrogacy is permitted.

In Romania, impoverished young women recruited as egg “donors” by a clinic in Bucharest were subjected to hormone injections to maximize the number of eggs available for “donation” – around 20 - for which they received US\$250. The clinic made huge profits by charging recipients up to US\$13,000 for each cycle of treatment using a fertilized “donated” egg. When the “donors” subsequently experienced medical complications, the clinic showed no interest in them.

Although the Bucharest clinic has since been closed by the authorities, the lack of regulation in many countries means that similar practices flourish in many parts of the world; women are also reported to be travelling abroad to “donate” their eggs in foreign countries.

While “donors” and surrogates are evidently at risk, the interests of the children who may be born as a result of these procedures and of the couples or individuals who pursue them may also be jeopardized.

For example, inadequate screening of “donors” or surrogates may have adverse health consequences for children and egg recipients; false or limited information may be provided about the “donors” or surrogate, compromising the child's knowledge of their biographical, cultural and genetic heritage; the legal status of these procedures may be uncertain, resulting in legal and nationality ambiguities for children and families.

These risks exist because assisted conception services are unregulated in many countries, while the lure of financial reward underlies a willingness to supply such services to meet increasing demand. The Indian Council of Medical Research, for example, is reported as estimating that assisting both residents and foreign “fertility tourists” to have children could become a US\$6 billion-a-year industry.

European Union member states are required to ensure that the donation of human tissue, including sperm, eggs and embryos, is voluntary, unpaid and altruistic, and that imports of human tissue into EU countries are subject to similar standards. In 2005 the European Parliament supported a resolution prohibiting trade in human eggs and embryos. However, this is self-evidently not simply a European problem, but one that has global implications.

PROGAR therefore seeks the support of social workers worldwide, their national associations and IFSW, to demand that all governments take effective measures to prevent the exploitation of women engaged in reproductive services and to protect the interests of recipients and children.

For further information contact:

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**The British
Association of
Social
Workers'
Project Group
on Assisted
Reproduction
(PROGAR)**

SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL COHESION IN EUROPE

The 2006 IFSW-E project on Social Work and Social Cohesion in Europe has enjoyed the participation of no less than 19 member organisations from all across Europe!

Projects are a great opportunity to meet, get to know each other more, strengthen our friendships and make new ones! The Social Cohesion Project has been a valuable opportunity for

By means of regional workshops held in Paris, Birmingham and Vienna, representatives from the 19 participating countries have had the opportunity to research and reflect on the various definitions, concepts and social situations related to social cohesion in Europe. Various aspects of social cohesion in the different countries together with social work's role in the promotion of social cohesion were analysed in these professional fora and articulated into Regional reports.

This process has revealed itself particularly useful in contributing to the learning process related to social cohesion in Europe, in elaborating the reflections on the social work role in the promotion of social cohesion and in continuing to foster the relationships between member organisations.



Delegates in Sofia make valuable recommendations ...

In Sofia the Delegate's meeting produced valuable recommendations toward the first draft of the final report that was presented in Munich. Among its outcomes, the project has contributed to:

- further articulate the concepts and definitions related to Social Cohesion based on principles and values for member associations use as a universal point of reference
- identified practical references to casework and indicators of good and quality practice
- reflected on the link between the

work of the Council of Europe and EU policy of social and economic cohesion

- identifying the need for training on constructive social action for social workers and service users
- strengthening the networks of communication we have in IFSW through regional activity and communication
- providing another tool to facilitate contacts with policy makers and politicians at national and international level

The most powerful message that came from participants was that the most important part of the project was the actual experience and process of discussions and involvement which allowed an enhanced critical and professional analyses of the situation across Europe.

sharing experiences and information about cultures, societies and social work practices in each other's countries, thus strengthening the good collaboration that has been developing between associations over the years.

The Way Forward from Munich

The first draft of a final report was presented to the Delegate's Meeting in Munich. The executive invites member organisations to review the draft final report

and forward their feedback in the form of suggested corrections by end of January 2007.

Members are also invited to join in the process of identifying existing publications, reports, activities, key networks and others related specifically to social cohesion.

In Parma all this work will be brought together with a final, approved report featuring a

"front page" and an executive statement. The delegate's meeting in Parma will then be in a position to make plan and coordinate the broadest dissemination possible of the report.

Further actions stemming from the report such as research needs, the involvement of possible part-

ners, training and funding will also be proposed in Parma.

Thanks to Marjut Kosonen, Ruth Stark, Georg Dimitz, Herbert Paulischen, , Ana Radulescu and Don Brand for their support in the gathering of feedback and data.

In a number of European countries like Spain, France Norway and others, social work associations have a recognised role in activism and advocacy

Increasing poverty and high unemployment (10 %) in Germany are producing new social problems and increasing workload regarding "traditional" problems for social workers

The changes in Turkish society, caused by massive changes in the economic system, produce new problems with higher demand on solutions offered by social work.

Anthea Agius, Nicolai Paulsen and Antonina Dashkina are responsible for the project. If you would like to contribute to the project or for further information please e-mail: anthea.agius@gov.mt

SOCIAL WORK AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Spanish National Organization of Social Workers (Consejo General de Trabajadores Sociales, CGTS) has established a working group on Social Work and Human Rights to develop the work on Human Rights within the organization. In order to provide the members with materials, documents and other support the CGTS and the Spanish Section of Amnesty International (SS-AI) have made an agreement to promote Human Rights through the education and training of social workers in order to sensitise social workers and motivate their implication in its advocacy.

The priorities of the working group are issues related to children and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Training in Human Rights issues is also a high priority objective for CGTS and SS-AI. Through different activities such as articles in magazines, references to laws, bibliography, social workers can get familiar with Human Rights issues and legislation. Nevertheless, there is also the possibility to organize formal on line training.

In addition, from time to time, when the circumstances require it, SS-AI and CGTS make general statements or collect signatures to make pressure against Human Rights violations or in favour of appeal cases.

... an agreement to promote Human Rights through the education and training of social workers ... for ... its advocacy

For further info contact

Paula Barros: pbarros@cgtrabajosociale.es

Meeting in Portugal “Social Workers and Social Cohesion”

The North Delegation of the Association of Trained Social Workers (APSS) from Portugal organized a meeting on the 14 October 2006 at São João da Madeira to discuss **Social Inclusion, Social Cohesion and Human Rights**.

The President of APSS, Doctor Fernanda Rodrigues, who is also the National Coordinator of the National Action Plan on Inclusion, did a presentation regarding the major actions planned for the Portuguese NAP. The President of the Centre Delegation of APSS, Dr^a Rosa Tomé spoke about Human Rights and Social Work and Dr^a Cristina Martins, President of the North Delegation and International Relations of APSS, did a presentation informing about the IFSW-E Project on Social Work and Social Cohesion in order to promote some debate with the participants.

After there was what is called in Portuguese a “Tertúlia” (literary assembly) on the Concert Café, lead by the President of the Portuguese Centre of Research and History of Social Work, Dr Alfredo Henriquez, to promote a strong discussion and debate about **Associateship and Activism in Social Work**. He applied to all Social Workers and Social Work Students to take actions in their working places and Schools in order to stand for the recognition of this centenarian profession.



Cristina Martins - North Delegation of the Association of Trained Social Workers (APSS) from Portugal

EU NEWS

EU to create paedophile register

“I think that a no tolerance policy is needed towards paedophilia,” he said.

The European commission has unveiled the EU’s first policy paper on children’s rights, including a Europe-wide crackdown on paedophiles.

The proposals aims to set a basis for the development of an “EU strategy on the rights of the child”.

European justice commissioner Franco Frattini regards the issue as an important one for the EU. Frattini is calling for a European network of specialised police units tackling internet paedophiles to coordinate at the EU level.

The commission is preparing new proposals allowing EU police and law enforcement agencies to build Europe-wide databases of child sex offenders.



“We are preparing a comprehensive proposal... a system allowing member states to know about people convicted for criminal sex abuse offences,” Frattini said.

The commission – which has few powers in the rights area – will set initiatives aimed at pushing the issue into the heart of decision-making, both internal and external to the EU.

EU on Mental Health

MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS AFFECT EU WEALTH AND EMPLOYMENT. Studies suggest that up to 27% of EU citizens are affected by mental illness every year. Mental illness costs European economies up to 4% of yearly GDP in lost productivity and other social costs. Studies also estimate that, by the year 2020, depression is expected to be the second most common cause of disability in the developed world. WHO, the EU and the Council of Europe organised a [ministerial conference](http://www.euractiv.com/en/health/mental-health-problems-affect-eu-wealth-employment/article-155738) on mental health in January 2005. Following the green paper consultation results, the Commission will come with a more detailed proposal for an EU mental health policy framework. ; www.euractiv.com/en/health/mental-health-problems-affect-eu-wealth-employment/article-155738

PATIENT MOBILITY NEEDS TO BE MANAGED Extensive data on the internal health care market and commonly approved quality and safety standards are the keys to manage and foster trust in the cross-border patient mobility in the EU; A new book, [Patient Mobility in the European Union Learning from experience](http://www.euractiv.com/en/health/study-patient-mobility-needs-managed/article-155622), brings evidence-based information to the policy debate over health care and the role of the EU, in particular in the light of the Lisbon agenda and the discussions on the social implications of the EU internal market. The main issues addressed by patient mobility are: waiting lists and free capacities, centres of excellence/reference centres, closer co-operation in border regions and health care for persons undergoing long-term stays www.euractiv.com/en/health/study-patient-mobility-needs-managed/article-155622

“Following the green paper consultation results, the Commission will come with a more detailed proposal for an EU mental health policy framework”

The following countries of IFSW Europe were celebrating SWAD in November 2005!

**Austria,
Denmark,
Croatia,
Finland,
France,
Germany,
Iceland,
Italy,
Malta,
Norway,
Portugal,
Spain,
Sweden,
Switzerland,
United Kingdom,
Russia**

Social Work Action Day November 8, 2005 The Role of Social Workers in Europe

The Delegates Meeting decided that in 2005, SWAD should highlight The Role of Social Workers in Europe. It was a part of the project "Social Work Promoting Social Cohesion" of IFSW Europe. This topic was chosen as many member organisations are concerned about the increasing amounts of new legislation and changing expectations of social workers as well as the severe financial constraints placed on the social sphere in many countries. **The SWAD website page has been the most visited in November 2005.**

IFSW Executive thanks all participating countries for celebrating SWAD 2005.

In 2004 in Adelaide the IFSW General Meeting decided to have a **Global Social Work Day that would be celebrated by all its members world wide!** For this reason the European region that has celebrated SWAD for the first time back in 1996, has resolved that the next European SWAD should coincide with the first Global Social Work day in 2007.

MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE! World Social Work Day 27th March 2007

In 2007 the World Social Work Day will highlight the Jubilee theme "Social work: making a world of difference". *The European Region will specifically highlight activities in relation to fighting poverty.*

The purpose of the day is to support social workers all over the world to prepare and participate in different kinds of events which will put social work on the agenda at all levels and, thereby, to promote the importance of the social work profession and to raise the sense of community among social workers. In this way, the Social Work Day has a two-sided aim:

increase awareness in societies and communities about the importance of the role of social workers when assisting poor and socially excluded citizens to create a social and economic sustainable development in societies.

increase the sense of worth and professionalism within the individual social worker and raise the sense of community among social workers.

By making the Social Work Day a global event, Social Work Day in each country will be strengthened when communicating with the media and other stakeholders in society, i.e. the Government, the industry, other organisations and NGOs.

World Social Work Day for the European Region, 2007: *Social Workers - Brokers in Alleviating Poverty*

Poverty has many faces, changing from place to place and across time, and has been described in many ways. Poverty is hunger. Poverty is lack of shelter. Poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor. Poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read. Poverty is not having a job, is fear for the future, living one day at a time. Poverty is losing a child to illness brought about by unclean water. Poverty is powerlessness, lack of representation and freedom.

To know what helps to reduce poverty, what works and what does not, what changes over time, poverty has to be defined, measured, and studied -- and even experienced. As poverty has many dimensions, it has to be looked at through a variety of indicators -- levels of income and consumption, social indicators, and indicators of vulnerability to risks and of socio/political access. Much work has been done using consumption or income-based measures of poverty, but also on non-income dimensions of poverty. Social workers deal with poverty in all kinds, shapes and forms in their daily work. The European SWAD 2007 is about all these different ways social workers are active in alleviating poverty around the world. *For further information please contact: Antonina Dashkina on rusunisw@online.ru*

TIME TO LOOK OUTWARDS - *IFSW Europe, Annual Report 2006*

An annual overview of the achievements, challenges and opportunities for the IFSW-European Region in 2006 presented by David N. Jones during his term as Vice-President.

I am pleased to present this adapted form of my speech to the European Delegates Meeting in Sofia on behalf of the IFSW European Region Executive Committee and to look back over a year of intense activity to promote social work in Europe. My message is that our profession is on the journey to a stronger position in Europe and more effective influence, but we have still a long way to go and we are always aware that the position of social work remains 'in the balance', as the Munich conference theme reminds us.

On the journey

In the last 12 months or more we have been implementing the new structures and developing links with other organisations to increase our influence. The summary report on the work plan shows how much has been achieved.

IFSW Europe continues to develop and we have more countries knocking on the door to join us. The Executive held 2 formal meetings in Barcelona and Bern, a one hour webchat most months, several informal meetings involving two or more members and many phone calls; being on the Executive is really a part-time job!

Financial management has taken a lot of our time and energy and the accounts are now clear, transparent and open for all to see. We are also in balance with a modest financial reserve which we are beginning to use for projects. There have been improvements in communications and European Social Worker has developed more, primarily to provide links between member organisations. The new IFSW global website has a lively European section which we can edit ourselves and is one of the most visited sections of the whole website. We launched our new regional logo in Sofia.

Social Work Action Day was again a success with around 20 countries taking part and a vast range of activities including meetings in Parliaments, special articles in magazines and meetings for social workers and service users.

The regional social cohesion project has had funding from the new global fund to support regions and has been a great success. Around 20

countries have participated in one of the 3 workshops or sent national reports. We will have feedback on the results in Munich and there was discussion in Sofia about the next stage of the project. The Executive is recommending that we plan for a new project in 2007.

BUT, the Executive knows very well that all this is achieved on voluntary time and is difficult to keep going. We do not yet have the resources and capacity we need to do all that is necessary and if we fail to invest, the profile of the profes-

sion will suffer. I believe that one reason that social workers feel they are not valued is that, in many places, they do not see a strong voice representing them, not least in the European institutions. Of course there are some strong member organisations in their own countries, but we are not yet as influential as we should be on the European stage. This challenge will not go away and as the European level of policy development and political debate spreads wider, it will become more and more important for national organisations to consider the importance of influencing developments at the European level. More and more things are decided and ideas are shaped in European institutions, even in social policy. The European is no longer international; it is domestic – very close to home!

Continued on next page ...



Later on this year, during the Delegate's Meeting in Munich, David was elected President of the Federation.

Imelda Dodds, former President symbolically hands over the presidency to David

... continued from previous page

But also, for IFSW, we know we face a time of change. The Sofia meeting elected a new Executive and there will be global elections in July which may also have an impact on the European level. There were 7 candidates for 3 seats on the Executive and 2 deputies. Two new people were elected to the Executive and there seemed to be a clear message of a wish for change – even to welcome a new generation. This is healthy for any organisation although I know that, as in all elections, individuals and member organisations were disappointed about the outcome.

The Sofia meeting approved a memorandum of understanding to set up an informal grouping called European Network for Social Action [ENSACT]. This brings together several professional bodies representing social workers, social pedagogues, academics in this field and others. There will be more about ENSACT later..

We are pleased to report that IFSW has now been accepted as an observer member in Social Platform and we will begin to benefit from the flow of information and contacts in the European Union which they provide. We have been active on the EU Services Directive and begun to provide briefings for member organisations.

Our work at the Council of Europe has gone from strength to strength and we are having more impact and building alliances. These will all provide ways for us to promote the findings and recommendations from the social cohesion project

Social work in Europe - in the balance

The social cohesion project has shown us areas where social work is strong. We also see areas where social work is lacking self confidence and there is uncertainty about the way ahead. In Munich we will explore these ideas and I expect to see ways forward building on our regional and

global activity.

How to influence change

As we look ahead to stronger partnerships and more influence, we need to remind ourselves about the essential elements in any strategy for change. We need

Clarity – about our message

Evidence – knowledge about what we do

Networks – contact with other groups with similar interests

Lobbying – speaking to the people who matter

Confidence – that we have something good to say

I believe that IFSW is building strong foundations in all 5 of those areas and we can see the walls rising. I also sense that social workers want to be positive and are ready to follow a strong lead. There is a sense of anticipation and expectation.

This is a healthy position for our Federation as we come to celebrate our 50th birthday in Munich and for a full year of celebrations to follow.

The challenge to the leadership of the Federation and to all our member organisations is to provide that clarity and global leadership so that social workers in their daily work can feel a strong sense of professional values, self-confidence and commitment which comes from belonging to a global profession which is valued and respected because it delivers what people want and need – human dignity, respect, honesty and understanding. That is what we do and that is a profession we can all belong to and promote with pride.

David N Jones

June 2006



The International Federation of Social Workers

[IFSW] was formed at a conference in Munich in 1956. Social Workers from countries all over the world



returned to Munich last summer for the 50th jubilee conference. 1500 social workers from across the globe met each other in Munich, Germany from 30th of July to the 3rd of August 2006

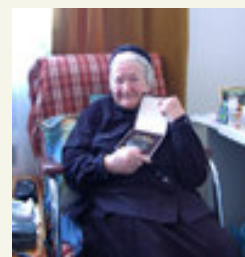
The Munich conference included several historical reflections in plenary sessions and workshops. A historical brochure has been published and will be available through the IFSW website and at regional conferences throughout 2007.



DBSH send many thanks to all those who participated whose interest and contri-

butions made this world conference a true success! More evaluation material and some presentations are available on www.socialwork2006.de. Those who would like to offer presentations, please send them to docu@socialwork2006.de. Contributions will be published as pdf

The conference included a unique and moving tribute to Irena Sendler, a Polish social worker who worked in Warsaw during the 1939-45 war and saved 2,500 Jewish children from the Ghetto. Now known as the social work Schindler, IFSW awarded her the title of Most Distinguished Social Worker. The award was accepted on her behalf by one of the children she saved. Background information can be found at this website: www.irenasendler.org



She made lists of the children's real names and put the lists in jars, then buried the jars in a garden, so that someday she could dig up the jars and find the children to tell them of their real identity

The General Meeting before the conference set the Federation's course for the next two years. It was attended by representatives from 42 countries (with 7 proxies), the highest number ever.

*"We left Munich aware of future challenges but with increased confidence that social work does have a history we can be proud of and a positive future."
David N. Jones*

We want to ensure that the consultation process reaches front line social work practitioners and that people who receive or use social work services, in other words those who are experts in health issues as a consequence of their own personal experience, are also consulted. Prof Paul Bywaters and Dr Lindsey Napier

IFSW International Policy Statement on Health

At its General Meeting in Munich in July 2006, IFSW agreed to ask the Social Work and Health Inequalities Network to lead work to revise its International Policy Statement on Health. Currently, the Health and Inequalities Network is consulting with social workers across the world as part of this process in order for the new policy statement to be powerfully influenced by the grass roots of social work internationally. They need your assistance to make this happen.

The initial stage of consultation lasts until the end of April 2007. Following a second round of consultation, a proposed new Statement will be presented to the IFSW General Meeting in Brazil 2008.

Through the National Social Work Organisation we would like to encourage the broadest participation possible in this consultation process.

For Further info please email: Prof Paul Bywaters : P.Bywaters@coventry.ac.uk and Dr. Lindsey Napier: l.napier@edfac.usyd.edu.au

www.ifsw.org



international federation of social workers european region

europe@ifsw.org

Check out National event in ...

Malta - Social Work National Conference, 2007

The underlying themes of the Conference being organized by the Maltese Association of Social Workers in collaboration with the Dept of Social Policy and Social Work at the University of Malta, will be **Values - Good Practice - Partnerships - Service User Involvement**

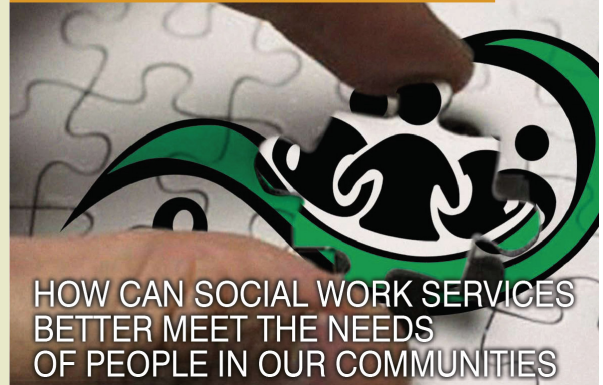
The learning outcomes of participation include:

- Knowledge of the concept, values and practical implications of Social Cohesion
- Knowledge of Social Work's contribution to Social Cohesion
- Different ways of working in Partnerships
- Knowledge of Good Practices that contribute to Social Cohesion

Malta has seen many changes in recent years; changes related to the international and economic context, to demography and social structures as well as to the culture and societal roles. The social work profession has also seen a number of significant changes including the Social work Profession act of 2003, ongoing developments regarding standards of practice, recent establishment of Commissions and the ongoing development of social services. This conference will be a two day event to offer the space to critically reflect on these changes and on how social work practices and services must work in order to better meet the needs of people in our communities, promote social well-being and a more cohesive society. It will bring together practitioners and academics who will be sharing their knowledge and experience for professional sharing and analysis of current practices and services and to contribute to the continuous development of policy, services, and standards.

For further information write to: masw@orbit.net.mt or visit www.masw.info

SOCIAL WORK NATIONAL CONFERENCE 16-17 FEBRUARY 2007



Social Work and Social Cohesion in Europe

- A forum for professional social analysis of the promotion of Social Cohesion
- Sharing experiences of successful services and good practice
- Expert views and review of current debates
- Presenting your views to all involved

For more information contact the SWNC 07 Steering Committee on masw@orbit.net.mt



The conference will be organized by the Maltese Association of Social Workers in collaboration with the University of Malta. The activity is being supported by the Ministry of Finance, the British Association of Social Workers, the Civil Society Fund of Malta Forum in Europe, the Foundation of Social Welfare Services, Ministry of Health, the Elderly and Community Care and the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity.

In recognition of

- 50 years of social welfare practices in Malta
- 20 years from the first Social Work Diplomas awarded by the University of Malta
- The publication of the Social Work Profession Act
- The establishment of the Social Work Board for the regulation of the Profession
- Over 170 warrants awarded to Social Workers by the Minister for the Family and Social Solidarity

The logo was designed by Clayton Mercieca, a fourth year Social Work Student at the University of Malta. The social work “hand” is completing the picture of cohesion by placing the person at the centre.

“The central feature of the logo is the wave which reflects the dynamism of the Social Work profession since it brings about ongoing experiential learning and a growth process. Green is the colour of nature. It symbolizes growth, harmony, freshness, and fertility. It is the most restful colour for the human eye; it can improve vision. Green suggests stability and endurance. In heraldry, green indicates growth and hope. Green, as opposed to red, has a strong emotional correspondence with safety.

The ‘eye’ is similar to the eye of Osiris which is found on the Maltese boats (the luzzu), and which reflects our Maltese identity. It is also symbolic of the protection and insight that Social Work offers to society. The symbol of human figures in unity highlights the importance of networking in the profession and the closeness that the profession has to people.”

Clayton Mercieca

IFSW is Looking forward to seeing you in ...

Parma, Italy from the 15-17 March - the Social Work 2007 conference

The Conference focuses on change in society and social Policy and more specifically, how these affect social practice, education and research. The Conference has three core themes namely

FAMILY AND INDIVIDUALITY

Family life and family structures are under pressure. They are Undergoing change in all European countries for reasons of mobility, immigration, globalisation, individualisation and alternative life styles. Modern society, stressing the responsibility of citizens, seems to take less responsibility for families at risk in general and for children in poverty and in poor educational settings in particular. There are also new, innovative methods and approaches being developed to work with abused children, immigrant children, marginal youth and multi-problem families, i.e., multi-sectorial work and ecological pedagogy. ***How do these trends and developments affect the role and responsibility of social workers and social services?***

DIVERSITY AND INTEGRATION

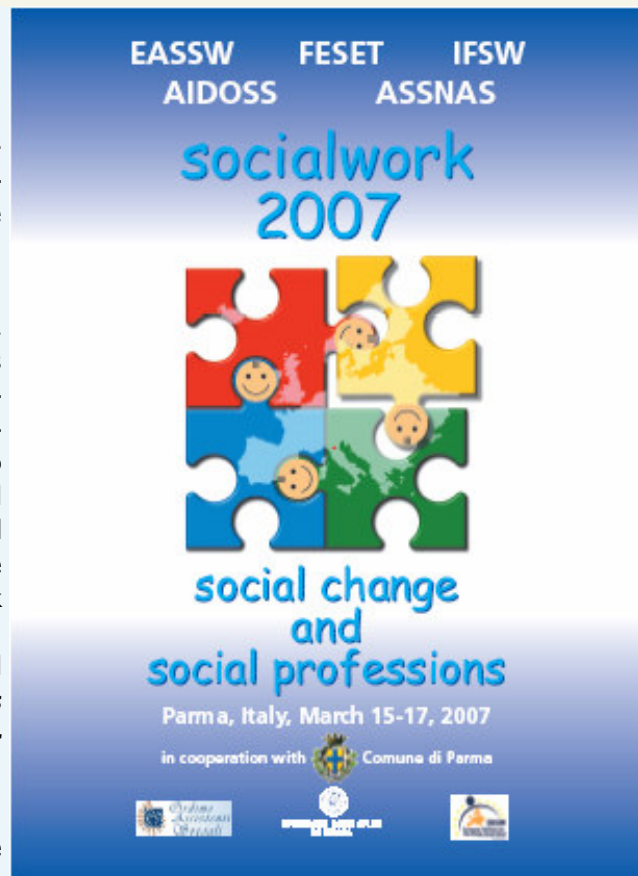
Diversity and integration refer to our efforts to live together in multicultural societies yet these efforts are being constantly tested by growing tensions amongst cultural groups and hardened national policies. Social workers are trying to bridge these gaps through new practices, methods and theories. Diversity and integration also refer to the right to be different in relation to, i.e., (dis) abilities, gender, age and lifestyle. ***In what way does deinstitutionalisation offer opportunities to promote genuine diversity and integration in our neighbourhoods?***

MANAGERIALISM: FROM STATE TO MARKET

All over Europe the neo liberal ideology and welfare pluralism are changing the structure, the roles and responsibilities of the public, private and civil society sectors. Clients and citizens are becoming consumers. Social service providers are becoming producers. The emphasis on effect, efficiency, evidence and service output clashes with comprehensive, integrated community approaches. Social professionals have to safeguard their scope for discretion, the mandate, the trust and the respect for the profession. ***How might the configuration of state, market and civil society be designed to reconcile different ideologies and to include new roles, e.g.: entrepreneurs, innovators and case managers, for social workers?***

During the conference, the three themes and relevant trends will be developed by distinguished keynote speakers and then further elaborated in parallel discussion sessions that target the effect of the trends on social practice. Furthermore, several workshops will allow for a variety of exchange on issues associated to the three overarching themes. Workshops will be held both in Conference venue and on the field, through the social professions practice sites (Services, Agencies, Institutions). The conference will conclude with a drafted statement on the challenges, reflections and conclusions made.

More information about the conference on <http://www.newteam.it/socialwork2007/>



Parma, Italy on 17-19 March - IFSW Europe Delegates Meeting 2007

The meeting will start on Saturday at 14.30 and end on Monday at 12.00

Timetable and deadlines ahead of the meeting:

10 December 2006 - Deadline for proposals for amendments of articles from members, due to have time to dispatch of amendments by Dec. 17

17 December 2006 - Dispatch amendments of articles to the members (90 days**)

17 December 2006 - Deadline for proposals from members (90 days*)

16 January 2007 - Dispatch preliminary Agenda - VP (60 days*)

15 February 2007 - Deadline amendments from members (30 days*)

03 March 2007 - Dispatch agenda and papers (14 days*)

* Art. 10 in the Statute of IFSW Europe

** Art. 25 in the Statute of IFSW Europe

December 10 - Delegates are invited to make proposals for amendments of articles of the Statute of IFSW Europe until this date, please send proposals to vpeur@ifsw.org

December 17 - Delegates are invited to make proposals for the agenda items until this date, please send proposals to vpeur@ifsw.org

February 17 - Delegates can submit amendments to items on the preliminary agenda until this date, please send any amendments to vpeur@ifsw.org

Elections for the IFSW European Executive Committee: Information on the positions for election for

the IFSW Europe Executive Committee and the election procedure will be provided for you in December.

If you have question related to the Delegates Meeting 2007, please do not hesitate to contact the Executive Committee through Nicolai Paulsen (President of the IFSW European Region) and Ingri-Hanne Braenne (Executive Committee Member) by emailing: vpeur@ifsw.org and ingri-hanne.branne@fobsv.no or by Mobile: +45 2333 5294

Salvador de Bahia, Brazil 16 -19 August, - IFSW World Conference 2008



Conselho Federal de Serviço Social



For more information contact:

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Meanwhile ...

