



# THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL WORKER

International Federation of Social Workers

Fédération Internationale des Assistants Sociaux

Federación Internacional de Trabajadores Sociales

## Inside this issue:

President's Address	1
A Note From the Editors	3
World Social Work Day 2009	3
Congratulations to our Spanish Colleagues	4
Commercialization and Privatization in Denmark	5
Nordic Resistance Against Incarcerating Children	9
Update on Confidentiality and Information Sharing	11
IFSW Europe and the Council of Europe	12
Europe and Social Policy	15
Ethics in Social Work	17
IFSW Europe Representative on Human Rights	18
IFSW Europe Blog	19
Annual Social Platform Meeting	19
Social Workers Most At Risk From Workplace Violence	20
Risk Assessment	20
Forthcoming Conferences	21
Executive Meetings	25

## Volume 6, Issue 1

February 2009

### President's Address

2009 calls on social workers – the needs for our profession and for social services are rising quickly. The present financial crisis underscores the general needs mirrored by the vulnerability among a growing number of citizens. The financial crisis shall be challenged at many levels, also beyond the social work profession, while social workers have an important role in combating the cases of unemployment, lack of income and higher living costs. This calls on more social workers on duty and in employment.

The World Social Work Day (WSWD) on 17 March 2009, where the global theme is 'Social Work and Social Development: The Agenda', you may choose to reflect upon the positive roles of social workers combating some of the outcomes of the present financial crisis. Everybody can join in World Social Work Day - it belongs to us all. By making your own national/local arrangements for this day you become connected to the world of social work — all we ask is that you let IFSW know about your plans and that you send us a report.

Well in place, 2010 is named the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. Although our position is to work against social exclusion and poverty *every day and every year*, IFSW Europe will pay a special interest towards how the European Union with a budget of € 26 million will facilitate this event, said to:

- Recognise the rights and capacity of excluded people to play an active part in society;
- Underline the responsibility of everyone in society to tackle poverty;
- Promote social cohesion and disseminate successful practices on inclusion;
- Reinforce the commitment of all major political players to take more effective actions.

IFSW Europe facilitated four seminars across Europe during October and November 2008 to discuss the IFSW Europe project on Standards in Social Work Practice meeting (Human) Social and Economic Rights. More than 20 countries



*At a recent executive meeting in Lisbon we found ourselves near this café which looked like it had named itself especially for our visit!*

were engaged in intensive discussions on this theme, a theme which everybody could relate to, although sometimes with different approaches based on different conditions and context. The preliminary reports from the seminars are now available at the IFSW Europe blog at [www.ifsw-europe-ifsw-europe.blogspot.com](http://www.ifsw-europe-ifsw-europe.blogspot.com) – and an update on the project will be presented during Delegates Meeting in April 2009 and there will also be a Symposium on the project during the Dubrovnik Conference.

Speaking about the Dubrovnik Conference on April 26-29, the major event for IFSW Europe in 2009, also being the 1<sup>st</sup> Joint ENSACT Conference. The conference has received more than 200 papers, many very interesting papers within the conference theme **Social action in Europe: different legacies & common challenges?**, and all presenters have received a reply if they were accepted or rejected. We are now looking for participants, 567 have now registered for the Conference, we are still hoping to receive 200-300 more registrations. Do register at [www.social2009.org](http://www.social2009.org)

Cooperation with other bodies at the European level are constantly developing, the cooperation within ENSACT is one approach, cooperation with Social Platform (on EU issues) is another. IFSW Europe has applied for ordinary membership of the Social Platform, hoping to be accepted at their General Assembly (on April 24, 2009). Being a member of Social Platform will bring us closer to fellow partners all committed to the advancement of the principles of equality, solidarity, non discrimination and the promotion and respect of fundamental rights for all.

In relation to the Conference of INGOs at the Council of Europe, we have recently developed the IFSW Europe involvement, as Antonina Dashkina was elected vice -chair of the INGO Committee of "Social cohesion and eradication of poverty". Congratulations to Antonina and our Council of Europe representative Gabriele Stark-Angermeier for this exciting result. In the coming months we will consider how to facilitate and prioritise this new position.

The Executive Committee has ongoing contact with a number of member countries, this may relate to good news, conferences, professional developments, anniversaries, etc., but also critical stories. In autumn 2008 the Executive Committee learned that despite the Government of Turkey is aiming at showing full support to civil society, the president of the Turkish Association of Social Workers Mr. Murat Altuggil was appointed to another province without his application or demand. In support of the Turkish Association and the civil rights of Mr. Murat Altuggil a letter was forwarded to the Minister of State Ms. Nimet Cubukcu.

Therefore, let's be in contact, also in 2009 ...

*Nicolai Paulsen*

IFSW Regional President for Europe

E-mail: [vpEur@ifsw.org](mailto:vpEur@ifsw.org)

Cell phone: + 45 23 33 52 94

Web: [www.ifsw.org](http://www.ifsw.org)



**Register now  
for the first  
joint ENSACT  
conference at**

**[www.social2009.org](http://www.social2009.org)**  
**g**

***Congratulations  
to Antonina  
Dashkina and  
Gabriele Stark-  
Angermeier on  
their work with  
the Council of  
Europe.***



## A Note From The Editors

This is the first time we have worked together as editors of the European Social Worker: We would like to thank:

- The Executive Committee and all member organisations of the IFSW Europe for their work and contributions.
- Anthea Agius for her advice on editing and formatting the ESW.

In bringing this edition together we wondered whether a central theme would emerge with contributions from so many different member countries. What has become clear is that there are two underlying themes to all the content - poverty and social injustice. This demonstrates that these are central themes in social work all around the region. Social workers, wherever they work, challenge poverty and injustice on a daily basis in trying to "Make a Difference". Working through the contributions we have received, learning about the challenges member organisations face and celebrating their successes has made us proud to be a part of our profession. We hope you enjoy reading this edition as much as we have enjoyed putting it together.

To send articles, news or information for future editions you can write to us at:

[europe.ifsw@gmail.com](mailto:europe.ifsw@gmail.com) and [crisdelmar@hotmail.com](mailto:crisdelmar@hotmail.com)

Thanks

Siobhan and Cristina

## World Social Work Day: 17 March 2009

Social Workers around the world will join together to celebrate the third world social work day in just a few weeks.

The Global theme will be "Social Work and Social Development: The Agenda."

We already know that member organisations across Europe are making plans to celebrate World Social Work Day in a variety of ways.

Please send us your reports which will be included on the IFSW website and on our IFSW Europe blog.

***Everybody  
can join in  
World Social  
Work Day.  
It belongs to  
us all.***

## Congratulations to our Spanish colleagues

On the 25th April 2008 the General Council of Social Work from Spain celebrated the 25th Anniversary.

The main purpose was to celebrate the work of the Spanish Social Workers, committed with Human Rights and the Society.

More than 300 participants were present to celebrate this event from the different Delegations of the General Council, people from the government, politicians and Social Workers in general.

The President Ana Lima Fernández gave the gold insignia of the profession to all Ex-Presidents of the General Council of Social Work from Spain: Beneta Llopis (pastime), Paz Fernández, Purificación Trigo, Patrocinio de las Heras, Elvira Cortajarena, Maria Jesús Utrilla, Carmen Guerra, Julia García Alvarez and Ana Maria Aguilar, as a tribute for their work in the past.

The General Council of Social Work have developed a video reflecting the history and the importance of the commitment of the social workers from Spain with the society.

You can download the video from

- [http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=ydGq1oV\\_9QI](http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=ydGq1oV_9QI)
- <http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=ipSx8r8wETY>
- [http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=F65K\\_c3WHU8](http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=F65K_c3WHU8)
- <http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=Src6syl5Ovw>

Congratulations to all Colleagues from Spain!



**25 Aniversario**

*We have received a very detailed article exploring a journey through the history of our profession in Spain by Ana Isabel Lima Fernández.*

*Siobhan Maclean, our honorary secretary will be sending this out to all member organizations.*



## Commercialization and Privatization in Denmark

In Denmark, almost all of the welfare service is provided and financed by the local and regional civil service. Since 2001 a conservative-liberal government has led the country with a stable parliamentary majority. The government has taken a long list of initiatives aimed at increasing the private task management of the public service areas, and to introduce market mechanisms internally between public service providers.

### Municipalities under pressure to use more tendering

It is the governments understanding that commercialization in itself will create increased efficiency and greater customer satisfaction. The municipalities shall develop a service strategy that shall include concrete goals for increased commercialization. The municipality should also have a tender policy, and they are obliged to consider private suppliers/contractors unsolicited offers in relation to the so-called "challenging law". The latest development is a duty to advertise about which tasks one has provided by private suppliers/contractors, so that others can have the opportunity to bid for the job.

The Association of Danish Municipalities (KL) have made an agreement with the government, that competitive bidding (the so-called PLI-indicator) will increase from 20% today to 25% in 2010. The aim is that private companies will provide 25% of the tasks that could be put out to tender, in 2010. If this goal is achieved, this will require that more tasks on the "soft" welfare areas would need to be put out to tender, than is the case today. The latest survey amongst the municipalities show that it is no longer the more traditional tasks such as cleaning, trash collection and road maintenance that will be put out to tender. Now it also includes, e.g. the municipal children's dentist, payment of wages/salaries and running the libraries.

### Competitive tendering of welfare tasks

All surveys of the population show paradoxically that there is a very large resistance to childcare, education and nursing tasks being contracted out.

It is characteristic of the Danes attitude to contracting out, that we would rather not see that private companies are involved in the many tasks that are close to the population, e.g. the nursing and care of our the elderly.

But this does not affect the government. On the subject of the elderly there is freedom of choice between the private and the public provision of practical assistance in the home, forced through by law, so that the municipalities – that have responsibility for the delivered service – can't just send their own employees in the field.

With regard to hospitals, there are new rules whereby one can choose freely between hospitals, which means that one can choose between both private and public (also overseas) treatment, once you have waited more than a month.

The expenses are paid in full by the authorities. The guarantee is followed by increased information about the competitive situation between hospitals on, amongst others, [www.syggehusvalg.dk](http://www.syggehusvalg.dk).

It is expected that continuously, more tasks will be contracted out in the health sector to private clinics, which at the moment are growing fast as a result of a boom in private health insurance.

Additional tasks in the care of the aged and hospitals has led to a significant increase in public expenditure, especially in the administration of schemes, but also in the financing of the necessary excess in capacity that competition relies on.



In the field of specialized social services (socially vulnerable groups, the handicapped, addicts, developmentally impaired, etc.) there is a long tradition of private task management in Denmark. Private organisations, societies or families run almost half of the offers that are given to vulnerable children and the youth. Financing is however – just as in the welfare field general – publicly, jointly and severally, via the taxation system. Many institutions are non-profit, and have operating cost agreements with one or more municipalities.

Private task management is, however, much smaller than the largest area, namely the adult handicapped area. Here there is also a tradition for private bidding, and even though the profession of social welfare supervision of their own institutions, private offer of residence for adults and social educational welfare institutions are taken care of in several places by the private sector.

### **The big marketplace**

In January 2007 a large structure reform was implemented, whereby 273 municipalities were merged into 98, and 14 councils/super municipalities became 5 regions. Simultaneously, the entire responsibility for vulnerable groups, the handicapped, addicts, the developmentally impaired, etc. was transferred to the municipalities. The regions tasks in this area is from now onwards exclusively to provide very specialized offers to the municipalities, that then buy places both from the region but also from each other. The places are divided annually in agreements per regional area. Jointly approved offers (both private and public) should be presented on the state provided site [www.tilbudsportalen.dk](http://www.tilbudsportalen.dk), where offers can be compared – the prices are found first – and caseworkers can “add to basket” and “proceed to purchase”. All prices (rates/charges) should be calculated according to the total costs, incl. administration and discounts. Therefore, in other words, a genuine market.

The new internet trade is conceived as a cornerstone in the social market place, where »the money follows the citizens« 100 percent – right out to the single institution. The idea is that handicap institutions, crisis centers and other welfare offers from now on will compete to offer the municipalities the best service at the lowest price.

Amongst us professionals there is wide agreement that Tilbudsportalen (the offer portal) has the potential to create a beneficial overview of the offers on the welfare market. There is an equally wide concern that commercialization of the soft services can have fatal consequences for the people that it concerns.

*The Danish government is attempting to force through market mechanisms, while simultaneously implementing a reform of the structure and delegation of tasks/task distribution in both the local and regional civil service. Many social workers have new employers and new guidelines for their work with the vulnerable and developmentally impaired.*

### **Price before quality**

Even the one ultimately responsible for the welfare area in municipalities, the publicly elected Chairman of the board of Social Affairs in Kommunernes Landsforening (KL – the municipalities national society), Tove Larsen (S) says: »I fear that it will become price that will become all important. I have difficulty in finding an incentive to provide better quality in this system. The politics that the government is engaged in at this time and in this area, counts on, that if one is strong and well educated and capable of choosing oneself, the one can get good offers, and if one can't, that is just tough luck. « (Weekly magazine A4, 2007)

Social Education Workers believe simply, that there are many welfare benefits, with which one can't make this type of deal. Customers can keep away from the greengrocer with the rotten tomatoes, or the hairdresser with the crooked scissors, however, it is difficult for the

neglected child or the brain damaged traffic victim to complain about bad care and to get their caseworker to choose another »boutique« in the welfare system. When one speaks of children who have been removed from their homes and other weak groups, they are absolutely not in a condition to speak out if the quality is not good enough. The weakness is that it is easy enough to compare prices, but it is somewhat more difficult to compare quality.

Another aspect is that it is hard for the more expensive institutions to explain precisely why one gets a much better product here than from a cheaper competitor. This is, in any case, true when the offers are presented on [tilbudsportalen.dk](http://tilbudsportalen.dk). Tove Larsen says here that, "I feel that it is a shame, that if the quality institutions, that are expensive today, because they do a good job, need to compromise their methods, which they know work well. We will thereby forfeit the quality and specialized knowledge that we require. I believe primarily that it will give an inferior quality. « (Weekly magazine A4, 2007).

The former Minister of Welfare, Eva Kjer Hansen, stressed that the transparency and overview of the welfare services offered by [tilbudsportalen.dk](http://tilbudsportalen.dk) would, on the contrary, give caseworkers a much better opportunity to find the perfect solutions for the citizens. In December 2006 we could already establish that the municipalities had budgeted for a saving of over 600 million Danish kroner as a result of them taking over these tasks, we therefore took it as a clear signal to caseworkers that they should go after the cheapest offer available.

### **The municipalities work against commercialization**

Right from the start the municipalities did not act in agreement with the government's intentions with regard to the big market. When they had the opportunity to take over the former council/super municipality institutions, they choose to take over as many as 88% of the places. The municipal logic told the municipal politicians and the local civil servants that, if in any case they would be paying the whole bill for running costs, then they might as well own as well as run the institutions.

It is also possible, that many municipalities have expected to benefit with efficiency and rationalization profits, by "running the area better" than the former councils/super municipalities could. Later more institutions were taken over, especially in the large municipalities, which are trying to remain self sufficient with regards to places – also in very specialized fields. The Social Education Workers naturally regret this development, in which we see many danger signs. Seen from the standpoint of Social Education Workers and Social Workers, there is a large risk that the services provided will become less specialized and that the users, to a larger degree, will be treated the same as the municipalities' "normal" children and elderly.

When municipalities try to be self-sufficient, what happens is that the content of the tenders no longer is so important, and that the information on [tilbudsportalen.dk](http://tilbudsportalen.dk) would also not need to be precise and updated. The latter is documented clearly in a new report, which the Social Education Workers helped to prepare. The municipalities simply fail to prioritize the task of reporting, and information is incomplete, incorrect and in some cases totally misleading. The portal can therefore not be used as a tool to search for places in other municipalities/regions, and one shall therefore fall back on "doing what we're accustomed to", dvs. drawing on the old contacts and phone around.

I had, however, not expected that the tender portal would become a large battering ram on the free market mechanism for the special care social area in Denmark – and had also not hoped that this would happen. Now that the portal is established, it could be a source in order to get an overview, which we have lacked for many years in precisely this official service area. In opposition to other large service areas, such as childcare, schooling and eldercare, statistics and key figures are almost nonexistent for the special care area in Denmark. Even though only the folkeskole (primary and lower secondary school) areas are larger – seen purely from

an economic standpoint.

### **Local challenges and local solutions**

At this point in time we must conclude that even though the tenders and tender portals will probably not open a genuine free market, as was the intention, other elements of the structure reform will however have significant consequences for our field in the coming year.

By taking over almost all institutions, the municipalities now have areas where totally unique circumstances/conditions are the rule of the day. The municipalities have had very little knowledge about the institutions they have taken over. They expect, therefore, to try to minimize their economic risks. There will be a focus on increased economic controls at the level of the institution, as well as continuous adjustments with low occupancy rates in the course of the budget year.

Many municipalities expect to enter into close dialog with the other municipalities (clients) in order to continually sell places to them, as well as keeping focus on the charges. The smaller municipalities do not have the necessary client base they would need in order to establish their own offers and will therefore become dependent on the bids that the larger municipalities provide.

I predict that there will be a continuous but significant change of the institutions' structure and management systems, in the direction of larger entities and fewer Social Education Worker managers, answering to the trend in the general municipal system.

In Denmark we usually pride ourselves on the strong local democracy, where the responsibility of caring for the weak and vulnerable groups of the community rests. The flip side of the coin is that this type of system will provide many different solutions. The municipalities will probably succeed in hindering the government's commercialization process for much of the way. The Municipal Reform will mean that service and quality for specialized social service areas will vary widely – and not always to the users' advantage. Some solutions will probably be excellent, while others will be terrible. Therefore reform is not complete for the Social Education Workers – we are watching developments closely.

By Benny Anderson

Vice Chairman of Socialpædagogernes

Landsforbund (The National Federation of Social Educators)



The European Union, together with its citizens, is undergoing profound change. Demographic change, greater global competition, technological developments and the enlargement of the EU itself are all shaping the lives—both private and professional—of ordinary men and women across the Member States. This overview uses Eurofound's research findings to capture a snapshot of what it means to live and work in Europe at the start of the 21st century. The reports listed in this overview, all available through the Eurofound website, will give the reader a deeper insight into the issues raised here.

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/pubdocs/2008/90/en/1/EF0890EN.pdf>



## Nordic Resistance Against Incarcerating Children

**Dead quiet.** Every year about 60 children in Norway are locked into small rooms, in which the only keys are outside the doors. After the key turns the lock and everything grows dead quiet, even adult and experienced inmates describe an intimidating and frightening solitude. It's been documented that in worst cases children in Norwegian jails do time with adult criminals, without contact with their parents or a lawyer. They can be kept in isolation and denied fellowship with their age group. This is in violation of the European Commission on Human Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (article 37), which Norway and many European countries have ratified. The Norwegian government presented a report to the Storting (national assembly) at the end of 2008 which entailed a number of good proposals regarding young criminals. But the Norwegian government does not go far enough in meeting the needs of such children, nor does it satisfy the country's international obligations.

**Never inexplicable.** We have seen cases in Norway in which children in precarious and vulnerable life situations can be a threat to themselves and their surroundings. It is hard and painful to accept, but never totally inexplicable, when children commit serious crimes. Without exception, these children have not been given adequate, timely help. In most cases the care of these children has been insufficient and in retrospect it is generally evident that many adults have known about the circumstances but failed to react. When children commit serious criminal acts the last thing they need is to be locked into a small room. Their needs are for care, welfare service follow-ups, school and in many cases the focus of special health services. The children need to be rehabilitated and made into secure and functioning members of society. Prison doesn't do that.

**Collective resistance.** At the same time as a debate about children in jail has circulated in several Norwegian newspapers, Nordic social educators met in Nuuk at Greenland to pass a joint protest against all the Nordic authorities' treatment of young criminals. The Nordic Forum for Social Educators (NFFS) in which the Norwegian Union of Social Educators and Social Workers (FO) is a member, represents 250,000 members. Many of the national organizations are also members of the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW). The Nuuk resolution poses several challenges to Nordic government authorities:

**No children in jail.** NFFS demands that Nordic authorities ensure that no children are to be incarcerated and nobody under the age of 18 is confined in isolation. The rule of thumb in punitive reactions for children and youth must be social initiatives. Minors should lose their freedom only in exceptional circumstances, where it is imperative to shield society from them. In such cases deprivation of liberty should be ended as soon as possible. Work with young criminals requires across-the-board efforts and binding co-operation between various sectors and public administrative levels prior to, during and following the implementation of penal sanctions. In Nordic countries this means the implementation of new types of measures.

**Participation and socializing.** According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child a child's best interests are to take sway in actions involving children. This means that human rights must be stringently interpreted to ensure that the child's needs are in focus during all political decisions about penal sanctions against young lawbreakers. Young criminals must be followed up by public bodies established for children. In Nordic countries child welfare services must ensure that offers for those who are convicted are tailored to the individual child. Such offers must involve school counsellors and social welfare personnel with competence in helping children and youth with extensive needs and provocative behaviour. Such help must be given within a framework that coincides with the child's need for complete help and treatment, and affords the child with an opportunity for positive development, alternative behaviour patterns and social mastering skills. Help schemes must account for children's and penal perspectives and secure the individual child's opportunity to participate in society and become socialized into a well-functioning adult.

**Beneficial conditions for growing up.** Little research has been done on young lawbreakers. The Nordic countries should rectify this by co-ordinating such studies. Furthermore, routines should be developed regarding how parents, police, child welfare/social services, schools, health services, courts and penal institutions should co-operate when children break the law. It is imperative that court custody personnel participate in this collaboration. Proper conditions for growing up and good living conditions are the most effective countermeasures against youth

***"Every year about 60 children are locked into small rooms, in which the only keys are outside the doors."***

crime. This means that the Nordic countries must make sure that sufficient preventive measures encompass all children, with a special emphasis on groups considered to be at risk of running criminal paths.

**Impact of liberalism.** A liberalistic view has gained sway in the Nordic countries in recent decades and legitimizes that an array of social challenges, including youth criminality, are individualized and ascribed to inherent characteristics. In several Nordic countries this is conveyed in crime prevention policies by a mounting focus of the placement of guilt and meting out of punishment. As a countermeasure, the knowledge and skills of social work professions and counselling regarding the dynamic relationship between individuals and society contribute to an approach of young lawbreakers as whole persons in the context of their environments.

**Don't give up on children.** Punishing children with jailing is a violation of a youngster who has already been let down. Punishment and incarceration have little preventive effect and they reflect adult incapability. We can never give up on a child, despite any criminal acts they might have committed. Our hope is that Norwegian and Nordic authorities recommend new, suitable measures under the direction of child welfare authorities, thus putting an end to vexation and children in jails. Despite big differences between European countries' legislation and their professional treatment of young criminals, we hope that the member organizations of IFSW Europe will be inspired by the Nordic resistance.

***“We can never give up on a child despite any criminal acts they might have committed.”***



Kjetil A. Ostling

Vice President – Norwegian union of social educators and social workers



Benny Andersen

Vice president – Danish National Federation of Social Educators



Improving the mental health and well-being of children and young people is one of the five priorities set out in the European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being which was launched at the EU high level conference in June 2008.

A new survey published on the Mental Health and Well-being of Children and Young people examined parents' perceptions of their child's mental health and well-being in 27 European Countries.

For the results see: [http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_determinants/life\\_style/mental/mental\\_health\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/mental_health_en.htm)

## An Update on Confidentiality and Information Sharing: ANAS and BASW Cooperation

On the 13th of December ANAS received in Paris a delegation of social workers from the United Kingdom representing BASW (British Association of Social Workers)

This meeting follows work presented at the delegates meeting in Parma in 2007 where the two countries identified common concerns, about confidentiality and the sharing of information. Changing political contexts is impacting on the work of social workers.

After the comparison of the national legislation, and some exchanges about current issues, we noticed some common trends pushed by the political context:-

- A large and strong mediatisation covering some dramatic and extreme situations (like child deaths) used afterwards to justify a legislation based and centred on the control of population called " with risks".
- Increasing requests for the sharing of information on behalf of the transparency and the fight against delinquency
- More and more requests about quantified results made on actions engaged by the social workers ....

As a result of all this issues, ANAS and BASW decided to do a proposal and develop a common framework to be presented at the Delegates meeting in Dubrovnik.

Veronique Barre



On the eve of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, ministers from around the EU held a high-level meeting dedicated to fighting poverty and promoting social inclusion.

2010 will be the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. The meeting held on October 16, 2008 in Marseille, France, marked the kick-off for preparations across Europe. NGOs, local authorities and everyone working against exclusion were invited to participate in the campaign. The initiative will have a budget of at least €26 million, including €17 million of EU funding.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=407>

## IFSW Europe and the Council of Europe: by Antonina Dashkina

### My feelings

For several years I was extremely interested in the work of the Council of Europe. I had an opportunity to be involved in several campaigns organized by CoE in my capacity of the President of Russian Union of social workers and social pedagogues. The activities were connected with the poverty and social cohesion.

Of course I had information about the activities of INGOs of CoE via our IFSW Europe representatives – Gabriele and Bruno. The reports were regularly provided.



Very unexpectedly for me and rather quickly on 3 of October 2008 I was elected vice chair of the Social Cohesion and Eradication of Poverty Committee.

I am very happy and also thankful to the Board of IFSW Europe for nominating me for this position. It is a great privilege and responsibility to represent social workers associations belonging to IFSW Europe.

Although I was interested and involved in INGOs activities I still did not quite understand the importance of this organization. That is why my reports and articles will become regular and hopefully useful.

### A little bit of the history

INGOs conference is one of the 4 pillars of the Council of Europe. It was created in January 2005 as the collective body of the INGOs enjoying participatory status and also in 2005 became the 4<sup>th</sup> pillar of the Council of Europe. It was a big victory of many NGOs (including us, IFSW Europe). It was a process of nearly 30 years.

The [Liaison Committee](#) of NGOs enjoying consultative status was established in 1976 - under the responsibility of the non-governmental organisations themselves, but working closely with the Directorate of External Relations of the Directorate General of Political. The main aim was to improve methods of co-operation with the Council of Europe, to monitor INGO meetings in the various specialist areas. In addition, a [Plenary Conference](#), to which all NGOs enjoying consultative status with the Council of Europe was similarly initiated in 1977. It determined guidelines for improving the functioning of the participatory status and, in the light of these, the Liaison Committee's objectives.

The establishment of this permanent liaison structure has added a new dimension to relations between the Council of Europe and NGOs. In addition, according to their concerns and having regard to the Council of Europe's work programme, the NGOs formed *groupings* around several interest sectors which were the following:

### New structure of INGOs Conference

In June 2008 the Liason Committee was renamed and became a standing Committee and the groupings were replaced by the following committees :



- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| • Civil society                       | • Health                                      |
| • Countryside and environment         | • Human Rights                                |
| • Education and culture               | • NGO Towns                                   |
| • Extreme poverty and social cohesion | • North-south dialogue and solidarity         |
| • Gender Equality                     | • European Social charter and social policies |



- Human Rights Committee
- Culture, Science and Education Committee
- Civil Society and Democracy Committee
- **Social Cohesion and Eradication of Poverty Committee**
- Sustainable Territorial Development Committee
- Gender Equality Transversal Group
- Europe and Global Challenges Transversal Group.



This system is seen to be more effective in enabling the NGOs to become more representative and active in their dealings not only with the Secretariat's departments, but also with the intergovernmental and parliamentary committees. It thus represents an important step forward towards more efficiency in the consultation and co-operation process with INGOs.

### January 2009

In January 2009 I participated in the activities of the INGOs Conference in my new capacity for the first time. One of the important events was election of the new President. Annelise Oshger was a President of the INGOs Conference for 5 years. She has done a lot for the organization and was an inspiration for many NGOs.

On Wednesday 28 January, the Conference of INGOs elected its new President. [Mr. Jean-Marie Heydt](#), at the European Association of Training Centres for Socio-Educational Care Work ( FESET ), has been elected President of the INGO Conference with a three year mandate. Mr. Heydt was Vice-President of the Conference for 5 years. His professional background is the education and social sectors. Having graduated in European studies, he completed a doctorate in education science, specialising in the different European approaches, and is currently in charge - as Director General - of a French organisation, employing 400 people and located in the Bas-Rhin, which seeks to support and promote family well-being.

In his speech Jean-Marie said "The Council of Europe expects us to be the "spokespersons" of organised civil society. We accordingly cannot remain silent in the face of the conflicts that tear our countries apart and cause mass suffering. We must bring our influence to bear on NGOs in the states concerned so that they become a driving force for dialogue, democracy and the promotion of reconciliation and peace. "

It is a good sign for IFSW Europe that we have our colleague from the partner organization FESET as the President of INGOs Conference.

The conference adopted several very important papers

- [Recommendation on the first report of the Expert Council on Ngo Law](#)
- [Recommendation on the proposed Council of Europe Convention to prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence](#)
- [Recommendation on Instituting a "European Year of Voluntary Action"](#)
- [Recommendation on the Durban Review Conference "to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance"](#)
- [Recommendation on the protection of Human Rights Defenders in the Russian Federation](#)
- [Recommendation "Conference of INGOs – a budget to meet its mission"](#)



*You can find  
information  
about INGOs  
Conference on  
the website  
[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)*



## Poverty and the work of INGOs

22 October 2008 THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION announced the year 2010 as the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion (2010)

The document stated that the problem of poverty and social exclusion has broad, complex and multidimensional forms. They relate to a large number of factors, such as income and living standards, the need for educational and decent work opportunities, effective social protection systems, housing, access to good quality health and other services, as well as active citizenship. Stakeholders across all relevant policy areas should therefore be involved.

The document also talks that the prevention of and the fight against poverty require multidimensional policies at national, regional and local level which ensure a balance between economic and social policies and targeted strategies for groups or persons in particularly vulnerable situations. The European Year may help to stimulate such multidimensional policies as well as the further development of relevant indicators. The Lisbon European Council invited Member States and the Commission to take steps to make 'a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty' by 2010.

Our Social Cohesion and Eradication of Poverty Committee suggested to start preparation for this 2010 Year and in 2009 to have a campaign "No to Poverty, Europe"

We suggested a lot of possible activities among those:

- the organisation of various solidarity initiatives for poverty alleviation and social inclusion to give all citizens the opportunity to contribute directly or through their organisations, even modestly and in whatever form. Media campaigns at Community and national level may support fundraising operations within the framework of the European Year.
- the development of a logo, available in a variety of formats, and slogans for the European Year, for use in connection with any action linked to the European Year.
- an information campaign at Community level with positioning at national and local level, based on both traditional and new communication channels and new technologies.
- the production of communication and media tools available throughout the Community to stimulate public interest.
- appropriate initiatives by educational institutions, non-governmental organisations and charities at Community and national level, to disseminate information on the European Year and on measures to fight poverty and social exclusion.
- a strong link with organisations and sectors not usually engaged with issues of poverty and social exclusion (e.g. sport, art), including the use of testimonials and 'ambassadors'.
- the establishment of an information website.

*"...the problem of poverty and social exclusion has broad, complex and multidimensional forms."*

The next meeting in Strasburg will be unfortunately at the same time when all of you will meet in Dubrovnik. I will miss all my social work friends a lot. But in April the decision and planning of campaign "No to Poverty, Europe" will be made and in my new report I will tell about this.

I would like to thank Gabriele who advised me in Strasburg and was always there to help.

Antonina Dashkina.

IFSW Europe representative

to INGOs Conference of the Council of Europe.

## Europe and Social Policy

### An Update by Executive Committee Member Barbara Molderings

It's time for a new update. Time is running so fast and if you look into the internet you will see that a lot of remarkable things are going on in Europe.

#### Education

The European Parliament agreed on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October to quadruple the budget for the academic mobility programme. The 20-year-old Erasmus Programme is now the Erasmus Mundus Programme, which targets non-EU countries. Europe should become with this programme a leading position on the international university scene. The budget for the programme increased from 230million Euro to 950 million Euro. The aim is to involve not only European students and professors, but also those of abroad and the so called third world.

In the context of this programme, MEPs have called on member states to simplify their visa procedures and make it easier for qualified students and scholars to join programmes offered at EU educational institutions.

read more

[www.euroactiv.com/en/education/meps-give-major-boost-erasmus-mundus/article](http://www.euroactiv.com/en/education/meps-give-major-boost-erasmus-mundus/article)

#### Health

On 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008, Health Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou launched the “Europe Patients” campaign in Brussels. The campaign highlights the different health policy initiatives the Commission intends to adopt in the coming 6-9 months. All these initiatives are bound by a common goal- healthcare for all in Europe. The initiatives address patient safety, rare disease, organ donation and transplantation, cancer screening, health workforce, flu and childhood vaccination and antibiotic use. The proposed Directive on the application of patients' rights in cross border health care is the first initiative under the campaign and was adopted by the Commission in July 2008.

read more:

<http://health.europe.eu/efp>

[www.euroactiv.com/en/pa/campaign-seeks-boost-interes-eu-health-initiatives](http://www.euroactiv.com/en/pa/campaign-seeks-boost-interes-eu-health-initiatives)

#### Poverty

The the Round Table against poverty and social exclusion was held under the French Presidency of the EU. It took place in Marseille. The work of the Round table will contribute to the preparations of the European Year combating poverty and social exclusion 2010.

For the first time, an informal ministerial meeting on fight against poverty will immediately follow the Round table. It will aim both: strengthen political commitment from Member States and make recommendations which could feed the December 2008 Council on active inclusion.

The European Year 2010 “Eradicating Poverty” aims to:

Recognise the rights and capacity of excluded people to play an active part in the society

Underline the responsibility of everyone in society to tackle poverty

Promote social cohesion and disseminate successful practices on inclusion

Reinforce the commitment of all major political players to take more effective actions

78 million people in the EU – or 16% of the population, and 19% of the children – are currently at risk of poverty. The today's financial crisis will increase the figures.

To define poverty often depends on the perspective someone has. Therefore the EU gives the following definition:

People are considered at risk of poverty when they live on an income below 60% of the median household income of their own country.

Poverty is seen as a widespread problem in the EU. Therefore all 27 Member States have developed multi-annual national action plans. Before 2000 only 3 states had such strategies in place.

The European Social Fund (ESF) now represents around 10% of the EU budget and invests around €10 billion in people's skills every year across Member States.

read more: [www.ec.europa.eu/social/main](http://www.ec.europa.eu/social/main),

## Children

In October 2008 the MEPs discussed how to protect children better from internet dangers.

With the increasing availability of the internet, children are being exposed more and more to illicit images and content. A reported 74% of young people between 12-15 years use the internet at least 3 hours a day.

The MEPs discussed new measures to increase the security of children who use internet.

**1.Nurturing a network of support.** It means to ensure the public awareness of risks involved in using new technologies; priority should be given to making young people aware of possible forms of abuse and the importance and value of their own privacy.

**2.Parent-teacher responsibility stressed** The Parliament hopes to have the safer internet scheme approved by 2009 where it will receive a initial €55 million backing. The scheme will encourage responsible monitoring of content by immediate family members and try to help to increase the dialogue between media savvy youngsters and adults. It is hoped that through closing this generation gap, parents and teachers can raise the children's awareness.

**The identifying and labelling of "safe sites"** In cases of serious paedophile activity, support will be given to NGOs in setting up help lines and national contact points. Concerned parents can already help combat child abuse by contacting InHope.org which has hotlines in 39 countries.

read more: [www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/public)

## Ethics in Social Work : Statement of Principles

### Reviewing the ethical documents of the IFSW and IASSW

In 2004 the IFSW and IASSW together approved a new document establishing a framework for ethics in social work. This 'statement of principles' responded to the idea that the appropriate role for international organisations is to create a framework within which national associations and schools of social work can refine and further develop the ethics of social work in ways that are appropriate to their contexts. It was broadly agreed, although not by everybody, that the international associations cannot establish a 'code' of ethics but that this is the task for national associations. The statement of principles therefore provides the framework within which such codes can be created and sustained.

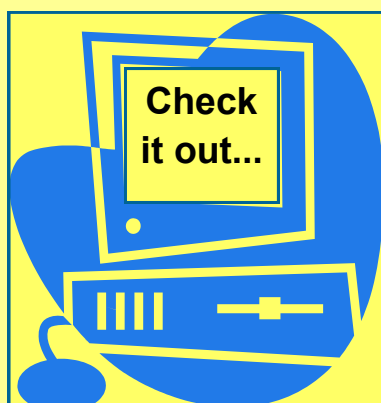
Debate about the nature of ethics in social work continues, with recent arguments focusing on the extent to which the values that underpin ethics influenced by culture. To respond to this the IFSW and the IASSW agreed that the statement of principles would be kept under review. To help with this process we are now inviting colleagues to share ideas about the continued development of the statement of principles. In particular, we would like to address the following questions.

1. To what extent does the current statement of principles adequately address the underlying values and ethics of the social work profession?
2. To what extent are the principles contained in the statement relevant in different contexts? In particular, are these principles culturally specific?
3. How may the statement of principles be further strengthened to assist the continued growth of good practice?

Ideas about other aspects of values and ethics in social work will also be welcome. Submissions may be made either through national associations or schools of social work, or by individuals, and should be directed to me as the Ethics Commissioner for the IFSW. I welcome communication by e-mail to [r.hugman@unsw.edu.au](mailto:r.hugman@unsw.edu.au) or by post to Prof. Richard Hugman, School of Social Sciences & International Studies, University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW 2052, Australia.

I look forward to hearing from colleagues.

Richard Hugman



As Poland celebrates 90 years of independence, professional social work celebrates 80.



Read more at: <http://www.ifsw.org/en/p38001576.html>

## IFSW Europe Representative on Human Rights

The Executive Committee of IFSW Europe has appointed Graça André from Portugal as the new Representative to the Global Human Rights Commission.

Ruth Stark from the UK was in that position but is now the Global Human Rights Commissioner since the last IFSW General Meeting in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, August 2008.

Graça André is a Social Worker, with an Academic Degree in Social Work and a Master Degree – Images and Practices of Social Workers as interventors in Minimum Income Processes - professional ethical perspectives.

She works at Casa Pia, a very old and important Child Protection Institution, in Lisbon, Portugal.

Since 2007 she is a Researcher at the Centre of Studies of Social Work and Sociology (CESS) at Catholic University of Lisboa and a Teacher of Ethics and Deontology of Social Work Degree at Catholic University of Lisboa.

### Activities as IFSW member

In April 2008 Graça promoted the Portuguese translation of the IFSW Manual Social Work and the Rights of the Child – a Professional Training Manual on the UN Convention, with the support of the Portuguese Association of Trained Social Workers, IFSW European HR Commissioner, Ruth Stark, High School of Miguel Torga of Coimbra, Governmental Department of Social Welfare and Lawyers of Coimbra University and with the edition of Casa Pia de Lisboa. This Manual was introduced in a national seminar at Lisboa, under the same topic, to professionals working with children in risk and danger.

She is a member of the International Relations Group (GRINAPSS) of the Portuguese Association of Trained Social Workers, and the national delegate to the IFSW Europe Project on Social Work Meeting (Human) Social and Economic Rights.

From 1988 to 1996 Graça was a member of the board of the Portuguese Association of Trained Social Workers (APSS) as secretary to International Relations, attended to several IFSW Delegates Meetings, Seminars and Conferences (regional and world), and also promoted national and international meetings and training courses to Portuguese Social Workers.

From 1993 to 1995 she was a member of the organising committee of the IFSW European Conference at Lisbon with EASSW (April – Mai 1995) under the topic of Human Rights and Social Welfare, as responsible for the divulgation of materials and also workshops and field visits planning.

From 1988 to 1990 delegate of APSS in the National Commission (SW High Schools Association, SW High Schools Students Association and Syndicates) to the negotiations near governmental departments to the promotion of academic degree at SW Schools in Portugal.

Graça will be reporting on her work at the Delegates Meeting in Dubrovnik.





## IFSW Europe Blog

In October 2008 the Executive Committee of IFSW Europe launched a Blog to start connecting with all Social Workers, Social Work Students and everybody else that wants to participate by sharing news and information regarding social issues on an international level turning this into a very interactive way of communication.

We have been posting news about the main activities of IFSW Europe, Reports of the Seminars of IFSW -Europe Project "Standards in Social Work Practice Meeting (Human) Social and Economic Rights" information on Conferences, National and European Events, Seasons Greetings, etc.

Please start visiting the Blog and sending us your comments on the posts and sending us general information on what is happening in your countries regarding Social Work and let us know about the activities of your organizations.

World Social Work Day is on the 17th March and we would like to post on the Blog your plans for this Celebration and the reports with images on what has happened on the Day.

We will post news and comments in the 3 languages: English, French and Spanish.

<http://www.ifsweurope-ifsw europe.blogspot.com/>

## Annual Social Platform Meeting

The Annual meeting of the Social Platform was held in Brussels on the 9th and 10th December 2008: Veronique Barre reports:

The meeting was called "Civil Dialogue: How can we shape the Europe we want?"

About 130 associations from all around Europe were represented. There were many debates with some representatives from European Commission or European Parliament

Discussions and debates were very wide and intense, focusing on how European countries could be more involved in the European issues and be more linked with the EU.

Four specific groups focused debates on the following issues:

- What is the future of the open method of coordination on social inclusion?
- Funding for the public concerns: where should the money come from?
- What is the role of European NGO networks in bridging the gap between the European and national level?
- New faces in Europe: how can we connect with the "hard to reach" communities across EU?

More information about discussions and the recommendations are available on the web site of the Social Platform : [www.socialplatform.org](http://www.socialplatform.org)

## Social Workers Most At Risk From Workplace Violence

This is the title of a news story which appeared on the IFSW website in September 2008:

Social workers and health workers report the highest level of exposure to threats of workplace violence according to a new report from the European Foundation for the improvement of the Living and Working Conditions.

The incidence of threats is higher than for health professionals and teachers, the next highest groups, and more than twice the rate for the average European worker. Workers in the European education sector, particularly teachers, are also exposed to higher levels of workplace violence of all types (threats of violence, actual physical violence, and bullying and harassment).

There is also evidence that these high risk professions experience higher levels of emotional and intellectual demand in their work, arising in many cases from frequent social contact, which are both a consequence of, and a contributing factor to, higher levels of exposure to violence.

Workers in these sectors are also more likely to report having the psychosomatic symptoms associated with workplace violence, and to take more health-related leave.

These are some of the conclusions from a new background paper from Eurofound. 'Violence in the education sector', drafted in response to a request from the European Trade Union Committee for Education. Data, taken principally from Eurofound's fourth European Working Conditions Survey, indicate that a high proportion (more than 20%) of teachers in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland Luxembourg and the UK report being exposed to threats of physical violence.

You can read more at: [http://www.ifsw.org/en/p38001480.html?force\\_folder=038000059](http://www.ifsw.org/en/p38001480.html?force_folder=038000059)

## Risk Assessment

The European Agency for Safety and Health at work (EU-OSHA) has developed a European-wide information campaign focussing on risk assessment. The campaign has a particular focus on high risk sectors.

As part of this project a fact sheet on risk assessment for care workers has been produced (E-fact 25).

Following a brief introduction about home care workers and care worker activities, the fact sheet includes sections on 'How to do a Risk Assessment' and 'How to use a Checklist'. A general checklist is then presented to help determine 'Does the hazard exist at the workplace?'. An executive list of 'Proposed solutions and examples of preventive measures' is then considered, for the different questions posed in the general checklist. A case study is then presented, showing how appropriate education and training and use of risk assessment tools and a resource guide can alter a home care worker's perception of occupational safety and health issues and through this reduce the potential for injuries and claims. Finally, sources of further information are presented at the end of the fact sheet.

You can download the fact sheet from:

<http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/e-facts/efact35/view>

## Forthcoming Conferences



The first ENSACT Joint European Conference is nearly here. Make sure you book your place now at

[www.social2009.org](http://www.social2009.org)

1<sup>st</sup> ENSACT Joint Conference in Croatia, Dubrovnik, April 26-29, 2009

Dear colleagues,

There are only 65 days left to the 1<sup>st</sup> ENSACT Joint European Conference in Dubrovnik.

We are very proud and excited to have been given a chance to host such an important event that gathers experts from various “supporting professions”: lecturers, researchers, students, policymakers, service providers, and service users from “East to West”, representing an excellent opportunity for them to share and exchange knowledge and experience and to discuss ways forward in the field of social practice, education, policy and provision.

More than 600 participants have already registered for the Conference and more than 200 papers have been submitted and we should be very proud that one of the keynote speakers is our colleague Mr. Herbert Paulischin, the practitioner.

During the Conference, IFSW Europe executive will present a report on our European project Standards in Social Work Practice Meeting Human, Social, and Economic Rights.

Members from more than 20 countries were engaged in an intense debate on this theme to which everybody could easily relate, even if their approach sometimes differed on account of their different past, legacies, working conditions and practice.

Field visits will be organized during the Conference to provide an opportunity for the participants to gain strong insight into specificities of the Republic of Croatia, by exploring its 55 year old tradition in the social work field characterized by well developed social services and educated social workers.

Over the centuries of rich Dubrovnik history, different types of care for socially vulnerable groups have developed. You will have the opportunity to visit Home for Old and Disabled “Domus Christi” opened in 1347 and being one of the oldest social institutions in the Republic of Croatia and in this part of Europe, as well as Children’s Home “Maslina” operating in Dubrovnik since 1432.

On the island of Korčula, birthplace of world-famous explorer Marco Polo, we will acquaint you with the structure and work methods of Center for Social Care, a service competent for general social work, custody, legal protection of children, families and physically or mentally challenged persons. The centre offers protection of and care for children and youth with behavioral disorders, first instance court expert service, full-day and half-day programs in the facility for psychically ill adults, as well as the unique program of social welfare policy intended to stop the emigration from the island.

You will also have a chance to explore different types of care in the area of the City of Dubrovnik and Dubrovačko-Neretvanska County by observing the work of the institutions for old and disabled persons, for physically disabled persons, the institutions offering full-day or half-day care, or help and care in the house.

We will exchange experiences in the fields of fostering, care of cerebral palsy sufferers and care for the old and disabled through the presentation of different programs and work methods of civil society associations, as well as of different programs aimed at stopping the family violence and offering professional help to victims and coercers. The Family Center of the City of Dubrovnik will present various prevention programs.

Aiming to enhance social work practice by facilitating the exchange of professional ideas and experiences, we believe that this Conference will also be an opportunity for all to socialize, have fun and laugh together. We therefore invite you again to participate in the most important event of IFSW Europe in the year 2009 and are looking forward to welcoming you in Dubrovnik.

Tatjana Katkić Stanić

President of Croatian Association of Social Workers



Dubrovnik looks forward to welcoming members of IFSW Europe.

**ENSACT– Conference in Dubrovnik/Croatia, April 27th to April 29th, 2009**

**SOCIAL ACTION IN EUROPE. DIFFERENT LEGACIES – COMMON CHALLENGES?**

**PRE-CONFERENCE: HUMAN RIGHTS IN TEACHING AND PRACTICE**

**APRIL, 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2009, 10.00 to 18.00 in the old city of Dubrovnik, adress: Benfortuna d.o.o., Poljana Paška Miličevića 4. (You can see the place of Benfortuna on [www.benfortuna.hr](http://www.benfortuna.hr))**

At the European Conference in Parma, in March 2007, colleagues from schools of social work and from social services have participated in a *Roundtable* with the human rights expert, professor Joe Wronka from Springfield College, Mass./ USA. After an introduction by Joe Wronka the participants informed about the relevance of Human Rights in the curricula of their schools. The session closed with the idea to start a European Network about the topic of "Teaching and Training for Human Rights in Social Work".

Fact is, that in spite of the different documents about the "International Definition of the Social Work Profession", the "Ethics in Social Work, Statements of Principles" and the "Global Standards for the Education and Training of the Social Work Profession" (all in a Supplement of the *Journal of International Social Work* of 2007), who all mention human rights as ethical criteria for social work, there is still little resonance about this till to-day. The same holds for the Recommendations of the Minister Committee of the Council of Europe of 2001 and 2003 to integrate human rights in the education and field work of social work. Yet, the revised European Social Charter of 1966 could and should be a great chance for social work to put its focus on social rights in theory and practice. A speaker at the Conference of the International Association of Schools of Social Work in Durban/South Africa was very radical in saying, that if the schools are not able to engage in and teach about human rights, they should stop to talk about them.

Yet, there are enough issues to discuss in their relevance for European social work. But it seems easier to point to the human rights violations of non-European countries: Considering the increasing gap between rich and poor and the 'jobless-growth' in many regions and suburbs (banlieues), considering the cutting of subsidies till to zero by misbehaviour, considering the inhuman European policies for refugees, the trafficking with women and children, the sometimes disastrous situations in homes and institutions, the growing nationalisms and racism, the crude national ethnocentrism of social policies and social welfare of the rich countries etc., there are plenty of relevant social problems which challenge social work and ask for a contribution with the means it has.

**ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE PRE-CONFERENCE**

Prof. Dr. Silvia Staub-Bernasconi, Master of Social Work "Social Work and Human Rights", Berlin/



Zürich

(mail: [staubernasco@bluewin.ch](mailto:staubernasco@bluewin.ch))

Prof. Dr. Hans Walz, University of Applied Sciences, Ravensburg-Weingarten (mail: [walz@hs-weingarten.de](mailto:walz@hs-weingarten.de))

Dr. Graça André, Social Worker and lecturer at the Catholic University in Lisbon (mail: [gan-dre@net.sapo.pt](mailto:gan-dre@net.sapo.pt))

### REGISTRATION FOR THE PRE-CONFERENCE

We would like to invite colleagues – teachers, practitioners and students – to discuss these issues in the Pre-Conference on Sunday, April 26, 2009. **The capacity of the room is for 100 participants.**

For Participation please send an email to: [walz@hs-weingarten.de](mailto:walz@hs-weingarten.de)

Postal adress:

Prof. Dr. Hans Walz

Hochschule Ravensburg-Weingarten

Postfach 1261

88241 Weingarten

Germany

Fax: Prof. Dr. Hans Walz – 0049-751- 501-9455

## Forthcoming Conferences



**August 18-21, 2009**

**Altai Republic**



### **III INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF SOCIAL WORKERS OF SIBERIA AND THE FAR EAST:**

**“SOCIAL WORK IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY: INFRASTRUCTURE, INNOVATIONS, INVESTMENT”**

The Russian Union of Social Workers and Pedagogues proudly informs all social care specialists that the III International Forum of Social Workers of Siberia and the Far East will be held from 18 through 21<sup>st</sup> of August in the Altai Republic, one of the most picturesque regions of Russia.

Government Head of the Altai republic BERDNIKOV ALEXANDER VASILIEVICH, has kindly agreed to host the Forum.

The Forum will focus on the development of social services of the present day and the role of social workers and pedagogues in eradication of poverty in Russia, making the information on rights and responsibilities, improvement of quality of life – all the problems that specialist in social care are very familiar with.

Special attention of the conference will be devoted to upgrading of the infrastructure of social services for various categories of people, and to demonstration of innovational experience of regions of Russia and of Asia and the Pacific.

The organizers of the Forum have put together a lot of interesting information. You will receive unique hand-outs with materials on social work with different categories of people, and on innovations in social work technologies in rural regions. The Forum is an excellent opportunity for establishing contacts with social care specialists of Europe and of the Asia and the Pacific region.

**To register for the Forum you need to send in a filled registration form BEFORE JUNE 1ST, 2009. It can be sent (respectively)**

**by e-mail to Altai republic [plaxotnyk@minwork.gorny.ru](mailto:plaxotnyk@minwork.gorny.ru), [razgonyeva@minwork.gorny.ru](mailto:razgonyeva@minwork.gorny.ru) (with a copy attached for [rusunisw@mail.ru](mailto:rusunisw@mail.ru)). The letter head should be “Registration for Forum”**

**by fax 7 495 253-82-96**

**by mail - the Organizing Committee address: 649000 Altai Republic, Gorno-Altai city, Chaptynov Street, 24.**

**To: Labour and Social Development Ministry (the letter should be marked “Registration for Forum”)**

## The Executive Meetings

### September 2008



The Executive Committee met in Denmark from 26th to 28th September 2008 and agreed on the priorities for the coming months. Further progress was made towards IFSW Europe becoming a legal body and work on planning for the forthcoming project seminars took place.

The Executive Committee meeting took place at the offices of the Danish Association of Social Workers. (from L to R: Siobhan Maclean, Nicolai Paulsen, Cristina Martins, Veronique Barre, Anthea Agius, Tatjana Katic Stanic, Barbara Molderings)

### January 2009

The Executive met in Lisbon from 9th to 11th January at the offices of Associação dos Profissionais de Serviço Social. A number of important developments were discussed including IFSW Europe's application for membership of the social platform.



From left to right, Veronique Barre, Cristina Martins, Tatjana Katic Stanic, Nicolai Paulsen, Barbara Molderings, Siobhan Maclean.

The Executive hard at work in the meeting room.

The Executive Committee will meet again in Dubrovnik in April just prior to the Delegates meeting.



### Looking Forward To...

The IFSW Europe Delegates meeting will take place from the 24th to the 26th April in Dubrovnik. Over the coming weeks Siobhan Maclean, our honorary secretary, will be distributing papers and coordinating arrangements .

Please inform Siobhan if you will be attending the meeting.

### Website News

Over coming weeks I will be making some changes to IFSW Europe's website. I will be adding news pages etc. If these is anything particular you would like to see on the website let me know.

### E-mails to Members

We now have a new e-mail address operated by Siobhan Maclean, our honorary secretary, e-mails to members will now come from [europe.ifsw@googlemail.com](mailto:europe.ifsw@googlemail.com) and you can also use this address to send e-mails to Siobhan.



European Social Network is an independent network for Social Services in Europe. Their website offers profile and news, policies and reports, and membership details.

<http://www.esn-eu.org/>