



Europe

ICSW EUROPE NEWSLETTER

Spring 2016

ISSN 2411-9709

Content

A Message from the President2
ICSW Europe General Assembly3
ICSW Europe Board Meeting in Berlin.....4
New ICSW Europe Member5
Applications for Support.....5
Social Platform’s General Assembly 20166
ENSACT7
European Accessibility Act.....7
World Social Work Day8
Conferences/Expert Meetings.....10
Useful Links.....10
Colophon10

A Message from the President

A Few Words about Future

Dear readers,

at the end of my two-year term as the president of ICSW Europe I would propose some ideas of the next possible steps according to my view. We have to follow the ICSW Europe vision of supporting the development and promotion of socially fair life in Europe, based on shared values, in order to enhance sustainability of human decent life for all.

We need to remind our basic regional document - the **Articles of Association of ICSW Europe**. According to the Articles, Art. 2, para 1 the four objectives are: to promote forms of **social and economic development**, which aim to reduce poverty, hardship and vulnerability throughout the world, especially amongst disadvantaged people; to strive for **recognition and protection of fundamental rights** to food, education, health care and security as it believes that these rights are an essential foundation for freedom, justice and peace; to seek to advance **equality of opportunity, freedom of self-expression, participation and access to human services**; to advocate policies and programmes which strike an appropriate **balance between social and economic goals** and which respect to cultural diversity and to seek implementation of these proposals by governments, international organisations and others.

According to the Articles of Association of ICSW Europe, Art. 2, para 2, the **Association's means of action** are: gathering and disseminating information; undertaking research and analysis; convening seminars and conferences; drawing on

grass-root experiences; strengthening non-governmental organisations; developing policy proposals; engaging in public advocacy; and working with policy-makers and administrators in government and elsewhere. ICSW Europe thus also provides an arena for international dialogue between practitioners, researchers, policy makers and civil society.

ICSW Europe is a full member of European Platform of Social NGOs (www.socialplatform.org) in Brussels and the Conference of International NGOs (INGO) at the Council of Europe. We need to be more active within them also with inviting all of our members to deal with. In 2008 ICSW Europe was a founding member of European Network for Social Action (ENSACT), which main activity is The Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development implementation in Europe. ICSW Europe is a founding member of newly established **Covenant on Demographic Change** (2016).

More information about Age Platform Europe find on: <http://www.age-platform.eu/> or <http://www.afeinnovnet.eu/>.

The financial issues are crucial, but more important is not to lose trust and to be more close to our mission. Financial stability has to be guaranteed either from services delivered to our constituency/membership and also as a result of our different activities. Better inter/membership cooperation and between regions brings synergy and attractiveness to potential partners and donors (such could expert meeting with participation of ICSW MENA region in October 2016 in Cyprus). We need to be in contact with potential new members/partners and to be more open to them in all regions. ICSW Europe is non-profit organization, but, nevertheless, it can have balance and potentially growing budget. The main target is to fulfil our mission as much as it is possible. Financial balance is one of the conditions to achieve our goals.

ICSW Europe improves contacts and cooperation between members and to be familiar with examples of good practice from us, to use open method of coordination, to cooperate together in joint projects and programs. We need to better use our capacity. **ICSW Europe can organize biannual European conferences** focused on fundamental social welfare issues (starting from 2017).

Managing the organisation with such a long history with a number of successes is always honour and a big challenge for each of us. We are not alone in Europe. We have a lot of friends, partners and allies like the Social Platform, that share with us the same goal. 48 Pan-European organisations are united in it. They are our natural allies. And they are not only in Europe. World Community has recognized the right for social protection floor at UN, New York in September 2015. We need to use the leading role of ICSW in forming global, regional and national coalitions. We want to continue in offering forum opened for expressing worries in the area of social development, welfare at home and in the world. We need to cooperate, not to compete.

I wish our ICSW Europe family success, satisfaction and progress in enhancing of sustainability of decent human life for all now and in the near future.

(Miloslav Hettes, President of ICSW Europe)

ICSW Europe General Assembly

ICSW Europe General Assembly is taking place in Prague (the Czech republic) on **26th-27th May, 2016** and is connected with the International Workshop.

1st Day – 26th May (Chateau Sluncova - Zamecek Sluncova, U Sluncove 64/10 (street), Prague 8)

10:00 – 12:00

ICSW Global and ICSW Europe Draft Work Program 2016 – 2020

13:00 – 17:00

International Workshop: Good Practice and Exchange of Experiences in Social Work with People in Danger of Poverty

13:00 – 13:15

Introductory Statements (ICSW Europe, AOP (ICSW of the Czech Republic), Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic

13:15 – 15:15

ICSW Europe member organizations contribution to social work with people in danger of poverty. Presentations by member organizations of the Citizens Advice International from England, Scotland, Gibraltar, Poland and Romania).

15:15 – 15:30

Summary, Discussion

15:30 – 15:45

Refreshment

15:45 -16:30

System possibilities of influencing the poor people difficult life situations and of people in danger of

poverty (Contributions from the Czech Republic and other ICSW Europe countries)

16:30 – 16:45

Summary, discussion

16:45

Final word, conclusions

17:00

End of the workshop

18:00

Dinner, social event

2nd Day – 27th May (Erasvet, Jungmannovo namesti, Prague 1)

9.00 – 13.00

ICSW Europe General Assembly

Agenda of the GA:

- a) Opening and checking of voting rights (paid up members)
- b) Approval of the minutes of the GA held in Helsinki (June 2015)
- c) Report from the President
- d) Report from the Treasurer
- e) Work Program 2016 -2020
- f) Updating of the budget
- g) Election of the Board members
- h) Election of two auditors
- i) Any other matter arising

ICSW Europe Board Meeting in Berlin

A regular (now face to face meeting) ICSW Europe Board meeting took place in Berlin (Germany) at headquarters of German National Committee of ICSW on **April 9th, 2016**. The members of the Board have regular meetings each month (via Skype videoconference).



Present members were (from the left side in the photo): Jean-Michel Hote (Treasurer, FR), Angele Cepenaitte (LT), Annelise Murakami (DK), Joaquin Eguren (ES), and Britta Spilker (DE). Miloslav Hettes (ICSW Europe President) and Gabriela Siantova (Secretary, SK) apologised.

The agenda of the ICSW Europe Board was to take the last decisions about the annual General Assembly in Prague (Board election process, preparation of the new Work Programme 2016-2020, financial report and budget for 2017). The requests for support from members were also discussed.

(editor ICSW Europe)

New ICSW Europe Member

ICSW Europe has accepted and approved the application for membership for category D member of **Project Casa Mare** registered in **Moldova**.



Project Casa Mare (PCM) is a non-governmental organization, registered in Moldova, that works in close collaboration with the Master of Social Work Program at the Free International University of

Moldova and the National Association of Social Workers in Moldova. This trilateral partnership operates under the mission of promoting social work professionalization, education, and legitimization in Moldova and other post-socialist countries – according to the international standards and in cooperation with international social work organization. The scope of interlocking activities of Project Casa Mare includes development of social work university curriculum and cutting edge educational methodologies, pursuing social entrepreneurship projects in Moldova, organizing international social work conferences, capacity building of social work cadre in Moldova, and activities designed to promote civil society in Moldova and beyond. Project Casa Mare emphasizes dialectic social work, systemic approach to social problems, youth participation, international social work solidarity, community organizing, and social entrepreneurship.



Project Casa Mare team

(by Vadim Moldovan, PCM Moldova)

Applications for Support

ICSW Europe has obtained and approved two applications for support in this approval period – **Cyprus and Russian Federation**.

Cyprus request arose from the Pan Cyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council to organize workshop/conference **“Social Protection Floors as Investment in Europe and Mediterranean”**. The event will be held in October in Nicosia this year. We expect cooperation also with ICSW MENA Region. The conference will be open to all members and experts, advocates, lobbyists in this field.

Theme of the activity:

“The role of ICSW in social development and cooperation in support of SPFs in the region. Follow up of ICSW Europe conclusions on guaranteed social protection in Rennes (2014) and Tbilisi (2015). Main speakers from Cyprus, ICSW European and MENA region will evaluate possibilities in the region. Other speakers will have possibilities to take the floor and share with their experience, proposal and amendments.

Experts, lobbyists and advocacy groups from the region evaluate possibilities and approaches in promotion of the social cohesion and inclusive growth". [...]

(from Pan Cyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council application for support)

The application of Russian Federation will be supported in 2017.

Social Platform's General Assembly 2016

ICSW Europe is one of the members of Social Platform. General Assembly of Social Platform was this time organized on Thursday **21st April**. ICSW Europe was represented by **Thomas Goldberg** President of ICSW Sweden (thomas.goldberg@akademssr.se).

Since Social Platform was formed in 1995, it has grown in size and influence. The number of members has grown from 20 to 48 and they represent more than 2,800 national organizations, associations and other voluntary groups at local, regional and national level in every EU member state – covering a large spectrum of the EU social civil society sector.

Social Platform seeks to bring added value to the work of members. Through democratic structure, it aims at full participation of members in a transparent manner that respects their diversity. Social Platform's work requires multiple ways of engaging with members. When implementing strategic objectives work is organized around five main activities:

- Building co-operation among members through the exchange of expertise and capacity building.
- Supporting members in developing joint campaigns on specific issues.
- Supporting members' campaigns on cross cutting issues.
- Ensuring access to decision makers for members on common policy issues.
- Leading the advocacy on strategic common issues through influencing EU policies and legislation.



Delegates at the General Assembly

After normal subjects handled on this type of assembly there was a question time with Pierre Moscovici, Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs.

The afternoon was spent in three consecutive thematic workshop sessions where we handled the same type of questions we ask ourselves within ICSW as well regarding our organization:

- Social Platform's added value and future perspectives;
- Internal governance;
- Engagement with members.

The results will be presented later on, everybody was very active and the members seemed to have the same view overall.

Find more information on www.socialplatform.org

(by Thomas Goldberg President of ICSW Sweden:)



Promoting the Dignity and Worth of People

Good Examples from European Social Work

by Kerstin Svensson and ENSACT



This report is the result of the joint efforts of the ENSACT partners, who worked together to collect the contributions from all over Europe. It aims to contribute to a better understanding of the good practices that are taking place all over Europe to promote the dignity and worth of people. The report will also serve as the European input for the Global Agenda Observatory report.

The report is based on examples of projects in social work that promote the dignity and worth of people. The examples were given by voluntary contributors who recognised their practice as a good example worth sharing. There were more than 30 examples submitted from 16 countries, while more organisations and countries were involved in the activities presented.

The emphasis in the given examples could be summarised as follows: *Respect, Awareness, Perspectives, Facilitation and Partnership*. The examples are stories about understanding and respecting the perspectives of people who live under hard circumstances. There is an aim to

promote better lives for people, either by direct interventions, or indirectly through raising awareness and added perspectives for social work students, practitioners and even the general public. Irrespective of the form of the action, the descriptions can both inspire and be transferred to and used in other contexts.

Promoting the dignity and worth of people is one of the core issues in social work. Through the given examples we see the enhancement of the importance of *regarding people as people*, not as roles or representatives of categories.

The digital version of this report at www.ensact.com includes links to all the materials received.

(by Kerstin Svensson, Lund University, Sweden; ENSACT)



The European Disability Forum (EDF) is an independent NGO that represents the interests of 80 million Europeans with disabilities. EDF is a unique platform which brings together representative organisations of persons with disabilities from across Europe.

EDF welcomes the publication of the long awaited Accessibility Act by the European Commission. It is of key importance that the Accessibility Act takes the form of a Directive.

After almost five years of campaigning EDF welcomes the proposal for a European Accessibility Act ("Accessibility Act"). It confirms

the European Commission's commitment to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities in the EU and it follows the recommendations made by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ("The Committee") in September 2015. The Accessibility Act was one of the three issues that the Committee asked for follow-up on within one year.

It is important to keep in mind that the main purpose of the proposed Accessibility Act is to align and harmonize the Member States' legislation concerning accessibility. Incorporating accessibility in national legislation is already a legal obligation for the Member States that have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). According to Article 9 CRPD "States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communication, including information and communication technologies systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public". The EU is thus helping the Member States to fulfil their obligations by harmonizing those rules to avoid fragmentation of the Internal Market of the EU.

The full version of Accessibility Act can be found on:

http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=34403

World Social Work Day



World Social Work Day falls each year on the third Tuesday of March. This is a significant occasion for local, national and international social work organisations to make the activities, and contributions of social work visible and the voice of social work heard.

This year the global social work organisations IASSW and IFSW accredited at the United Nations in Geneva, New York and Vienna and their European Branches accredited at the European Union in Brussels focussed the celebration of WSWD on the focus of the refugee crisis and the role of social work in it. They debated on this issue and came up with a global strategy and pledged their commitment to deal with this crisis.

The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW) organised World Social Work Day 2016 (WSWD) on **March 15th**. The theme of 2016 WSWD was '**Promoting the Dignity and Worth of Peoples**'.

Miloslav Hettes, President of ICSW Europe took part in the event as a moderator of the Panel "Forced Migration and the Role of Social Work" and also contributed with the presentation "Forced Migration".

"WSWD 2016 creates another opportunity for the profession to express international solidarity and to bring common messages to governments,

regional bodies and to our communities. The theme for this, and the last, WSWD comes from the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development. Each of the five Global Agenda themes runs for two years and 2016 is the second year for Promoting the Dignity and Worth of Peoples.“

The **programme** of World Social Work Day 2016 at the UN Geneva:

9.00 – 09.30 *Registration*

9:30 – 9:45

Welcome and opening statements

Klaus Kühne, IFSW main representative at the UN in Geneva

Joëlle Libois, directrice HES-SO Genève

9.50 – 10.30

Forced Migration: Refugees, Internal Displaced, Stateless, Poverty + Climate Refugees: The Role of Social Work in Origin and Transit countries

UNHCR: *Monika Brulhart*: The Refugee Crisis and Social Work

UNICEF: *Natia Partskhaladze* or *Jean Claude Legrand*: The Role of Social Workers and other Frontline Workers in the Refugee and Migrant response in Europe; UNICEF support to the capacity building of these (para)professionals

10.30 – 11.00 *Morning coffee break*

11.00 – 12.00

Panel: Forced Migration and the Role of Social Work:

Moderator: *Miroslav Hettes*, ICSW

Panellists:

Monika Brulhart, UNHCR:

Natia Partskhaladze or *Jean*

Claude Legrand: UNICEF

Nicole Windlin: Swiss Red Cross: Refugee and Social Worker

12.00 – 12.45

Interventions from the audience – Questions and answers

12.45 – 14.15 *Lunch*

Exposition: Jan Zychlinski. Forgotten Refugees in Transcaucasus + Ukraine

14:15 – 14:55

Integration and/or return: the role of social work

Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, IFRC

Milena Chimienti, HES-SO: Le trajectoire des enfants des réfugiés

Panel: Integration and Return: The Role of Social Work

Moderator: *Nino Žganec*, EASSW

Panelists:

Dr. Jemilah Mahmood, IFRC

Rolf Wiedmer: ISS + FICE

Milena Chimienti; HES-SO

IOM:

Swiss Refugee Organization

15:15 – 15:35 *Afternoon coffee break*

15:35 – 16:15

Interventions from the audience – questions and answers

16:15 – 16:35

Presentation of common statement

IASSW + IFSW

16:35 – 16:45

Closing remarks

Overall moderation by Klaus Kühne, IFSW + Anne Lavanchy, Genève, HES-SO

(source: <http://ifsw.org/world-social-work-day-2016/>)

Common Statement

We commit ourselves to:

- Work in partnership with all other agencies and professional groups to maximize results and we hope that this grass-roots/ ground-up

initiative will act as a catalyst for governments to work with us.

- Encourage co-operation at regional and country levels through joint actions with a worldwide net of social work organisations of professionals, educators and scientists.
- Educate, orient, sensitize and engage the worldwide network of social workers in the different streams of work of refugees and displaced persons and restoring dignity for all.
- To apply the principles of Social Work in situation of displacement and refuge by protecting and promoting the rights and dignity of all people in accessing health and social services, treatment, care and support and other social services in the varied field of practice where social workers engage.

(from: Common Statement: part 4. "Intensify and expand partnership")

For more information see, please:

<http://ifsw.org/world-social-work-day-2016/>

Conferences/Expert Meetings

17-19 June 2016 Bali, Indonesia

International conference on:

Emerging Challenges for Social Development And Human Services Practice in the Asia Pacific Region

The conference expects fruitful conversations between educators and practitioners across the globe with view to learn about the creative and innovative solutions that social workers are finding to meet the demands for social work within the region.

For more information see, please:

http://www.strengthsbasedpractice.com.au/2016_International_Conference_Bali.htm

Useful Links

World Social Work Day:

<http://ifsw.org/world-social-work-day-2016/>

The European Disability Forum:

<http://www.edf-feph.org/>

ICSW Europe on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/icsw.europe/?fref=ts>

International conference in Bali, Indonesia on **17-19 June 2016:**

http://www.strengthsbasedpractice.com.au/2016_International_Conference_Bali.htm

ENSACT - Promoting the Dignity and Worth of People:

www.ensact.com

AGE Platform Europe:

<http://www.age-platform.eu/>

<http://www.afeinnovnet.eu/>

Colophon

ICSW Europe registered office is located in the municipality of Utrecht (The Netherlands). The name of the Association is: International Council on Social Welfare Europe, abbreviated to: ICSW Europe.

The Newsletter of ICSW European Region is

published quarterly. Material may be freely reproduced or cited provided the source is acknowledged. Contributions on social welfare from all sectors of the international community are welcome.

Contributions and comments can be sent to:

ICSW Europe

Gabriela Siantova, Secretary and Editor

E-mail: gsiantova@gmail.com

ICSW European Region:

President: Miloslav Hettes (Slovakia)

Treasurer: Jean-Michel Hote (France)

Members of Executive Committee:

Angele Cepenaite (Lithuania), Annelise Murakami (Denmark), Joaquin Eguren (Spain), Britta Spilker (Germany)

Global Office:

International Council on Social Welfare

Website:

<http://www.icsw.org>

E-mail: icsw@icsw.org