



Europe

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ICSW Europe President's Report

The President's report presents to all members of ICSW Europe the main activities, which we fulfilled during one-year period between Bratislava and Helsinki General Assemblies (19 June 2014 – 9 June 2015). General Assembly gave mandate to fully new administration of the Council. Although all members had possibility to follow its activities with the help of revitalized regional **Newsletter** (www.icsw.org/region, webpage not updated) and with the help ICSW Europe own **Facebook** webpage (www.facebook.com/icsw.europe), the intention of this report is to describe events more comprehensive.

The report focuses mainly on ICSW Europe regional activities, less on global events or activities organized by every member. The structure of this report is similar to President's report in the year 2014.

I. MANAGEMENT

ICSW Europe General Assembly for the year 2014 took place in Bratislava (Slovakia) in June 19, 2014. The main reason of selecting Bratislava was distance the joint conference and ICSW global GA in Melbourne (Australia). Similar obstacle is before us due to decision to organize the next ICSW global General Assembly in the Republic of Korea (South Korea). In category, "A" (*national councils or national committees*) eleven members out of fifteen were present and in category, "C" (*national organizations*) from six just one was present. Currently we do not have a B member (*international organization*).

A day before, regional General Assembly organized "capacity building workshop" in

Bratislava last year. Hosts, St. Elizabeth University of Health and Social Work and ICSW Slovakia, helped with management and financially supported meeting. Main workshop's morning topics were organization and management of the ICSW Europe (*"the Council"*); presentation of the Council own position paper on social protection floors in Europe (Rennes); presentation on how to work and how successfully influent Social Platform in Brussels. Later, the workshop dealt with membership improvement and challenge how to attract new members. Among other topics were preparation of conference 2015 in Finland, our position within Council of Europe non-governmental network (INGOs Group) and partnership with "the Association" (EASSW) and "the Federation" (IFSW Europe) within framework of the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development and the Global Observatory. Final item of the workshop was discussion on joint celebration of the World Social Work Day.

The new Board worked in composition of six members and Secretary (all of them serve 1st term period in 2014–2016). Gender balance of the Board is kept and geographical representation is equally good. *(N.B. Names in this report are not fully linguistically correct, because of not using diacritical marks.)*

President is Miloslav HETTES (Slovakia), Treasurer is Jean-Michel HOTE (France), 4 Board members are Angele CEPENAITE (Lithuania), Joaquin EGUREN (Spain), Annelise MURAKAMI (Denmark), Britta SPILKER (Germany), and Secretary is Gabriela SIANTOVA (Slovakia).

The Secretary has responsibility for the coordination of meetings, presentation of the organisation and communication between members. ICSW Europe General Assembly originally on proposal of the President, approved Peter Senko as Secretary in June 2014. ICSW

Europe Secretariat was placed in the ICSW Slovakia office in Bratislava. The Board confirmed new secretary (Gabriela Siantova) on 20 October 2014, due to the fact of weak cooperation with the former one. President did all secretary tasks alone during this four-month period. According to previous practice, Secretary works close to the President and for the reason she comes from the same Member organization like the current President.

The Board has been more active in encounters and negotiating, to compare with previous practice, during the last twelve months. There were 10 regular (in principle monthly) board meetings (with the exception of summer holiday two months and March) mostly with using of sparingly Skype device.

Four direct Board meetings. First get-acquainted rather short “face to face” we did have immediately after 2014 General Assembly in **Bratislava** (19 June 2014). Second direct meeting took place in **Vilnius** (28 November 2014) and the third meeting was connected with expert seminar in **Madrid** (24 April 2015). Reason of this meeting was that the majority of Board members were directly involved as active speakers in migration seminar a day before. Fourth direct Board meeting in 8 June 2015 in **Helsinki** was organized as final preparation meeting before ICSW Europe General Assembly.

We have had **six “Skype” Board meetings** with various successes as for the audio/visual quality: 24 September 2014; 20 October 2014; 15 December 2014; 19 January 2015; 16 February 2015 and 18 May 2015.

Board members participate in these Board meetings. According to agenda, the President invites also guests to the Board meetings on Skype or “face to face”. This was for instance in case of “Vilnius Board meeting”, where the Finnish partners took part. For every meeting, the

Secretary writes minutes (with the exception of the first two, prepared by the President) and they were properly discussed, amended and finally approved during the next Board meeting. These minutes remain not only archived internal documents for the Board, but are usually in full length published on the **ICSW Europe Facebook** (<https://www.facebook.com/icsw.europe>) administrated by the President. The Board would like thus to offer full transparency and to reach smooth cooperation with all of its members by this approach.

Because of austerity measures, it is not in time schedule to organize another “face to face” Board meeting this year. We are going to use only private conventional digital technology. In addition, there is possibility to organize ad hoc meetings during next expert seminars or other events, when the majority of Board members will be present, like it happened in Madrid in April this year.

All decisions have been done through collective processing of all Board members. The **Management committee** (President, Treasurer, and Secretary) procedure, as is practice within ICSW Europe, was not used.

There were no meetings between regions and global ICSW as is required according to ICSW Constitution in Article 10.1. (e). The ICSW Europe President (on his private activity) met once with ICSW Executive Director Sergei Zelenev in New York in August 2014.

The Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development (SWSD) 2016 is scheduled to take place in Seoul on June 27-30, 2016. The purpose of the conference is to bring together scholars, practitioners, agency leaders, and students from a wide range of social work and social development fields to discuss theoretical and practical issue of “Promoting the Dignity and Worth of People”.

It is important to be present and represent interest of our region as far as is possible. There will be also next ICSW General Assembly. We recommend sending proposals for symposium and/or workshop sessions and abstracts for individual presentations. It will be useful to know your intention to about this major event in the year 2016.

From the practical point of view, there is a proposal to organize in similar time ICSW Europe General Assembly in our continent. The next **ICSW Europe General Assembly in 2016** will be organized in **Prague**. A Czech partner (member organization) has confirmed proposed dates **26 – 27 May (Thursday – Friday)**. First day will be devoted to seminar/workshop and the GA proper will be held next day.

II. ICSW EXPERT EVENTS

Two expert meetings with ICSW Europe cooperation and coordination took place during the period covered by this report:

1. Expert seminar: **Migrants and Social Protection Floors. Facilities and obstacles to access to different Welfare State services in time of crisis**, 23 April 2015, Madrid, ICSW Spain, eight Member organizations were actively present (including all Board members). Follow up of this seminar is prepared in the form of a project. The results will be published in ICSW Newsletter and special purpose Journal/Book. On request of the Spanish organizers, the seminar was postponed from November 2014 firstly to January and later to April 2015.
2. Expert seminar: **Social Investments**, Helsinki, 9 June 2015, in cooperation with ICSW Finland. Seminar has a part devoted to results of Madrid seminar and to the European Observatory. This smaller event replaced a scheduled bigger ICSW Europe

Conference in November 2015. This change influences the date of the regional General Assembly that was originally planned to be held also in November 2015. The ICSW Europe Board decided to organize the General Assembly earlier as a reaction on time schedule, made on request of the Finnish organizers.

All these events gave us an opportunity to express our views on different topics, to formulize our position and to increase our visibility.

We will be busy with organizing the **next three expert meetings** with ICSW Europe financial aid in plan for the second half of the year 2015. All these seminars are in harmony with Work Program 2013-2016. The Board negotiated and positively decided on them in February 2015. ICSW Europe expert events are open to all of its full-fledged members, for potential members and partners and we expect active participation according to our members' preferences:

1. **Conference on human rights, Social Protection Floor and Citizenship**, Copenhagen, October 2015, ICSW Denmark. Output: General conference report. Position paper on tendencies regarding Social and Economic Rights.
2. Expert seminar: **Social protection floors as investment in Central and Eastern Europe**, Tbilisi, Georgia, October 2015, ICSW Georgia with ICSW Lithuania and ICSW Slovakia. Output: Report will be published and will be shared. Regional SPFs Memorandum drafted/accepted.
3. Expert seminar: **Minimum income schemes – development, challenges and consequences**. A Comparative Perspective. Basel, Switzerland, November 2015, ICSW Switzerland, ICSW

Germany and ICSW Austria. Output: Report (German, English).

III. PARTNERSHIPS AND JOINED ACTIVITIES

A. European Union

Social Platform, Brussels

Social Platform (established in 1995) is the largest alliance of European rights and value-based NGOs working in the social sector. Its aim is to promote social justice, equality and participatory democracy by voicing the concerns of member organisations. The number of members (European NGOs) is now 48 and they represent more than 2,800 national organisations, 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. These include organisations of women, older people, and people with disabilities, people affected by poverty, young people, children and families. Member organisations also include those campaigning on issues such as social justice, homelessness, life-long learning, health and reproductive rights or racism.

Being a member of Social Platform **Steering Group** ICSW Europe participated in approval of several very important documents in this period. The most important could be:

- Position Paper on the Mid-term Review of Europe 2020, 24 June, 2014;
- Position Paper on EU Directive on Adequate Minimum Income, 24 June, 2014;
- Position Paper on the Financing of Social Services, 16 December, 2014;
- Position Paper on an EU Internal Strategy to Promote Human Rights, 16 December, 2014;
- Position Paper on Minimum Wage, 26 February 2015.

ICSW Europe has been regularly involved in the work of the Social Platform, for many years, according to previous decisions. ICSW Europe President (**Miloslav Hettes**) regularly attended the meetings of the Steering Group with exception, when ICSW Board member (Angele Cepenaite) substituted him. Representatives of ICSW Europe attended Task Forces meetings for negotiating the actual issues. In the year, 2015 there are six Task Forces:

- Task Force on Access to Services (TTIP & TISA; Criminalising Solidarity);
- Task Force on EU Internal Human Rights Strategy;
- Task Force on European Governance;
- Task Force on Force on Structural Funds;
- Task Force on Force on Social Standards;
- Task Force on Civil Dialogue.

Anke Boeckenhoff, (ICSW Germany) worked in the year 2014 within Task Force on Financing Social Services. **Britta Spilker** (Board member) followed Task Force on Social Benefits. These two Task Forces merged in 2015 with Task Force on Minimum Wage into one wide Task Force on Social Standards.

Katharina Meichenitsch (ICSW Austria) represents ICSW Europe in Task Force on EU Internal Human Rights Strategy.

Representation and activities within Social Platform Task Forces depend on its working plan and could be changed. It is important to cover all task forces. For this purpose, it will be advisable and suitable to establish permanent contact person in each ICSW Europe member organization.

ICSW Europe (represented by Board Member **Angele Cepenaite**) was part of the Social Platform delegation in “networking visit” and conference in Riga, Latvia (8-9 December 2014) which were organized by preparing for Latvian

Presidency in European Council). The visit is a possibility to lobby for our priorities in the social field, by meeting with high ranked civil servants and ministries, and by meeting NGOs. Therefore, it is advisable to use such an opportunity paid by the European Commission.

European Agency for Fundamental Rights, Vienna

Katharina Meichenitsch (ICSW Austria) represents ICSW Europe in the European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) activities with international NGOs. FRA helps to ensure that the fundamental rights of people living in the EU are protected. Fundamental rights set out minimum standards to ensure that a person is treated with dignity.

B. Council of Europe, Strasbourg

Thomas Goldberg and **Gérard Schaefer** were our representatives to the Council of Europe. Gérard Schaefer attended the meetings of the conference of the international NGOs (29 January 2015).

C. ENSACT (European Network for Social Action), Utrecht

President of ENSACT – **Thea Meinema** comes from ICSW Netherlands. Board Member **Annelise Murakami** is a representative of the ICSW Europe within activities of this joint project. **Angele Cepenaite** substituted Annelise Murakami on the ENSACT meeting in Utrecht in October 2014 and encouraged Lithuanian NGOs to actively take part in ENSACT activities. Annelise Murakami attended ENSACT meeting in Geneva in March 2015. For the next period the cooperation under the umbrella of ENSACT, will be one of the most important topics for the ICSW Europe. The ICSW Europe President signed bid document on European observatory for ENSACT of which we are partner. Partners are as follows: IFSW Europe (International Federation of Social Workers),

EASSW (European Association of Schools of Social Work) and four other organizations. The members of the ENSACT have worked together since 2007 to promote the human rights based approach of social work, social work education and social policies, in line with the objectives of the global social agenda but with a view to produce practical solutions at the local and regional level.

ENSACT now hosts the **European Observatory**, which aims at monitoring, reporting and disseminating the contributions of social work and social development in building a 'society for all' in which every individual has an active role to play within a fair and just world. The call is focused on social work practitioners, educators, policy makers and researchers with request to send experiences and practices on theme "Promoting the Dignity and Worth of Peoples".

The European Observatory is a part of the Global Agenda Observatory. In other regions of the world, observatories are also actively collecting and analysing good practices. The purpose is to gather evidence about the activities of social workers, educators and social development practitioners, in order to give visibility and credibility to their contributions and to promote further action. We aim to share good practices and to provide inspiration for the future. The Observatory process is structured around the four themes of the Global Social Agenda. Examples of practice and professional education as well as examples of advocacy and policy action related to this theme can be in the form as papers, films, audio files, pictures and other materials.

The submissions will be analysed and the findings will be presented in a European Observatory report, which will be disseminated by the ENSACT partners. The European Observatory report will also provide input for the **Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development Report** to

be presented at the Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development in Seoul in June 2016.

D. World Social Work Day 2015, Geneva

We used to celebrate the World Social Work day at the UNECE jointly with IFSW Europe and EASSW. The day of social work celebration on 17 March 2015, Geneva was interconnected with ENSACT meeting in Geneva. Therefore, a Board Member (**Annelise Murakami**) responsible for this activity attended both events and thus she represented ICSW Europe. ICSW President **Michael Cichon** was also actively involved. ICSW Europe Members were organizers and celebrated this world day in their own respective countries.

IV. COMMUNICATION

New Board accepted necessity of communication as the main priority. The President alone compiled first renewed ICSW Europe Newsletter. All drafts are checked, amended, discussed and approved by the Board exclusively. The Board also prepare content of the next item. From October 2014, an editor of the ICSW Europe Newsletter is a Secretary **Gabriela Siantova**. According to our budget restrictions and former decisions made in Work Plan 2013-2016 we have an intention to publish four ICSW Europe Newsletters in pdf format in a year with spring, summer, autumn and winter periodicity. **Roselyn Nakirya** (global ICSW) guarantees distribution from Kampala to 480 subscribers of this electronic media. Roselyn Nakirya sends also Global Cooperation Newsletter and occasionally other region's newsletters to us.

So far, we have distributed **three European newsletters** (Autumn 2014, Winter 2014 and Spring 2015). Summer edition will be edited in June after the ICSW Europe General Assembly. Each ICSW Europe Newsletter starts with introductory words from the ICSW Europe

President. In the end of a newsletter, you can find information about members' activities, conferences, useful links, miscellaneous and colophon.

Autumn 2014 edition contains main articles focused on General Assembly 2014, updated Work Program, applications for 2015 expert meetings and social protection floor for Europe.

Winter 2014 brings information from Social Platform and ENSACT activities with European Observatory bid.

Spring 2015 newsletter offers information about a new ICSW Europe member, Social Platform activities (social services financing, TTIP), next expert meetings and ICSW Europe events.

It is advisable that every member organization will be in help with broader distribution of this main information source of the ICSW Europe. We appeal on all our members to help us with the next Newsletters. All of your articles or, information about your activities are welcomed. ICSW Europe Newsletter has an ambition to become a fully recognized magazine.

Similar possibility is to be an active contributor of the ICSW Global Cooperation Newsletter, where we miss our European view.

From the beginning of this Board term of office, the President established and administers the ICSW Europe own **Facebook webpage** (<https://www.facebook.com/icsw.europe>). You can find there minutes from Board meetings, information from life of ICSW, ENSACT and miscellaneous. Please, all of you, who are familiar with Facebook, follow, like, read, add any information you consider as suitable for the "ICSW family".

The Board decided positively on request of Sergei Zelenev (Global ICSW Executive Director) to support upgrading ICSW webpage with 2000€ in

January 2015. The new ICSW webpage has not been so far officially opened. There is only a preliminary version on <http://64.69.79.30/~storm23/icsw/>.

Old homepage (www.icsw.org) is not regularly updated now. The Board did not think of ICSW Europe webpage. There was proposal to have a special part of global webpage to the region. Requests for publishing information from ICSW Europe were not realized on time. ICSW Europe does not have administration rights to place documents in it. Therefore, the main tool for communication for the ICSW Europe remains its newsletter, Facebook, mailing list, expert meetings and direct contacts.

V. MEMBERSHIP

The situation is slowly improving in comparison with the previous years. Albeit it is true, that, some members are facing financial problems and cannot pay the fees. Anyway, we would like to be in contact with all of them, mainly with those ones who are in conformity with our mission and work program. A serious challenge for the ICSW Europe in 2015 means recent changes in structure of ICSW France.

ICSW Europe President during his other work (outside of ICSW Europe) established contacts and finalized meetings with potential members in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, and Moldova. We have positive reply from Romania.

We are pleased to welcome among us a new member of category “A” the Association of Citizens Advice Centres from the Czech Republic, which became full-fledged member in December 2014. From the history, we know that the first ICSW (then “International Conference of Social Work”) President was Alica Masarykova from Czech-Slovakia. What a nice opportunity to celebrate our 90 anniversary in 2018 together

with a member from the home country of the first President.

We are equally happy to see among the ICSW Europe family a new member of category “A” The European Anti Poverty Network Ireland. We can now closely cooperate within Social Platform or in other floors. Our ICSW Europe work program gives high priority in eradicating poverty and fighting with social exclusion.

The Board asks all members to help with this important activity in attracting more new and in reactivating of former members.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

1. We recommend ICSW Europe members sending symposium and/or workshop sessions proposals and abstracts for individual presentations at 2016 Joint World Conference Social Work, Education and Social Development which will be held in Seoul, Korea. It will be useful to inform ICSW Europe your intention you are going to do with this major event in the year 2016.

2. From the practical point of view, the Board proposes to organize the ICSW Europe General Assembly in Europe in summer. The Board expect your proposals/invitation until the end of September 2015.

3. The Board suggests establishment of permanent contact person in each ICSW Europe member organization to actively take part in the activities of the Social Platform and other ICSW Europe partner organizations.

4. The Board advises that every member organization will be in help with broader distribution of the ICSW Europe Newsletter and other sources of ICSW Global/ICSW Europe information and knowledge.

5. The Board proposes ICSW Europe member organizations to check Work Program 2013-2016, because we are close to its time

termination. Not only for counting victories, defeats and failures. We need to think about the new Work Program suitable for more socially fair Europe.

6. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Whole Board expresses its gratitude to the organizers of two ICSW expert meetings in Spain and Finland. Especially to the host member organization of this year – the ICSW General Assembly in Finland.

Personally, I want to acknowledge efforts of our Secretary, mainly for that she brought excellent Newsletters to us.

In addition, finally, yet importantly, I need to say a few words of thankfulness to the Board members, who help me with my duties vested on me in bad and good times. Particularly, I appreciated their support in bad times.

(Miloslav Hettes, ICSW Europe President)

ICSW Europe Newsletters

ICSW Europe regularly publishes its main means of communication among ICSW Europe members – newsletters in pdf format online. The periodicity of publishing newsletters is once quarterly. So far three issues have been released – Autumn 2014 and Winter 2014 and Spring 2015 issue.

Since **June 9, 2015** ICSW Europe online newsletters have been recorded permanently in the ISSN Register as follows:

ISSN: 2411-9709

Key title: ICSW Europe newsletter

ICSW Europe newsletter is registered in Paris (France).

We are pleased to have the possibility to state ISSN code in every issue from now on.

(editor of ICSW Europe)

New ICSW Europe Member

ICSW Europe is pleased to welcome a new A category member – the **European Anti Poverty Network, Ireland**. EAPN has become an ICSW Europe member since May, 2015.

Established in 1990, the European Anti Poverty Network, Ireland is a network of groups and individuals working against poverty. It is the Irish national network of the European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN Europe), which has two decades of experience in lobbying for progressive social change across Europe.

EAPN Ireland is made up of over two hundred local, regional and national anti-poverty organisations and individuals. EAPN Ireland supports members to influence national and European policy through training, information, collective action and networking.

Campaigns that EAPN Ireland has worked on in the last number of years include the 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, Ireland in Social Europe: Challenging Perceptions and Changing Realities, the European Minimum Income Campaign, European Parliament Awareness Project, the Social Aspects of the Lisbon Treaty, and campaign to include poverty targets in the European 2020 strategy.

EAPN Ireland has also worked with members at local level to retain capacity and fight cutbacks to existing services, and with associates at national level through campaigns like the Poor Can't Pay, the Equality and Rights Alliance, Is Feider Linn, and the Community Platform.

(from: <http://www.eapn.ie/eapn/about/who-we-are>)

World Social Work Day

World Social Work Day at UNAIDS Ending AIDS, Promoting Dignity and Respect for All, Geneva March 17, 2015

World Social Work Day falls each year on the third Tuesday of March. World Social Work Day 2015 (WSWD) was held on March 17th. The theme '**Promoting the Dignity and Worth of Peoples**' relates to the second pillar of the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development. The theme focuses on the joint work of The International Federation of Social Workers, The International Association of Schools of Social Work and The International Council on Social Welfare. The three organizations are committed to working together to influence international, regional and local policies, government actions and to highlight the value and contributions that social workers make every day throughout the world.

World Social Work Day took place at UNAIDS and was arranged by UNAIDS, IASSW and IFSW and ICSW joined.

With the participation of several organizations the World Social Work Day 2015 had a focus on AIDS in cooperation with UNAIDS. The challenges,

the inequalities in the world related to AIDS, issues on Human Rights and Social Protection Floors was debated. UNAIDS is leading the global AIDS response guided by UNAIDS strategy "Getting to zero." According to UNAIDS new HIV infections and Aids-related deaths are declining and a record number of people are receiving HIV treatment. But there are gaps and there are people who are more at risk, more vulnerable and more affected by HIV due to exclusion and discrimination than others. AIDS does not exist in isolation, nor does it only relate to health. Treating AIDS as an isolated issue brings only partial benefits. People are connected to their families and communities that are also affected. An integrated approach that supports the person as a whole is necessary to address issues of physical health, nutrition, psychological support, education, social security as well as economic and development opportunities. Equally important are issues of political leadership, policies and laws that protect people. Even more critical is community ownership and leadership in the AIDS response. Where communities have taken charge, the impact has been significant. HIV infections have been averted and lives saved, respect and dignity of people restored (Gap Report, 2014 in UNAIDS, 2015).

Michael Cichon, president of ICSW moderated the round table discussion on Social protection: Promoting Dignity, ending poverty, inequality and AIDS.

The day ended with a presentation a joint statement by IASSW and IFSW was made and can be read here:

<http://www.aasw.asn.au/document/item/7207>

(Annelise Murakami, ICSW Europe Board Member)

Madrid Expert Seminar



International Expert Seminar named “**Migrants and Social Protection Floors. Facilities and**

Obstacles to Access to Different Welfare State Services in Time of Crisis” organized by Comité Español para el Bienestar Social and International Council on Social Welfare Spain took place in the Comillas Pontifical University, Madrid (Spain) prepared by the University Institute of Studies on Migrations (IUEM), on **23rd April, 2015**. The following day **24th April, 2015** continued with “Preparing SPF and Migration Research Project” (by Migration experts and ICSW Europe Board) and regular ICSW Europe Board meeting.



The program of the seminar was slightly modified regarding to speakers as follows:

Marina del Corral, General Secretary of Immigration

and Emigration, Ministry of Employment and Social Security, Spain;

Luis López Quiñones, Vicepresident of ICSW Spain;

Miloslav Hettes, President of ICSW Europe Region – opening words;

Mercedes Fernandez, Director of University Institute on Migration Studies, Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Madrid;

Thomas Bjark, Swedish ICSW;

Annelise Murakami, ICSW Europe Board member, Denmark;

Angele Cepenaite, ICSW Europe Board member, Lithuania;

Jean-Michel Hote, ICSW Europe Treasurer, France;

Ana Lima, President of General Council of Social Work, Spain;

Paolo Boccagni, University of Milan, Italy;

Ursula Trummer, Center for Health and Migration, Austria;

Miloslav Hettes, President of ICSW Europe Region;

Maria Hortas, MIGRARE, from IGOT, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal;

Eva Holmberg-Herrström, ICSW member of Management Committee, Sweden;

Solveig Askjem, ICSW Norway.

Some of the speeches in a shortened version are presented in this place (the full speeches will be published in a special issue of **Journal** in 2015/2016):

Good morning,

To begin with, and as representative of the Spanish Government please let me welcome you to Spain, the hosting country for this meeting. It is a pleasure for me to participate in the plenary opening of this international seminar about Migrants and Social Protection Floors. I would also like to thank the Universidad Pontificia de Comillas for organizing it.

According to the program, the purpose of this Seminar is to analyse the facilities and obstacles for migrants to access to different welfare state services in time of crisis. This means that you are tackling the socio economic dimension of the integration policy. From the socio-economic point of view, integration policy is about ensuring the principle of equality to close the possible gaps between foreign-born population and native population. Therefore, it is aimed to remove obstacles and foster equal access and use of institutional facilities to find a job, access the education system and provision of health services, among others. So I will focus my few words on these strategic lines of the integration policy in Spain. [...]

(Marina del Corral, General Secretary of Immigration and Emigration, Ministry of Employment and Social Security, Spain)

[...] Migration and refugees issues belong now among “hot” and danger political topic in everyday life in Europe. Who is a migrant? Definitions of “migrant” vary in time and space among different environments, sources, and in the law. Migrants may be defined as foreign-born, foreign nationals, or people who have moved. The most important is to distinguish between EU internal free movement of people and the “so called” third country immigration. The term “migrant” in public debate is extremely loose and often conflates issues of immigration, race, ethnicity, and asylum. The term “migrant worker” refers in the UN to a person who is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national. We have to have in mind that all Europeans are migrants from historical point of view. Migrants are human beings with guaranteed social, economic, cultural rights. Almost none European country has ratified UN convention on protection of migrants. European reality is failure of promoted multiculturalism. Social state is in crisis mainly due to shortening of number taxpayers because of high unemployment rate, ageing influence and greediness and unwillingness of rich people to take responsibility for others. Economic and financial crisis since 2008 has been a direct result of selfishness. The best protection against refugee crisis is avoiding a war conflict. War areas and economic disaster are main sources of this crisis. All humans (poor or rich) and each country (small or great power) have joint responsibility. [...]

[...] Migrants are EU citizens as well who benefit from freedom of movement. We have to protect the right of free movement within EU (and European Economic Area) as one of the fundamental rights and reasons for European idea. Care must be taken to ensure that Europeans do not become victims of social dumping, as is the case too often and with having to respect also non-EU citizens. Social Protection Floors must also apply to all residents, no matter of country of origin. However, they often encounter a large number of barriers before they can really benefit from the social schemes to which they are entitled and such barriers needed to be removed. Illegal immigrants, who as

such have no a priori rights to national systems, have to have guaranteed access to social protection that relies on humanitarian considerations. Humanity and solidarity cannot be punished as it happens frequently in many cases.

This was the reason why ICSW Europe decided to help with organization and actively participate in this International Expert Seminar with topic “Migrants and Social Protection Floors. Facilities and Obstacles to Access to different Welfare State Services in Time of Crisis” in Madrid.

(Miloslav Hettes, ICSW Europe President)

We are pleased to welcome to the Universidad Pontificia Comillas as director of the University Institute of Studies on Migrations. Certainly the theme you have chosen has special significance in times of economic crisis: “Migrants and Social Protection Floors. Facilities and obstacles to access to different welfare state services in time of crisis”.

I would like to thank especially to the European Committee of Social Welfare and the Spanish Committee of Social Welfare for having our Institute to prepare this seminar.

At the same time I would like to give a little presentation of our Institute.

The University Institute of Studies on Migrations (Instituto Universitario de Estudios sobre Migraciones - IUEM) of Comillas Pontifical University was born in 1994 with the aim of giving an answer from the University to the situation of migration in that time. It has broadened its compromise with the area of Migrations, also linking it to development by adapting to the new international context.

The IUEM constitutes an interdisciplinary team, (https://www.upcomillas.es/centros/iem/cent_iem_pr_es.aspx) formed by researchers and teachers that have a background on different disciplines of the social and human sciences (economy, actuarial sciences, social anthropology, pedagogy, law, social work, political sciences and theology) and that work in the fields of international migrations and human mobility.

The IUEM is dedicated to research activities and assessment in the field of migrations and human mobility; to teaching, through three postgraduate programs; and the diffusion and divulgation of research results via courses, symposiums, congresses and the publication of Migraciones magazine, very well valued in different catalogues on impact indexes.

The approximately 100 studies that have been developed up to now have positioned the IUEM as a reference centre in Spain regarding the fields of international migrations and human mobility (http://www.upcomillas.es/centros/iem/cent_iem_inve.aspx).

Recently we have increased our task of research at European level by networking with important network as IMISCOE and now developing a research for FRA “Social inclusion and migrant participation in society”.

In this sense we are interested also in the preparation of a research project on Migrants and Social Protection Floors that you are going to discuss tomorrow.

(Mercedes Fernandez, Director of University Institute on Migration Studies, Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Madrid)

Essential health care, in terms of urgent and basic health provisions, is granted to all immigrants in Italy, including the undocumented and overstayers. However, full registration in the National Health Service System is contingent on holding a regular permit of residence. Likewise, Maternity allowances and other social provisions are granted only to those TCSs that hold a regular permit of residence. In a similar vein, most ordinary welfare provisions, in principle, are also accessible to long-term resident third country nationals, as defined by directive 2003/109/CE – hence, as long as they “prove that they have adequate resources and sickness insurance, to avoid becoming a burden for the Member State” (art. 1, #7); and, as importantly, bearing in mind that “Member States may limit equal treatment in respect of social assistance and social protection to core benefits (art. 11, #4).

In principle, then, health and social welfare provisions to immigrants in Italy are comparatively inclusive – even relatively “tolerant”, implicitly at least, towards undocumented migrants. The “equal treatment” between Italian citizens and immigrant with regular stay permits had already been established in law 286/1998 (art. 41), and has not been substantively modified since. In fact, major normative innovations have been produced over the years (the most famous being the “Bossi-Fini” 189/2002 law and the 94/2011 act, with an unprecedented bent towards securitization and cultural integration). Yet, they have not brought major changes into the social welfare field – not formally, at least (Saraceno et al., 2013; EMN, 2014).

In practice, migrants’ effective access to welfare provisions in Italy has been undermined by a number of mid-level regulations and local authority provisions over the years. It is also affected by the strong political instrumentalization of migration by a number of decision-makers, especially in right-wing governed areas; by the lack of a national long-term strategy of inclusion; by the uneven, often ineffective allocation of welfare infrastructures and resources in the country. In fact, the equal treatment principle is substantively undermined by strong variations in service accessibility and coverage on a local basis, thus mirroring deep-rooted inequalities in health and social care provision across the country (Barberis & Boccagni, 2014).

As far as health care is concerned, furthermore, immigrants’ distribution by age – with a tiny incidence of elderly people, compared with the native population – results in less than proportional utilization of health services and provisions. Their incidence on recipients of acute care and long term care, in particular, is estimated below 5%, while their demographic incidence is around 7.5% overall (Stuppini, 2014). As far as social assistance is concerned, their involvement in relevant provisions – if and once accessible to them – tends to be more than proportional, as their higher vulnerability translates into higher eligibility for basic social protection measures. [...]

(Paolo Boccagni, University of Milan, Italy)

This paper approaches the relation between immigration and the welfare state regime in Portugal, trying to see how the welfare regime and the immigration policy are reflected in the social rights of immigrants. The Portuguese law guarantees equal social rights to foreign legal residents in Portugal in equal circumstances to the Portuguese population (Constitution of the Portuguese Republic Art. No.15).

In Portugal, the social security system is governed according to the principle of universality. In Art. No.2 of the Social Security's Basic Law it is established that: " 1 – Everyone has the right to social security. 2 – The right to social security is made effective by the system and is exercised according to the terms defined in the

Constitution, in the applicable international instruments and in the present law". Thus, the foreign population in Portugal has equal contribution obligations and equal access to the social security benefits comparatively to the Portuguese citizens (in the attach file 1 we have some information about the access to social security benefits for foreign population).

The positioning of immigrants in the social security system in Portugal was analysed in detail in a study sponsored by the High Commission for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue made by J. Peixoto, C. Marçalo and N. Tolentino (2011). Therefore, in this study we focus on the impacts of the economic and financial crisis on the social protection of immigrants, as well as on their financial contribution to the social security.

In addition, we will also examine the existence of inequalities among different immigrant groups. The study is based on the existing literature on this topic and on secondary data produced by different public institutions, namely the Statistics Portugal (INE – Instituto Nacional de Estatística, government departments, NGOs and international organizations - Eurostat and OECD).

The paper is organized in four sections. In the introduction, the social rights of immigrants in Portugal are analysed taking into account the theoretical perspectives on the welfare states,

immigration and immigrants' rights. In the following section we examine the basic characteristics of the social security system in Portugal and how immigrants are incorporated in it. In the third part we look at the contributions paid by immigrants to the social security and the amounts they receive from the different types

of social support. The fourth part is dedicated to the contribution of immigrants, namely the women, to health care services in a context in which the social security system has been deeply affected by the effects of the economic crisis and also by the remarkable transformations of demographic and family structures 1.

Finally, a reflexion is made on the research gaps to understand the linkages between migration and social and family policies, as well as on the specific case of Portugal in the context of Southern Europe.

(Maria Lucinda Fonseca - Maria João Hortas - Alina Esteves, Centre for Geographical Studies, Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal)

[...] Austria has an insurance-based health care system with a compulsory health insurance related to employment and income. The employer registers employees in the social insurance scheme, amount of health insurance fees depend on income up to a certain income level, above that level fees do not further increase. Through insurance, labour migrants and their dependents have full entitlement for accessing health care services. This applies also to most self-employed persons, persons claiming unemployment benefits, pensioners, and dependents of all these groups.

All insured are entitled to a broad spectrum of benefits within a legally defined framework, including health care (medical care, medical and therapeutical aids, psychotherapy, clinical psychology, physiotherapy), medical home care, institutional care, sickness allowance in case of inability to work as a result of illness, rehabilitation in case of limited ability to work, dental care, medical measures of

rehabilitation, health promotion measures (counselling).

Asylum seekers in general have entitlements implemented on federal level ("Grundversorgung"), including general state subsidises for health insurance fees. This coverage of the same system is tied to compliance with specific regulations for asylum seekers concerning area of residence. In particular cases asylum seekers also have access to services that are not covered by health insurance (e.g. nursery care) without costs, which is a better situation than for nationals, for whom nursery care is not covered by health insurance.

(Ursula Trummer, Center for Health and Migration, Austria)

Helsinki Expert Seminar

ICSW Helsinki Expert Seminar on Social Investments

ICSW Helsinki Expert Seminar on Social Investments took place in the University of Helsinki in Helsinki (Finland) on **June 9, 2015**. An organizer was SOSTE – Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health. The following day – **10 June, 2015** – ICSW Europe General Assembly was held.



Program of ICSW Helsinki Expert Seminar on Social Investments:

9:30 Registration

10:00 – 11:45 Opening Plenary

- Opening: *Vertti Kiukas*, General Secretary, SOSTE Finnish Society for Social and Health;
- **International Social Policy and Finnish Foreign Policy:** *Timo Voipio*, Director for implementation strategy and partnerships, EU Social Protection Systems Programme (EU-SPS), National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)

11:45-12:45 Lunch

12:45 Plenaries

- **Social Investments vs. Structural reforms:** *Herlinde Vanhooydonck*, Policy and Advocacy Officer, Social Platform;
- **Social Investments and EU:** *Caroline Costongs*, Managing Director, EuroHealthNet

Short Break

14:15-16:00 International Social Policy Afternoon (joint event with Finnish Social Policy Association)

- **Social Work Experience of Social Protection Floors:** *Ruth Stark*, IFSW (International Federation of Social Workers) President;
- **Social Protection Floors – Social Investments:** *Annelise Murakami*, Senior Lecturer, ICSW Europe Board Member

Coffee

16:15-18:00 ICSW Europe Current Affairs Workshop

- **Finnish ICSW Activities:** *Heikki Parviainen*, Secretary of the Finnish ICSW Board;

- **ICSW Seminar on ENSACT/Global Agenda and ICSWs Part:** *Thea Meinema*, ENSACT;
- **Seminar in Madrid on Migrations and Social Protection Floors – first conclusions:** *Joaquin Eguren*, Universidad Pontificia Comillas Madrid, ICSW European Board Member.

Social Platform

Social Platform announced new President and Management Committee

Following Social Platform's Annual General Assembly on 5 May, representatives of 49 members elected **Jana Hainsworth** as President of the largest European platform of social NGOs in Europe. A new management committee was also elected for the next two years taking effect from 6 May, 2015.

Jana Hainsworth replaced Ms Heather Roy who stepped down after serving the maximum term as President. Jana Hainsworth will represent Social Platform at High level events such as the informal EPSCO meeting of Ministers of Employment and Social Affairs, meetings with Commissioners, Members of the European Parliament, and ministers of countries holding the EU presidency.

Jana Hainsworth has a solid experience in leadership in the NGO sector and has already served two years in the Management Committee of Social Platform. She was appointed as Secretary General of Eurochild in January 2006, shortly after its establishment in 2004. Since then the network has grown in size and influence. She

led the network through strategic changes to become the leading child rights network in Europe. Prior to joining Eurochild, she has worked in the private sector, including seven years in research, consultancy and communications. She has a leadership style that is attentive to building trust and empowerment of others.

The new Management Committee will comprise of:

President	Jana Hainsworth
Vice President	Maciej Kucharczyk
Vice President	Barbara Helfferich
Treasurer	Allan Päll
Member	Michele LeVoy
Member	John Dolan
Member	Borbala Juhasz

(from: <http://www.socialplatform.org/news/social-platform-announces-new-president-and-management-committee/>)

ENSACT

CALL FOR GOOD PRACTICES



ENSACT, the European Network for Social Action, hosts the European Observatory which aims at monitoring, reporting and disseminating the contributions of social work and social development in building a “society for all” in which every individual has an active role to play within a fair and just world. The European Observatory calls on social work practitioners, educators, policy makers and researchers to send their experiences and practices on this year's

theme “**Promoting the Dignity and Worth of Peoples**”.

SUBMISSIONS

The European Observatory is a part of the Global Agenda Observatory. In other regions of the world, observatories are also actively collecting and analysing good practices. The purpose is to gather evidence about the activities of social workers, educators and social development practitioners, in order to give visibility and credibility to their contributions and to promote further action. The European Observatory aims to share good practices and to provide inspiration for the future.

The Observatory process is structured around the four themes of [the Global Social Agenda](#). The theme to be observed now is *Promoting the Dignity and Worth of Peoples*. You are invited to share your interventions, projects and policies on promoting human dignity.

We would like to receive examples of practice and professional education as well as examples of advocacy and policy action related to this theme. Submissions can include papers, films, audio files, pictures and other materials. The contributions, which can be submitted with the help of [this on-line format](#), are welcomed from now on. The deadline for submissions is **31 August 2015**.

RESULTS

The submissions will be analysed by professor **Kerstin Svensson** from Lund University and ENSACT partners. The findings will be presented in a European Observatory report which will be disseminated to ENSACT members and other interested parties. The European Observatory report will also provide input for the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development Report to be presented at the Joint World

Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development in Seoul in June 2016.

ENSACT PARTNERS

The members of the European Network for Social Action (ENSACT) have worked together since 2007 to promote the human rights based approach of social work, social work education and social policies, in line with the objectives of the global social agenda but with a view to producing practical solutions at the local and regional level. The partners are:

- European Association of Schools of Social Work **EASSW** – www.eassw.org
- European association of training centres for socio-educational care work **FESET** – www.feset.org
- International Federation of Educative Communities **FICE Europe** – www.fice-inter.net
- International Council on Social Welfare **ICSW Europe** – www.icsw.org
- International Federation of Social Workers **IFSW Europe** – www.ifsw.org
- **PowerUs**, service users in social work learning partnership – www.powerus.info
- Social Work and Health Inequalities Network **SWHIN** – <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/study/cll/research/swhin/>

(Thea Meinema, President of ENSACT)



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONFERENCE DES OING DU
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Proposals of INGOs enjoying participatory status about ways of strengthening NGOs' role within the Council of Europe

A questionnaire on the ways of strengthening NGOs' role within the Organisation was sent on 28 February 2015 by the Secretariat of the Council of Europe (Civil Society Division, Directorate General II Democracy) to the 320 INGOs enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe following the meeting of the Ministers' Deputies Rapporteur Group on Democracy (GR-DEM) on 17 February 2015.

123 responses were received by the deadline of 15 March 2015.

The questionnaire contained 2 open questions and 3 questions which could be answered with yes or no and invited to elaborate further proposals. The questions concerned possible measures which had been discussed in the framework of the Ministers' Deputies and the GR-DEM debates on the role and functioning of NGOs in the Council of Europe, with a special focus on the Committee of Ministers' interaction with NGOs.

32 % of the respondents were of the opinion that the **current level of interaction** of the Council of Europe with NGOs was satisfactory whereas the majority see room for improvement (question 1).

More than 70 respondents made an effort for explaining why they considered the level of interaction of the Council of Europe with NGOs not satisfactory: They felt that NGO interaction with the Committee of Ministers was the least developed in comparison to their interaction with the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress, the intergovernmental steering committees and the Secretariat. They requested more involvement with the Committee of Ministers and, at the level of the whole organisation, would like to be invited more frequently to provide input to consultations and decision-making processes. They also asked for better access to information and more generally for improving transparency and communication. Given the complex nature of the institutional setup of the Organisation, some requested a manual / dedicated page on the Council of Europe website explaining how NGOs can become involved with the different Council of Europe actors.

97 % of the respondents felt that there was a need for stepping up dialogue between the Committee of Ministers and NGOs (question 2). The questionnaire proposed 5 options for doing so:

- Organise NGO fora prior to Ministerial Sessions, Conferences of Specialised Ministers and high-level Conferences of the Council of Europe,
- Invite NGO representatives to the thematic debates of the Ministers' Deputies,
- Invite NGO representatives to meetings of the Ministers' Deputies Rapporteur Groups depending on the agenda,
- Consult NGOs in writing on selected issues prior to meetings of the Ministers' Deputies,
- Organise open consultations on draft instruments/reports.

All options were supported by more than half of the respondents. The additional proposals by

NGOs focused on a thematic approach to dialogue and co-operation and the need for regular contacts to achieve effective dialogue and co-operation. One NGO requested that the dialogue of the Committee of Ministers with NGOs and the consultation of NGOs by the Committee of Ministers should include also strategic issues, such as the preparation of the biannual programme of activities and budget or country specific action plans and reports. Several respondents highlighted the need to receive early information on the issues on the agenda of the Committee of Ministers for a meaningful and timely consultation.

92 % of the respondents asked for improved access to information and documents (question 3) and the questionnaire mentioned 4 measures in this respect:

- Publish a list of upcoming thematic debates of the Ministers' Deputies,
- Publish a list of upcoming country visits by Council of Europe bodies,
- Publish a list of Council of Europe events open to NGOs,
- Organise the live streaming of Council of Europe conferences/meetings.

All proposals were supported by a majority of respondents. Furthermore, they asked for improving information on the different Council of Europe websites to allow NGOs to effectively provide input to the standard setting and monitoring work of the Organisation. Several respondents requested that agendas and reports of the Ministers' Deputies and their Rapporteur Groups should be published in advance and some asked that less documents should be classified restricted so as to enhance transparency. Timely access to documents was also necessary to allow INGOs to consult their members in different countries and national NGOs ahead of the

meetings. Some suggested sending e-mail alerts and newsletters to NGOs.

86 % of the respondents confirmed that there is a need to improve facilities for NGOs at the Council of Europe (question 4). The questionnaire suggested 3 ways for that:

- Provide meeting rooms to NGOs for holding meetings inside the Council of Europe buildings,
- Provide a room equipped with computers to NGOs inside the Council of Europe buildings,
- Provide media space.

The majority of respondents approved all proposals. Additional requests concern the creation of an online workspace and teleconferencing facilities for NGO working groups and the possibility to use copy machines and printers against a fee.

INGOs had also the opportunity to submit additional comments and proposals (question 5). Many reconfirmed points made under questions 1-4. Other issues were mentioned as well:

- The Council of Europe should establish a mechanism to deal with reprisals of human rights defenders and civil society activists who co-operate with the Organisation,
- The Committee of Ministers should encourage member States to implement Recommendation (2007)¹⁴ on the legal status of NGOs or to provide financial support to local and national NGOs,
- NGOs should develop an early warning mechanism in fields in which they are active.

Many INGOs used the survey to raise questions related to the role of the Conference of INGOs in the Council of Europe institutional set-up, its functioning and working methods and conditions. The main proposals can be summarised as follows:

- There should be more reciprocity in the “quadrilogue” relations with the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress, including replies to texts adopted by the Conference, two way communication on thematic priorities which could be dealt with jointly, inviting more representatives of the Committee of Ministers, the Assembly, the Congress and the Secretariat to INGO meetings, nomination of referees in the thematic committees of the Conference of INGOs and in the corresponding Rapporteur Groups and Committees of the other bodies,
- The added value of the common positions developed by the Conference of INGOs in a contradictory debate which are complementary to the contributions of individual INGOs was recalled,
- The Conference of INGOs should have a more focused and strategic approach,
- Two annual sessions of the Conference of INGOs were not enough. One should go back to 3 to 4 sessions per year and the work should continue in between the sessions,
- Working groups should benefit from interpretation and translation services, like the statutory meetings of the Conference of INGOs,
- The meetings of the Conference of INGOs and its committees and working groups should take place in the Palais de l’Europe and not the Agora building to facilitate contacts with Parliamentarians and Permanent Representatives,
- More means (financial and human resources) in the Council of Europe Secretariat to enable the Conference of INGOs and other NGOs to realise projects, be active in Council of Europe member states and engage in sustainable thematic work in partnership with the Council of Europe.

A number of cross-cutting issues were brought up in different contexts:

- The need for clear criteria and rules for access of NGOs to the Council of Europe structures and activities and for selecting them,
- In this context, the need to guaranty the independence and impartiality of the process of granting and withdrawing participatory status as laid down in Resolution (2003)8 was recalled,
- The request for financial compensation for the travel and subsistence expenses related to the involvement of NGO representatives in Council of Europe activities came up repeatedly. This is of concern to organisations whose representatives are volunteers and for organisations that represent the most vulnerable groups of society,
- The concern for accessibility of meeting rooms, equipment, documents and information material for persons with disabilities.

► The Council of Europe, the continent's leading human rights organisation, makes a **television news programme “The Journal”** summarising the main events and activities of the week involving the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights. Every edition addresses international political and social issues, which may be relevant to experts and associations dealing with global policies.

For the latest edition of “The Journal”, see: <http://webtv.coe.int/>.

Conferences/Expert Meetings



“Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development 2016. Promoting the Dignity and Worth of People”.

The conference will take place in **Seoul** (South Korea) on **June 27 – 30 (Monday – Thursday), 2016**. The purpose of the conference is to bring together scholars, practitioners, agency leaders, and students from a wide range of social work and social development fields to discuss the theoretical and practical issues of “Promoting the Dignity and Worth of People”.

International hosts are as follows: ICSW, IASSW AIETS and IFSW. Invited speakers among others are **Roseline September, PhD.** (Professor, Department of Social Work, University of the Western Cape, Chief Director, Department of Social Development, Republic of South Africa) and **Silvana Martinez, PhD.** (IFSW Regional President, Latin America and Caribbean Argentina).

For more details see the website: <http://swsd2016.org/eng/index.php>.

„The Futures We Want: Global Sociology and the Struggle for a Better World“

3rd International Sociological Association Forum of SOCIOLOGY – **July 10 – 14 2016, Vienna,**

Austria

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/forum-2016/>

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS (deadline 30 September 2015)

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/forum-2016/rc/rc.php?n=RC19>

RC19 - Research Committee on Sociology of Poverty, Social Welfare and Social Policy
The Challenges of Innovating Social Policies

Session Organizers:

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Session in English

A long wave of reforms has affected welfare policies ever since the 1970s. More substantial changes have been introduced in the last two decades, further boosted by the 2008 Great Recession, affecting both the vertical and horizontal regulation axes.

On the vertical axis, supra-national arrangements and devolution processes challenge the established national configuration of social policies, highlighting the increasing role of the local dimension in structuring inequalities.

On the horizontal axis, social innovations involve new actors, with different degrees of engagement and accountability, and through participatory and/or competitive approaches that risk to discriminate social actors, and territories, with different capabilities.

The context in which innovations occur influences both the type of innovation and its impact: the variable configurations of scales and actors may favour or hinder specific forms of innovation. Moreover, the combined effects of vertical and horizontal cleavages have potentially relevant impacts on the institutional design, and on the inequalities' structure.

It is time to take stock of ongoing research, critically tackling the interplay between institutional levels, actors and resources in order to answer both empirically and theoretically the following questions:

- Do participatory and localized innovations undermine the redistributive capacity of the state?
- Do social innovations produce new forms of inequalities? Who is affected?
- What (pre)conditions could allow to avoid such risks?
- What consequences have different welfare arrangements in producing social innovation?
- If successful social innovations are strongly embedded in their context, how can they be upscaled?

Papers presenting comparative research results are especially welcome.

Please submit your proposals through the ISA online submission form following this link: <https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2016/cfp.cgi>

Opportunities for Publishing

Prohuman

The Prohuman magazine is a scientific research online magazine dedicated to social service, health care, nursing care, law, pedagogy, psychology, development aid and public health care. It is intended not only for professionals but also for students and public in case they are interested in the mentioned topics. The Prohuman magazine creates space mainly for publishing scientific papers, helpful and up-to date information, e.g. events invitations, conferences, announcements, education courses, anthologies, related magazine ads and others.

Contributions in English languages

We are looking for authors of professional articles for the Prohuman Magazine in the following areas: social service, psychology, pedagogy, social politics, health care, nursing care, development aid and the legislation of all the listed areas.

Publishing opportunities

Do you have the conference proceedings or other publications in electronic form? You can publicize them and post in our library. This is one of the presentation forms. Do not allow the valuable information to be forgotten. If you want to save print expenses, you can publish your papers in our company in PDF. We will publish older volumes written in English language as well.

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Useful Links

ICSW Europe Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/icsw.europe>

European Anti Poverty Network:

<http://www.eapn.ie/>

SWSD Conference in Seoul (South Korea):

<http://swsd2016.org/eng/index.php>

European Association of Schools of Social Work EASSW:

www.eassw.org

European association of training centres for socio-educational care work FESET:

www.feset.org

International Federation of Educative Communities FICE Europe:

www.fice-inter.net

International Federation of Social Workers IFSW Europe:

www.ifsw.org

PowerUs, service users in social work learning partnership:

www.powerus.info

Social Work and Health Inequalities Network SWHIN:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/study/cll/research/swhin/>

Social Platform:

<http://www.socialplatform.org/news/social-platform-announces-new-president-and-management-committee/>

The Council of Europe – live web TV:

<http://webtv.coe.int/>

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:

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