# ICSW Europe Newsletter
## Summer 2016
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ICSW Europe General Assembly took place in Prague (Czech Republic) on 27 May, 2016 (Friday). The program of the meeting was as follows:

1) Opening and checking of voting rights (paid up members)
2) Approval of the Minutes of the GA held in Helsinki (10 June, 2015)
3) ICSW Europe President Statement
4) ICSW Europe President’s Annual Report 2016 (to be adopted)
5) Report from the Treasurer on 2015 budget and accounts (to be adopted and discharge of responsibility/quitus to be given, after the auditors have made comments) and updated 2016 budget
6) Work Program 2016 – 2020
7) ICSW Europe 2017 Conference/Summit
8) Approval of 2017 budget
9) Election of the Board members
10) Election of two auditors
11) Any other matter arising

The General Assembly was quorate (present or represented members) with 16 members (11 cat A + 5 cat C) representing 27 voting rights out of a total of currently 34 voting rights for ICSW Europe.

The President’s report worked out by Miloslav Hettes (ICSW Europe President) included the following facts: the structure of the ICSW Europe Board working in 2015/2016 (Miloslav Hettes – President, Jean-Michel Hote – Treasurer, Angele Cepenaite – member, Joaquin Eguren – member, Annelise Murakami – member, Britta Spilker – member and Gabriela Siantova – Secretary to the President); moderate cost of Board meetings thanks to Skype more or less once a month and 3 face to face meetings (Helsinki – June 2015; Berlin – April 2016; Prague – May 2016) – the minutes were written of all the meetings and published on Facebook to be transparent for everybody (but this procedure could be modified in the future); materials from workshops and newsletters can be found on www.icsw.org (excluding the minutes); the General Assembly was held 3 times (Bratislava – 19 June 2014; Helsinki – 10 June 2015; Prague – 27 May 2016); expert seminars were in Tbilisi (Georgia, 30 October 2015), Basel (Switzerland, 9-10 November 2015), conference in Copenhagen (Denmark, 9 December 2015), expert workshop in Prague (26 May 2016) and a planned seminar is in Nicosia if some prerequisites are fulfilled (Cyprus, October 2016); there was no regional conference last year but there is planned ICSW Europe conference/summit in Moscow in May 2017.

ICSW Europe President informed about the partnership – we are the partners of Social Platform (Brussels), 48 EU NGOs and 2,800 National NGOs; in 2015 Social Platform had 6 different Task Forces: Access to Services (TTIP & TISA; Criminalising Solidarity), EU Internal Human Rights Strategy, European Governance, Structural Funds, Social Standards and Civil Dialogue; in 2016 Task Forces are: Social Investment, Social Standards, Socio-Economic Rights and Civil Dialogue; ICSW Europe communication is realized via Newsletters (480 subscribers) – it is registered
in France having its own ISSN code. In 2015 – Summer and Autumn issues and in 2016 Winter and Spring issues were published; ICSW Europe has own Facebook webpage and information is published on the official webpage www.icsw.org.

Membership: new members of category A are: ACAC the Czech Republic (2015), EAPN Ireland (2015), and category C: SKTS the Czech Republic (2016), IAPEWSS Russian Federation (2016) and category D: Casa Mare Moldova (2016). ICSW Europe needs a permanent contact person in each ICSW Europe member organization, takes part in the activities of the Social Platform and other ICSW Europe partner organizations (interns, volunteers, schools, partners).

Report presented by the Treasurer (Jean-Michel Hote) on 2015 budget and accounts was adopted and discharged the Treasurer and the Board of responsibility.

The General Assembly adopted the modified Work Program for 2016-2020. The following five thematic priorities were agreed on:

- poverty
- migration
- segregation (social cohesion)
- ageing
- children and young people

The assembly also decided for ICSW Europe to work on the Sustainable Development Goals as a cross-cutting issue, supporting the SDGs and actively dealing with their implementation on the EU and national levels.

ICSW Europe President also highlighted that following these themes ICSW covers the most of the problems/issues in the social sphere and thanks to them ICSW Europe Work Program is in harmony with the Global Work Program.

ICSW Europe 2017 Conference/Summit

Irina Mkrtumova (Deputy Director) and Natalia Rigina (Head of international school of social work) from Moscow Institute for Additional Professional Education of Workers for Social Services in Russian Federation gave the presentation of the prepared Moscow ICSW Europe conference/summit in 2017. For the beginning they presented the work of the Institute and explained why they proposed to organise the summit.

The experts from Europe will present legislative and standard framework, defining observances of basic guarantees of social protection, political measures in the field of social security, strategy of expansion of coverage of social security in relation to the vulnerable groups of population, people with disabilities, senior generation, emigrants and persons occupied in formal and informal economy. The special focus will be put on actual general social problems related to the ICSW European Region.

Suggested date for the summit is on May 18-19, 2017. Around 250 participants is going to be awaited to take part in the summit. More and updated information will be published in ICSW Europe Newsletters.

ICSW Europe will also actively participate in forming of the summit programme. The Board plans to meet with the representatives of ICSW Russia in Vienna in November to discuss the programme and practical questions in detail.
Treasurer Jean-Michel Hote presented the **ICSW Europe budget for the year 2017.** ICSW Europe will concentrate in financing on the event in Moscow conference/summit. The General Assembly approved the presented budget for 2017.

### Election of the Board members

The General Assembly approved the nominated candidates by acclamation:

- **Miloslav Hettes** (Slovakia) – ICSW Europe President
- **Jean-Michel Hote** (France) – ICSW Europe Treasurer
- **Angele Cepenaite** (Lithuania) – ICSW Europe Board member
- **Joaquin Eguren** (Spain) – ICSW Europe Board member
- **Annelise Murakami** (Denmark) – ICSW Europe Board member
- **Britta Spilker** (Germany) – ICSW Europe Board member
- **Ronald Wiman** (Finland) – ICSW Europe Board member (a new member)

### Election of two auditors

The General Assembly approved the nominated candidates **Irene Kohler** (Austria) and **Hynek Kalvoda** (Czech Republic) for the post of auditors and at the same time thanked **Thea Meinema** and **Solveig Askjem** for their service to ICSW Europe by having repeatedly served as auditors.

### Election of the Election Committee

The General Assembly approved the nominated candidates for the members of the Election Committee in order to prepare a proposal concerning the number of members of the next ICSW Europe Board for the next General Assembly (2017) and to accordingly prepare a proposal for the elections of the new Board in 2018. The nominated candidates for this Committee were **Solveig Askjem** (Norway), **Joaquin Eguren** (Spain), **Irene Kohler** (Austria).

ICSW Europe President Miloslav Hettes thanked everybody for their presence at the General Assembly and thanked the organiser Hynek Kalvoda and Asociace občanských poraden for preparing and organising the GA.

(EDITOR OF ICSW EUROPE)

### ICSW GLOBAL PROGRAMME 2016 – 2020

ICSW Europe has contributed with ideas and comments into the ICSW Global Programme 2016 – 2020 the final version of which can be found on ICSW official website:


For direct downloading the full version of the document look here:


### New ICSW Europe Board member

The General Assembly in Prague on 27 May, 2016 approved a nominated candidate **Ronald Wiman** (Finland) for a new ICSW Europe Board member.
Ronald Wiman is Chief Social Policy Expert at Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL). Currently he is assigned to the EU-Social Protection Systems Programme (EU-SPS) that is supporting ten developing countries in their efforts to systematize their social protection. He has held various management and expert positions at the THL and long term senior advisor posts at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Additionally he has worked five years for the UN and in many short term assignments with a number of international organizations. His special fields and publications include such areas as global social policy, sustainable development, development cooperation planning, rights of people with disabilities, international migration and poverty of children. Editor-in-Chief of two websites: www.thl.fi/gsp-info and www.thl.fi/eu-sps. He is an alternate member of the ICSW Committee in Finland and has cooperated intensively with ICSW as well as other Finnish and international NGOs for decades.

Seoul Conference

Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development 2016 took place in Seoul (Korea) on June 27-30, 2016. Global ICSW Board meeting was hold on July 1, 2016.

ICSW Europe took active part in the conference with the presentations in the session Migration and Social Protection Floors in Time of Crises.

Miloslav Hettes (ICSW Europe President)

Migration Problems in Europe. Universal social cover is an essential element of Social Protection Floors. SPFs must also apply to all residents, no matter of country of origin. Immigrants 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.

Philippe Steck (ICSW France)

The European Union has a population of 509 million. This includes 33 million foreigners: 22 million Africans or Asians, 11 million Europeans, from Eastern Europe, who are not EU citizens. In 2014, the country that took in the most migrants was Germany (465,000), followed by France (256,000) and Spain (216,000). Social Security entitlements continue to be determined by each individual EU member State. However, European directives from 1971 on free circulation in Europe, and especially the Pinna case law from 1986, provide a non-negligible framework. Entitlement decisions for political refugees require faster action.

Elli Aaltonen (ICSW Finland)

Is Europe full of walls? The presentation opens the situation to migration nowadays. What kind of change in attitudes and politics is going on, example in Finland? Which are the possibilities through Social protection floor Initiative to
support positive development? Social state in many countries is in crisis because of bad financial situation and high unemployment rate. This reflects also to attitudes of politicians and citizens. People are less unwilling to take responsibility for others and especially for migrants. Many European countries have started to build walls to their boarders.

**Annelise Murakami (ICSW Denmark)**

Refugee Crisis in Europe. Europe has for centuries been characterized by migration and moving. The background has been due to poverty, war etc. New political crisis in Europe? and wars? created refugee flows, many of which settled in Europe. Especially the group of migrants with so called third world background has challenged this construction of a national idea. Discussions of human rights, closing borders, regulate national legislation are current and rather disturbing. The thought of dignity and worth is being seriously challenged. How does the civil society respond, the professions and the political system?

**Thomas Goldberg (ICSW Sweden)**

Support for Foreign EU Migrants in Sweden. Sweden is one of the European countries that takes in high amounts of asylum seekers. Another group in need of special support are the foreign EU citizens and third - country nationals with permanent residence. A life in poverty, homelessness and unemployment is quite common in that group. They do not have access to the Swedish social welfare system and social services agencies are not equipped to meet there needs. These challenges are now focused upon in Sweden and they have to be handled locally and within the European Union.

**Vadim Moldovan (ICSW Moldova)**

Changing attitudes toward emigration in Moldova. The Republic of Moldova, one of the poorest in Europe, continues to suffer an outflow of population with the third of the population working abroad. With the economic downturn, refugee crisis, and perceived rise in crime in Europe, the attitudes toward emigration are changing. This presentation is based on qualitative interviews with a representative sample of 20 citizens of Moldova living in Moldova and 20 citizens of Moldova living abroad.

For more information and full abstract book, please visit:


For Seoul Declaration from IASSW, ICSW and IFSW read on:


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**The Council of Europe**

**The Conference of INGOs**

The Conference of INGOs held its Summer Session on Friday 24 June 2016, in Strasbourg (France). The Conference began with a debate on the treatment of migrants, refugees and NGOs defending their rights. The Ambassador Astrid Helle, Permanent Representative of Norway to
the Council of Europe, Chair of the Ministers’ Deputies’ Rapporteur Group on Democracy (GR-DEM) and Mr. Tomáš Boček, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Migration and Refugees debated with the INGOs’ representatives about human rights and migrants treatment. During the afternoon, Mr. Simon Matthijsen was elected as a new Vice-chair of the Human Rights Committee.

Texts adopted:

CONF/PLE(2016)REC1
Recommendation of the protection of human rights defenders in the Transnistrian Region

CONF/PLE(2016)REC2
Recommendation on health care - older persons

Communication Charter

Ageing and Health: A challenge to public health and social cohesion. A strong need for common action

The session of the Council of Europe – Conference of INGOs – Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges Committee took place in Strasbourg on June 23, 2016 from 9:00 to 4:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting can be captured by the words of the authors of invitation letter:

“Dear Madam, Dear Sir,
Dear colleagues,

Thursday, June 23, our committee will report on health care and medico-social care for the elderly in Europe. The situation is worrying. Although significant efforts have been made during the past few years, respect for human dignity, ethics and human rights are still largely ignored. The cohorts of baby boomers seem as affected as the over eighty.

How to prevent the elderly from becoming either a mere economic market or a healthcare budgetary adjustment variable? What projections can be made for the coming decades and what actions taken to promote ageing well in Europe? How to avoid common mistakes in eldercare, under medicalisation and over medication? What preventive measures can be taken to preserve the most vulnerable ones’ autonomy? How can we bring together all the relevant actors?

These are the questions we wish to address. [...]”

(by Anne-Marie Chavanon, Chair of the Committee; Dr Thierry Mathieu, Vice-chair and Coordinator of the Working Group on Economy and Health)

For more information and a full programme visit:


“Only a matter for politicians?
Civil Society, money and political activities.”

The debate was organised by the Conference of INGOs on 6-7 June 2016 at the Council of Europe.

The debate considered three interrelated dimensions – freedom of association, political activities of NGOs and foreign funding for NGOs – which are essential in order for NGOs to play their role in a pluralist democracy and for the protection of human rights. The debate aimed at identifying the needs for protection, proposing changes to strengthen freedom of association and at taking preventive measures so that restrictions do not spread and human rights could be reinforced where the rights and freedoms recede. The overall aim is to ensure that NGOs are considered in their diversity as democratic
actors and not only as agencies implementing governmental decisions. This is the concern of the Council of Europe: where human rights NGOs and human rights defenders are persecuted, collective efforts should be employed to usher those member states back to their commitments to the Convention on Human Rights.

The debate gathered some 80 participants representing NGOs, governments, donors and international organisations under the chairmanship of Anna Rurka, President of the Conference of INGOs. It was transmitted live on the Internet.

For more information, please, visit: https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentid=0900001680686bd3

The European Social Cohesion Platform held its first meeting on 27-28 June 2016 in Strasbourg. Particular attention was paid to social rights, as guaranteed by the European Social Charter and other relevant instruments with a special emphasis on vulnerable groups and young people.

The Platform was created as an ad hoc committee to respond to the request of several member States of the Council of Europe to create an intergovernmental structure to accompany the efforts of integration of the social aspects in the Council of Europe activities. It has a two-year mandate, from January 2016 to December 2017 and is open to all member States, bodies and institutions of the Council of Europe, but also to international organisations and other relevant stakeholders.”

The IONGs Conference at the European Social Cohesion Platform was represented by Gerard Schaefer (ICSW) and Robert Bergougnan (EASSW).


Visit the web page of the Platform : http://www.coe.int/web/turin-european-social-charter/european-social-cohesion-platform

New ICSW Europe Member

ICSW Europe has accepted IAPEWSS Russian Federation for a new category C member in 2016. Institute for Additional Professional Education of Workers for Social Services of Moscow Department of Labour and Social Protection of Population is a state educational institution functioning under the license of Moscow Department of Education.

Institute’ Academic Council session with participation of Vladimir Petrosyan, Head of the Department of Labour and Social Protection of Population of Moscow.
Evdokiya Ivanovna Kholostova – Director of the Institute, Doctor of History, Professor, well-known researcher in Russia and abroad, who made a significant contribution to the theory of social policy and social work. She is one of the founders of new scientific direction in the area of social work theory, elaborated and introduced the conception of practice-oriented training of specialists for social sphere in High Educational Institutes. Professor Kholostova is an author of 300 research publications.

Prof. Evdokiya Kholostova at the Ceremony of admission to membership of Oxford Academic Union. 2015.

The Institute’s structure includes the Faculty of Theory and Technology of Social Work, the Faculty of Psychology and Pedagogics, the Faculty of Social Management and Economy, the Faculty of Professional Development for Personnel Reserve for Social Sphere Administration.

At present time around 50 thousand employees of social protection system from Moscow and 26 Regions of Russia have access to practice-oriented education based on modern informative and pedagogical technologies. Institute offers wide range of educational programmes: 65 short-term and long-term professional development curricula, 13 curricula of professional retraining, postgraduate education, distance learning.

Together with delivering high quality innovative teaching the Institute conducts scientific research, elaborates and implements innovative projects aimed to increase human resource capacity for Social Welfare Sector in Russia. Institute published more than 200 textbooks, manuals, scientific monographs, Encyclopedia of Social Work written by Institute’s professors and researchers, majority of them are included in bibliographic database Scopus.

Institute headed by Professor Kholostova is the innovative scientific-educational cluster in social protection of population. Together with training of highly qualified professionals the Institute runs large scale sociological research. Comprehensive monitoring of old citizens’ needs annually covers 10 000 thousand people. The Institute elaborates and implements innovative projects aimed to improve professionalism in workplace in the system of social protection of population and raise the quality of social service. The Institute has several pilot settings in different Moscow social service establishments to approbate innovative technologies in practice.

The Institute is a bona fide member of The Oxford Academic Union, member of ICSW EUROPE. In 2014 International School of Social Work was established inside the Institute in cooperation with Global Institute of Social Work in order to promote experience exchange in the area of social work.


(Natalia Rigina, Institute for Additional Professional Education of Workers for Social Services of Moscow, Russian Federation)
The official website of **The German Association for Public and Private Welfare** (Deutscher Verein für öffentliche und private Fürsorge e.V.) is now available also in English language:

https://www.deutscher-verein.de/en/

**Conferences/Expert Meetings**

Upcoming Moscow Conference/Summit in 2017:

http://www.soc-education.ru/

**Useful Links**

European Social Cohesion Platform:
http://www.coe.int/web/turin-european-social-charter/european-social-cohesion-platform

The German Association for Public and Private Welfare:
https://www.deutscher-verein.de/en/

**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.

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