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## A Message from the President



Dear reader,

a certain part of ICSW existence in Europe is behind us. A two year electoral period of its present board is going to be finished. Managing the organisation with such a long history with a number of successes is always a big challenge for each of us. We are completing our common work program these days. There is a possibility for you to devote to the Global program proposal for upcoming years. The Global program that follows general interests, and needs its real form for our citizens; it means we need a European program. The European program is still a remote for us thus I recommend to have our own one – fitted for my country, city, village. Read, please, a proposal of the Global program. We all live in a certain global village, nobody will escape before the problems of their neighbours. A refugee crisis is a good example of this. An ICSW Europe symposium in Seoul is being prepared particularly of a topic “migrant”. Each European is basically a migrant, too. We experience a new migration of peoples. During Dublin negotiations of a Global Board I have suggested cooperation with other regions as for example MENA. There is no sense to organise an exclusive meeting of Europeans in Nicosia without presence of the countries such as Lebanon or Syria. Last year 15 countries were present in Tbilisi. At the same time we did not geographically restrict only to Europe as we

perceive it. Where do Azerbaijan or Kirghizia belong to? We are all the children of this planet. Then, in this meaning, an offer from India for organising a common event is not a strange thing. During Dublin negotiations the money was mentioned all the time. Is it substantial? We do need to live and to have friends. I come from the country where the majority of people must live with 500€ income. What is important fact is that we have allies. Social Platform has the same goal as we do. 48 organisations are united in it. Are they competitors? They are our allies! It does not mean that we do not have the right for existence, it is time of happiness that the others want the same as we do. And not only us. World Community has recognized the right for social protection floor at UN, New York in September 2015. If everyone wants it then where is the problem? The people must be opened their eyes. The leading role of ICSW is needed to be used for forming global, regional and national coalitions. No competition, do not waste time, let's unite, we have ideal time to do it.

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 want to cooperate, not to compete.

Everyone finishes their electoral period once – that is the life. Michael Cichon, a personality that was the engine of SPFs, is not ICSW leader any more. We, who have responsibility, need to go on. I wish a new ICSW president the very best within our global family. What is good for the whole world will be also good for my country.

*(Miloslav Hettes, ICSW Europe President)*

## New ICSW President

In 2015 the Management Committee of the International Council on Social Welfare announced a world-wide search for a new President of the organization to succeed the incumbent President Mr. Michael Cichon (France). President is the highest-ranking official in the organization, responsible for strategic thinking and policy direction. The position should be filled by 1 February 2016.

The President was elected by ICSW member organizations through electronic vote on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015.



According to these results, Ms. **Eva Holmberg Herrström** (Sweden) was elected President with 73 percent of the vote. The contender, Mr **Miloslav Hettes** (Slovakia) got 27 percent of the vote.

The President-elect is well known to the ICSW network: since the year 2000 she has occupied various positions nationally and internationally. In 2007, Ms. Holmberg Herrström was elected President of ICSW-Sweden, and the year after was elected Regional President of ICSW-Europe, staying in that position for the subsequent four years. Since 2012 and up to the present, she has been serving as a member of the ICSW Management Committee. She will also represent ICSW in the Global Steering Committee for the upcoming 2016 Joint World Conference in Seoul, as she did previously in the context of the 2014 Joint World Conference in Melbourne.

Ms. Holmberg Herrström was instrumental in organizing the Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development in Stockholm in 2012, serving as a focal point and Coordinator of the Conference. Apart from that, she was closely involved in the organization of two world thematic conferences on children in institutions co-sponsored by the Stockholm University and UNICEF and convened in 1999 and 2003.

*(from <http://www.icsw.se/>)*

ICSW Europe region congratulates Ms. Eva Holmberg Herrström to the highest position in ICSW and wishes her every success.

## ICSW Europe General Assembly

Next ICSW Europe General Assembly will be in a beautiful city of **Prague** in the **Czech Republic**. ICSW Europe is organizing this annual meeting in cooperation with its member "Association of Citizens Advice Centres" in **May 26/27, 2016**.

The first day will be devoted to creation of the new work program. The draft of the new Global world program has already been distributed. Discussion is necessary not only to focus on the global program, but also on the European regional program. Global program will be used as a framework for creating more European tailor made one. We need more socially fair Europe. Program is our main document for the whole region.

Second day will be a working one in standard of General Assembly manner. Agenda will contain

the report of the president, financial and auditory report, future themes of program, next vision and, naturally, election of the Board for the following two-year term.

We hope all member organizations and also friends of the ICSW will join us there. It will be very nice to enjoy May weekend days to explore its historical atmosphere. It will be an opportunity to familiarise ourselves with work of our Czech friends.

*(Miloslav Hettes, ICSW Europe President, Jean-Michel Hote, ICSW Europe President Treasurer)*

## Social Platform – Work Programme 2016

2016 is the year that the European Union needs to prove itself. Following the crises it faced the previous year – the Greek debt and the situation of migrants and refugees to name just two – it is of utmost importance that the European institutions and Member States stick fast to European values of human rights, human dignity and solidarity. We believe that promoting a social agenda that brings a social dimension to all EU policies is vital to achieving this.



**Against a backdrop of increasing inequalities, poverty and unemployment, Social Platform aims to ensure that the European Union keeps the goals enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty at the forefront of all its policies, not least its macro-economic governance mechanisms. These include article 3 stating the EU’s objective to**

**strive to promote the wellbeing of the Union’s peoples, and article 9 – called the social clause – stating that “in defining and implementing its policies and activities, the Union shall take into account requirements linked to the promotion of a high level of employment, the guarantee of adequate social protection, the fight against social exclusion, and a high level of education, training and protection of human health”. To engage with the European Union representatives, we refer to article 11 of the treaty where “the institutions shall maintain an open, transparent and regular dialogue with representative associations and civil society”.**

Our 48 members and their members work daily to tackle the consequences of the high levels of poverty, social exclusion and inequalities that are still rife in our societies. So far instruments such as the European Semester and EU 2020 Strategy have failed to address the current situation. If anything they have worsened it by encouraging the pursuit of austerity by member states. The recently adopted **UN Sustainable Development Agenda** provides a new comprehensive framework for sustainable and social development that will be implemented and monitored at European and national levels.

Despite the fact that the Member States that best resisted the economic crisis were those with strong social policies, the EU still systematically prioritises the economy above all else – even if it is detrimental to the social rights of people in Europe. As such we have seen the development of a jobs and growth agenda disregarding the quality of those jobs; an Investment Plan that foresees investment in social infrastructures, social and solidary economy but which are yet to be used; and an Economic and Monetary Union with – until now – no agreed standards to avoid social divergence between and within EU countries.

Within the framework of our [Strategic Orientation 2014-2020](#) and building upon our work so far, we

will rely on and support our members' activities around the following four pillars of priorities for our work during 2016, to bring about real change for people in Europe:

- 1. Social standards, including minimum income, minimum wage, unemployment benefits and access to quality services;**
- 2. Investment in services of general interest, promoting the "social investment" approach and unlocking the sector's job creation potential;**
- 3. Human Rights First: ensuring inclusion and equal opportunities for people in the EU;**
- 4. Civil dialogue, to ensure that rights are respected and civil society organisations are represented at the European decision-making level.**

By advocating for a stronger social Europe through these four pillars we will draw attention to the direct impact of European and related national policies on people (social standards), the role of financial investment in preventing social emergencies (investment in services) and the need to have a strategic approach to human rights across the Union (human rights). Civil dialogue is the vehicle for ensuring that the voices and needs of people in Europe are heard.

Our activities in 2016 will be carried out with our members at the heart of all activities, and will complement the work being conducted by their own organisations. By bringing together the expertise, knowledge and skills of our broad spectrum of members we will bring a real added value when advocating for the policies and practices that people in Europe need. Our common belief is that all people in Europe will benefit from a strong Social Europe – and we will campaign towards this end in 2016.

ICSW Europe as a member of Social Platform sees its role in access to services and Monitoring implementation of SDGs as a framework of social

standards in the objective "Building SP's case for support for social standards that promote social convergence" and "Implementing SP's advocacy strategy to promote social standards".

In "Building SP's case for support for social investment in services, showing how such investment ensures accessibility, affordability, quality and contributes to inclusive growth" ICSW Europe role is in access to employment for people further away from the labour market. ICSW Europe will also cooperate with SP on "Implementing SP's advocacy strategy to promote investment in services, including social investment" and "Monitoring and influencing EU developments on social impact investing and financing the social economy/social enterprises, including measuring the social impact".

*(from Social Platform – Work Programme 2016)*

## United Nations – Sustainable Development



The United Nations at its meeting in New York from 25-27 September 2015 (as the Organization celebrates its seventieth anniversary) decided on new global Sustainable Development Goals to reach social protection floor which is also the core of ICSW Europe. The approved goals are as follows:

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts\*
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

*(the whole text can be read on:*

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>)

## ICSW Germany

### ICSW Germany calls for EU focus on effective and reliable welfare provision systems

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) has issued an opinion on the "Principles for effective and reliable welfare provision systems". In line with that EESC opinion, the German Association for Public and Private Welfare (ICSW Germany) calls for a stronger social dimension in the European Union while preserving the social policy competences of the Member States. The German Association calls on the European Commission and the Council of the EU to use existing European instruments as an impetus for social policy in the Member States and to formulate recommendations for minimum requirements in the welfare provision systems. From the perspective of the German Association, the recommendations must to be prepared in a way that the specific conditions of the individual Member States can be taken into account and existing standards must not be lowered. Based on decades of expertise in the German welfare system, the German Association proposes aspects of important policies and principles for welfare provision systems such as the principle of public responsibility for social services.

Opinion of the German Association for strengthening the social dimension of EU policy – establishing effective and reliable welfare provision systems:

[https://www.deutscher-verein.de/de/uploads/empfehlungen-stellungnahmen/2015/dv-28-15\\_english.pdf](https://www.deutscher-verein.de/de/uploads/empfehlungen-stellungnahmen/2015/dv-28-15_english.pdf)

*(ICSW Germany position paper)*

## ICSW Germany: Integration of the long-term unemployed requires tailor-made approaches

The European Commission has submitted to the Council of the EU a proposal on the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market. The Council reached political agreement on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and is expected to adopt a Council Recommendation on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The German Association for Public and Private Welfare (ICSW Germany) welcomes the fact that the Commission's proposal responds to the need for action to combat long-term unemployment in the EU. In addition, the German Association calls on the Council to encourage Member States to create frameworks for personalised guidance for the long-term unemployed and to develop group-specific services, as well as to consider the integration of the long-term unemployed as the responsibility of society as a whole. The German Association emphasises that the Council Recommendation has to clarify that the specific conditions of the individual Member States must be taken into account and existing standards must not be lowered.

Opinion of the German Association on the European Commission's Proposal for a Council recommendation on the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market:

[https://www.deutscher-verein.de/de/uploads/empfehlungen-stellungnahmen/2015/dv-27-15\\_wiedereingliederung\\_english.pdf](https://www.deutscher-verein.de/de/uploads/empfehlungen-stellungnahmen/2015/dv-27-15_wiedereingliederung_english.pdf)

*(ICSW Germany position paper)*

## Towards an Age-Friendly Europe



### Towards an Age-Friendly Europe: Launch of the EU Covenant on Demographic Change

The AFE-INNOVNET Thematic Network on innovation for age-friendly environments launched the Covenant on Demographic Change on **7<sup>th</sup> December, 2015**. The Covenant was set to become the new EU-wide association gathering local, regional and national authorities, civil society organisations, universities, and businesses that commit to cooperate and implement evidence-based solutions to support active and healthy ageing as a comprehensive answer to Europe's demographic challenge.

Europe is rapidly ageing. People aged 65+ represented 17.4% of the population in 2010 and this is set to reach 30% in 2060. Therefore, today's urgency is to find sustainable solutions to empower people to live healthily, actively and independently for longer, in order to lower the pressure put on family carers and on public health and long-term care budgets, as well as to enhance quality of life and well-being in later age.

Public authorities, as main providers of services and responsible for territorial planning, are playing a key role here. This is why, with the support of the Committee of the Regions, the European Commission and in close cooperation with the World Health Organisation, more than 150 subnational authorities, research centres and

civil society organisations gathered to launch the Covenant on Demographic Change.

The Covenant on Demographic Change, legally established as an international non-profit association under the Belgian law, is open to all interested parties (i.e. local, regional and national authorities, as well as civil society organisations, industries, research centres and universities) that voluntarily commit to making age-friendly environments a reality in their communities and to share their experience with other Covenant members.

By joining the Covenant, European local and regional authorities will position themselves at the forefront in addressing population ageing. They will benefit from a wide range of opportunities for mutual learning and partnership, various tools to implement and assess the impact of their age-friendly initiatives, and will lead the way to help Europe become age-friendly. For joining the Covenant [click here:](http://agefriendlyeurope.org/covenant)

*(from Press release on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2015, edited)*

## Tbilisi Workshop

ICSW Europe Regional Workshop took place at Tbilisi State University in Tbilisi (Georgia) on **October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015**. Among present participant countries were Georgia, **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Finland, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Norway, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Sweden**.

Some abstracts of presentations can be found below:

For workshop introductory words by **Miloslav Hettes**, President ICSW Europe, visit: <http://www.prohuman.sk/socialna-praca/social-protection-floors-regional-and-international-experiences>

### The Role of the Third Sector in the Structure of Social Protection in Armenia

The social protection system of Armenia plays an important role in providing social support to the population and alleviating the extreme poverty. Social protection is one of the priorities of the state policy of the Republic of Armenia. The objective of the state policy for social protection is to expand the capabilities of the population to face certain risks or meet certain needs. It is implemented through very concrete and targeted policies for social assistance, social security and insurance, which aim to reduce poverty, mitigate inequality, ensure decent old-age, expand the opportunities of vulnerable groups of population and provide certain social guarantees to them, as well as improve the demographic situation.

It is a widely shared opinion that the various public sectors such as the state (central and local authorities), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the economic sector should operate as partners. Partnership is necessary and it is of great importance to each of the partners as well as to society as a whole. Cooperation in providing social services is of particular importance and plays a particular role in public life.

**Gohar Barseghyan**, Armenia

## **Social Protection System and Role of Social Workers in Azerbaijan**

Azerbaijan with capital city Baku is one of the three South Caucasus countries situated on the coast of Caspian Sea bordered with the countries like Russia, Iran, Turkey, Georgia and Armenia. The current statistics of population is 9,593 million in the country, 53,1% live in urban areas and 46.9% in rural areas. Literacy rate among the population is 99% (Population of Azerbaijan, 2015). Azerbaijan is ranked as upper-middle income country due to rich oil and gas resources (World Bank, 2015). After 73 years of period, in 1991, the country regained its independence before the Soviet Union officially collapsed. First independence was declared in 1918, although for a short period of time, in 1920 the country became part of USSR. After the independence, the social protection system of Azerbaijan entered transformation including a number of reforms in social protection system embracing international approaches and practices.

**Gunay Ismayilova**, Azerbaijan

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## **Development of Social Protection and Social Work in Russia. Theory and Practice**

The concept of interaction existing between social work, social policy, social protection and social service of the population in the Russian Federation is presented in the article. Theoretical bases of judgment of interrelation of social policy and social work are defined; technologies of social work, social work process and its principles as a tool ensuring activities of social service establishments are allocated. Basing on the analysis of practice of social service establishments, the author makes a conclusion that the essential content of their activities is the social work, which became in Russia a factor of

stability and effective institute providing help and support to people in need and their families.

**Ludmila Kononova**, Russian Federation

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## **Social Protection Floors as an Investment (in Central and Eastern Europe)**

Europe has a challenge how to avoid decreasing of humanity, to keep sustainable decent life in time of asking for economic growth. Europe does not use all international social rights instruments. Social justice is not fully guaranteed for majority of Europeans. Central and Eastern Europe show many times the worst social conditions. Social cohesion is not fully applied. Social protection is a universal right which is now completed with right of guaranteed minimum. ICSW Europe with cooperation with all main stakeholders has to struggle for better life.

**Miloslav Hettes**, Slovakia

For the full text see:

<http://www.prohuman.sk/socialna-praca/social-protection-floors-investment-central-and-eastern-europe>

All the presentations can be found on:

<http://www.icsw.org/index.php/regions/europe>

## Joint World Conference on Social Work in Seoul



### 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 abstracts of presentations by ICSW Europe representatives:

#### **Elli Aaltonen, Finland**

International Council on Social Welfare Europe main current priority is social protection supporting. Global ICSW actively deals in the NGO Coalition for Social Protection Floors based on the ILO Recommendation 202 from the year 2012. Universal changes strengthen sustainability of future. ICSW Europe cares about poverty reduction, working poor, support of the poorest, especially Roma people, refugees and homeless people, poverty in extreme rural areas and migration.

Migration and refugees issues belong now among “hot” and danger political topic in everyday life in Europe and all over the world. 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.

Adoption, of the ILO Recommendation 202 from the year 2012 concerning National Floors of Social Protection by all EU member countries, is fully justified by the social situation in Europe. Nevertheless, not all of the European citizens benefited from the social protection floor. Europe remains an area with relatively high social rights. Universal social cover is an essential element of Social Protection Floors. The current situation is that not all EU citizens have an access to this yet and some of them no longer have an access to it.

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 in April 2015. The results of this seminar will be presented in Seoul in the workshop and continue with the representatives from all over the world how migration and the objectives of the Social Protection Initiative can be combined. There will be no well-being in Europe while other parts of the World will suffer. [...]

The migration situation in Finland has changed rapidly after the abstract proposal was made in July 2015. From September 2015 to December 2015 over 30 000 migrants from Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan have come to Finland. We have made with the good co-operation with the state, municipalities and Red Cross over 100 reception centers all over Finland. The first situation has finalized successfully and the state will give 100 % financial support to the centers and municipalities for 3 years to these arrangements. The second phase, which we are facing now, is the attitude and reactions to migrants from many citizens. The attitudes vary from the positive welcoming wishes to the hard critics. This is very sensitive moment, because Finland has high state debt and some groups of citizens think that we cannot afford this

help and migration situation for long time anymore. There have also been some violence reactions in the receptions centers and outside the centers.

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## Heikki Parviainen, Finland

### Welfare Economy

#### Background:

Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health SOSTE is constructing a welfare economy. Welfare economy is both a way of thinking and a concrete economic model. Economy is seen as a framework in which well-being and the prerequisites for a good life are produced together. These in turn support economic growth and sustainable economic development.

Welfare economy started as an open-ended program in 2012 when it was perceived that a way of modernizing and renewing the concept of welfare state was needed. In addition, the aim was to challenge certain views in Finnish public discussion that interpreted social and health systems as purely a burden to national economy.

#### Design/Planning of Program:

SOSTE has focused on three concrete tools in creating welfare economy: *investment thinking*, *indicators of welfare* and the *concept of a welfare economy*.

1. *Investment thinking* as a tool of the welfare economy signifies that we understand the impacts of different types of investments on economic and societal development, and that political decisions are made that are guided by this understanding.

2. *Indicators of welfare* are needed to make visible the welfare investments and, for instance, the work and results of social and healthcare organisations. SOSTE is developing welfare economy indicators.

3. *Welfare economy* as a concept is an important advocacy tool for promoting welfare-economy thinking and other political aims of SOSTE and its member organisations.

**Implementation:**

The tools listed are implemented by:

1. Participating in public discussion, organizing seminars, gathering experts etc.
2. Collecting evidence
3. Advocacy

**Assessment:**

The success of the concept is to be measured in three areas: 1) how well the proclaimed values and aims of welfare economy are affecting policies on national level, 2) does the perceived welfare model produce desired results, and, 3) publicity (media and scientific discussion).

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**Thea Meinema, the Netherlands****Background**

The European Network for Social Action ENSACT hosts the European Observatory for the Global Agenda on Social Work and Social Development. The aim of the European Observatory is to generate evidence on the implementation of the priority themes of the Global Agenda. Our first report, based on good practices from a number of European countries, has the theme Promoting the Dignity and Worth of the Person, the 2<sup>nd</sup> theme of the Global Agenda.

**Methods**

We have collected good practices through the 7 partner organisations of ENSACT (EASSW, ICSW Europe, IFSW Europe, FESET, FICE, PowerUs and SWHIN). This gives us an impression of developments and innovations in the field throughout Europe. Through our joint membership at local, regional and national levels, we cover many different concerns and perspectives, from social workers, social work educators, social services users, social development practitioners, and social researchers. We will compare our results to the results of other regions and will invite feedback from the three global institutions.

**Results**

An analysis and synthesis of contributions will lead to findings and conclusions. This analysis is now only just beginning, but the results will be ready by February 2016 and can be shared with the workshop participants. Findings will include the problems being addressed in the good practices, the link to promoting the dignity and worth of the person, the purpose of the actions, the role of the user and the outcomes.

**Implications**

The Observatory is a first step towards increasing the meaning and the sense of co-ownership of the Global Agenda in Europe. How can we use the results of the European Observatory in research, in education and in practice? We wish to discuss our findings, the ways we can learn from these good practices and how to continue the Global Observatory process.

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**Annelise Murakami, Denmark****Dignity, Respect and Citizenship**

The demographic changes and challenges as societal discourses in the globalized world have an impact on the perceptions of social solidarity. The perception of who is in and who is out is changing rapidly.

The Scandinavian welfare states are currently challenged due to demographic changes. Issues as Multiculturalism challenge the field of social work, the education of social workers as the societal discourses. Can training and education in a critical categorical perspective improve and qualify social work? Will such a perspective improve the perception and strengthen the competences when dealing with the question of intervention in social problems in a citizenship mobilizing perspective based on human rights? Can Human right based Citizenship be applied to every one regardless of preconditions or requirements despite different social categories to ensure the

dignity and worth of people? And ensure and emphasize participation?

In order to bridge the individual selves and our societal selves and emphasize social solidarity the concept and dimensions of human right based citizenship could be a focus. In my research I have developed a specific concept of human rights based citizenship in order to qualify the perception and understanding of the relation between the individual and society in social work, in order to meet the challenges of social work in an ongoing, changing, diverse world.

Although the analytical and empirical findings are based in a Scandinavian welfare state context the results, however, are relevant internationally. Especially when it comes to the training and education of social workers and the learning environment with the focus on qualifying social work in a diverse world while still meeting the triple mandate of social work in times of neoliberal discourses with an emphasis on self-responsibility and self-care.

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### **Miloslav Hettes, Slovakia**

#### **Happy Life in Divided World?**

World is deeply divided according to GDP per capita. Social cohesion and solidarity disappear under the attack of austerity programs and growing global selfishness. Socially unjust global society and instability in everyday life is norm more and more. Peace and employment are scarce commodity. People are fearful of the future. More economically developed countries suffer from decreasing of their own population. There is paradox of “happy poor peasants and unhappy millionaires”. Economic disaster and wars are of human origin and they are not pardonable. Europe is punishing for solidarity by its law. General solidarity in social protection is

replaced by wrongful targeting. Humanitarian help to desperate illegal immigrants could be a malicious act. Social and economic injustice has to be solved in countries of origin. The world is mutually dependent. World approved recommendation that all have right to social protection floor in 2012. We can support the idea of upgrading human right on social protection from 1948 to guarantee its minimum. The world has enough sources to eliminate poverty now.

Small private St. Elizabeth University in Slovakia established 102 different projects in 35 states round the world (Europe, Africa, Latin America, Asia and Pacific). Projects are oriented on childcare, hospitals, social work education, schools, asylum centres and others. It is an example of good practice of humanitarian and welfare joint liability. Slovak aid brings to home country better filling of solidarity and necessity of social cohesion. Xenophobia and hate deliver new form of apartheid. Rich people do not want to know reality of miserable class. Wealthier countries do not want take its part of responsibility and close borders and eyes. No decent life is possible in one country while in neighbour rules poverty.

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### **Philippe Steck, France**

#### **Background**

The European Union has a population of 509 million. This includes 33 million foreigners.

Every year, the South of Europa is the destination of the largest number of migrants facing tragic circumstances.

#### **Methods**

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.

Regarding circulation within Europe, priority right of European citizen belongs to the country of employment when the family is spread out among several countries. Accordingly, to the Pinna case-law, France exported, for example, its family benefits to Italy for a worker in France whose family had stayed behind in Italy.

### **Results**

There are complex rules that always allow families to receive the maximum amount of entitlements of family benefits of the country of work through a system of benefit supplements.

This complexity means longer wait times to receive entitlements. This led the European Commission to put together a large working group in 2008 to improve how entitlements are processed. This is the EESSI (Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information) project, which will connect together all of the 28 EU countries' IT systems. Testing is already underway. I represented France on this working group.

Foreigners can view their entitlements online with precise intelligence service. Indeed, a limited number of specialized sites work together to provide a more accurate overview of an individual's entitlements.

Citizens of non-EU countries are covered by about 36 agreements, mainly with Africa.

### **Special Social Work**

With the current increase in illegal migration, cities like Paris are running programs to offer decent, if transitory, treatment, such as by providing emergency housing. The French government took new helps, not only about housing, but also with social centers for migrants.

emerged. It efforts on social changes that allow prevent negative social events. Social workers have opportunity by joint striving to reach sustainable positive changes. ICSW, IFSW and IAASW together advocate for fulfilling of the Global Social Agenda.

Austerity measures in social area in time of crises are contra productive. Spending on social protection represents investment into the future. Employment growth can be guaranteed only by supporting of social investment. Prolongation of expected years of life is success and common good. Global low fertility and not birthing of future generation is threatened sustainability of the life on the Earth. Shortage of job possibilities will be in near future replaced by shortage of human sources. Even we will be witnesses of discrepancy between old age population and required number of social work specialists. Attempts to introduce neoliberalism into social work practice is against the substance of its global definition from the year 2014.

Refugee crisis has deeper nature, based on previous wrong decisions of politicians, mostly not from country of emigrant origin. Punishment for humanitarian help to the migrants in Europe is based on growing xenophobia and weakness of social cohesion. Social workers have to find joint response to this negative challenge.

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## **Miloslav Hettes, Slovakia**

### **Radical Social Work and Social Justice**

As response to worsening global social situation and it is not improving, the radical social work



### Over 50 years at the heart of European democracy

ICSW Europe holds participatory status at the Conference of INGOs and is represented by Thomas Goldberg from Sweden and Gérard Schaefer from France. The Conference meets in two sessions a year and the first one for 2016 was held on Friday 29 January.



The voice of civil society is heard at the Council of Europe thanks to the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs).

Since the introduction of consultative status for INGOs in 1952, the Council of Europe has developed even closer and fruitful relations with NGOs as representatives of civil society. The introduction of participatory status in 2003 has enabled INGOs to increase active participation in the policies and work programme of the Council of Europe, and to reinforce co-operation between

the Council of Europe and the various associations in member States.

### The working process in the Conference of INGOs is organized in three Committees

- Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges Committee
- Education and Culture Committee
- Human Rights Committee.

### Fact Finding Visits

A new and interesting activity that started last year where the field visits to countries within the European Union. The Republic of Moldova and Bulgaria were the first ones and the visits will continue this year.



A delegation of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe carried out fact-finding visits to the Republic of Moldova and Bulgaria to meet with NGOs and discuss with them their participation in the decision-making process. Discussion focused on key questions such as what tools exist which allow them to be heard and participate in decision-making, at what moment they are consulted, in what manner, their point of view is taken into account. The delegation held meetings with NGOs and with senior officials in several Ministries and the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova and Bulgaria.

The country visits also aim to reinforce the links between civil society in member States and the Conference of INGOs. The results of the meetings will contribute to one of the priorities of the

Secretary General of the Council of Europe which is the drafting of new guidelines on civil society's effective and meaningful participation in the political decision-making process.

### Adopted texts

At the first session this year the Conference of INGOs adopted texts that could be found here:

<http://www.coe.int/web/ingo/texts-adopted>

**ICSW-Europe** is represented at the Conference of INGOs by

**Thomas Goldberg, Sweden**

[thomas.goldberg@akademssr.se](mailto:thomas.goldberg@akademssr.se)

**G rard Schaefer, France**

[schaefer.gerard@gmail.com](mailto:schaefer.gerard@gmail.com)

**Website of the Council of Europe:** [www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

*(Thomas Goldberg, Sweden)*

## Social Platform

Social Platform celebrated the twentieth anniversary of its existence and work. The event with the panel debate on "Social Europe over the last 20 years, focusing on human rights, social standards and services – what needs to change?" connected with cocktail reception and birthday cake took place on **8<sup>th</sup> December, 2015** in Brussels.

For more information about the work of Social Platform and its 48 members see this welcome video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZRUpKW6Yk4&utm\\_source=Weekly+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=4de](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZRUpKW6Yk4&utm_source=Weekly+Newsletter&utm_campaign=4de)

[dc00304-](#)

[The+Social+Compass+January+18&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_dc7a954080-4dedc00304-323819885&mc\\_cid=4dedc00304&mc\\_eid=d3bf86ccb](#)  
[f](#)

*(editor of ICSW Europe Newsletter)*

## ICSW Archives

International Council on Social Welfare archives is at disposal in the Catalogue of the International Institute of Social History (IISH).

Correspondence with board members and other persons, national committees, associate members and other forums; documents on meetings of the permanent committee, the executive committee and other forums 1936-2007; documents on congresses 1928-2002; statutes, activity reports, annual reports; reports from many countries to the ICSW 1962-1982.

*Contact person:* Huub Sanders – [hsa@iisg.nl](mailto:hsa@iisg.nl)

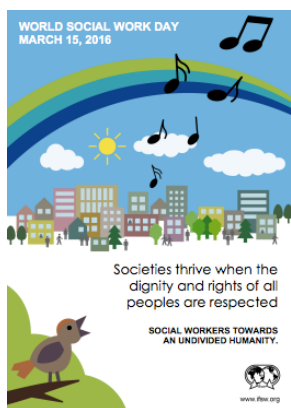
*Visiting address:* Cruquiusweg 31 1019  
AT Amsterdam The Netherlands  
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<https://search.socialhistory.org/Record/ARCH03475>

*(editor of ICSW Europe Newsletter)*

## Conferences/Expert Meetings

### World Social Work Day 2016



World Social Work Day 2016 (WSWD) is on **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016**. The theme '**Promoting the Dignity and Worth of Peoples**'.

World Social Work Day 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.

All social work partners and members are welcome to co-brand the WSWD poster by adding their logo alongside the IFSW logo. WSWD also invites member organisations to translate the poster into their own language.

For more information see:

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

**24th European Social Services Conference**, World Forum, The Hague, **20-22 June 2016**.

The conference will focus on how to best develop local solutions in order to empower communities, combat poverty and improve services.

For more information see:

[https://conference.esn-eu.org/sites/default/files/Theme\\_2016\\_EN.pdf](https://conference.esn-eu.org/sites/default/files/Theme_2016_EN.pdf)

## Useful Links

Towards an Age-Friendly Europe: Launch of the EU Covenant on Demographic Change:

[agefriendlyeurope.org/covenant](http://agefriendlyeurope.org/covenant)

International Council on Social Welfare archives:

<https://search.socialhistory.org/Record/ARCH03475>

World Social Work Day 2016 (WSWD):

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

24th European Social Services Conference:

[https://conference.esn-eu.org/sites/default/files/Theme\\_2016\\_EN.pdf](https://conference.esn-eu.org/sites/default/files/Theme_2016_EN.pdf)

United Nations – Sustainable Development:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

The Council of Europe: [www.coe.int](http://www.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.

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