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ICSW Europe Board meeting and Russian partners meeting



The fourth term of office ICSW Europe Board meeting took place in Vienna (Austria) on **November 12, 2016** in Österreichisches Komitee für Soziale Arbeit – ÖKSA premises.

ICSW Europe Board met to discuss the following points:

- 1) Board Meeting Agenda
- 2) Approval of ICSW Europe Board Minutes of 7/11/2016
- 3) First exchange about organisation of 2017 GA
- 4) Reactions on the 2nd draft version of Moscow Conference
- 5) Global NL; ICSW Europe Winter NL
- 6) A. O. B.
- 7) Question of Presidency and Treasurer
- 8) Next Board meeting

The second meeting in the same day were ICSW Europe Board and Russian partners' negotiations regarding the preparations and organisation of the next year Moscow conference organised by the Institute for Additional Professional Education of Workers for Social Services (http://skts.sk/clanky/konferencia_moskva/prese

[ntation Moscow.pdf](#)) with the support of the Department of Labour and Social Protection of Population of Moscow and contributions from ICSW Europe (which will be held on **May 18-19, 2017**). Russian delegation was presented by *Evdokiya Ivanovna Kholostova, Irina Vladimirovna Mkrumova, Kulikov Igor Valerievich, Olga Evgenievna Gracheva, and Natalia Rigina.*



Details of the conference programme, organisation and financial issues were the topic of discussion.

The updated information of Moscow conference will be published in the next ICSW Europe Newsletters.

ICSW Europe thanks ÖKSA for hosting the venue.

(by ICSW Europe editor)

Social Platform



Social Platform responds to the European Commission's consultation on a European Pillar of Social Rights

In his State of the European Union address in September 2015, European Commission President *Jean-Claude Juncker* had announced the development of a 'European Pillar of Social Rights' to help achieve a social 'Triple A' for the EU.

On 8 March 2016, the European Commission initiated a '**Consultation on a European Pillar of Social Rights**' and also presented a '**First preliminary outline of a European Pillar of Social Rights**'. According to the proposal, the Pillar should be founded on 'a number of essential principles to support well-functioning and fair labour markets and welfare systems. Once established, the Pillar should become a reference framework to screen the employment and social performance of participating Member States, to drive reforms at national level and, more specifically, to serve as a compass for renewed convergence within the euro area.' On completion of the consultation process (deadline: end of December 2016) the European Commission will make a 'final proposal' for the Pillar in the spring of 2017.

Social Platform shaped its response to the consultation through intensive exchange between member organisations, using its 'Task Force on Social Standards' (ICSW Europe was represented in the Task Force by Britta Spilker from ICSW Germany). In November 2016, Social Platform sent its response to the European Commission, welcoming the initiative for greater upwards convergence, stressing the importance of the fight against poverty and social exclusion in all member states and drawing attention to the high levels of inequalities and unemployment or underemployment. It calls for the future 'European Pillar of Social Rights' to allow for civil dialogue and the meaningful involvement of people and to have effective links to already existing instruments and policies.

European Commission information on the consultation process:

http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/deeper-and-fairer-economic-and-monetary-union/towards-european-pillar-social-rights_en

Social Platform's response to the public consultation on the public consultation on the European Pillar of Social Rights:

<http://www.socialplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Social-Platform-response-to-the-public-consultation-on-the-European-Pillar-of-Social-Rights-November-2016.pdf>

ICSW Germany's response to the consultation:

<https://www.deutscher-verein.de/en/uploads/dateien-stab-internationales/dv-21-16-opinion-consultation-epsr.pdf>

(by Britta Spilker, ICSW Europe)



ENSACT and the Global Observatory of Social Work and Social Development

ICSW Europe is actively involved in ENSACT: the European Network for Social Action. It is one of the seven partners in ENSACT. Together these partners contributed to the Global Observatory by preparing a report on Europe focusing on the promotion of dignity and worth of people. This was the second theme of the global agenda prepared jointly by IASSW, IFSW and ICSW.

For our European Observatory report we invited the members of all our organisations to contribute good examples on how to promote dignity and worth of people in social work and social development. We received more than 30 examples from 16 countries in Europe. More organisations and countries were involved in the activities contributed. The examples were collected and analysed by *dr. Kerstin Svensson*, of Lund University in Sweden, and resulted in a European observatory report.

The report was presented in Seoul in June 2016 as part of the global report, but it is also available as a stand-alone version online with links to all the good examples. Interested? Have a look at <http://www.ensact.com/> and go to 'Report 2016 of the European observatory'.

The aim of the European Observatory is to make the examples accessible and to start a reflective discussion on the possibilities and difficulties in social work where it concerns promoting the dignity and worth of people. The report focused on three areas: policy, practice, and education. In the field of policy, we see that the work for promoting the dignity and worth of people puts respect in central position, both when raising awareness and when creating policies. Policies created together with the people they concern make them more meaningful and effective, as the examples illustrate.

In looking at practice, we also found that the tools and methods all focus on involving the people concerned and in this way underline the importance of partnership and mutual respect and understanding. And finally, the projects ranged under education all enhance awareness through an exchange of perspectives in non-traditional ways and the introduction of new themes in education. The projects all endeavour to bring real people into education and students into real life.

The key words are respect, awareness, perspectives, facilitation, and partnership.

Of course, such a rather random selection of projects and good examples cannot really be called representative. We noticed however that mainly new and innovative projects were submitted as good practices. Perhaps social workers see their day-to-day work as 'nothing special'? It will be our challenge in the future to also uncover more of the 'hidden' treasures and discourses in the field. For the next theme on the global agenda, 'Promoting sustainable communities and environmentally sensitive development', we will invite social workers and all others who contribute to this topic, to share their thoughts and ideas with us to provide a strong basis for the next European Observatory report.

*(by Thea Meinema, President ENSACT,
t.meinema@movisie.nl)*

SDG Watch Europe



SDG Watch Europe keeps an eye on EU's action on Sustainable Development Goals

The civil society is now getting organized to give a push to the global and local Sustainable Development Goals. A New Civil Society Organizations' alliance, [SDG Watch Europe](#) was established in October 2016 for the purpose of keeping the EU accountable for its commitments towards realizing the SDGs. It is a civil society alliance of over 90 EU non-governmental

organizations representing a wide range of sectors and missions. ICSW Europe is joining the alliance.

A mission for all

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) constitute the joint global vision of “The future we want for all”. The SDGs are a unique global consensus intended to serve as guiding beacons to all countries for the next decade and a half. They are results of the widest participatory process in human history until now/to date. Thus, SDGs can be said to represent the vision of the world the humankind wants to see evolving.

Our governments agreed on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the United Nations in September 2015. Governments are ultimately accountable for their promise. However, governments cannot do it alone. The multidimensionality and complexity of sustainable development calls for the widest possible involvement by all individuals and social entities in the making of the future we want for all. Governments must nevertheless also be kept accountable.

Turning the course, now

It is widely recognized that continuing ‘business as usual’ does not lead to ethically, socially, environmentally and economically sustainable future. We do not want to continue with “the current unsustainable paradigm within which inequalities grow, the environment is degraded, climate change accelerates, wealth and political power are concentrated in fewer and fewer hands, and many people across Europe are deeply disaffected with the European Union, its institutions and policies” said the SDG Watch Europe spokesperson on November 23rd, 2016, in Brussels while [commenting](#) on the [EU Commission’s Communication on the next steps for a sustainable European future](#).

The work of the SDG Watch Europe – alliance is coordinated along the lines of four interlinked work strands.

- 1) Strand One: Joint high level advocacy and policy coordination for ambitious and integrated EU SDG implementation;
- 2) Strand Two: Monitoring, accountability, and review of European SDG implementation across all sectors;
- 3) Strand Three: Engaging CSOs and citizens – at local, national and EU level;
- 4) Strand Four: Innovating, Reflecting, Experimenting, and Learning together.

Organizations joining SDG Watch can participate in one or more of these working strands.

Aligned with ICSW mission

ICSW Europe Board has decided that ICSW Europe will join this alliance because the purpose of the alliance is well aligned with the mission and the work program of ICSW Europe. The work program for 2016-2020 states that “ICSW Europe vision is to support the development and promotion of socially fair life in Europe, based on shared values, in order to enhance sustainability of human decent life for all”.

While the specific focus areas of ICSW have always reflected the acute social and economic issues, the ICSW has throughout its history supported a broad and comprehensive approach to social policy. Since the emergence of the concept of sustainable development (1987) the ICSW has strongly advocated for the strengthening of the ethical, social and human dimensions of sustainable development. This perspective will continue to be the overarching and cross-cutting goal of ICSW Europe. Joining forces with like-minded organizations will make also us stronger.

*(by Ronald Wiman, ICSW Europe Board Member/
Finland)*

AGE Platform Europe



AGE Platform Europe is an international non-profit association established in July 2001 under the Belgian law by its founder members Eurolink Age, EPSO, and FIAPA. The oldest European organisation acting in the field of ageing, Eurag, joined the association a few years later.

AGE is a European network which aims to voice and promote the interests of the 198 million citizens aged 50 + in the European Union and to raise awareness of the issues that concern them most. Through its 131 members (among which 10 European-wide organisations), the network represents directly more than 40 million senior citizens across the EU.

AGE General Assembly calls for seizing the full potential of the MIPAA and recommends essential principles to better protect the human rights of older persons

The right to be respected and treated with dignity and to participate fully in society can be a real challenge for older people, in particular in these times of persisting economic and social crisis in Europe, and despite the fact that the 65-plusers are projected by Eurostat to make up 30% of the whole European population by 2060.

During their 2016 General Assembly in Brussels on **16-17 November**, the members of AGE Platform Europe, the largest EU network of people aged 50+, came together to call on decisions makers at

all levels to address the challenges faced by older persons with regard to their human rights.

AGE Platform Europe Final Declaration 2016

In their final declaration, AGE members call on the European Union and national governments to make use of the potential of the **Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)** to strengthen equality, fairness, and cohesion in an ageing Europe. Although the MIPAA contains a number of references relevant to the human rights of older people, it is neither intended to be a human rights instrument, nor it has binding effect. Therefore, AGE members call for a new binding instrument, such as an international convention, to highlight the specific barriers that older people face in respect of their human rights. AGE members also draw the attention on the need to better balance economic and social concerns, in particular by taking into account the potential impact of economic reforms on vulnerable groups including older people. Read here the full [AGE Final Declaration](#) and its recommendations addressed to the European Union and national governments.

Older people take a stand on their human rights! - AGE Platform Europe Manifesto

AGE General Assembly also adopted a Manifesto drafted with the direct involvement of more than 100 representative organisations of older people. The document outlines AGE members' vision on human rights in 7 essential principles that everyone aiming to promote older people's rights should take into account:

1. Older women and men have the same rights as everyone else
2. Older people should have equal opportunities
3. Respecting older people's rights benefits society as a whole

4. States need to take action to ensure equal rights across the lifecycle
5. Older people should be at the centre of processes that affect their lives
6. A UN convention will help older people contribute, prosper and equally enjoy their rights
7. Binding human rights commitments need to be applied through regional, national and local action

Read the full [AGE Manifesto here](#)

Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection

At this year's UN General Assembly, world leaders launched an unprecedented effort to roll out universal social protection in countries all around the world. Heads of state, the World Bank Group and the International Labour Organization convened on Wednesday 21 September, 2016 to launch the **Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection**, which aims to make pensions, maternity, disability, and child benefits, among others, available to all persons, closing the gap for hundreds of millions currently unprotected worldwide.

The Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection brings together the African Union, FAO, the European Commission, Helpage, IADB, OECD, Save the Children, UNDP-IPC, UNICEF, and others, along with **Belgian, Finnish, French, and German** cooperation.

A series of [23 case studies](#) were released at the event that document how many developing countries have achieved universality, such as Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil,

Cabo Verde, China, Georgia, Kosovo, Lesotho, the Maldives, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, South Africa, Tanzania (Zanzibar), Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago and the Ukraine. The case studies show that universal social protection is feasible in developing countries.

This announcement is part of the Virtual Conference on

[Universal Social Protection to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.](#)

This September we moved from the [South-South high level event in Beijing after the G20](#) to the [UN General Assembly in New York](#), where world leaders launched **the partnership**.

SDG 1.3, calls for implementing "nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors," based on the [ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 \(No. 202\)](#).

Follow the events, videos, presentations, country experiences and much more at the [Conference website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) #SocialProtection.

(source: <http://www.social-protection.org/qimi/qess/Conference.action>)

Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) to host the SWSD 2020 Conference

Joint World Conference for Social Work and Social Development, 2020, with the Theme: Promoting Human Relationships

The Joint Steering Committee, representing the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), **the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW)** and the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), is calling for expressions of interest (EOI) for organising and hosting the

2020 Joint International Conference on Social Work and Social Development (SWSD2020). This biennial conference is organized by agreement of the three organizations (IASSW, ICSW, and IFSW) and reflects a history of inter-organizational cooperation. Under the current agreement, the first conference was held in Hong Kong, China in 2010, the second in Stockholm, Sweden in 2012, the third in Melbourne, Australia in 2014 and the fourth in Seoul, Republic of Korea in 2016. The 2018 conference will be held in Dublin, Ireland. The conference is generally held in the month of July and anticipated to attract a minimum of 1,500 participants, but can be as high as 3,500 (Hong Kong).

The deadline for applicant organizations to respond to this call for expressions of interest (EOI) is **February 28, 2017**.

For more information see <https://www.iassw-aiets.org/2016/09/23/1575/>



Democracy Dialogues 1 - a Social Europe?

As a part of Scandinavian collaboration between Denmark, Sweden, and Norway, Danish Social Policy Association in Denmark, which holds Danish ICSW, hosted the first of three **Democracy Dialogues** – a new initiative that focuses on European challenges and the role of Scandinavian Welfare states. Hence three NGOs in Denmark, Sweden and Norway have started a collaboration called Democracy Dialogues. The aim is to qualify the intersecting challenges in Europe in a Scandinavian context. **Democracy Dialogue 1** was

on “Migration and Welfare in Europe”. It was a two-day conference on **26 and 27 October, 2016** at Konventum (LO-School) in Helsingør, Denmark.

The conference took hold of the common European challenges that we are experiencing in regards to Democracy and Welfare. We want the conference to draw threads from the (so far) successful Scandinavian welfare systems to the global challenges facing the world: does Europe have the solutions and why are Scandinavian countries, to a greater or lesser extent, leaving the model that even in the last years of economic crisis has proved to be strong and competitive in regards to democracy, equality, prosperity, business competitiveness and happiness? The purpose is not to come up with final answers but to qualify the knowledge and reflections upon these challenges by dialogues, workshops, debates, and presentations by:

Speakers and workshops:

Aksel Braanen Sterri, Allan Larsson, Annelise Murakami, Christian Søllyst, Hilde Sandvik, Laura Auken Larsen, Marc Trensig, Mads Busck, Mogens Lykketoft, Niels Skousen, Per K. Larsen, Peter James Stark, Rushy Rashid, Steen Hildebrandt, Stian Johnsen Slotterøy, Stine Bosse, Thorsten Hellmann, Vagn Berthelsen and others.

Day 1 – Wednesday 26 October

The European Community and national welfare systems face major challenges in these years. Both the labour movement and the growing number of refugees and migrants fleeing from war, fear, and poverty, have contributed to the discussion on how Europe can preserve the community and the national welfare systems. We take the pulse of the current situation and the challenges Denmark, Scandinavia and other European countries are facing.

After a welcome by *Annelise Murakami*, a chairman of the Danish ICSW at Social Policy Association, and introduction of the moderator for the event, *Rushy Rashid*, the first part and dialogue was on Scandinavia, Europe and global challenges by *Mogens Lykketoft*, a former chairman of the UN's 70th General Assembly, a former Finance Minister and Chairman of the Danish Parliament etc. and on a "social triple A" in Europe *Allan Larsson*, a special advisor to European Commission "President *Jean-Claude Juncker* in social issues, a previous Swedish Finance Minister etc.

The following dialogue was on Civil Society and organizations critical role and challenges.

Stian Slotterøy Johnsen, a Secretary General, Frivillighet Norway, has background in the army and the National Council of Norway's children and youth (LNU) and *Dr. Thorsten Hellmann* from Bertelsmann Stiftung, Germany, an economist responsible for analysis of benchmarks in the labour market, economy, and social policy SIM (Social Inclusion Monitor) Europe Reform Barometer 2016th European, Danish, and Scandinavian results.

Bertelsmann Stiftung is a major German think tank, founded in 1977, whose work "focuses on people since individuals must be able to participate – politically, economically and culturally – as the world evolves more and more complex".

In the afternoon workshops – with speaks and active participation followed by presentations and results from workshops – the workshop themes were on:

- The role of Human Rights in keeping democracy and welfare;
- The Role of the Civil Society;
- The borderless labour market;
- Poverty-Inequality;

- Technology and labour market – new challenges for working life;
- Art and cultures: role in democracy;
- Citizenship

The workshops were held by various speakers whom all are specialists in their field. The workshops emphasized participation and producing statements which was shared and debated at the end of Day 1.

Day 2 – Thursday 27 October

The second day was on the theme: "Is our democracy able to provide answers to questions like distribution of welfare, technological development, refugees/migrants situation and the climate changes? What does this mean in relation to the European and Nordic democracies and their future? Do these challenges threaten or do they provide fantastic opportunities to realize greater freedom and a good life for all?"

Starting the day there was a speech on "Fuck the Poor" – *Marc Trensigt*, a Danish/Spanish artist and a gallerist, who has traveled around Europe with his project "Fuck the Poor" using advertising industry PR means to focus on homelessness, poverty, and other built-in paradoxes in Western capitalist societies.

The second theme was on UN World Millennium Goals and Sustainability: "Can Europe by democratic means sufficiently quickly and clearly take the 'necessary' decisions?" by *Steen Hildebrandt, Ph.D.* and professor emeritus at the University of Aarhus and professor at CBS.

Followed by the session: posts for dialogue on "welfare and democracy. Back to policy" v/*Aksel Braanen Sterri*, a journalist and a writer and a Head of Katalys – and "Inequality in Health" v/*Rushy Rashid*, a radio host, journalist and author. The session was followed by Panel

discussion with *Shaft Braanen Sterri*, and *Rushy Rashid*. The following dialogues and panel discussion were moderated by *Hilde Sandvik*, a journalist and a founder of the Nordic netmedia www.broen.xyz (<https://broenxyz.com/>).

Then there was a presentation on “What happens to welfare in the Nordic region and Europe? Is rethinking welfare in our society important?” by *Stine Bosse*, a President of the European Movement, leading Danish business woman, in 2010 appointed by the UN Secretary General to advise the UN Millennium Goals.

After these dialogues and inputs there was a debate on how to meet the challenges.

The aim for the two days was to qualify critical reflection and capacity build knowledge and ways to work towards a stronger Europe based on solidarity principles.

These themes will be followed up at the coming two events:

Democracy Dialogue 2

“Citizenship and Inclusion”, **March 23, 2017**, Uppsala (Sweden).

Democracy Dialogue 3

- “Communication and Influence,” Arendalsuka, **16-18 August, 2017**, Arendal (Norway).

Meanwhile, the different participants representing various institutions will keep working, making new coalitions, mapping, researching, documenting, and advocating on the intersecting dilemmas, problems, and challenges in a changing Europe.

(by Annelise Murakami – ICSW Europe and Allan Baerentzen – Social Policy Association)

Conferences/Expert meetings



Social Sciences and Arts Conference

SGEM Vienna Scientific sessions

28-31 March, 2017 (Historical HOFBURG Palace, Vienna, Austria)

The events are organized by the most distinguished world Academies of Sciences & Arts, many Universities, Associations, Cultural and Scientific Centres from all over the world.

<http://www.sgemvienna.org/index.php>



The conference

Families on the Move Family Policy & Practice at the Centre of Europe

will be held in Prague (Czech Republic) on **11-12 May, 2017**.

“Families are on the move in Europe. They are moving geographically, socially, digitally, economically. By focusing on these four moves,

our conference will aim to build bridges between policy and practice; to promote transnational exchanges across EU countries; to explore new topics and challenges; to better understand the impact of moving families; to make the links between emerging family realities and the EU's current policy-making priorities and competences”.

More information about the programme will follow early next year, and registrations will open in **February 2017**.

<http://www.coface-eu.org/en/Events/Families-on-the-Move-2017/>



European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) and the St. Brother Albert's Aid Society invite you

to save the date for the 2017 annual FEANTSA conference:

The Fight against Homelessness: Solidarity in Action

in Gdansk, Poland on **18-19 May, 2017**.

Registration opens in February 2017

<http://www.feantsa.org/en>
<http://www.bratalbert.org/>

FEANTSA is the only European NGO focusing exclusively on the fight against homelessness. Its ultimate goal is an end to homelessness in Europe.

Useful Links

ENSACT report 2016 European Observatory:
<http://www.ensact.com/node/4>

European campaign to end institutional care and strengthen families:
<http://www.openingdoors.eu/>

SDG Watch Europe:
<http://www.sdgwatcheurope.org/>

Colophon

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

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