



ICSW EUROPE NEWSLETTER
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A Message from the President

ICSW has a great history, a coherent mission and it can take a central place among those organizations that are envisioning a more sustainable future for all. But ICSW must maintain its unique mission for *comprehensive* social policies as most social sector organizations focus on single issues or specific population groups, only. With this conviction I returned from the Dublin Conference.

During the three symposia of ICSW and at many presentation sessions it became clear that our key members and partners share the concern about the social dimension of sustainable development. SDGs are not “theory”, their targets are very concrete and doable. SDGs are not meant primarily for protecting nature but rather for protecting human beings – therefore we must protect the nature, as there is no Planet B for the humankind.

However, the social dimension of SDGs does not have any single international organization to guard the adequate inclusion of social goals to economic and environmental projects and programs derived from the SDGs. Quite the contrary, we learned that there are advocates that work towards side railing the human and social concerns, social justice and equality from major reforms. We used to identify those tendencies in “neoliberal” thinking. Today inequalizing tendencies are baked into “necessary reforms” that are made in the name of (economic) sustainability.

Macroeconomics is too important to be left to fundamentalists. Organizations and individual

experts who are promoting a multidimensional approach to human well-being must proactively participate in the analysis and debates on the sustainability of economies, of health care systems, of social protection systems, social work and social care services, pensions, education, etc.

ICSW member organizations and its partners seem to have a network of outstanding scholars and practitioners who understand the “bigger picture”. Analyses about the systems level are not as easy to sell as more narrowly focused issues. However, the ICSW needs to keep its broad expertise and its broad focus – and it needs to further develop a system approach to ethically, socially, environmentally and economically sustainable development.

Here is something that helps: *Kate Raworth*: “Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st Century Economist”. This book and many other recent articles by younger scholars remind us that economic activity should be understood and designed so as to help us to meet the needs of all people within the limits of our globe. Continuing to have economic growth as the central “goal variable” has not done and will not do that. Economic mechanisms and institutions are good servants but not so good masters. A fresh cadre of economists study and talk of “ecological economics”. A language that is not yet too familiar to most of us. One of these is Ms. *Tuuli Hirvilammi*, a Finnish Scholar, who presented her findings at the *International Social Policy Afternoon* that is regularly organized by ICSW Finnish Committee in Partnership with Finnish Social Policy Association and SOSTE, the Finnish Federation for Social Welfare and Health.

ICSW has been in the forefront. Already in 1995, at the first (and until now, the last) World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen the ICSW declared that the vision of social development

should be “a Society for all”, a society in which all people can participate, contribute to and benefit equally from. ICSW prepared its input to the Summit at the ICSW World Conference at Tampere, Finland in 1994. The “Tampere Declaration” also reminded that there is (only) “One World for All”.

Since the Copenhagen Summit, there has been a number of Summits on environmental and economic aspects of development. Isn't it soon the time to have a new World Summit on Social Development to update the Copenhagen agenda of 1995? By the way: Copenhagen background papers were prepared mainly without internet, google, cellphones or social media. My portable computer weighed 6 kilos. World is different today. Many, actually most, things have improved but new risks have emerged. It is time to update the global social policy agenda, as well.

Thank you all, who participated in the ICSW global elections.



ICSW Global Board

Wishing you a nice summer from the Finnish archipelago of thousands of pine forest covered islands.

(Ronald Wiman, ICSW Europe President)

ICSW Europe General Assembly will be held in Autumn 2018 – the date and the venue will be announced to ICSW Europe members through e-mail. The position of **ICSW Europe Treasurer** and **ICSW Europe Board member** from **Eastern** or **Southern Europe** is still open. Please, express your interest as a candidate to ICSW Europe President – *Ronald Wiman* (contact: ronald.wiman@thl.fi). The election of the candidates will be made by the General Assembly of ICSW Europe.

SWSD Conference



Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development (SWSD) 2018

took place in Dublin (Ireland) on **July 4th to 7th**, 2018.



Dublin welcomed 2163 delegates from 99 countries and 6 continents at SWSD 2018 conference. The conference members were greeted by *Anna Maria Campanini* – the President of IASSW, *Silvana Martinez* – the President of IFSW and *Eva Holmberg Herrström* – the President of ICSW. The participants of the conference took part in 195 sessions during 4 days.

Delegates from different countries were also greeted by *Mary Therese Winifred Robinson* –

the 7th President of Ireland, the first female to hold this office. She shared an approach that people sometimes meet the challenge and feel helpless. *Mary Robinson* stressed the fact that in this situation people have to change it to the opportunity and prosperity: by supporting other people they can go further. She emphasized a value in diversity and especially in woman participation and importance of gender dimension in all issues. She highlighted the fact that human unity has to be based on understanding – “I am because you are” – and then we shall overcome the difficult life situations.

David N. Jones presented the Global Agenda for social work and social development – the second report which presented good examples of NGOs practice of sustainable development.

At ICSW Capacity Building seminar the delegates discussed community sustainability issues, social work contribution to social development, social policy system and main directions of ICSW development in the near future. According to the president of ICSW – *Eva Holmberg Herrström* – gender equality issues are extremely important to guarantee sustainable development. ICSW Europe president, *Ronald Wiman*, emphasized that in order to create an effective system of social protection is not enough only to have money at disposal, but also there has to be created a system of services. The delegates agreed that social protection floors are important for all the countries.

At ICSW Commemorative seminar, which was moderated by *Sergei Zelenev*, current ICSW president and former presidents of ICSW: *Eva Holmberg Herrström*, *Solveig Askjem*, *Christian Rollet*, *Michael Cichon* directly greeted the participants on the occasion of 90th years anniversary.

They all gave a contribution.

Presenting the successful story over 100 years, *Isabelle Ortiz*, a director of Social protection department of ILO said “We must fight for all; for health, education, social protection“. *Michael Cichon* stressed that only 29 per cent of the global population has access to comprehensive social protection. ICSW Europe president *Ronald Wiman* noted that well-selling slogans have the function of opening doors to political tables. As successful factors he mentioned visible, recognized leadership, professional credibility, choice of strategic partners and others. He named social protection in a broad sense as a key instrument of the Agenda 2030.

Delegates had a possibility to discuss a lot of other interesting issues during the conference. They paid considerable attention to the multicultural issues, the issues of work robot automation, gerontech innovations, woman issues and others.



(*Angele Cepenaite*, ICSW Europe)

Dublin Declaration

Adopted by the ICSW General Assembly in Dublin at the commemorating ceremony devoted to the 90th anniversary of the ICSW, in July 2018

Established in 1928, the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) is one of the oldest

international non-governmental organizations aimed at promoting social development, social justice and social welfare everywhere in the world.

We, the members of ICSW are proud to be affiliated with this outstanding civil society organization that represents a great variety of stakeholders from around the world, the organization that is well-recognized and highly regarded nationally and internationally. We would like to use this commemoration to reiterate our support to the ICSW goals and objectives established in our Constitution and to outline our vision for the future.

We are united in our common desire to support and promote socio-economic development that puts people at the center of sustainable development as beneficiaries and agents of action and is grounded in the principle of human dignity and social justice. We are convinced that empowerment and participation of people in society is essential for social and economic development in all countries, no matter rich or poor. Deeply worried by the negative social trends such as raising inequality, within and between countries, we are convinced that public policies must be aimed at removing structural barriers that perpetuate mutually reinforcing inequalities in economic, social, environmental and political domains. Multiple inequalities are preventing people from equal participation and from life with dignity. We are deeply concerned that vulnerability to environmental degradation exacerbates existing inequalities. Inequalities are closely associated with discrimination focused on particular population groups. ICSW reiterates that elimination of inequalities is the prerequisite for the realization of human rights for all.

We reaffirm our commitments to the eradication of extreme poverty in all its dimensions, and to the reduction of hardship and vulnerability in society, especially amongst disadvantaged population groups. Strengthening social protection systems and achieving universality in

the provision of social protection and essential social services is the best ways to eradicate poverty, reduce insecurity and deprivation in the world. Social protection is also a key instrument for achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals. ICSW consistently supports efforts at the national, regional and international levels to promote universal social protection systems, including floors. We reiterate our support to nationally defined sets of basic social security guarantees, as specified in ILO recommendation 202, that ensure that over the life cycle all those in need have access to essential health care and to basic income security which, together, secure effective access to a nationally defined set of essential goods and services. We consider social protection as an investment in human and social. Social protection is an investment in the present and in the future of societies.

ICSW reaffirms its commitment to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. ICSW strongly advocates the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all development efforts. We strongly oppose existing gender discrimination in all forms, especially mistreatment of girls and older women, we oppose sexual harassment and exploitation of women, including trafficking. We strongly oppose such harmful practices, perpetuated by poverty and archaic social norms, as child marriage and genital mutilation. We believe that gender-sensitive education of boys is a crucial factor in achieving gender equality in society in a longer term. Gender equality is a necessary prerequisite of both economic development and environmental sustainability.

The adoption of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its call to end extreme poverty and to transform the world to better meet human needs of current and future generations is of a paramount importance for ICSW. Priority concerns and themes outlined in this document help ICSW in its transnational advocacy as well as in the quest for appropriate

and effective policy responses pertinent to the role of civil society in the changing circumstances.

ICSW shares a conviction that promoting human development through systematic social policies is an important determinant of economic development, which, in turn, facilitates achievements in people's well-being. We reaffirm our commitment to spare no efforts in making state institutions more accountable and responsive to its citizens, for deeper involvement of the civil society organizations in the bottom-up efforts aimed at monitoring the implementation of the concrete actions in the context of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.

We recognize that respect for human dignity — the core principle of human rights — is a necessary element in its own right for delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals. Social protection is a key instrument for achieving five of the SDGs and an important prerequisite for all of them. We reiterate that the four dimensions of sustainable development: the ethical, the social, the environmental and the economic should be always considered together, in this order of importance. Economic growth is a means for development, not an end of its own right. Economy is a good servant but not the best master for development. As organization ICSW sets an ambitious goal to contribute to rethinking and strengthening the social dimension of sustainable development through an integrated approach and using our experience on the ground. Intergenerational equity and the strengthening of economic and social ties between generations are important for ICSW as part of the emerging social agenda of a rapidly ageing world.

Looking back at the 90 years of activities of our organization, humanistic values have been at its core. We reaffirm our time-tested commitment to an integrated way of looking at sustainable development: it is an agenda for equity within

and between generations. It is anchored on the ethical principle of equal worth of human beings and of a vision of an inclusive society for all that is using technology and economic institutions to advance human well-being without endangering the carrying capacity of nature.

(by Sergei Zelenev, ICSW)

More information about the conference:

<https://www.swsd2018.org/>

ICSW Germany

81st German Welfare Congress

ICSW Germany held the 81st German Welfare Congress (“Deutscher Fürsorgetag”) in Stuttgart on **15-17 May 2018**. Taking place every three years and with 2,000 participants, this leading congress for the social sector is a highlight of ICSW Germany's activities and presents the current developments in its fields of expertise: policy and legislation in relation to children, young people and families, the social insurance system, social assistance, assistance for the elderly, care and rehabilitation, social volunteering, the planning and management of social work and social services. ICSW Germany, the “German Association for Public and Private Welfare” (Deutscher Verein für öffentliche und private Fürsorge e.V.) is the joint forum of municipalities and non-statutory social welfare organisations and their social services, private commercial enterprises, the Länder (federal states) and academia in social work, social policy and social law. In 2018, the German Welfare Congress focused on the topic of strengthening social cohesion in a society of increasing diversity (“Zusammenhalt stärken – Vielfalt gestalten”). In

over 40 symposia and seminars, participants discussed current challenges and suitable solutions for the years ahead. Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, *Dr. Franziska Giffey*, gave an overview of the plans of the new German government, stressing the need for strengthening social services and the capacity of civil society to shape cohesive communities and ensure fair chances in life for each citizen.



German language information on the 81st German Welfare Congress:
<https://www.deutscher-fuersorgetag.de/>

(source: ICSW Germany, photo: <https://www.deutscher-fuersorgetag.de/>)



Social Platform General Assembly 2018

On 24th April 2018 members of Social Platform gathered for the 23rd spring General Assembly, Social Platform highest governing body.

The highlights of the GA day were as follows:

Exchange with *Joost Korte*

Having taken over as Director-General of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion just last month, *Joost Korte* attended the General

Assembly for a frank exchange. For most, if not all, it was SP first opportunity to meet Mr *Korte* and listen to his vision for DG EMPL – and how he plans to seal the future of the European Pillar of Social Rights ahead of the European elections in 2019. Mr *Korte* demonstrated his firm grasp of the many policy portfolios on his desk – including

Developing a common vision for the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

There was considerable time set aside for a series of breakout sessions on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights. The sessions focused on the four-pronged approach laid out in the [comprehensive implementation plan](#): policy, governance, funding, and civil dialogue. The sessions led to a number of recommendations on how to move implementation forward, which were reported back to members. Also present were *Jeroen Jutte*, *Resa Koleva-Demonty* and *Maria Baroni* of DG EMPL, who shared their reflections.

Building each other up – supporting minimum income

The General Assembly participated in the launch of the European Minimum Income Network's European bus tour. Armed with banners touting the social and economic benefits of minimum income schemes, SP members were joined by other civil society actors, faith leaders, Members of the European Parliament, and European Commissioner *Marianne Thyssen*. SP President *Jana Hainsworth* outlined Social Platform's position on minimum income, highlighting the importance of such schemes as they go beyond employment and act as a trampoline to prevent poverty and social exclusion.

Stock-taking and forward-looking

From the first summit on social rights in twenty years, to the rebalancing of socio-economic priorities, to increased recognition of civil society as a key stakeholder, 2017 gave the reason to be optimistic about the future of Europe. This was

the message shared with the General Assembly by SP President *Jana Hainsworth* and Director *Kélig Puyet* as they took a look back on SP shared achievements (read more in the [Annual Report 2017](#)). This stock-taking exercise set the scene for the rest of the day's activities, with members encouraged to exchange on a number of advocacy and communications actions set out in 2018 Work Programme including a campaign ahead of the 2019 European Parliament elections and November 2018 flagship event marking one year since the proclamation of the Social Pillar.

A New Member of Social Platform

Social Platform represents the heart of civil society's efforts to revive democracy and social progress across Europe. SP now has one more member of SP family to help in this endeavour – **Save the Children**. Members approved their membership unanimously, bringing the total number of members up to **49**.



After short presentations by SP Treasurer *Jorge Nuño Mayer* and DGST's *Michelle Albert*, Social Platform's 2017 accounts were unanimously approved by the General Assembly. Despite 2017 being a year of many changes, the 2017 budget deviated by only 1%.

(source: <http://www.socialplatform.org/blog/social-platform-general-assembly-2018/>. The text was edited by ICSW Europe Editor)

EMIN European Bus Tour



2 Buses, 32 Countries, 64 days, over 120 programmes and over a thousand volunteers are arranged to build awareness of the importance for the whole society of adequate, accessible and enabling Minimum Income Schemes (MIS).

The EMIN Bus Journey is campaigning for Guaranteed Minimum Income Schemes across Europe.

It is a road trip for income support schemes that are easily accessible, for everybody who needs them, for as long as they need them, enough to live a life in dignity and fully participate in society and adapted to the cost of living in every European country.

2 EMIN buses are travelling across Europe to build and show support for Guaranteed MIS, to gather and support people aiming for Social Europe. The buses have several stops in all the countries, where events and activities are organised by the National EMIN Networks.

This bus tour is part of a bigger project, organised by the [European Minimum Income Network](#).

The bus routes with the dates and bus stops can be read here: <http://eminbus.eu/bus-tour/>

EMIN European Bus Tour partners: **EAPN** (The European Anti-Poverty Network), **ETUC** (European Trade Union Confederation), University of Antwerp, **Maatschappelijke**

Integratie Intégration Sociale and European Commission.

(source: <http://eminbus.eu/what/>)

Call to Sign Petition – For Guaranteed Minimum Income Schemes

European Minimum Income Network calls to sign this petition and to show your support for the fight against poverty and for Guaranteed Minimum Income Schemes. [We] are convinced that this is not inevitable, but the consequence of political choices. One of these political choices to be made is the progressive realisation of well-designed Minimum Income Schemes: guaranteeing income support for everybody who needs it, for as long as they need it, enough to live a life in dignity and fully participate in society, adapted to the cost of living in every European country.

[More information and petition.](#)

Social Platform Joins Group in Support of Social Pillar

On **21 June**, Social Platform joined new group of social economy enterprises, employers, trade unions and civil society organisations to encourage Governments and EU institutions to fully implement the European Pillar of Social Rights. Read a join statement [here](#).

European Commission



Annual Convention for Inclusive Growth 2018

The Annual Convention for Inclusive Growth (ACIG) is an action-oriented platform bringing together civil society organisations and policymakers to discuss how to achieve truly inclusive growth. The ACIG took place on **27 April 2018**.

The EU is reflecting on its social dimension, on how to adapt social models to current and future challenges and develop long-term solutions to fight poverty, increase employment and strengthen social cohesion and inclusion for all.

This year, the Convention focused on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights. The Pillar was solemnly proclaimed on 17 November 2017 in Gothenburg by the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of the European Union. On this occasion, President *Juncker* said: “The European Pillar of Social Rights is not a poem. It is first of all a programme of principles but also an action plan. [...] If we want to be credible, we have to deliver.”

Read more:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=88&eventId=1299&furtherEvents=yes>

(source:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=88&eventId=1299&furtherEvents=yes>)

Conferences/Expert Meetings



Priorities 2018 Priorities in Health: Ideas in Practice

The International Society on Priorities in Health (ISPH) is bringing the 12th biannual international conference to Linköping University, Sweden, on **September 13th-15th 2018**.

ISPH is a highly prestigious organisation drawing membership from across developed and developing countries including academics from medical, economics and social science disciplines, as well as senior health care leaders and policy makers.

Priorities 2018 conference will be hosted by the National Centre for Priority Setting in Health Care, at the Department of Medical and Health Sciences, Linköping university, Sweden.

More information:

Link: <http://www.priorities2018.se>

CALL FOR PAPERS

Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: What Role for Social and Solidarity Economy

The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSE) is launching a Call for Papers to assess the contribution of SSE to inclusive and sustainable

development, with a particular emphasis on local contexts. Organized by UNRISD, in its role as coordinator of the Task Force's recently established Knowledge Hub, the Call for Papers aims to identify and mobilize research from different regions and territories that critically examines the role of SSE as a means of implementation for the SDGs. Deadline for abstract submission: **2 August 2018**.

[More information.](#)

Useful Links

EMIN Buss Tour:

<http://eminbus.eu/>

Petition for Guaranteed Minimum Income Schemes:

<https://you.wemove.eu/campaigns/Guaranteed-Minimum-Income-Scheme>

SWSD Dublin Conference:

<https://www.swsd2018.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.

The Newsletter of ICSW European Region is published quarterly. Material may be freely reproduced or cited provided the source is acknowledged. Contributions on social welfare

from all sectors of the international community
are welcome.

Contributions and comments can be sent to:

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