



ICSW EUROPE NEWSLETTER

July & August 2012

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Dear friends,

I hope you are back from a summer break with a new energy and ready for new commitments!

We had a very successful joint conference in Stockholm in July, due to the hard and efficient work done by our Swedish friends under the direction of Eva Holmberg-Herrström. It is really worth experiencing such a global event, a "social summit" in a way. So my first think is to thank all those who have been involved in the preparation of the conference.

We need to be conscious that this success is a result of our partnership with IASS (International Association of Schools of Social Work) and IFSW (International Federation of Social Workers). It was a good decision to set up a large "joint" conference, rather than three separate events. Let us go forward. Take note of the next step: Melbourne, July 2014!

As the newly elected President of ICSW in the European region, I am impressed when considering the activities undertaken in our region, although I am not surprised. Keeping a high quality level seems to be a common goal to all the activities. This newsletter is a very good example of this challenge.

I am sure ICSW Europe will go on with the same energy and I'll do my best to support it. With this never ending financial and economic crisis, Europe is facing a lot of social problems and it gives us a special responsibility. The next seminar in October in Denmark will discuss the working poor, an issue of growing concern in our region.

I would like to stress the emerging awareness of the social protection on the global agenda. Not really the "social security" built in many countries in our region, but a new concept of universal access to basic services and a set of pensions for those who cannot work. In that sense, it is also a topic for us to consider seriously.

I am sure we will be able to play our role among NGOs at the European level, and for instance in the Social Platform. We will find more support of any kind, and especially more members from South and East, to go on being influential and visible.

Christian Rollet,
President of ICSW Europe



2012 Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development : Action and Impact

JOINT WORLD CONFERENCE STOCKHOLM Social Work and Social Development

Thea Meinema & Bodil Eriksson

For many of us, summer started with attending the joint IASSW-ICSW-IFSW conference in Stockholm in early July. There were around 2.400 participants from 110 countries all over the world, joining in plenary and symposium sessions, but also in rounds of workshop presentations and field visits, in a very inspiring four-day programme. All plenary speakers have been videotaped and can be watched via the link on the [conference website](#). We especially recommend you to listen to Hans Rosling (Sunday) making statistics fun by presenting the population development in various parts of the world. He reminded the audience of the ethnocentric views we have in Europe and pointed out our lack of knowledge. The final speech by Walter Lorenz (Thursday) lecturing on social and ideological changes and its consequences from a theoretical perspective is also worth listening too. All speeches were of high value and interest. So, take your time, and enjoy those interesting speeches from the conference home on your sofa!

Conference themes

The first theme of the conference was Human Rights and Social Equality, which included perspectives on children at risk, health issues and social equality and ageing, but also two new themes: rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual (LGBT) persons, and spiritual rights and religious beliefs were presented in workshops. The second theme dealt with Environmental Change and Sustainable Social Development, meaning that environmental, social and economic issues were highlighted and pointed at as interdependent issues. As part of this theme the Social Protection floor Initiative was discussed in one symposium. The third theme was Global Social Transformation and Social Action. Within this theme issues of migration and ineffectiveness of the European social security were highlighted.

Social work and the environment

There was a strong focus on the topic of social work and environmental issues. All participants received a special issue of the International Journal of Social Welfare, focusing on environmental social work. So far, social work has not really been strongly involved in environmental issues. Especially in the Western world, social work is usually interpreted as

'strictly social' without accepting the importance of environmental issues for social work. Yet environmental developments often impact most negatively on people who are already poor or vulnerable. Think of droughts, mudslides, floods, hurricanes etc.

Social work usually focuses more on the consequences than on the causes. There is a call now to make social work shift from therapy and rehabilitation to a more environmental context that includes both the human and non-human context of environment. Environmentalist social work is by its nature more activist in approach. An environmental ethic is a complex balance between different kinds of moral concerns for individuals, species and natural ecosystems.

As stated in one of the articles in the special thematic issue of the International Journal of Social Welfare, "the challenge for social work is whether its mandate to serve the needs of people, especially the poor and marginalized, will remain focused primarily on social issues or whether it will expand its framework to incorporate interventions and theoretical developments that act on threats to human well-being and arise from local and global, natural and human-influenced environmental changes, such as pollution, rise in sea levels, change in weather patterns and migration" (p. 246).

This discussion is expected to continue in the years to come and will remain of interest to all of us who are involved in the field of social work. Future conferences will undoubtedly continue to present this topic on their agenda.

ICSW EUROPE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Bodil Eriksson

In combination with the world conference, ICSW Europe held its General Assembly in Stockholm. The General Assembly gathered 23 participants representing 12 member countries. The discussions were vivid and experiences were exchanged.

North – South cooperation is one important part of the ICSW activities. On the global – regional level we got reports from Finland and their cooperation with Tanzania. The project has reached its midpoint and is developing a new model for cooperation, which can also be used in other projects. Other members showed an interest in developing north-south cooperation. They can turn to the Finnish national organization to get more information on their model (uwe.ottka@stkl.fi).

Another interesting issue in the General Assembly was how to make a stronger impact on social protection in Europe. From Slovakia came a report on rising poverty and also rising gaps between poor and rich people. Other members pointed at the same tendency in their countries, even if the levels differed. Social systems are partly undermined in various countries as a result of the economic crisis in Europe. Christian Rollet reported that governments, NGOs and others are becoming more conscious of the importance of social issues. All members but one in ILO have voted in favour of the Social Protection Floor. He pointed out the importance of working both on national and international levels to strengthen social issues. For national organizations it is important to urge their governments to invest in social policies. It is important that governments adopt the Social Platform Floor Initiative (SPFI) to get strong international actions. Questions were raised on how to implement SPFI in the different countries and how to put social policies into praxis.

Irene Köhler presented the report from an expert seminar in Austria. The expert seminar in Vienna on the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was successful. The participants spread information to the public at large in other conferences. The report from the conference is published on [the ICSW Europe home page](#).

Another issue concerned the ways to discuss and exchange ideas in between the annual General Assembly meetings. We encourage our readers and members to use this newsletter

more actively and to write short notices about what we are doing in different countries to open discussions.

At the end the General Assembly said 'Thank You' to Eva Holmberg-Herrström for her time as president for ICSW Europe and her strong engagement in the work. Christian Rollet was welcomed with wishes for a fruitful period as president.

INVITATION

ICSW Expert Seminar on Working Poor

ICSW Europe and ICSW Denmark welcome ICSW members to a seminar on Working Poor. The seminar takes place 26 and 27 October in Copenhagen. In light of the economic crisis and insecurity on the European labour markets, in-work poverty has become a topic of growing concern and debate. In-work poverty is not only a problem in poor countries, but an important element of poverty and social exclusion in general, also in Europe.

The objectives

The objectives of the expert seminar are:

- to analyze character, scale and trends of in-work poverty in Europe
- to get a better understanding of in-work poverty in European countries
- to share knowledge on the policy response to in-work poverty
- to analyze and discuss the dynamic relation between social and unemployment benefits and the level of minimum wages
- to analyze development of labour markets in Europe
- to discuss strategies to combat in-work poverty

The expert seminar will also contribute inputs for an ICSW position paper on in-work poverty to influence European labour market policy and social policy.

The programme

Keynote speeches will be delivered by Professor Henning Lohmann from the University of Osnabrück, Germany, Jonas Bals from Oslo Building Workers' Union in Norway, and Douhomir Minev, President of the European Anti Poverty Network in Bulgaria.

Participants will be asked to submit a written report on in-work poverty in their countries before the seminar with regard to

- the size and character of in-work poverty in their country
- specific laws and regulations of in-work poverty
- public debate and opinions about in-work poverty
- in-work poverty in the future, and
- proposals and initiatives to solve problems of in-work poverty – at national and European level

The seminar is planned as a working seminar with thematic discussions in groups and plenum. The work will culminate in a policy paper of ICSW to be presented to the EU Commission, ILO, European Parliament and the social partners in the labour market.

Participants

The number of participants is maximum 25. Interested ICSW members are asked to register with [Bodil Eriksson](#) from ICSW Europe, no later than 1 October. If the number of participants

exceeds the maximum, ICSW will select participants based on geographic balance. So wait for a confirmation from ICSW before you book your flight ticket!

Participation in the seminar is free of charge. The seminar takes place in [Kofoeds Skole](#), Nyrnberggade 1, 2300 Copenhagen. If you are a vegetarian or have special diet needs, please report this to Bodil Eriksson when registering.

Links:

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/pubdocs/2010/25/en/1/EF1025EN.pdf>

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/pubdocs/2004/67/en/1/ef0467en.pdf>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/02/world/europe/in-rich-europe-growing-ranks-of-working-poor.html?pagewanted=all>

http://www.socpol.unimi.it/papers/2008-12-11_Henning%20Lohmann.pdf

<http://www.peer-review-social-inclusion.eu/network-of-independent-experts/2010/second-semester-2010>

http://www.ilo.org/global/research/global-reports/global-employment-trends/WCMS_171571/lang--en/index.htm

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1691662

SOCIAL PLATFORM

Six proposals for the regulation on the common provisions on structural funds

On August 30 the EU General Affairs Council will discuss the Commission's proposal for a Regulation on the common provisions on the Structural Funds. The Social Platform campaigns to ensure that EU policies are developed in partnership with the people they affect, respecting fundamental rights, promoting solidarity and improving lives. Social Platform and its members call on the Council to take the following proposals into consideration during the negotiations:

1. Keep the 376 billion euro overall amount for EU funds for economic, social and territorial cohesion as originally proposed by the European Commission.

These Funds are the most important financial instrument for the social and economic development of the EU. In many European regions they represent the main source of public funding both at national, regional and local level as national support has been cut as a consequence of the crisis and austerity measures.

2. Remove the macro-economic conditionality from all structural funds. Suspending payments and commitments from the Cohesion Funds, particularly the Structural Funds, will further worsen the negative social impact of austerity measures. People in the EU under economic pressure should not be punished for actions or situations beyond their control.

3. Use all the funds to reduce the social impact of the crisis and support the implementation of the social targets of the Europe 2020 strategy. Each programme should set out the indicative amount of support devoted to delivering on the poverty reduction target.

4. Use the EU funds to develop sustainable, quality employment. EU Structural Funds should be used to: step up social dialogue and tackle labour market segmentation with measures addressing precarious employment, underemployment and undeclared work; address the quality of jobs and employment conditions; combat in-work poverty and promote occupational health and safety; and ensure adequate social security for those on fixed-term contracts and the self-employed.

5. Keep the pre-conditions (the horizontal ex-ante conditionalities) for the allocations of Structural Funds. The EU Structural Funds have the potential to activate

the full participation of the most vulnerable and people at risk of social exclusion and discrimination. Investing in diversity and equality can be a driving force leading to economic development, growth and social cohesion.

6. Include civil society organisations as full partners in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programmes (Partnership Contract). Support the Commission's proposal to include NGOs in article 5 - dedicated to partnership together with the Social Partners and other relevant actors: a partnership that involves relevant stakeholders on equal footing and at all stages and levels of the structural funds programming.

For more information on the campaign, visit the [Social Platform website](#).

OUR ICSW MEMBER IN SLOVAKIA

Dr Miloslav Hettes

The Third Sector Organisations Standing Conference of the Slovak Republic (SKTS) was founded in 2010 as an umbrella organization. At present it has more than 350 non-governmental organizations as members. In 2011 SKTS became a member of ICSW and is now known as ICSW Slovakia. With this international connection SKTS hopes to bring home best results and examples of practices in the field of civil society activity to its members.

In Slovakia SKTS has become a member of the Economic and Social Committee of the Slovak Republic, a national body that is the Slovak partner in the European Economic and Social Council (EEC). As a member of this Committee it can support dialogue development within the civic society framework in Slovakia and Europe.



III.sektor

Main goals

The last twenty years saw many successful civic associations and organizations established in Slovakia. Their work is important for the nation and the state but many of them still struggle to do their work with many obstacles and no support. One of the main objectives of SKTS is to create a real partnership with the national government and its respective departments, as well as cooperating with international institutions.

SKTS has five main goals:

- to create and support working and social conditions for development of people, cities, communities, regions and country;
- to help improve national, social, ethical, and labour awareness;
- to facilitate a good environment for cooperation between individuals, NGOs, social groups, regions and state, but also with parliament, entrepreneurs, minorities and marginalized groups;
- to promote ethical development, democracy, national awareness, human rights protection;
- and to support education programmes and project focused on sustainable development in all parts of Slovakia, to improve the quality of life, jobs, cultural, social and artistic environment and rural development.

Activities

Among its numerous activities, aimed primarily at its members, SKTS includes information and publication activities. It organizes workshops, lectures, conferences, discussions, training and education courses. It analyses national economic, cultural, social, political,

linguistic, ecological, environmental and other societal issues and monitors the media. It copes with all kinds of civil society issues at all levels (municipal, regional and national). And it also supports youth group activities and initiatives focusing on development and career planning. Moreover SKTS cooperates with similar organizations in the European Union and worldwide.

Challenges in Slovakia

SKTS has a number of challenges to deal with in the Slovak Republic. First of all, Slovakia as a nation state is disappearing due to increasing Europeanization. The Slovak population is also dwindling due to a lowering fertility rate. Quality of life is not high: Slovakia has the highest level of older people (65+) suffering from loneliness in the EU, and the highest rate of dissatisfaction with life in the EU according to OECD. There is a shortage of job opportunities and a high rate of long-term unemployment. There is no trust in politics and politicians.

Although GDP growth is high and sustained, there is no connection with the growth of standard of living. There is no regional solidarity and no societal solidarity, causing a widening gap between the rich and the poor within the country.

Dr Miloslav Hettes
mhettes@gmail.com

CHANGES IN ICSW LEADERSHIP

New global ICSW board

Michael Cichon has been elected President of global ICSW. He is the successor of Christian Rollet. Michael is currently Director of the Social Security Department of the International Labour Office in Geneva. He will be leaving this position later this year and is ready to commit to the challenge of President. Michael is the driver of the social protection floor initiative (SPFI) in ILO and will be respected by membership and external stakeholders for his extensive knowledge on social policy. With him, ICSW found a leader who has sufficient stature to take us into high level forums, be greeted as a credible spokesperson and has connections with a large network of faculties and policymakers. He is a proven strategist e.g. in his advocacy and adoption of the SPFI both within ILO and with UN agencies.

Charles Abbey was elected for a four year term in 2010 and continues on the Management Committee as Vice President. Judith Kaulem, former Regional President for East and Southern Africa has been elected Treasurer. Judith runs a successful organisation in Zimbabwe – the Poverty Reduction Forum Trust. Eva Holmberg-Herrström, former Regional President for Europe and chair of the organising committee for the 2012 Joint World Conference in Stockholm, will be in the Management Committee.

New executive director

Denys Correll has left ICSW after a period of close to ten years in which he made important contributions to the organization and helped to establish ICSW as an important civil society contributor to social development. We thank Denys for his ongoing efforts to engage ICSW in the worldwide debate on social equity and justice. Denys moved back to Australia and will be succeeded by Sergei Zelenev. Dr Zelenev is an international expert on social policy. For almost three decades he worked for the United Nations, both at Headquarters in New York and in the field, in Africa and in the Caribbean. Until his appointment as the ICSW Executive Director Dr Zelenev worked as the ICSW Special Representative to the United Nations in New York.

Change in ICSW Europe board

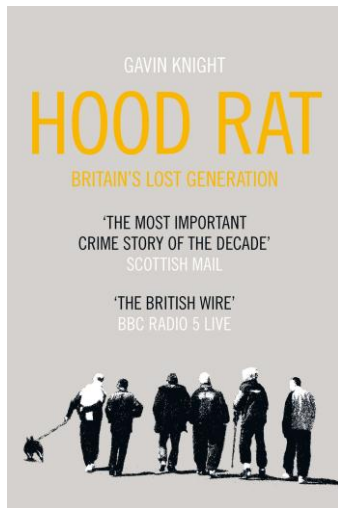
The European board of ICSW has also seen a change. The new ICSW Europe President is Christian Rollet, who was global President before. Christian succeeds Eva Holmberg-Herrström, who had to step down after two terms. The other board members continue: Cornelia Markowski as Treasurer, and Leta Dromantiene and Elli Altoonen as board members. Bodil Eriksson will continue her work as Secretary General of ICSW Europe.

SOCIAL WORKERS ON THE FRONTLINE

Gavin Knight

This article introduces the dilemmas that social workers working in inner city ghettos face when they encounter young people who have been shaped by the violence in their history.

When searching for powerful, searing human stories for my book *Hood Rat*, a study of Britain's fractured inner city communities, it was vital for me to sit down and talk at length to social workers. I found that social workers had the compassion, balance and direct experience to understand the fate of young kids growing up in deprived, post-industrial ghettos, abandoned by the media, politicians, economy and social infrastructure. The stories were universal ones that have resonance in most cities of the West where economic growth



has brought troubling inequality. The social workers I spoke to in Glasgow's East End were dealing with a background of entrenched gang violence: There were 170 gangs with 3,500 members aged between 11 and 23. Two thirds of slashing went unreported to trauma surgeons who dealt with a facial injury every six hours and 300 attempted murders a year. Glasgow was the murder capital of Europe. One story that stuck in my mind was the client of a social worker who had stabbed his father in the eye in self-defence when aged 7. He went on to become a notorious armed robber executing heists with brutal efficiency. In the climate of Glasgow's East End he became a respected hard man; his trademark weapon was a sawn off shot gun. When his 18 year old son followed the same path it was no surprise. His son was drawn into £4,000 of cocaine debts by free credit extended to him by local dealers. The son came to his father for help and was handed the shotgun as a way of settling his debts. He ripped off a security

guard and paid off the money, but found himself in jail. This was a shocking illustration of the generational nature of crime and deprivation in this part of the world, where the life expectancy for a man is on par with the Palestinian Gaza Strip. A man on average dies 14 years earlier than in the wealthy enclaves of London. The social worker who relayed the story had known his client, the father, for many years. He showed great concern for him and was saddened to finally see him sleeping in a dovecot in the bitter winter with snow drifts outside. Against departmental protocol he gave him hot coffee and toilet roll so he might retain a bit of dignity.

In London a social worker who was embedded in the Somali community introduced me to a 14 year old boy from Mogadishu who came to London aged 10 with his mother who could not speak any English. In many ways his story was similar to the Olympic gold medallist Mo Farah who cemented his place as a national hero in the 2012 Olympics in London. However, this boy did not have the role models of dedicated teachers that Farah had. He had been a child soldier in Mogadishu and his experience with firearms made him an early target for the Older in the local gang. Soon he was being paid to carry out violent assaults against their

rivals. He put the money he earned in a trunk that he brought with him from Somalia. He was saving until he was 18, when he would know what to spend it on. The social worker, who had a couple of degrees from European universities, was greatly saddened by the boy's situation, but he had limited resources and could not save every teenage Somali in London's inner city. He had witnessed the violence and ruthlessness that local Somali gangs used to gain turf in the drug wars. He noticed the undefeated longing and human promise that young Somali men showed. Abandoned, not integrated into society they were brought up to be warriors. Inner city became a war zone similar to Mogadishu.

Hood Rat shows that the powerful stories that social workers pass on resonate right across borders. They are in the frontline of a forgotten war in our cities, sending their dispatches back. The book was published in Germany and Spain and Film Four bought the film rights.

[Gavin Knight](#) is the author of Hood Rat, published by Picador and available on Amazon.

PUBLICATIONS

An EU worth defending

Beyond Austerity to Social Investment and Inclusive Growth

EAPN has published its analysis of the 2012 National Reform Programmes (NRP) and National Social Reports (NSR): An EU worth defending: Beyond Austerity to Social Investment and Inclusive Growth.

The report assesses the contribution of all areas in the NRPs and NRSs to effective policies for poverty reduction: macroeconomic, employment and social inclusion policies, Structural Funds and participation of stakeholders.

The report highlights EAPN members' concerns regarding the failure to make progress on the poverty target, or to fully implement Priority 4 of the Annual Growth Survey in mitigating the social consequences of the crisis, when austerity measures are visibly increasing poverty and inequality, even in countries without serious deficit problems. There are also few signs that the Structural Funds are being used for poverty reduction.

The full text of the report can be downloaded [here](#).

Social Innovation:

The Role of Social Service Providers

This briefing paper from the Social Services Europe network presents social innovation from the perspective of social service providers. It highlights the important role that social service providers play in social innovation and makes recommendations as to how the sector can best be supported in developing, testing and scaling up innovations in order to overcome social, economic and organizational challenges and best respond to social needs.

Social Services Europe brings together seven Europe-wide networks of not-for-profit providers of social and health care services. The full text of the Briefing Paper can be found [here](#).

Eldercare Services - Lessons from a European Comparison

Working Paper nr. 6 Observatory for Sociopolitical Developments in Europe

The demographic change is increasing the demand for eldercare services in Europe. At the same time, this sector shows an enormous growth potential in terms of employment. The major challenge European countries face in this context is to provide the elderly with high-quality need-based supportive services. This can only be achieved successfully if the basic structural conditions are set in the right way. If the bulk of these services is to be provided

by the formal sector, more jobs can be created and, at the same time, more households can be relieved of informal services. This paper therefore focuses upon the efforts to professionalise eldercare services in the formal sector, which requires effective organisational structures, qualification and quality standards and a proper financing. The full text of the Working Paper can be downloaded [here](#).

Living in Old Age in Europe - Current Developments and Challenges Working Paper nr. 7 Observatory for Sociopolitical Developments in Europe

This paper summarises the results of comparative studies on the topic of "Living in Old Age" and the results of a research on latest sociopolitical measures and developments for senior citizens in selected countries (Linz/Stula 2011a, Linz/Stula 2011b). It provides an overview of how the topic "Living in Old Age3" is being discussed at the European level and in selected Member States. For this purpose, how the elderly are living in Europe will be presented first. Current initiatives at the European level and transnational projects and networks will be discussed next. Finally, approaches from five European Member States who provide innovative impulses when it comes to developing new residential forms for elderly people will be presented.

The full text of the Working Paper can be downloaded [here](#).

Europe: The Social Challenge.

Defining the Union's social objective is a necessity rather than a luxury OSE Opinion Paper No. 11, July 2012

Frank Vandembroucke critically scrutinizes arguments in favour of 'a social Europe' in a lecture on the occasion of his appointment as Professor to the Den Uyl Chair at the University of Amsterdam. He concludes that, whereas ten years ago the quest for a definition of 'the European social model' might have been dismissed as interesting but not strictly necessary, today it is no less than an existential conundrum for the Union. More precisely, he argues that a basic consensus is required on the meaning of a 'social' dimension for Europe's citizens and on the role the Union might play in it. This raises a complex issue of 'reciprocity' in the Union.

In his discussion of the agenda for a social Europe, the author also points out that the educational disequilibrium within the Eurozone may be as destabilizing for the long-term future of the Eurozone as the pension disequilibrium. This corroborates the importance of a pan-European social investment agenda.

The full text of the Paper can be downloaded [here](#).

Social Developments in the EU European Social Observatory

This 13th edition of the book "Social Developments in the European Union 2011" provides a wide-ranging review of the EU agenda, with a specific focus on changes in (economic) governance, the introduction of the economic governance "Six Pack" and the renewal of the stabilization mechanisms for those Member States under particular pressure. Analysis of the EU level is complemented by a critical review of national reforms. Specific contributions look at key EU tools to fight the crisis (including the Structural Funds, CJEU rulings, "soft" governance through Europe 2020 and the European Social Dialogue) and assess health care reforms in the Member States. In the months ahead OSE will focus its research, events and networking on the search for alternative strategies for the EU.

For more information, visit the [OSE website](#).

Multiple discrimination against Muslim women in Europe: for equal opportunities Council of Europe Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

In Council of Europe member States where Islam is not the religion of the majority of the population, Muslim women face multiple discrimination as women, as part of a religious

minority and sometimes for being of immigrant origin. They are often victims of stereotyping, since their religious beliefs are seen as the only defining element of their identity.

It is time to take a new approach since many Muslim women want to be actors of change and empowerment. Rather than being isolated, stigmatised or forced into a stereotype, Muslim women should be encouraged in their quest for equal opportunities in society. Positive measures should be introduced to make it possible for Muslim women to be protagonists of their own empowerment. Investing in education, encouraging networking and the participation in civil and public life, as well as accompanying them in their professional development are key actions in order to raise Muslim's women awareness of their rights and help them realise their full potential.

The full text of this Report from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe can be downloaded [here](#).

Handbook on cultural diversity

A new publication on cultural diversity explains essential terminology used in diversity discourse. The 56-page booklet casts light on a range of sensitive issues. Frequently confused terms such as racism, xenophobia and ethnic prejudice are defined and applied in context. Normative concepts such as multiculturalism and inter-culturalism are also explained, providing helpful reference points for untangling complex discussions about integration.

Alongside its many definitions, the handbook includes statistical information on native minorities and migrant populations in 14 European Union Member States plus Turkey. It also provides capsule summaries of case studies, describing how diversity conflicts have been handled in different cultural settings, especially in schools. Topics of contentious public debate - such as those involving religious symbols and apparel - are carefully explored.

The Handbook on Tolerance and Cultural Diversity in Europe is published by the European University Institute, as part of the [ACCEPT PLURALISM project](#). Click [here](#) to read the handbook in electronic form.

CONFERENCES

Conferences October – November 2012

Looking for international conferences before or after the months presented in this Newsletter?

Visit http://www.movisie.nl/119530/eng/home/movisie_international/general/calendar/ for a complete overview.

04 - 06 October 2012 Trondheim, Norway

9th FORSA Nordic Conference: Partnership in social work – active collaboration with different actors

FORSA

E-Mail: forsa@nordicforsa2012.no

Website: <http://www.nordicforsa2012.no/EN/index.php>

This FORSA conference focuses on the role of social workers in partnership from different theoretical and methodological perspectives.

07 October 2012 Strasbourg, France

Civil Society Debate on "Inclusive Democracy"
Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe

E-Mail: catherine.emezie@coe.int

Website: http://www.coe.int/T/NGO/Articles/WFD_civil_society_debate_background_en.asp

This Civil Society Debate on "Inclusive democracy" will focus on issues such as "Building inclusive democracy through media" and "Building inclusive democracy with women"

09 October 2012

Brussels, Belgium

Workshop on Family friendly regions - towards smart and sustainable growth

COFACE

E-Mail: aperez@coface-eu.org

Website: <http://familyfriendlyregions.eventbrite.com/>

COFACE is organising this workshop on Family Friendly regions to draw attention to the role local and regional authorities can have in shaping the living and working environment to respond better to the needs of families.

10 - 12 October 2012

The Hague, The Netherlands

Think Parents

Netherlands Youth Centre (NJI), Eurochild

E-Mail: thinkparents@nji.nl

Website:

http://www.eurochild.org/en/events/details/index.html?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=4446&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=287&cHash=4e64c2177bfb9fd37c55075fe395d668

Parenting support is an important and growing domain in professional practice, research and policy all over Europe. While parenting is in many respects private, it is also a social responsibility.



17 October 2012

Utrecht, The Netherlands

Good Work: the ethics of craftsmanship

University of Humanistic Studies

E-Mail: Registration via <http://goodwork.paydro.net/>

Website: <http://www.goodwork.info/>

In the contemporary search for practically relevant perspectives that point beyond the moral poverty of a market driven society, Richard Sennett's 'ethics of craftsmanship' offers an intriguing perspective, worth of in depth exploration. This conference focuses on Richard Sennett's views on the ethical significance of craftsmanship. According to Sennett, the development of craftsmanship is a deep source of personal meaning and of fruitful cooperation. 'Learning to work well', he says, is also the foundation of citizenship: it implies learning to be curious and patient, to focus on relationships and learn the skills of anticipation and revision, in a continuous dialogue with material that resists 'quick fixes' and turns the craftsman 'outward'. In the afternoon a Sub-conference: "Good Craftsmanship in Social Work and Social Care" will be organized jointly with ICSW.

19 - 20 October 2012

Cascais, Portugal

We're in this together? Volunteering and age friendly societies

CEV

E-Mail: conf.voluntariado@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.cev.be/partnerships-networking/cev-general-assembly-and-symposia/portugal-2012/>

The CEV Symposium will tackle the issue of volunteering in the context of the European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012.

24 - 26 October 2012 Sofia, Bulgaria

Eurochild's Annual Conference 2012

Eurochild

E-Mail: info@eurochild.org

Website: <http://www.eurochild.org>

The conference will bring the child rights perspective to highly relevant issues. The aim is to share experience of what is working across Europe to build a positive force for changing practice and bringing about policy reform.

24 - 25 October 2012 Barcelona, Spain

Towards active ageing at home (age@HOME)

ACCEPLAN

E-Mail: adaviv@iuee.eu

Website: <http://www.iuee.eu/actualitat.asp?ap=35&s=41&id=559>

Under the context of the EU Active Ageing year 2012 the conference will deal with the promotion of active, independent and safe ageing in the community and the need for a common European concept of "ageing at home".

24 - 26 October 2012 Nürenberg, Germany

Intergenerational Learning: Towards Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity

European Network for Intergenerational Learning (ENIL)

E-Mail: contacts@enilnet.eu

Website: <http://www.enilnet.eu/>

The second ENIL conference will consider the theme of 'Intergenerational Learning; Towards Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity'. A range of presentations and workshops will explore the contribution of intergenerational approaches and methods to active ageing and intergenerational solidarity.

06 - 07 November 2012 London, United Kingdom

The 5th Biennial IJJO International Conference: Criminality or Social Exclusion - Justice for children living in a divided world

International Juvenile Justice Observatory

E-Mail: london2012@ojj.org

Website: <http://www.ojj.org/index.php?cdn=040201&alias=pag091101>

It has become necessary to look beyond traditional, individualised approaches to work with young people in trouble and focus instead upon work with groups and the communities in which they live.

16 November 2012 Barcelona, Spain

Existing in Limbo – The conditions of Homeless Migrants in Europe

FEANTSA

E-Mail: <http://www.feantsa.org/code/en/pg.asp?Page=1419>

Website: office@feantsa.org<http://office@feantsa.org>

Discrimination, disadvantage and segregation play a significant role in creating barriers to access to housing, health and social services, education and other fundamental rights for migrant groups.

20 November 2012 Brussels, Belgium
Third AGE-CoR Thematic seminar on 'Creating an Age-Friendly EU by 2020'
AGE and the Committee of the Regions

E-Mail: anne.melard@age-platform.eu
Website: <http://www.age-platform.eu/en/>

This thematic seminar will mark the end of the European Year 2012 for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations and provide an overview of the discussions and actions held throughout 2012.

22 - 23 November 2012 Riga, Latvia
4th international scientific interdisciplinary conference 'SOCIETY, HEALTH and WELFARE'

E-Mail: socdk@rsu.lv
Website: <http://www.rsu.lv/eng/science-and-research/society-health-welfare-2012>

The aim of the Conference is to bring together a range of leading researchers and theorists from across Europe to advance an understanding of generational relations, in terms of the state and the family and how they are interlinked.

28 November 2012 Brussels, Belgium
Ageing in Dignity: Designing effective strategies for tackling elder abuse
Website:

<http://scic.ec.europa.eu/str/index.php?sessionno=c0f971d8cd24364f2029fcb9ac7b71f5>

The purpose of the conference will be to take stock of the achievements of recent EU projects related to elder abuse and to exchange views about what needs and could be done at national and European level to protect the dignity and well-being of older people. The conference can be followed via webstreaming in EN, FR, DE, ES and IT.

Link to programme <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=7195&langId=en>

COLOPHON

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Deadlines for contributions to the ICSW Europe Newsletter 2012:

17 October 2012
12 December 2012

Contributions on social welfare from all sectors of the international community are welcome:

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