



ICSW EUROPE NEWSLETTER **January to March 2013**

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NEWSLETTER: WHAT'S NEXT ? LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear readers,

This issue of our newsletter is the last one we are providing with Thea Meinema as editor. Because of her continued involvement and her very professional work, you have regularly been reading a high standard paper. As president of ICSW Europe, I want to express our gratitude to Thea for her excellent job and I am sure you are joining me to send her our thanks.

For financial reasons the board of ICSW Europe decided, with much regret, to stop our collaboration. Many NGOs are facing a very hard time especially in Europe. We must overcome this bad environment and this is quite a challenge.

I am asking every member of ICSW in this region to be active in the building of a new communication tool on a purely voluntary basis. We have already tried to improve the way our members could contribute to the newsletter, with a lower outcome than expected. This is why I have to stress the importance of the participation of every member. Please, do understand it !

A new board meeting will soon discuss the newsletter and launch a new participative process. Whatever the way we are going to work now, we'll have to rely on the involvement of the members and their networks. We may seize this opportunity to get to know each other more than we used to and to improve our mutual understanding through a new kind of newsletter.

I hope we'll find a new way of communication, whatever the constraints.

Christian Rollet

President of ICSW Europe

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear readers,

This is the first Newsletter of this year and we can look back on last year filled with activities. In the very end of the year the Nordic ICSW committees arranged a follow-up seminar on drop-outs from school and in 2013 they are going to formulate a policy paper to influence education policy in their countries. But I also received information from ICSW committees in other countries that they are preparing activities and expert seminars for this year, so I hope this year again will be full of activities.

Lots of efforts are now put into preparing the coming ENSACT conference in Istanbul with the theme *Social Action in Europe towards Inclusive Policies and Practices*: www.ensactistanbul.org

Many of our members will take part in the Conference symposia and workshops. It will offer good opportunities to get new ideas and to be inspired to continue developing our work both on global, European and national levels. ICSW organises a symposium on migration, where we will discuss the necessary conditions for inclusion of immigrants into the new societies. We will discuss how different societies contribute with possibilities and barriers for inclusion. You are all welcome to take part in the discussion and add different points of view!

On the first day 16 April ICSW will organize a capacity building seminar for our members. During the last General Assembly members asked to have more time to exchange experiences from their work both inside their countries and their international activities. The seminar will also give possibilities to discuss common issues on how to develop our policy work in Europe and how to handle the economic situation of today. There will be opportunity to discuss how to jointly organise making a Newsletter.

On 17 April in the evening we will have our annual General Assembly to evaluate the last year and decide on our future work.

I hope that as many of our members as possible will take part in the conference and that as many members as possible will attend our special meetings.

At last, I would like to say thank you to our excellent editor, Thea Meinema, who will end as an editor of the Newsletter. I am sure her engagement in social affairs will give her new challenges that she will meet with efficiency and creativity.

Bodil Eriksson

Secretary General ICSW Europe

beriksson@icsw.org

THE FORMING OF A JOINT NORDIC ICSW STRATEGY PAPER

Thomas Goldberg

The Nordic ICSW organizations have an on going project regarding the negative effects of young people dropping out of schools of secondary education. The process started when the Swedish ICSW Committee hosted an expert meeting on Child Poverty in November 2009. Thereafter the subject was narrowed to focus on the important question of children and young people dropping out of schools.

Last year's first expert meeting was held in Oslo in March 2012 and the last meeting was held in Malmö, Sweden, in December 2012. We are now moving towards the last steps in the preparations to form a Strategy Paper that will be adopted by the different Nordic ICSW organizations.

With the Strategy Paper in our hands we will approach the governments in our countries and we also will organize different activities to put a searchlight on this important problem.

Young people need secondary education today. In this perspective the experts from the different countries have been monitoring the growing problem of young people dropping out of secondary education. The similarities between our countries were striking.

The report from the Oslo expert meeting can be found on the European region page of the ICSW website. The report from the Malmö-meeting and the Strategy paper are still being processed.

For more information contact [Eva Holmberg Herrström](mailto:Eva.Holmberg.Herrstrom@icsw.se), ICSW Sweden

ICSW Sweden

thomas.goldberg@akademssr.se

SOCIAL INVESTMENT PACKAGE

Towards Social Investment for Growth and Cohesion

Thea Meinema

On 20 February the Commission launched a Communication "Towards Social Investment for Growth and Cohesion – including implementing the European Social Fund 2014-2020". The Communication, together with the Commission Recommendation on 'Investing in Children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage' and a series of Staff Working Documents, constitute the "Social Investment Package". The package provides a policy framework for redirecting Member States' policies, where needed, towards social investment throughout life, with a view to ensuring the adequacy and sustainability of budgets for social policies and for the government and private sector as a whole.

The Communication states that social investment involves strengthening people's current and future capacities. It should have not only immediate effects, but also have a lasting impact by offering economic and social returns over time. In particular, social investment helps to 'prepare' people to confront life's risks, rather than simply 'repairing' the consequences. The Communication aims at an all-encompassing effort, including private and third sector resources to complement public efforts: "Resources for social policies are not limited to those from the public sector. A non-negligible part comes from people and families. In addition, non-profit organisations provide social services on a substantial scale."

The Commission urges Member States to pursue the actions and directions set out in the Package along three main axes:

- Strengthening social investment as part of the European Semester – specifically mentioning the involvement of civil society organisations in the modernisation of social policy
- Making the best use of EU funds to support social investment
- Streamlining governance and reporting.

While many European NGO's welcome the views reflected in the Social Investment Package, they often remain critical about the impact that this policy document will have in real life, especially for the groups that suffer most from poverty and other disadvantages. The Social Platform supports the concept of social investment to ensure adequacy as well as sustainability of social protection systems and social services, and their contribution to stabilising the economy. "Several of our members welcome the specific recommendations

addressing child poverty, homelessness, healthcare and active inclusion. These recommendations should be supported not only as an exit strategy to the crisis but also as an improvement of EU and national policies.”

The staff documents relate to Evidence on Demographic and Social Trends – Social Policies' Contribution to Inclusion, Employment and the Economy; Follow-up on the implementation by the Member States of the 2008 European Commission recommendation on active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market -- Towards a social investment approach; 3rd Biennial Report on Social Services of General Interest; Long-term care in ageing societies – Challenges and policy options; Investing in Health; and Social investment through the European Social Fund.

The Communication and other documents can be found on the [EC website](#). Comments from Social Platform and its member organisations can be found [here](#).

RECENT ACTIVITIES IN SOCIAL PLATFORM FRAND WORKING GROUP

Katharina Meichenitsch

There were three very interesting developments for Social Platform's FRAND working group during the last month. First, a meeting with the Director of the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), Morten Kjaerum, took place in Brussels. Mr Kjaerum informed Social Platform that half of the Management Board has been newly elected including the Chair and Deputy Chair. Besides a discussion on a stronger mandate for FRA to monitor individual member states on rule of law and good governance, Mr Kjaerum encouraged Social Platform's members to access the FRA database and to collaborate with the FRA e.g. in the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

In February, Social Platform exchanged views with members of the European Parliament on the social dimension of European economic governance. The Social Platform pointed out how European policy fails to address the worsening social situation in Europe – increasing unemployment, poverty rates and rising inequalities. This is why there is an urgent need for social investment instead of continuing the austerity measures that are only aggravating the situation. In this context, Social Platform is calling for an integrated European anti-poverty Strategy and for giving social policies the same priority as economic policies.

The position paper on the different topics discussed during the meeting can be read [here](#). Finally, the new position paper „Towards EU actions against all forms of bias violence“ can be downloaded [here](#).

Katharina Meichenitsch is a member of the Austrian ICSW member ÖKSA (Österreichisches Komitee für Soziale Arbeit, Austrian Council of Social Welfare) in Vienna, Austria, and represents ICSW in the Social Platform FRAND working group.

STARTING THE NEW YEAR WITH THE SOCIAL PLATFORM

Cornelia Markowski

The Social Platform has started the new year with consideration on a new Working Party (WP) on Employment. Objects of discussion are not conclusively cleared yet, but they will mainly be determined by current EU policy developments und drivers in the field of employment: follow-up on the implementation of 2008 EU Commission's recommendation on active inclusion (part of the new Social investment package of the EU Commission),

Europe2020-strategy and employment rate targets, agenda "New skills and jobs" etc. A final decision on establishing the WP will be made in the Social Platform's General assembly at April 25, 2013. At the moment ICSW Europe has no representative in this group, but we can discuss this at the capacity building seminar in Istanbul at April 16, 2013.

Beside this topic the Working group on Services of general interest (SGI WG) of the Social Platform had a short discussion on the state of play and a synopsis about the drafted public procurement directives done by the secretariat of the Social platform – before and after the report of the IMCO (European Parliament) from January 9, 2013. You can find the synopsis [here](#).

Another current issue for the members of Social Platform is the promotion of social enterprises in Europe by European funds and regulations. Last autumn the members of SGI WG have started a process to find a definition of social economy. At the moment the debate seems to be focused on associations based on the Italian model of social economy. The EU Commission carefully considers make a survey of all kinds of social enterprises (like "terms of references"), because it is very difficult to find common criteria for all diverse social economy activities in the EU Member states. Another possibility could be to define a threshold for social return or dividends in order to distinguish not-for-profit social from for-profit associations. The debate will be continued during the year and Social Platform will participate in an active way.

The Social Platform also intends to contribute to the European Social Pact. The Pact is an initiative of trade unions and Social-democrats of EP to fight the economic governance, austerity policy, increasing gap between rich and poor etc. The contribution of the Social Platform – a "Manifesto" - was a good stimulus for discussion in SGI WG and steering group of Social Platform. First (in the next months) the Platform will identify the challenges for services of general interest and a high level of social protection in accordance with Art. 14, 106 TFEU, protocol 26, funding policy, budgetary law and governance in the EU. Secondly the Platform will formulate arguments for public funding of the social sector in order to start a new initiative for a framework legislation for services of general interest – before the EU elections in 2014. The discussion will also take place between the meetings of the Platform's working groups moderated by "coordination cells" in the secretariat of the Social Platform (contact: Pierre Baussand, Director of Social platform). Everybody is invited to participate. Part of this contribution also will be a new mapping of key principles for services of general interest (social and health services, education, transport, telecommunication, energy, consumer protection etc.). Social Platform plans to continue this mapping in the first half of 2013. They will use key principles like legal basis in EU Treaties, definition (uniform terminology), role/rights of users, general interest obligation, accessibility, quality etc. Social platform has published a similar mapping in 2010 which has to be updated now for the future debate on a social Europe.

The next meeting of the SGI Working Group will be in May. One important topic – beside the mapping and the Social investment package - will be the new regulation of general block exemption for state aid for undertakings that employ people with disabilities and long-term unemployed persons. The network will discuss about the definition of this circle of persons and if people who became a victim of the crisis can be included in a future regulation.

The Social platform distributes a "Weekly update" via E-Mail with all important information. You – as a member of ICSW Europe - can subscribe (for free) at <http://www.socialplatform.org/News.asp> Representatives of ICSW France (Christian Rollet),

ICSW Germany (Johannes Eisenbarth), ICSW Netherlands (Thea Meinema) and ICSW Austria (Katharina Meichenitsch) take part in the steering and working groups of Social platform and can give you additional information about the Social Platform.

Cornelia Markowski is head of the Department for International Affairs of the Deutscher Verein für öffentliche und private Fürsorge e.V. and a board member of ICSW Europe

TOWARDS EU ACTIONS AGAINST ALL FORMS OF BIAS VIOLENCE

Social Platform Position Paper

Acts of violence committed with a bias motive, or triggered by prejudice, or ingrained in unequal structures in society are a wide-spread reality in Europe. As such, they result in serious breaches of human rights protected by the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Union's Charter of Fundamental Rights. Whenever public authorities fail to take measures to identify, prevent and redress such violence, they fail to enforce those rights.

The economic crisis creates conditions associated with intimate relationship violence whereby victims have fewer resources to be safe, to flee and to protect themselves from violence. This is the direct impact of public spending cuts on policy and judiciary, legal aid, public health services, welfare benefits and housing benefits.

In recent years, Social Platform has prioritized two related areas: 1) the contribution to European policies to combat violence against women; 2) the monitoring of European policy processes that can contribute to tackling different forms of hate-motivated and bias-motivated violence and crime. Building on this work, and on the expertise of our members, Social Platform has developed a generic concept of bias violence to advance a common agenda of policy recommendations to fight any form of violence. The recommendations are directed at the European Union, but also at member states and other levels of government.

In an annex to the position paper the Social Platform has compiled concepts, positions and specific expertise by the Platform's member organizations and describing a wide variety of bias violence, related to gender, sexuality, ethnicity, age, disability, mental health, and poverty.

The full text of the position paper can be found on the [Social Platform website](#).

IRISH EU PRESIDENCY

Ireland holds the Presidency of the European Union for the first half of 2013, to be followed by Lithuania in the second half of 2013 and Greece in the first half of 2014.

Ireland as Presidency intends to strengthen social cohesion through its focus on a number of key issues. In doing so, their priorities will closely reflect the Europe 2020 Strategy and will form an important part of the European Semester process.

A key issue for the Irish Presidency is tackling the causes of youth unemployment, including through education, training and up-skilling. Also, during the European Year of Citizens, the Presidency will work to protect the rights of workers and to remove obstacles that obstruct or deter citizens from living and working where they wish.

In the area of health policy, the Irish Presidency will promote legislative proposals to improve public health. It will support innovation and research for the benefit of the health and industry sectors, and in the interests of progressing health policy for EU citizens.

Many Social Platform members are working with the Irish Presidency to prepare for activities during the first half of the year, including FEANTSA which cooperated to prepare for the round table of ministers responsible for homelessness on 1 March. Eurochild and EAPN are preparing an event on child poverty, advocacy and capacity building for pilot countries, taking place in Dublin on 10-11 April,

Of course Social Platform has formulated key messages for the next EU presidency. This is a good tradition. In social policy terms the Irish presidency will concentrate on the consequences of labour market integration for social inclusion: integration of people far away from the labour market, potential of employment in the social and health sector (e.g. household and personal services), working poor. At the [Social platform's website](#) you can find a list of topics regarding social policy developments that will be discussed in Council meetings in the 1st half of 2013.

PEER REVIEWS ON SOCIAL ECONOMY, URBAN POLICIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH, AND AGE FRIENDLY GOODS AND SERVICES

In the last three months of 2012 a number of peer reviews took place with interesting topics. Social economy - laying the groundwork for innovative solutions to today's challenges, was the topic under discussion in France, on 10-11 December 2012. Social enterprises are prized for their ability to offer innovative solutions to emerging social needs which are not easily tackled by the public sector or private business. Through filling this gap, social enterprises create new opportunities for growth and jobs. Indeed, they contribute to at least three key objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy - employment and growth, innovation and the fight against poverty.

A peer review in Norway, on 13-14 November 2012, focused on area-based policies in urban areas: how to promote good living conditions for children and youth. Based on two schemes in place in Norway, this Peer Review was an opportunity to explore area-based policies promoting good living conditions for young people in deprived areas. The problems in these urban areas are to a large extent related to socio-economic factors; therefore most measures target the whole population while special efforts are aimed directly at residents with an immigrant background. Combatting poor standards of living amongst children and youth, and promoting social mobility in urban areas with poor living conditions is crucial for breaking the transmission of disadvantage across generations and diminishing the likelihood of social exclusion in the future.

In Poland, on 29-30 October, a peer review dealt with Age friendly goods and services - an opportunity for social and economic development. The scale of demographic change facing countries across the EU is unprecedented. The number of people aged 60+ is increasing at a rate of approximately 2 million per year and the result is a rapid increase in the dependency ratio; while in 2010 there were four people of working age for every person aged 65+, this number is projected to halve by 2060.

Peer Reviews are an instrument of the Social 'Open Method of Coordination' (OMC). They enable an open discussion on social protection and social inclusion policies in the different EU Member States and facilitate the mutual learning process among them. Elaborate information and documents on the abovementioned peer reviews can be found on the [European Commission website](#).

PUBLICATIONS

Long-Term Care in Europe. Improving Policy and Practice **Ed. Kai Leichsenring, Jenny Billings and Henk Nies**

This book challenges the prevailing discourse centred on the problems of demographic change and long-term care provision for older people by focusing on solutions emerging from progression and improvement in policy and practice.

Building on ample research in 13 European countries, evidence is provided for how the construction of long-term care systems can be taken forward by practitioners, policy-makers and stakeholder organisations. By focusing on prevention and rehabilitation, the support of informal care, the enhancement of quality development as well as by decent governance and financing mechanisms for long-term care, stakeholders may learn from European experiences and solutions on the local, regional and national levels.

The publication can be ordered online at www.palgrave.com

Facts and Figures on Healthy Ageing and Long-term Care **Europe and North America**

This publication from the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research is the result of the joint effort of a group of authors from the ECV, the Istituto Nazionale di Ricovero e Cura

per Anziani (INRCA) and the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

This 2nd edition of the earlier "Facts and Figures on Healthy Ageing and Long-term Care" provides information on the ageing phenomenon across the UNECE region. It covers data and information on demography, social situation of older people, health, informal care, migrant care workers, public long-term care policies and expenditure for the countries of the UNECE. It is meant as a tool to inform policy debate and decision-making by policy-makers. It provides easily accessible information on data and facts for academic experts and researchers to aid comparative analysis of healthy ageing and long-term care. It hopes to foster debate and raise awareness of the differences in ageing across the UNECE region and what they entail for citizens.

The publication can be downloaded from the [European Centre website](#).

On the Way Home?

FEANTSA Monitoring Report on Homelessness and Homeless Policies in Europe.

This report focuses on the extent and nature of homelessness in the EU's Member States and analyses policy progress in tackling homelessness over recent years, based on the input of national experts from 21 countries. It constitutes a first attempt at reporting on the evolution of homeless policies from a European perspective.

For more information [download](#) the report or visit the [FEANTSA website](#).

Active Ageing Index 2012 for 27 EU Member States

The UN Economic Commission for Europe, the European Commission's Directorate General on Employment, Social Protection and Inclusion and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research have undertaken a research and policy advice project, called: the 'Active Ageing Index' project, constructing the Active Ageing Index (AAI), which was launched during the Closing Conference of the EY2012, 10 December 2012, Nicosia, Cyprus.

The AAI is a newly developed tool that offers national and European policy-makers a way to measure and promote the untapped potential of the older population. The AAI shows the

differential extent to which European older people living across EU Member States can realize their potential with respect to employment; healthy, independent and autonomous living; and to undertake other unpaid family, social and cultural contributions to the society in a given country. The AAI offers a breakdown of results by gender. The AAI will be [available online](#) during 2013 and accessible to researchers and policymakers for use and further extension. The tool would, therefore, allow policy-makers to set their own targets, adapted to the specific circumstances of their country.

ENGAGE Quarterly Social Platform Newsletter

The economic crisis has affected the entire EU with widespread spending cuts to public health services, unemployment and welfare benefits, social security etc. but the EU budget for the next 7 years could exceed a trillion euros. That's an important source of investment at a time when EU funds have become one of the main sources of public funding for social and economic development. Civil Society Organisations rely on these funds for many of their activities on the ground such as: improving employment opportunities and the quality of jobs, promoting education and life-long learning, developing active inclusion policies, guaranteeing adequate social protection, and developing quality social and health services. This issue of the ENGAGE newsletter outlines positions of member states and civil society organisations. The newsletter can be found [here](#).

EAPN's conference Report Is Europe 2020 delivering on poverty?

The EAPN conference took place on 28 September 2012. EAPN's very worrying assessment of the 2012 National Reform Programmes (NRPs) and National Social Reports (NSRs) was the starting point of the discussions, particularly the failure to make progress on the poverty target, the increasing levels of poverty and inequality, and the disappointment in the NRP mechanism to truly engage stakeholders and to ensure that all policies contribute to the poverty reduction target.

High level EU decision makers, Trade-unions and NGOs participated in very intense debates on the Europe 2020 Strategy in the current times in which the crisis and austerity policies are visibly increasing poverty and exclusion, exacerbating social tensions and contributing to a growing disenchantment and loss of trust in the EU. This report outlines the key points raised by the speakers, provides a synopsis of the questions raised in the discussion and the responses from the panel.

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

Study on the Impact of the Crisis on Civil Society Organizations in the EU Risks and Opportunities

The EESC has published a study addressing questions concerning the state of the Civil Society and how Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have been affected by the crisis. Through analysis of data gathered from various reports and other documentation, in-depth interviews with a number of individual representatives from different organisations and thought-leaders in the field, and results of a case study survey, this research reveals a diversity of responses from the broad field of civil society in Europe. The main findings of the report are presented in terms of four specific areas where the relationship between CSOs and political institutions and policymaking actors may be affected: funding, voice, opportunity and engagement.

The full text of the study can be found [here](#).

CONFERENCES

20 - 22 March 2013

Jyväskylä, Finland

ECSWR 2013 - 3rd European Conference for Social Work Research

University of Jyväskylä

E-Mail:

ecswr2013@jyu.fi

Website:

www.jyu.fi/ecswr2013

The main theme of the conference is transforming welfare policies, social work and social care practices with the aim to analyse both ongoing changes in welfare policies and their societal and human consequences on all levels in various parts of Europe and elsewhere.

02 - 05 April 2013

Luxembourg, Luxembourg

XVIIIth World Congress of the social pedagogues

AIEJI and APEG

E-Mail:

organisation@worldcongress.lu

Website:

<http://www.worldcongress.lu/en/>

The most important aim of social pedagogues daily work consists in the contribution to promote actively integration, social inclusion and equal opportunities. The daily engagement for children, teenagers and adults with their needs is very important in order to achieve the aims to a certain coherence in our society. A high quality work in the different social and educational institutions needs a maximum of professionalism. This can only be achieved with a good co-operation between all the actors. With a systematic international cooperation, the networking process will lead to amore efficient work with lots of new ideas.

10 - 11 April 2013

Dublin, Ireland

Investing in Children: Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage

Eurochild

E-Mail:

janina.arsenjeva@eurochild.org

Website:

<http://www.eurochild.org>

Eurochild, together with its partners UNICEF and the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), organises a series of events to strengthen the cooperation and advocacy of national civil society and to gather political commitment to tackle child poverty. The events, also co-hosted by the Children's Rights Alliance Ireland, UNICEF National Committee for Ireland and EAPN Ireland, will consist of a political roundtable with participation of many high-level speakers, and an advocacy seminar.

17 - 19 April 2013

Istanbul, Turkey

3rd Ensact European Conference "Social Action in Europe: Towards inclusive policies and practices..."

ENSACT

E-Mail:

info@ensactistanbul.org

Website:

<http://www.ensactistanbul.org/>

Inclusive policies in the European context are those that facilitate the ability of disadvantaged social groups to exercise their rights independent of age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, ethnic background and religious faith. Inclusive policies are those policies that ensure democracy by making education, training and housing possible and by providing resources for those in need.

25 - 26 April 2013

Nitra, Slovakia

International Scientific Conference for Helping Professions: Social Services – Pillar of the European Society

European Association of Schools of Social Work (EASSW)

E-Mail: visehradskestretnutie@gmail.com

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

Themes of the conference

- Role of the employment within active social policy;
- Sustainable social development, research, education and practice – (theme for PhD students and scientific workers);
- Social services modernization as current request for citizens' labour and social integration.

03 May 2013

Galway, Ireland

Future Role of the EU Structural Funds to Advance Community Living for Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities

Centre for disability, law and policy

E-Mail: suzanne.doyle@nuigalway.ie

Website: <http://www.nuigalway.ie>

This conference marks a significant contribution during the Irish Presidency of the EU to the Europe-wide debate about the future role of the EU Structural Funds. It will focus on the positive potential of the EU Structural Funds in assisting Member States to achieve community living for older persons and persons with disabilities. This will be an event in association with the Irish Presidency of the EU.

14 - 17 May 2013

Geneva, Switzerland

III Session of the International Conference "Volunteerism - Avenue for Social Transformation"

Cultural Activities Committee in United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)

E-Mail: info@vector-un.com

Website: <http://vector-un.com/en/>

International Conference "Volunteerism – Avenue for Social Transformation" is an annual international forum aimed at building dialogue on UN agendas, on joint decision-making and on forming effective cooperation and partnership.

The session is devoted to the issues, aimed at uniting efforts of NGOs, engaged in volunteerism development, and social entrepreneurship funds. Subject of the Conference: «Social innovation as a force for sustainable development».

30 May 2013

Brussels, Belgium

Seminar on « Seniors entrepreneurs in support of youth employment Commission of Regions; AGE

Website: <http://www.age-platform.eu>

A seminar that AGE is co-organising with the Committee of the Regions and Senior Entrepreneurs on 30 May 2013 in Brussels. The seminar will bring together key stakeholders to address the theme of « Seniors entrepreneurs in support of youth employment» and to exchange on the concept of older entrepreneurs and how they can contribute to developing and setting up businesses to pass on their experience and facilitate the employment and skills development of younger workers.

12 June 2013

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Tackling homelessness as a social investment for the future: Looking at the bigger picture

Feantsa-Habitact

E-Mail:

info@habitact.eu or information@feantsa.org

Website:

<http://feantsa.org/spip.php?article860&lang=en>

Seminar objectives

1. To launch a debate on social investment among practitioners driving social policy innovation in the field of homelessness.
2. To demonstrate the social, economic and innovative value of tackling homelessness, with concrete/practical information for local organisations attending the seminar

17 - 19 June 2013

New York, United States of America

Global Health and Well-Being: The Social Work Response.

New York University, school of social works

E-Mail:

hanie.kaplan@nyu.edu

Website:

<http://www.socialworkresponse.org>

This conference will bring together colleagues from around the world to examine the challenges that contribute to global health and well-being, trauma, and social injustice and to identify innovative social work and multidisciplinary responses to them. By working together for three days to exchange ideas, to share the latest research based knowledge, and to showcase pioneering global solutions, we will create a new climate for interprofessional collaboration and the advancement of global social work.

17 - 20 June 2013

Dublin, Ireland

21st European Social Network Conference: Transforming Lives! Reshaping services for a changing society

European Social Network (ESN)

E-Mail:

info@esn-eu.org

Website:

<http://www.esn-eu.org/e-news12-sep-dublin:call-for-workshops/index.htm>

Social services as well as health, education and employment are challenged by an ever changing society. Whilst delivering policy changes and managing the budget, how do leaders of public services ensure that they focus on helping transform the lives of citizens and communities who need support or care? Dublin 2013 will set the challenges to social services in the context of wider social, demographic and economic change. We will see how health, education and housing all play a role alongside social services in transforming lives. We want to see how good leadership, evidence-based practice and citizen participation can reshape services delivered by a trained and committed workforce.

COLOPHON

This is the final issue of the Newsletter of ICSW European Region. The content of this Regional Newsletter may be freely reproduced or cited provided the source is acknowledged. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the policy of ICSW.

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Global Office

International Council on Social Welfare
Executive Director: Mr.Sergei Zelenev
Website: www.icsw.org
E-mail: [Sergei Zelenev](mailto:Sergei.Zelenev@icsw.org)

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