



**Europe**

**ICSW EUROPE NEWSLETTER**  
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*PF 2015*

## A Message from the President

Dear readers, friends, colleagues,

we are presenting you the second issue of a renewed ICSW Europe Newsletter. I would appreciate your help at its disseminating at the public interested in social development and change for the better. Be helpful at looking for its new subscribers. European society still suffers from persisting crisis with the impact on social life. It is necessary to be connected, to help each other and propagate our knowledge. European Union and our countries are not very successful at fulfilling social mission supported in the *Europe 2020* plan. Our societies suffer from increasing polarisation, disrupted cohesion and weakening solidarity. It is inevitable to strengthen human rights and social justice. Despite of objectively found sufficiency, the problems in the area of guaranteeing the social rights that we committed to abide, still persist. We need to actualize the commitment in relation to the ILO Recommendation 202/2012 concerning *National Floors of Social Protection*. It is time for thinking about necessity of a new human right – the right for guaranteed social minimum.

In 2014 a completely new ICSW Europe Board was established. Also for finance saving the Board meets once a month and discusses the issues via digital means (Skype teleconference). My intention together with

the Board members is to meet our work programme in the most effective way. We want to advance the common goals in the cooperation with the ICSW member base but also with all associated organizations.

ICSW Europe actively cooperates with 47 Europe-wide non-governmental organizations striving for social development within Social Platform in Brussels.

ICSW Europe cooperates with the organizations associated within ENSACT. ICSW Europe supported the intention of ENSACT to become European Observatory for Social Work and Social Development.

In 2015 ICSW Europe is preparing in the cooperation with Spanish member organization a common seminar „Migrants and Social Protection Floors. Facilities and obstacles to access to different Welfare State services in time of crisis“.

The most important event of the year 2015 within the ICSW Europe activities will also be its European conference joined with the General Assembly in Helsinki on November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. The topics dedicated to *Social Protection Floors in Europe* and *Social Welfare as Investment* were selected in the cooperation with the Finnish member organization - SOSTE.

ICSW Europe wants to support inter alia financially the activities of its members in relation to meeting the work programme in 2015. Thus other common activities are possible to be implemented.

We will welcome other information concerning your activities, your organization

that we could interchange via this Newsletter. We provide you space to publish in this medium. We are looking for more volunteers ready to cooperate with ICSW Europe at meeting its goals. We offer you an opportunity to exchange knowledge, experience and information also via social networking systems (e.g. Facebook) <https://www.facebook.com/icsw.europe>.

We are glad to welcome between us also new members (e. g. the Czech republic) and we are looking forward for the next ones who are just considering this step.

*(Miloslav Hettes, the ICSW Europe President)*

## Social Platform

European Social Platform is the largest platform of European rights and value-based NGOs working in the social sector. Its aim is to promote social justice, equality and participatory democracy. The Platform is the alliance of non-governmental organisations active in the social sector. The Social Platform and its members are committed to the advancement of the principles of equality, solidarity, non-discrimination and the promotion and respect of fundamental rights for all within Europe and in particular the European Union. The Social Platform promotes social justice and participatory democracy by voicing the concerns of member organisations.

## Task Force on Financing of Social Services (2014)

On behalf of ICSW Europe Anke Boeckenhoff (Policy Officer, German Association for Public and Private Welfare, ICSW Germany) participated in 2014 in the Social Platform Task Force on Financing Social Services. One of the results was Social Platform's contribution to the informal plenary session of the EPSCO Council in July addressing three key messages:

1. Continue the work launched with the Social Business Initiative (SBI) to support the recognition and development of social economy and social enterprises;
2. Unlock the employment potential of social economy, in particular in the social and health services sector;
3. Pursue an adequate 'ecosystem' for the development of social economy and social enterprises, both at EU and national level.

The whole paper can be downloaded on Social Platform's homepage: [http://www.socialplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/20140717\\_SocialPlatform\\_Contribution\\_Informal-EPSCO-Milan\\_Social-Economy\\_final.pdf](http://www.socialplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/20140717_SocialPlatform_Contribution_Informal-EPSCO-Milan_Social-Economy_final.pdf)

By the end of 2014 the Task Force on Financing Social Services will have finished its work so far. Instead, the Task Force will be merged together with the Task Forces on Social Benefits and on Minimum Wage to create the Task Force on Social Standards: This upcoming Task Force will deal with issues like minimum income, minimum wage,

EU unemployment benefit schemes and access to services.

*(Anke Boeckenhoff, German Association for Public and Private Welfare – on behalf of ICSW Europe, Berlin, 10.12.2014)*

## ENSACT



The Global Agenda on Social Work and Social Development is the product of a three year collaborative initiative undertaken by three international

organisations representing social work practice, social work education and social development. The International Federation of Social Workers is the global federation of national social work organisations. The International Association of Schools of Social Work is an international community of schools and educators in social work. The International Council on Social Welfare is a global, non-governmental organisation actively involved in programmes to promote social welfare, social development and social justice.

These organisations have committed themselves to the Global Agenda and the following priorities:

- Promoting social and economic equalities;
- Promoting the dignity and worth of the person;
- Promoting sustainable communities and environmentally sensitive development;

- Promoting wellbeing through sustainable human relationships.

The three organizations invite proposals for the creation of Regional Observatories which will work together with the three global

bodies to create a Global Observatory for Social Work and Social Development. For the next report, to be presented in Seoul in June 2016, five Regional Observatories will have to be identified and supported. The aim of the regional observatories is to generate evidence on the implementation of the priority themes of the Global Agenda. The next report will focus on the second theme of the global agenda, Promoting the dignity and worth of the person.

The mission of ENSACT is to collectively promote these issues: a more inclusive society, a stronger role for service users, a closer cooperation between professionals. These issues correspond closely to the priorities of the Global Agenda.

ENSACT is well placed to host the European Observatory for the Global Agenda. ENSACT is committed to ensuring a quality process of collecting, analysing and disseminating materials that exemplify good practice, while taking into account the diverse perspectives that ENSACT partners bring to the work. ENSACT envisages a reciprocal process in which its partners invite their members to submit good practice examples and in turn endeavour to disseminate to their members the resulting wealth of information and resources, which can be used both in teaching and in practice.

International Council on Social Welfare **ICSW Europe** is one of the seven ENSACT partners (the other partners are European Association

of Schools of Social Work **EASSW**; European association of training centres for socio-educational care work **FESET**; International Federation of Educative Communities **FICE Europe**; International Federation of Social Workers **IFSW Europe**; **PowerUs** – Service User Co-production in Social Work Education

and Research; Social Work and Health Inequalities Network **SWHIN** – for links to ENSACT partners, please, see a separate part of the Newsletter).

The ENSACT network also represents multiple perspectives. Among its members are social work practitioners, social work educators, social development workers, service users and social researchers. The European representatives of the three global organisations responsible for the Global Agenda process are also represented on the ENSACT Committee. The ENSACT Committee will be the Steering Group for the European Observatory.

ENSACT realises that the European Observatory, as part of the Global Observatory, is part of a long-term process. The actual bid made by ENSACT focuses on the process for the next two years, as a first step towards increasing the meaning and the sense of co-ownership of the Global Agenda in Europe.

The process of collecting examples of good practice, analysing these, and synthesising and disseminating the findings and conclusions, will be managed by the ENSACT partners.

ENSACT will distribute the revised guidance information (thanks to the experience from the first round of the Observatory process in 2012-2013) and the invitation to contribute through their websites, newsletters and bulletins, through dedicated emails and

through announcements during conferences. The numerous individual members of the ENSACT partner associations will be a key in encouraging submissions through their many individual and organisational networks. Submissions will be invited in a variety of

forms and media as this will allow people to contribute in the way they feel is best suited to their good practice examples. ENSACT will also ask permission from contributors to have their information and materials published on the websites of the ENSACT partners to ensure continuing dissemination and utilisation of the materials.

The research staff at the University of Lund (ENSACT is joined by Lund University research staff. The research will be led by professor Kerstin Svensson, who is currently Head of Department at the School of Social Work in Lund University) will prepare a first analysis of the submitted materials, which will be discussed and commented upon electronically by the partners to ensure that there is accuracy and validity and that the analysis represents their diverse perspectives. ENSACT will then organise a joint meeting to share feedback and pull together all comments and questions.

ENSACT appreciates the opportunity this process allows for reciprocity. Not only are they calling upon their membership to share partners' good practices, but they will also be able to distribute their findings through the same channels used for inviting contributions, i.e. websites, newsletters, mails, conferences and local seminars.

Each ENSACT partner will name one person dedicated to the European Observatory who will act as a contact person for the organisation. The ENSACT steering group will be responsible for the process.

*(source: European Network for Social Action – Bid European Observatory, 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2014)*

ICSW Europe cooperates with organizations associated within ENSACT. ENSACT is a

European network of professional associations, faculties of social work and social education and national councils of social welfare. ICSW Europe supported the concern of ENSACT to become European Observatory for Social Work and Social Development. We consider ENSACT to be well placed to host the European Observatory for the Global Agenda. The aim of the European Observatory is to generate evidence on the implementation of the priority themes of the Global Agenda. The report will focus on the second theme of the global agenda, Promoting the dignity and worth of the person.

*(Miloslav Hettes, the ICSW Europe President)*

## Members' News

### **New study programme on Children Social Welfare**

By the initiative of Lithuanian National committee of ICSW Europe the study programme designed for children welfare matters has been born. The study programme “Social Work with Children and Youth” came into existence thanks to uniting efforts of two universities: Mykolas Romeris University in Lithuania and Ryga Stradina University in Latvia. The programme pursues the international and national (Lithuanian

and Latvian) strategy goals and mission – to develop highly qualified specialists whose education quality correspond with EU education quality.

The scope of new Master study programme represents 90 credits. The study language is English, program will last 1.5 years/3 semesters. Students’ mobility forms essential and integrated part of the programme. Students are expected to follow the courses at two Universities. Internship will be organised in both universities, while students can choose to take their internship in the partner country. For description of Social Work with Children and Youth Master Degree join Study Programme on this webpage: [https://stdb.mruni.eu/studiju\\_programos\\_ap\\_rasas.php?id=6366&l=en](https://stdb.mruni.eu/studiju_programos_ap_rasas.php?id=6366&l=en)

Successful studies should be ensured by closer cooperation between universities and intensive curriculum. Lectures and workshops will be held face to face. Distance learning will be conducted continuously during the semester after intensive courses have been finished: virtual lectures, teleconferencing and interactive participation/discussion boards and self-studies. A variety of study methods allows the students to combine studies and work. This is especially convenient for working people because there is no requirement to constantly be at the University.

The programme is conducted by the Mykolas Romeris University Educational Science and Social Work Institute, which implements first and third semester of studies. Latvian Ryga Stradina University will offer the intensive programme of the second semester. After successful graduation students will receive Joint Degree Diploma signed by rectors of

two universities and gain the degree in Master in Social Work. For more information see [www.socialwork.lt](http://www.socialwork.lt).

The contact e-mail address for information: [esdi@mruni.eu](mailto:esdi@mruni.eu)

*(Angele Cepenaite, the ICSW Europe Board Member)*

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## 61 Steps to Hope



The Missionary and Scientific Projects of The School of Public Health and Social Work of St. Elizabeth (Bratislava, Slovakia)

“Thanks to the extensive efforts of our social workers and doctors as well as our heavenly and earthly patrons, we have been able to help with more than sixty humanitarian and development projects. Our aid is focused primarily on health care, education and social work. This success cannot be attributed to our skills or dexterity but mainly to God’s blessing and the desire of our colleagues to grasp the challenge of God’s and humankind’s solidarity. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the doctors, nurses, logisticians and social workers as well as referents, officials, drivers and all the old and sick who pray for us. It does not matter whether they send thousands of euro or just a single prayer. The important thing is that they feel their solidarity with others.”

*(Professor MUDr. Vladimír Krčmery, DrSc, the founder of the School of Public Health and Social Work of St. Elizabeth)*

*61 Steps to Hope* are the Missionary and Scientific Projects of The School of Public Health and Social Work of St. Elizabeth, Bratislava – Slovakia, which includes help in the form of providing accomodation, social care, treatment of HIV/AIDS in orphans and half orphans infected with HIV virus, the assistance to their families, supporting the HIV-positive children in families; fundraising among the Slovak families for children living in the rehabilitation houses in Cambodia, House of Family in Sihanoukville and Phnom Penh and House of Smile; providing the poor and deprived children living in AnDong slums in Phnom Penh with access to education; preventing the deaths of children from malnutrition; support the socially vulnerable citizens of Kenya in receiving university education; giving a home, care and love to abandoned children, and many other activities.



*(source: 61 Steps to Hope: The Missionary and Scientific Projects of The School of Public Health and Social Work of St. Elizabeth, Bratislava, Slovakia, 2011-2012)*

## Useful Links

ICSW Europe Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/icsw.europe>

European Association of Schools of Social Work **EASSW**: [www.eassw.org](http://www.eassw.org)

European association of training centres for socio-educational care work **FESET**:  
[www.feset.org](http://www.feset.org)

International Federation of Educative Communities **FICE Europe**:  
[www.fice-inter.net](http://www.fice-inter.net)

International Federation of Social Workers **IFSW Europe**: [www.ifsw.org](http://www.ifsw.org)

**PowerUs** – Service User Co-production in Social Work Education and Research:  
[www.powerus.info](http://www.powerus.info)

Social Work and Health Inequalities Network **SWHIN**:  
<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/study/cll/research/swhin/>

## Colophon

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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