



## **ICSW EUROPE NEWSLETTER**

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### **Table of Contents**

A Message from the President .....	2
ICSW Expert Meeting .....	3
ICSW Germany.....	5
EIGE Annual Consultation with CSOs .....	5
CFADS.....	7
PEP European Meeting with EAPN .....	9
COFACE.....	9
FEANTSA.....	11
Council of Europe .....	12
Conferences/Expert Meetings.....	13
Useful Links .....	13
Colophon .....	13

## A Message from the President

“As I walked back down the hill from that *favela*, I realized that this is what the challenge of development is all about – inclusion.”

These are the [thoughts of James Wolfensohn](#), the former President of the World Bank in 1997. He had been inspecting a large water and sanitation project in one of Rio de Janeiro’s slums, favelas. Walking down from there he met a number of women waving pieces of paper. He found out the papers were water bills and receipts. Why were these women happy to pay for water? Paradoxically, just that would have been a good reason, indeed: charges for piped water were formally billed but municipal piped water was cheaper than the costs they previously had paid to informal water traders/vendors. But the real reason for excitement was another: It was the first time in the lives of these women that they were recognized by the society. Having your name printed on an official piece of paper meant that you are finally included in society, as a citizen, member with equal responsibilities – and, hopefully, with equal rights. Of course we understand that for these women the road from this elementary sort of inclusion to equality and full citizenship was still very, very long, possibly fully out of reach for them – and of their children, whose only inheritance was – poverty. Being on the official records is the start, however.

Does this story ring a bell? Aren’t there in our continent, in Europe, very similar situations? In the European region the diversity of countries in terms of many indicators of wealth and well-being is wide. Within countries inequalities are serious and many groups of people experience exclusion. Most adults can have a vote but many do not ‘have a voice’ – as nobody listens to them. Additionally, there even exists a growing

‘paperless’ Europe, people who have no vote, no voice, no home, no official records. Inequality, poverty and exclusion are here.

The challenge is getting all people, us, the young, the old, people with disabilities, immigrants, all people, on board, on the same boat. It is necessary for social and economic sustainability but there is no way of tailoring different channels to inclusion to all possible different population groups. First structural solutions are needed: such structures and processes that create equal opportunity and enabling environments, structures and processes for all women and men, for all boys and girls to be part of the European – and the global – society. On the top of general measures special services are provided to particularly vulnerable people. Equal opportunity and rights to access to education, work, essential societal amenities and services, housing, health care, social protection, services and care across the life cycle – and fair equalization of outcomes – are at the core of truly socially sustainable Europe.

ICSW is a rights-based social policy organization, a social development organization. ICSW [Constitution](#) says, inter alia, that we shall “*Promote forms of social and economic development which aim to reduce poverty, hardship and vulnerability, especially amongst disadvantaged people*” with our member organizations *that seek to advance social justice, social welfare, social work and social development.*” Social development means societal transformation towards the vision of an inclusive society for all people.

We have a very broad agenda. But there are no simple, one-dimensional solutions to such complex challenges as inequality, poverty and exclusion. ICSW is a network organization of diverse organizations with a joint vision. That is our strength. Through such a network we together can address multiple and multidimensional social challenges. Also in this

newsletter there are news and links to more specific information on what our members and partners are doing very concretely to ensure joint action towards our joint mission: that no one is excluded or discriminated against, that nobody is left behind.

Hoping to see many of you in Dublin at the Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development that takes place on July 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. Follow also closely the messages from ICSW Executive Director Sergei Zelenev about the specific events to be organized by ICSW during that week: capacity building events, symposia and the General Assembly of ICSW.

*(Ronald Wiman, ICSW Europe President)*

Links:

ICSW Constitution is available here:  
<http://www.icsw.org/images/docs/ICSW-Constitution--amended-2014.pdf>

The History of ICSW 1928-2008 is available on the ICSW website:  
[http://www.icsw.org/images/docs/ICSW\\_History\\_2008.pdf](http://www.icsw.org/images/docs/ICSW_History_2008.pdf)

A link to James Wolfensohn's speech : "The Challenge of Inclusion" is on the THL Global Social Policy website:  
([www.thl.fi/gsp-info](http://www.thl.fi/gsp-info)); [Socially sustainable development - Decision-making, economy and service system - THL](#)

## ICSW Expert Meeting

**ICSW Expert meeting "Poverty in Families – Approaches for Social Mobility in Germany, Austria and Switzerland", November 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

In November 2017 ca. 20 experts from Germany, Austria and Switzerland from research institutions, welfare organisations and ministries gathered in Berlin to compare their views on families in poverty and social mobility. The seminar was a joint event of ICSW Europe and its members in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Although the facts about income poverty and factors for the solidification of poverty are subject of research and well-known in these days in the countries, no comprehensive success of initiatives to avoid or reduce poverty in families has been observed to date.



*(Cornelia Markowski, ICSW Germany; Michael Chalupka, ICSW Austria; and Bettina Seebeck, ICSW Switzerland)*

In Germany, Austria and Switzerland, it is essentially the social origin and the level of education of the parents that determine the level of education and later earnings potential of the children. Social mobility is primarily understood

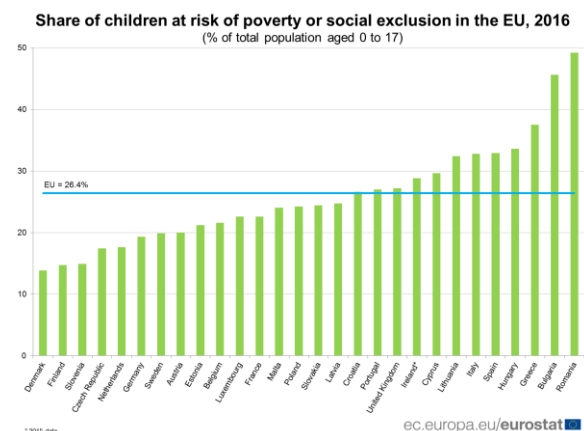
as educational mobility. Accordingly, across all countries the key areas for initiatives to support children and young adults are in the sphere of education, specifically in expanding early child education and care offers (particularly Austria) and schooling and appropriate equipping of staff in (primary) schools and childcare facilities to enable them to take preventive action.

For the school phase, the view of the experts was that it is important to avoid too early divergence in the educational pathways (particularly in Switzerland and Germany). This is because the earlier divergence occurs, with regard to the ultimate educational goal, the more it lowers the decisive influence of the child's achievement and motivation and heightens the influence of parental interest in the respective educational goal. There is a presumption of informed, engaged parents during the school phase, and some part of the task of education is delegated to them. Where parents are unable to fulfil these expectations, it is necessary to reinforce the parental competence and to support children from households with limited experience of education in some other way. According to the "5th Poverty and Wealth Report" (2017, edited by the Federal Ministry for Employment and Social Affairs), efforts in Germany to integrate and support the weakest pupils appropriately are not proving comparatively successful. In Switzerland, to improve the transition to vocational training after completing school consideration is currently being given to introducing a "right to training for all" which can then be implemented by a needs-appropriate case management.

In addition to measures for overcoming barriers to education, the experts' discussions focussed on expanding prevention offers, "docked" with regular establishments such as childcare services, (primary) schools or public healthcare offers. In theory, prevention offers within a local authority area in the spheres of health, social welfare, education and culture should be well-

networked and should build on one another, geared to the life pattern of children and young adults. In practice, this networking often falls down due to the different responsibilities within the local authority administration or in the relationship with higher-level tiers, in Germany e.g. district level (healthcare) or Federal state level (education).

Last but not least, improving the income situation of families in poverty plays a role. This can be achieved through greater integration of women into employment (particularly in Austria) or via incentives to increase work intensity amongst women (Switzerland and Germany). In all three countries, work is underway to improve advance maintenance payment arrangements, in order to target improving the income situation of single parents. Further measures are aimed at introducing minimum wages, which should help to equalise gender-specific pay gaps (in Austria) or to break down precarious employment and thereby forge paths out of poverty for families and their children.



For more information see:

<https://www.deutscher-verein.de/en/uploads/dateien-stab-internationales/report-icsw-expert-meeting-families-in-poverty-nov-16-17-2017-en.pdf>  
or <http://www.icsw.org/index.php/regions/europe/>.

*(Cornelia Markowski, Secretary-General of ICSW Germany, Head of Department for International Affairs at German Association for Public and Private Welfare, Berlin)*

## ICSW Germany



Deutscher Verein  
für öffentliche  
und private Fürsorge e.V.

### Promotion of work-life balance in the EU – opinion of ICSW Germany

ICSW Germany has adopted an Opinion on the proposal of the EU Commission for a Directive on work-life balance for parents and carers. It welcomes the EU initiative, especially the extension of rights to include caregivers in acute instances and the linkage between an entitlement to time off and remuneration. It emphasises the fact that a comprehensive and well-proven system of family and gender equality policy-related benefits has been established in Germany over recent decades that must not be restricted by the new European regulation. According to this, mothers and fathers should be enabled to utilise a total of at least ten or twelve months of paid parental leave (depending on the participation of the partner), whereby a portion should be transferable to the other parent (as per understanding under European law, this parental leave follows on from the maternity leave). One important fact is, that this minimum entitlement must be available to parents in all different family types. An additional time off work entitlement for fathers, especially on the occasion of the birth of their child, needs to be clarified in terms of how it is arranged in the legal system alongside parental leave and in a distinguishing manner from maternity leave.

The opinion is available here:

[https://www.deutscher-verein.de/en/uploads/dateien-stab-internationales/dv-8-17-work-life\\_balance.pdf](https://www.deutscher-verein.de/en/uploads/dateien-stab-internationales/dv-8-17-work-life_balance.pdf)

(source: ICSW Germany)

## EIGE Annual Consultation with CSOs



**European Institute for Gender Equality – EIGE** organized a Civil Society Annual Consultation Meeting in Vilnius on **20-21 February 2018**. The meeting brought together representatives of the Social Platform, European Women's Lobby, MenEngage Network and the European Economic and Social Committee. As a representative of ICSW I took part in this meeting in the delegation of Social Platform, the largest civil society alliance fighting for social justice and participatory democracy in Europe, consisting of 48 pan-European networks of NGOs.



A director of European Institute for Gender Equality, *Virginija Langbakk*, greeted the participants of meeting and stressed that institutional mechanism of EIGE is to provide research on gender equality and submit it to the society. EIGE worked on the Gender Equality Index 2017 trying to discover specific aspects and

sets of indicators that also show intersective inequality and this aspect is important for CSOs which are very close to see the existing problems in the society. In her opinion, such meetings help more to look in depth into Index indicators and EIGE could work on specific aspects of gender equality.

The Gender Equality Index, which is a composite indicator that measures the complex concept of gender equality and, based on the EU policy framework, assists in monitoring progress of gender equality across the EU over time. Meeting with CSOs helps better shape the focus on specific aspects of gender equality which are important for CSOs.

Main topics of the first day plenary session discussions were connected to *An Overview of EIGE activities and cooperation with CSOs in 2017, Outlook of EIGE activities and cooperation with CSOs for 2018–2019*.

The Gender Equality Index 2017 assessed progress and challenges in achievement of gender equality in European society: it measured differences of the situation of men and women within these important domains of Europe 2020 Strategy and European Pillar of Social Rights: work, money, knowledge, time, power and health. In the meeting there were exposed characteristic features of Gender Equality Index 2017, which allow to look into Index indicator more deeply:

- intergenerational perspective;
- intersectional perspective;
- life-course perspective.

In the parallel sessions there were discussed *Work-life balance in the Gender Equality Index 2019, Opportunities and risks of digitalization for young people in the area of gender equality, Gender-sensitive parliament tool*.

CSOs representatives discussed paid and unpaid work of women, care gap impact on family life, a big need of public services and infrastructure (children services, out-of schoolcare, care for disabled elderly, availability of public transport, relevant policy measures) to change the existing situation. Participants discussed possible additional perspectives of woman employment, such as part-time work, re-integration to labour market after long-term breaks, flexible working arrangements, economic impact of these arrangements etc. They also tried to name the most crucial aspects of life-balance that Gender-Equality Index analysis should tackle, as well as where the largest gaps in the information and knowledge are, what issues need more attention than they have received so far. CSOs presented their good experience in tackling the discussed issues.

Social Platform session *Care and its gender dimension* was started by *Silvana Roebstorff*, Social Platform Policy and Project Officer, focussing on information concerning implementation of European Pillar of Social Rights which sets out key principles and rights to support fair and well-functioning labour markets and welfare systems. Social Platform member organizations representatives discussed the situation that is still functioning in society – a traditional care model according to which care providers are represented mainly by women. Consequences of application of such a model leads to gender employment gap.

The participants of the meeting disputed and evaluated the issues of high access of young people to digital technologies which usually do not address gender issues and gender specific risks of youth digitalization.

As women are still underrepresented in political decision-making, in this meeting EIGE presented its pilot phase idea to work on a self-assessment tool that helps to collect empirical data to measure the “gender-sensitivity” of a Parliament

in terms of their organization and work. As a final tool, EIGE promised to present it this summer.

The second day of the meeting was appointed for bi-lateral discussions and issues of EIGE and participating of CSOs.

*(Angele Cepenaite, ICSW Europe Board Member)*



Comité Français pour l'Action  
et le Développement Social

### No young person left behind: a major condition for a sustainable future

On **February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018**, French ICSW Committee, **CFADS** (Comité Français pour l'Action et le Développement Social), set up a Symposium in the city of Nanterre, near Paris.

This event gathered around 90 persons working in the field of youth action in France.

It was the output of a CFADS working group, established last year within the context of the 2017-2018 activity program of the organisation.

Among contemporary economic, social and environmental challenges, **youth integration and employment** represent an inclusion problem which is of great concern for most countries worldwide.

After many researches and surveys achieved on the situation of youth in France, public authorities and stakeholders become aware of the emergency to find new ways in order avoid long lasting economic and social exclusion.

A great complexity in the access to rights has been underlined: for persons from 15 to 30 year old, there are 238 definitions of who is a youth ("youth thresholds") in the French legislation.

Nearly one youth out of five, aged 18 to 30, remains beneath the poverty line. One third of the young adults, when they live outside their family, face difficulty to pay for their housing and daily life expenses.

"Needs" (see below) represent 17 % of the young aged 15 to 30 years: this rate is higher than the average one in the EU; this is very obvious in the migrant populations within the cities and very common for all in the rural areas.

A special focus has been made on the "educational counselling" since in the secondary education system, 110,000 pupils per year "switch off". At University level, 20% of the young students leave the first education period without any diploma: 75,000 persons a year. At the end of the first year at University, 40% give up. That negative situation is an enormous loss for the French economy, estimated in billions.

A recently issued official report (March 2017) from the CESE (see below) put forward 51 recommendations on many topics. Among them, we, as CFADS, have noticed a strong emphasis cast on a **tailored educational and social support**.

The CFADS assembled a panel of experts from different areas with the goal to carry out an analysis on "left-behind young people" in France and to promote existing or possible youth-oriented policies that could remedy this problem.

The meeting was introduced by the CFADS President, *Philippe Steck*, and managed by the Secretary General, *Benoît Menard*.

The aim of the introductory lecture was to outline a **typology** in order to identify these

persons in difficulty. Six categories arose: the “neets” (“neither in employment, nor in education or training”), youth of disadvantaged neighborhoods, orphans, disabled children, unaccompanied foreign minors, children having experienced family breakdowns.

*Jerôme Vignon*, who is the President of the French “National Observatory for Poverty and Social Exclusion” (ONPES, public body created in 1998) since 2010 among his other social involvements, discussed that typology from a socio-political point of view: It should be recalled that he was also the Director for Social Protection and Social Inclusion at the European Commission (2003-2009) when the European objective of reducing poverty was drawn (“Lisbon Strategy” 2010-2020).

Representatives from important public Institutions such as the **CESE** (“Conseil économique, social et environnemental” = Economic, Social and Environmental Council, the third political Assembly in France), semi-private entities including the **UNML** “Union nationale des Missions locales”, founded in 2003 to act for social inclusion at local level, and public research centers as the **EHESP** (“Ecole des hautes études en santé publique” = High School for Public Health in Rennes) gave contributions in their respective auditing, working and teaching fields.

The second part of the meeting was devoted to the presentation of **good practices** followed by a thorough exchange on them. Several initiatives were displayed from partners of the Symposium:

- Ngo **SOS Children's Villages France**, member of SOS Children's Villages International, created in 1950 and presently acting at European level in a training project in order to promote the rights of children involving 40 national partners in Europe;

-Ngo **Fondation OCIRP** (a private joint management body managed by Employers and Trade-Unions in the field of complementary protection schemes, founded 50 years ago) which has presented specific actions to help orphans of the contributing employees (1,400,000 contributing firms; 27,590 beneficiaries in 2016: 14,396 widows; 13,194 orphans);

-Ngo **UNAPP** (“Union nationale des acteurs de parrainage de proximité” – created in 2005), a member of the UE network COFACE and promoting the role of citizens as “godfathers” in various practical ways towards persons in need;

-Ngo “**ESPOIR** – Centre Familiaux De Jeunes” (“Hope – Family Centers for Young People”) founded in 1923, at the same time as the CFADS (1927), very active at the moment in defending the rights of undocumented minors living alone.

The Symposium was supported by “**Le Crédit Coopératif**”, a well-known French Bank in the nonprofit sector, and a recently recreated start-up called “**Futurness**” proposing solutions of coaching at school and professional levels for the 14-26 year old.

**We intend to display the conclusions of the Symposium during the Dublin Conference in July 2018.**

*(source: CFADS France)*



## PEP European Meeting



### 16<sup>th</sup> European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty

The European Meetings of People Experiencing Poverty contribute to the right of people living in poverty to participate in and access information relating to the decision-making processes that affect their lives and well-being. The European meeting is the most visible point in the process of fostering this but perhaps even more important is the fact that they act as a catalyst for national participation processes.

On **9 and 10 November 2017**, the **16th European Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty – *Let's tackle in-work poverty!*** – took place. It was organised by the European Anti-Poverty Network with support from the European Commission and the EAPN Fund. The meeting is a unique opportunity for people with direct experience of poverty from 30 different national delegations to address and exchange with EU decision-makers.

Among the 120 participants were delegations of EAPN members from 30 countries, (which included experts with experience of in-work poverty), representatives from civil society and trade unions, delegates from the European Parliament and Commission, Permanent Representatives, the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility Marianne Thyssen, and the Belgian government.

Read more:

<https://www.eapn.eu/voices-of-poverty/>

Access the short report with full key messages:

[https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/EAPN-Short-Report\\_PeP2017\\_electronic.pdf](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/EAPN-Short-Report_PeP2017_electronic.pdf)

Access the complete report:

[https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/EAPN-16thPEP-Meeting-2017-full-report\\_final-smaller-document-size.pdf](https://www.eapn.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/EAPN-16thPEP-Meeting-2017-full-report_final-smaller-document-size.pdf)

## COFACE



**Written Statement on the challenges and needs of family carers in Europe approved by the United Nations Economic and Social Council**

“Making Europe’s invisible workforce visible: Results of the 2017 stocktaking study on the challenges and needs of family carers in Europe” is the title of our recently submitted statement to the UN ECOSOC. This statement is one of the many initiatives we will be taking in 2018 to give visibility to family carers, arguably Europe’s invisible workforce and one of the most silenced, socially excluded groups.

In 2017, responding to the lack of data on what family carers consider as most useful measures, or policies to better reconcile their work, care and personal life whilst respecting the choices and rights of the person they care for, the COFACE Families Europe network decided to launch a major consultation of family carers in Europe. These are people who fulfil a caring role towards a member of their family, or someone in

their immediate circle. We find that the voice of family carers is often missing from policy discussions.

With more than 1,000 answers collected from family carers from 16 European countries, we published a study to provide a better understanding of the situation in Europe and to offer policy recommendations from family carers to better meet their needs and tackle their social exclusion. This study takes a closer look at who family carers are, and what are the main challenges they face, when it comes to accessing resources, services and flexible time arrangements.

One thing is clear: **the current situation, in which 80% of care work in Europe falls on family carers, who are left without adequate financial compensation, social rights, or a pension scheme, is simply not sustainable.**

Family carers are mostly women (85%), aged between 35 and 64, who are often part of the 'sandwich generation' and provide care for multiple people (27%). In our study, 1 of every 3 carers provide very high intensity care of 56 hours per week, or more, which explains that 43% of the family carers are economically inactive. There is often no one who would help them in fulfilling the caring role (31%). The testimonies given by family carers provide a comprehensive overview.

Meeting the needs of family carers contributes to the quality of care, or support and also helps to preserve a quality family life. Investment in 21st century community-based support services and family support measures, with special regard to work-life balance policies would contribute greatly to the social inclusion and wellbeing of all families.

First-hand recommendations from family carers include the following:

- Provide access to affordable community-based services.
- Provide financial support and social security to the carer.
- Fast and simplified structures for administrative procedures.
- Providing reconciliation measures to fulfil both professional and care responsibilities.
- Involvement, inclusion and awareness raising of carers and persons with support needs.
- Apply preventive health measures and psychological support.

The statement is [available here](#).

(source:

<http://www.coface-eu.org/disability/written-statement-on-the-challenges-and-needs-of-family-carers-in-europe/>)

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#### Update on COFACE actions on Work Life Balance – January 2018

After a relaxing break where our attention was on the "life" part of Work-Life Balance, we came back ready to keep up the fight in this year that could finally see the Work-Life Balance Directive become EU Law.

The Bulgarian Presidency has very high ambitions for this Directive and aims to advance and achieve some positive progress already in next couple of months. We applaud this commitment and we will make sure to provide all necessary support for a positive outcome. [...]

On the research front, one important report has been released and at least one event organized this month:

EuroFound: European Quality of Life Survey with a full chapter on Work-Life Balance and Care, with extremely telling data: more and more workers, especially women, report having difficulties in reconciling their work with family and care in 2016 compared to a decade ago. Another proof that jobs precarisation and instability combined with a strong economic crisis has hit families hard. [Read more](#).

CEPS and EuroFound organised an event on “Policies for an ageing workforce: Work-life balance, working conditions and equal opportunities” on 24 January 2018. [Link to the event](#).

Read more about the [#IwantWorkLifebalance campaign](#)

(source:

<http://www.coface-eu.org/europe/update-work-life-balance-jan-2018/>)

FEANTSA



3rd Overview of Housing Exclusion in Europe

Since 2015, **FEANTSA** and the **Fondation Abbé Pierre** have released a yearly Overview of Housing Exclusion in Europe. These annual reports look at the latest Eurostat data (EU-SILC) and assess EU countries' capacity to adequately house their populations.

In March 2018, the 3rd Overview of Housing Exclusion in Europe was launched at the European Parliament in Brussels.

According to EU data it reveals that over 24 million households in Europe are overburdened by housing costs, nearly 37 million households live in overcrowded conditions and nearly 34 million live in damp conditions. The report confirms the existence of **another Europe**: a Europe not merely ignored but also misunderstood, not just despised but also forgotten – a Europe of the homeless. Children now make up the largest group of people in emergency shelters. Women, young adults, people with a migration background and the working poor are also increasingly numerous among the homeless population. Housing exclusion is still a fast-growing problem in the European Union, leading to increasingly severe saturation of support systems and increased pressure on emergency services.

This report is a call to action for local, national and European authorities. It provides a sound basis on which to proceed, introducing policy orientations and pitfalls to be avoided in developing strategies to reduce and ultimately end homelessness. On the one hand, throughout the years, evidence showing the inadequacy and inefficiency of managing homelessness as an emergency has been building up. On the other hand, expertise, skills and experimentation of other approaches have been developing, for instance on prevention and Housing First. This creates scope for the exchange of good practices. Integrated strategies, moving from managing homelessness to progressively ending it, have been proved to work, notably in **Finland**. An analysis of the implementation of housing rights in Europe in 2017, included in the report, reveals the growing gap between housing rights as guaranteed by European and international treaties and the reality in local and national contexts.

It is through the mobilisation of a strong legal basis, political will and strategic planning that the objective of ending homelessness and successfully fighting housing exclusion will stop

being a fantasy and become an imperative to protect human dignity and proof of the European social project's credibility.

You will find the report on FEANTSA website (in both FR & EN):

<http://www.feantsa.org/en/report/2018/03/21/the-second-overview-of-housing-exclusion-in-europe-2017>

If you'd like to discuss about the main findings of the report, and if you want to organize presentations/discussions/debates following this publication, you can contact *Chloé Serme-Morin*, a Project Officer. Don't hesitate to share it with your networks!

[@ChloeSermeMorin](https://twitter.com/ChloeSermeMorin)



The Conference of INGOs hold its Winter Session 2018, from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> January, in Strasbourg. During this meeting, *Anna Rurka* presented the [2017 Activity Report of the Conference of INGOs](#).

A new Board was elected. Text adopted:

- ✓ Recommendation relating to the proclamation of the European Pillar of Social Rights ([CONF/PLE\(2018\)REC1](#))
- ✓ Resolution relating to the use of the term "Droits humains" (Human Rights) instead of

"Droits de l'Homme" within the Conference of INGOs ([CONF/PLE\(2018\)RES1](#))

President of the Conference of INGOs: Ms *Anna Rurka*, European Committee for home-based priority action for the Child and the Family (EUROCEF)

Vice-Presidents: Ms *Anne Kraus*, CISV International; Mr *Christoph Spreng*, Initiatives of Change – International (IofC); Mr *Robert Bergougnan*, European Association of School of Social Work - EASSW

Rapporteurs: Ms *Katarzyna Sokolowska*, European Students' Forum – AEGEE Europe; Mr *Richard Pirolt*, Comenius association; Mr *Rares-Augustin Craiut*, European Confederation of Youth Clubs (ECYC)

Member in a consultative capacity:  
The President of INGO Service, Ms *Maritchu Rall*  
Vice-president of equality, Ms *Anne Negre*,  
University Women of Europe, UWE

More information:

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo>

**The next meeting: Summer Session (25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> June, 2018)**

*(information given by Gérard Schaefer, ICSW Europe Representative to Council of Europe)*

## Conferences/Expert Meetings

### Reminder

**4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2018**      **DUBLIN (Ireland)**



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

Environmental and Community Sustainability /  
Human Solutions in Evolving Societies

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



(photo: <http://www.ihdublin.com/>)

## Useful Links

SWSD Conference 2018, Dublin (Ireland):  
<http://www.swsd2018.org/>

Opinion of the German Association for Public and Private Welfare regarding the proposal for a Directive on work-life balance for parents and carers:  
[https://www.deutscher-verein.de/en/uploads/dateien-stab-internationales/dv-8-17-work-life\\_balance.pdf](https://www.deutscher-verein.de/en/uploads/dateien-stab-internationales/dv-8-17-work-life_balance.pdf)

European Institute for Gender Equality:  
<http://eige.europa.eu/>

CFADS:  
<http://cnas-icsw.org/>

COFACE:  
<http://www.coface-eu.org/>

European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless:

[www.feantsa.org](http://www.feantsa.org)

## Colophon

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

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

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

**Contributions and comments can be sent to:**

ICSW Europe

Gabriela Siantova, Secretary and Editor

E-mail: [gsiantova@gmail.com](mailto:gsiantova@gmail.com)

ICSW European Region:

President: Ronald Wiman (Finland)

Treasurer: Jean-Michel Hote (France)

Members of Executive Committee:

Angele Cepenaite (Lithuania),

Annelise Murakami (Denmark),

Britta Spilker (Germany)

Global Office:

International Council on Social Welfare

Website:

<http://www.icsw.org>

E-mail: [icsw@icsw.org](mailto:icsw@icsw.org)