



ICSW EUROPE NEWSLETTER

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A Message from the President



“Social policy is too important to be left to the politicians”. This was one of the messages of Social Platform (SP) President *Jana Hainsworth* at the SP Flagship Conference in Lisbon on 29/11/2018. The Conference was the first follow-up meeting of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) that was declared at the Gothenburg Social Summit on 17 November, 2017. While EPSR was seen as a good step forward establishing a beacon, a vision for the EU Member States, there was disappointment that it did not constitute a binding legal instrument. Thus a human rights-approach is not feasible in the implementation and monitoring of EPSR. Consequently, it was concluded: let us enter into a political approach instead. Not leaving it to politicians only but involving the broader civil society.

The Council of Europe (CoE) has adopted the European Social Charter already long time ago and has institutionalized its implementation and follow-up procedures in line with the human rights-approach. Actually, many of EPSR items can be justified and supported by the European Social Charter’s binding guarantees. Identifying those windows of opportunity is also one way forward.

The social dimension has always been in the EU since the Treaty of Rome 1957 and ‘Social Europe’ has gone through a positive evolution – if not any revolutions. It remains to be seen, whether EPSR will become a game changer that will make the social dimension more central in the Union’s policies.

While there is much talk about ‘Social Europe’ there is far less ‘walk’ towards more social Europe.

The economic dimension overrules in EU strategies. No doubt, there are many good reasons to justify the application of the subsidiarity principle in social policy. For instance, that is the way to ensure that policies take into account the national social realities, history and institutions. However, the current EU growth and stability strategies have also a strong impact on Members’ social policies. These social impacts have not been systematically followed up and evaluated.

EU parliamentary elections are behind the door and a new EU Commission will enter the scene. It will prepare the next EU Strategy 2019-2024. Now is the opportunity to bring more social contents into the political dialogue. ICSW Europe Member, the German Association for Public and Private Welfare has already done so by publishing a very strong opinion on the need for deepening the social dimension of the EU. See their [statement here](#).

ICSW Europe and its Finnish member, the Finnish Federation of Social Sector and Health (SOSTE) have been cooperating with Social Platform and the Finnish Government to facilitate the preparation of the next follow-up conference on the European Pillar of Social Rights during Finland’s EU Presidency in September 2019. The intention is to bring a more holistic approach into the dialogue on the economic and social dimensions of the EU. More about this ‘Economy of Wellbeing-approach’ in the article by SOSTE in this newsletter.

(Ronald Wiman, ICSW Europe President)

ENSACT

ENSACT dissolved; new initiative being established

The European Network for Social Action – ENSACT – was established in 2007 to promote the human right based approach of social work education and social policies, with a view to producing solutions at the local and regional level.

As its activity level declined, it was decided to review this network and its mission. At the kind hosting of the School of Social Work of Lund University, Sweden, a review meeting took place on 15th October 2018. Present were representatives of PowerUs (Chairing), FESET, EASSW, IFSW, ICSW, NASW (abbreviations, see below) and the Deputy Head of the School of Social Work in Lund and the International coordinator of the University of Lund.

The meeting decided to discontinue the ENSACT-cooperation because it seemed to wither away. However, it was agreed that such networking between European organizations in the social domain must continue. Thus a new unifying mission and a new cooperative structure would be needed.

The partners of the new network should formulate a clear updated mission that would bridge social work practices, professionals, and citizens including service users, policy makers, social work educators and social work researchers. Research should play a central role in the activities. The new network should explore

ways to make concrete cooperation and get external funding to such projects. The new kind of cooperation would be open to new partners, as well.

Next meeting of the potential partners will be on the **11-12 of March 2019** in **Utrecht**. It will be a launching meeting for a new network breaking the boundaries between research and practice, service users and providers, educators and policy advisors. The meeting will take place during the international week of Social Work Education at Utrecht University (*Hogeschool Utrecht*) in the Netherlands.

ICSW Europe has expressed its readiness to continue discussions with all the partners of such a new cooperation structure. We see the collaboration between professionals, citizens, service users and policy advisors and makers very important and useful in order to strengthen the role of the social sector in shaping the future of Europe. ICSW Europe will be present at the next discussions in Utrecht in March 2019.

Contact person of the new initiative is **Cecilia Heule** (Cecilia.Heule[at]soch.lu.se)

Websites of meeting partners:

- School of Social Work, University of Lund, Sweden <https://www.soch.lu.se/> and PowerUs <http://powerus.eu/> (chairs)
- EASSW, European Association of Schools of Social Work <https://www.eassw.org/>
- FESET European Social Education Training <http://www.feset.org/what-is-feset>
- IFSW, International Federation of Social Workers <https://www.ifsw.org/>

- NASW, Nordic Association of Schools of Social Work
<http://www.nassw.socwork.org/en/>
- ICSW International Council on Social Welfare, Europe CSW Europe
<http://icsw.org>

(Ronald Wiman, ICSW Europe President)

ICSW Europe Capacity Building Seminar

ÖKSA (Österreichisches Komitee für Soziale Arbeit) in Vienna, Austria, hosted the recent **ICSW Europe Capacity Building Seminar** on November 22nd, 2018.



10 participants of the meeting discussed the questions on shared values and capacities of members of ICSW Europe and their suggestions for future contributions within the network. The questions were concentrated under the scope of:

- the advantage of and benefits from the ICSW network;
- the shared values of ICSW Europe;
- the way of contribution to our common mission;
- how ICSW Europe's internal network communication should be strengthened;

- involving strong partners and supporters;
- discussion on the medium term future and preparation of the revision of the Work Plan for 2021-2024.

(ICSW Europe Editor)

ICSW Europe General Assembly

ICSW Europe Capacity Building Seminar was followed by the General Assembly of ICSW Europe held on **November 23rd, 2018** at the same place of ÖKSA premises in Vienna, Austria guided by the following Agenda:

- 1) Opening and Checking of Voting Rights (*paid-up members*)
- 2) Approval of the GA Agenda
- 3) Approval of the Minutes of the GA held in Berlin on 6th October, 2017
- 4) ICSW Europe President's Statement
ICSW Europe Annual Report 2017 (for adoption)
- 5) Update on ICSW Global Level Situation
- 6) Report from the Treasurer (*for adoption and discharging of responsibility, after the auditors have made their comments*)
- 7) Reminder: Work Program 2016-2020
- 8) Updating of the Budget for 2018 and Budget for 2019
- 9) Confirmation of 16th June 2018 Election of the President, Ronald Wiman (FI) and the New ICSW Europe Board/Executive Committee Members – Cornelia Markowski (DE) and Njål Petter Svensson (NO) as declared by the ICSW Elections Committee

- Election of one additional member to the ICSW Europe Board
- 10) Discussion and Decision Regarding the Management of the Treasurer Function of ICSW Europe
 - 11) Updated Information about the Official Registration of ICSW Europe in Utrecht (NL)
 - 12) Updates on Their Activities by ICSW Europe National Committees
 - 13) Any Other Matters Arising

Ten ICSW Europe members were present at the most important annual meeting of ICSW Europe. ICSW Europe Board carried out two face to face meetings (before the Capacity Building Seminar – November 22nd and the second meeting after the end of the GA – November 23rd).

ICSW Europe General Assembly confirmed **Cornelia Markowski** and **Njål Petter Svensson** the legitimate ICSW Europe Board members. In the election process, a candidate **Vadim Moldovan** (Project Casa Mare, Moldova) was elected and **became** a new ICSW Europe Board member.



(ICSW Europe Editor)

SOSTE Finland

SOSTE

SOSTE Suomen sosiaali ja terveys ry
 SOSTE Finlands social och hälsa rf
 SOSTE Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health

SOSTE, the Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health, promotes the vision of a Wellbeing Economy for Europe

The year 2019 will most likely be pivotal for Europe and the European Union. The European elections take place in May 2019 and the new European Commission will be nominated later in the summer or autumn. Also the Europe 2020 strategy will soon come to an end and a new vision and future strategy must be produced for the EU in the following months. All of this happens in the middle of different kinds of societal challenges emerging from for example the climate change, the fragile economy and the recent movements in civil societies all over Europe.

SOSTE, the Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health is promoting a positive vision for the future of the European Union which also provides a basis for strategic and policy-level guidance for the coming decade. The vision of Wellbeing Economy positions the wellbeing and good life of the European residents and societies as the leading societal goal. The vision is captured in the sentence **“Working together to build a good life for everyone”**.

In the Wellbeing Economy – approach, human wellbeing is defined as a human state that builds upon sufficient material resources, sufficient health, empowering social relations, trust, critical consciousness, participation and

inclusion. Thus, in order to promote wellbeing we have to help the progress of all these dimensions in society. From the policy perspective Wellbeing Economy is promoted by investing in people's wellbeing and in the wellbeing sector, by fostering inclusion in economic and societal development and by arguing that wellbeing should be seen as a factor of economic growth.

As Finland holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the autumn 2019 it opens great opportunities for SOSTE and the Finnish NGO's in the social and health sector to participate in the debates on the future of Europe. SOSTE has already been in close co-operation with the Finnish Parliament, the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health as well as with the European Commission in order to push forward the vision of Wellbeing Economy. SOSTE hopes that promoting Wellbeing Economy will be one of the main topics during Finland's EU presidency.

SOSTE has also [produced a report](#) which examines how different international organizations from the sectors of economy, health and development have been articulating the view of Wellbeing Economy in their policy proposals and research during the last five years. The report shows that the Wellbeing Economy perspective has been strengthened within the policy agenda of international organizations in recent years. The European Union should also take more determined steps towards the Wellbeing Economy – approach in the coming years.

(Kaarina Tamminiemi, Senior Expert, SOSTE, Finland)

German Association for Public and Private Welfare

Expectations of the German Association for Public and private Welfare regarding the European Union on the occasion of the European Elections 2019: Perspective for a social Europe

European Parliament elections are due in May 2019. The European Commission is also expected to be restaffed by the end of 2019. The German Association for Public and Private Welfare takes the elections as an opportunity to position itself for a social Europe. From the perspective of the German Association, a social Europe is characterised by activities of the European Commission, of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union which collectively set powerful impulses for upward social convergence of the Member States at a high level, flanked by adequate structural support to strengthen social cohesion and with clear social goals in an overall strategy for policy coordination in the EU, with national, regional and local interests together with the interests of civil society being broadly involved in the European decision-making process. For more details, please read our position paper:

<https://www.deutscher-verein.de/en/uploads/dateien-stab-internationales/dv-18-18-expectations-eu-elections-2019.pdf>

(Johannes Fuchs, President; Michael Löher, Managing Director)

Project Casa Mare

Community-based economy project through social work community organizing in rural Moldova

Project Casa Mare is a non-governmental organization that is registered in the Republic of Moldova and dedicated to the mission of social work reform in post-Soviet countries. After ten years of operations, Project Casa Mare has evolved into a consortium of several organizations, each dedicated to a specific dimension of social work: Project Casa Mare serves as a link between the Free International University of Moldova (ULIM) and social work educators in Europe and the United States with the responsibility for the Master of Social Work program at ULIM; the National Association of Social Workers in Moldova is tasked with professionalization of workforce; Vocational Rehabilitation Center-Moldova provides jobs in mental health, social entrepreneurship, and community-based economy to social work graduates. This consortium of organizations under the umbrella of Project Casa Mare is a uniquely-comprehensive constellation that is beginning to effectuate a social work reform in Moldova.

Of particular interest, is an active role of the nascent social work profession in rural Moldova. The Carbuna Project was launched in 2017 in the village of Carbuna, Central Moldova. Famous for the largest archaeological find of a magnificent Neolithic culture known as Trypolie-Cucuteni (circa 5,300 BC), the village of Carbuna is typical in its struggle to survive against catastrophic depopulation and poverty. Social workers,

affiliated with the Project Casa Mare Consortium, are currently working with the people of Carbuna to create a historical-cultural preserve that would serve as a tourist magnet. This experiment in community-based economy gained momentum in the summer of 2018 when the Project Casa Mare Consortium organized the Youth Festival in Carbuna that attracted over two thousand visitors. The event included folk music, rock bands, activities for children, a soccer match, and various traditional ceremonies, but the main purpose was to give the locals an opportunity to sell their crafts and agricultural products.



Festival organizers obtained the funds, provided supplies for produce canning and wine bottling, registered Carbuna-related brands (e.g. Taur Negru de Carbuna) and printed labels, created a promotion campaign, obtained the necessary equipment, etc. This was a momentous undertaking that involved the entire village population, hundreds of visitors from other villages, and Chisinau (capital of Moldova), and foreign guests. Through this event, improvements were made in village infrastructure, e.g. bridges, water supply, and sanitation. The event attracted media attention and was presented at international scholarly conferences.

Of merit is the fact that this social work community organizing project was sustained and is being built upon. At the Carbuna Festival film

premier, the launch of the Carbuna historical-cultural zone was announced. Carbuna is becoming a pilot site for a model of community development that is based on local history, culture, ecology, and social entrepreneurship. Through this project local leadership was identified and activated when the main village contact became a social work student at ULIM. Current activities include preparations for the 2019 Medieval Festival in Carbuna, further improvements in infrastructure, opening of a historical-ethnographic museum, and rehabilitation of several derelict village houses into lodgings for eco-cultural tourism.

The theoretical underpinnings of this project frame the social work profession as a systemic change agent and evolving methodologies focus on fostering internal and external community connections through social entrepreneurship. The success of this project will demonstrate viability of this model in stopping the exodus of rural population, preventing cultural destruction, and alleviating deterioration of rural infrastructure. This project will also provide the evidence for the need to reorient the social work profession from casework toward community organizing.



(author: Vadim Moldovan, Project Casa Mare, Moldova)

Moscow International Forum



Human Rights and Social Guarantees in the Context of Challenges of the 21st Century: International and National Experience

On 28th of November 2018, by the initiative of **Tatiana Potyayeva**, The High Commissioner for Human Rights in Moscow, the Institute of Additional Professional Education for Workers of Social Services hold International Forum “**Human Rights and Social Guarantees in the Context of Challenges of the 21st Century: International and National Experience**”.

The action was devoted to two anniversaries – the 25th anniversary of the **Constitution of the Russian Federation** and the 70th anniversary of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**.

Representatives of 8 states, the UN structures, ICSW, Embassy of France in the RF, Embassy of Italy in the RF, Commissioners for Human Rights and Child Ombudsmen from 9 regions of the RF, representatives of the Russian President Administration, Assembly of the RF, State Duma, Government of Moscow, Moscow City Duma, Commission under the President of the Russian Federation for Disabled People, Trade Unions of Moscow, NGOs, managers of the institutions of social protection of the population of the capital and regions as well as researchers and

academicians attended this event. As a result the forum brought together 370 guests.

Participants gathered for the analysis of efficiency and effectiveness of fundamental documents on human rights in terms of achievement of those purposes for the sake of which they were accepted in the modern societies. The special attention was paid to exchanging of experience and carrying out comparative analysis of various models of ensuring the human rights and basic social guarantees in the Russian Federation, the CIS and the countries of Europe in the conditions of modern global challenges, search of civilization answers and the prospects of their development. *Sergei Zelenev*, Executive Director of ICSW, was a speaker at the panel session with presentation “Social Vulnerability: the Search for Ways to Overcome on the Basis of UN Fundamental Values”.



Sergei Zelenev, Executive Director of ICSW, and *Daniel Mathieu*, Conseiller pour les Affaires Sociales, Embassy of France in the RF



Tatiana Potyaeva, The High Commissioner for Human Rights in Moscow and *Evdokiya Kholostova*, Professor, Director of the Institute of Additional Professional Education for Workers of Social Services



(author: *Natalia Rigina*, Institute for Additional Professional Education of Workers for Social Services)

Ageing Equal



“Human rights do not diminish with age”
A global awareness-raising campaign against ageism

Between 1st October 2018, the International Day of Older Persons and 10th December 2018, the 70th anniversary of the International Human Rights Day, **AGE Platform Europe**, with the support of its partners and fellow civil society organisations, launched a 70 day campaign against ageism.

10th December 2018 marked the [70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10th December 1948 in Paris, France.

The Declaration sets out universal individual rights a person is entitled to as a human being, regardless of his/her age, nation, location, language, religion, ethnic origin or any other status. It is a key milestone document, which underpins all international human rights law and policy work to ensure all people can live in freedom, equality and dignity.

The celebration of this 70th anniversary offered a great reminder that human rights do not diminish with age!

Read more about the campaign:
bit.ly/AGE-AgeingEqual

Useful resources

Campaign blog: ageing-equal.org

Campaign communication toolkit:
trello.com/b/q14dqegb

(source: bit.ly/AGE-AgeingEqual)

Global Campaign to Combat Ageism



The World Health Organization (WHO) defines ageism as the stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination towards people on the basis of age. Ageism cuts across the life-course and stems from the perception that a person might be too old or too young to be or to do something.



Collective, concerted and coordinated global action is required to tackle ageism. Given the current demographic transition, with populations around the world ageing rapidly, we need to act now to generate a positive effect on

individuals and society. In May 2016, the 194 WHO Member States called on the organization's Director-General to develop, in cooperation with other partners, a global campaign to combat ageism [AGE Platform Europe is one of the partners]. To be effective, the global campaign to combat ageism must tackle individual and social attitudes, stereotypes and behaviours towards people on the basis of their age, as well as the laws, policies and institutions that either perpetuate ageism or do little to stop it.



Read more about the campaign:

<https://www.who.int/ageing/ageism/campaign/en/> (source)

Council of Europe



Study on the European Pillar of Social Rights and the Role of the European Social Charter in the European Union Legal Order

The study, conducted by *Olivier de Schutter*, Professor at UCLouvain and SciencesPo and Member of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, was initiated following the request of the [CoE-FRA-ENNHRI-Equinet Platform on Economic and Social Rights](http://CoE-FRA-ENNHRI-Equinet) and it was presented at the last meeting of the Platform in Strasbourg on 28 November 2018.

The study aims at exploring the contribution of the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#), proclaimed by the European Union (EU) institutions in November 2017, to the protection and promotion of social rights in the European Union, and how synergies could be built in the future with the [European Social Charter](#) of the Council of Europe.

Part I of the study describes the protection of fundamental social rights in the EU. It then addresses, in part II, the added value of the European Pillar of Social Rights. Finally, it discusses, in part III, how the Pillar could strengthen its links with the European Social Charter. According to Olivier de Schutter, the European Social Charter, being the main instrument for the protection of social rights in Europe to which all EU Member States are parties, should seize the opportunity represented by the adoption of the Pillar to strengthen social rights in Europe.

[Download the Study on the European Pillar of Social Rights and the role of the European Social Charter in the European Union legal order, by Olivier de Schutter](#)

(source: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/turin-european-social-charter/-/study-on-the-european-pillar-of-social-rights-and-the-role-of-the-european-social-charter-in-the-european-union-legal-order>)

Conferences/Expert Meetings



Conference of INGOs

Dates of the Sessions of the Conference of INGOs in 2019

- The **Spring session** will be held in parallel with the Parliamentary Assembly from **8 to 12 April 2019**
- The **Autumn session** will be held in parallel with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities from **28 to 31 October 2019**

(source: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/ingo/-/dates-of-the-sessions-of-the-conference-of-ingo-in-20-1>)

Promoting Human Relationships : Bridging the Future

Joint World Conference on Social Work Education and Social Development

Rimini, Italy 28 June/1 July 2020



The IASSW and **ICSW** are coming together in RIMINI, ITALY for the 2020 JOINT WORLD CONFERENCE - FROM 28TH JUNE TO 1ST OF JULY with the support of the Italian team which include: Assnas (National Association of Social Workers), Fondazione Assistenti Sociali (Social Work Foundation), Sociss (Italian Society of Social Work) and Figli del Mondo (social enterprise).

www.swesd2020.org

Useful Links

Document of SOSTE – “The Recent Policy Proposals and Research of International Organizations from the Perspective of Wellbeing Economy”:

https://www.soste.fi/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/soste-stm-wellbeing-economy_report_2018.pdf

AGE Human rights Campaign against Ageism:
bit.ly/AGE-AgeingEqual

WHO Global Campaign to Combat Ageism:
<https://www.who.int/ageing/ageism/campaign/en/>

Fighting Against Poverty Intergroup Meeting, Brussels, January 29, 2019:
<https://mailchi.mp/750c14b2e5c7/3st2mro1q7-2123325?e=2baab4c54d>

Study on the European Pillar of Social Rights and the Role of the European Social Charter in the European Union Legal Order:
[Download the Study on the European Pillar of Social Rights and the role of the European Social Charter in the European Union legal order, by Olivier de Schutter](#)

ICSW Germany Position Paper – Expectations of the German Association [...]

<https://www.deutscher-verein.de/en/uploads/dateien-stab-internationales/dv-18-18-expectations-eu-elections-2019.pdf>

Colophon

ICSW Europe registered office is located at the municipality of Utrecht (The Netherlands).

The name of the Association is: International Council on Social Welfare Europe, abbreviated to: ICSW Europe.

The Newsletter of ICSW European Region is published quarterly. Material may be freely reproduced or cited provided the source is acknowledged. Contributions on social welfare from all sectors of the international community are welcome.

Contributions and comments can be sent to:

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Vadim Moldovan (Moldova),
Njål Petter Svensson (Norway)

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