

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Minutes

form: online, ZOOM platform

date: 14th December, 2020 (Monday), 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm CET

present: see the List of participants on the page two

Program:

- 1) Opening and Checking of Voting Rights (*paid-up members*)
- 2) Approval of the Minutes of the GA held in Chisinau, Moldova, June 14th 2019
- 3) Election of ICSW Europe Board members 2020-2022 (*for approval and decision*)
- 4) ICSW Europe President's Statement, presentation of the ICSW Annual Activity Report 2019, including a Preliminary Report of 2020 (*for approval*)
- 5) Report of 2019 from the Treasurer (*for adoption and discharging of responsibility, after the auditors have made their comments*)
- 6) Confirmation of Auditors for 2021 (for approval and decision)
- 7) Summary of ICSW Global General Assembly 8/11/2020 and Global Program 2021-2024 and implications for ICSW Europe (*for discussion and decision*)
- 8) Updating of the Budget for 2020 and Budget for 2021
- 9) Any Other Matters Arising
- 10) Closing the General Assembly

[Table 1: ICSW Europe General Assembly – The list of present participants]
(in alphabetical order following the categories and countries)

COUNTRY	ORGANIZATION	REPRESENTATIVE	POSITION
<i>A members – 2 votes</i>			
AUSTRIA	ÖKSA - Österreichisches Komitee Für Soziale Arbeit	Irene KÖHLER	General Manager
FINLAND	SOSTE – Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health	Ronald WIMAN	ICSW Europe President
FINLAND	SOSTE – Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health	Kirsi MARTTINEN	Senior Adviser
GERMANY	German Association for Public and Private Welfare	Michael LOEHER	Executive Director
GERMANY	German Association for Public and Private Welfare	Monika BUENING	Head of Department for International Affairs
NORWAY	ICSW Norway	Njål Petter SVENSSON	ICSW Norway President
NORWAY	ICSW Norway	Randi REESE	Vice-President
SPAIN	EAPN España	Mariasole RAIMONDI	Advocacy officer
<i>C members – 1 vote</i>			
FRANCE	Comité Français pour l'Action et le Développement Social (CFADS)	Jean-Michel HÔTE	CFADS Treasurer / ICSW Europe Vice-President
LITHUANIA	Lithuanian National Committee	Angele CEPENAITE	President of National Committee
MOLDOVA	Project Casa Mare	Vadim MOLDOVAN	Director
The NETHERLANDS	Movisie	Anjo LEENEN	International Officer
SWEDEN	ICSW Sweden	Axel ÅGREN	President ICSW Sweden
SWITZERLAND	Schweizerische Konferenz für Sozialhilfe (SKOS) Swiss conference for social welfare	Corinne HUTMACHER-PERRET	Leader section studies

<i>Non-voting Delegates and Observers</i>			
FRANCE (C)	Comité Français pour l'Action et le Développement Social (CFADS)	Philippe STECK	Chairman
SWEDEN (C)	ICSW Sweden	Eva HOLMBERG-HERRSTRÖM	
UK (E)		Sylvia BEALES	Researcher Expertise in UN processes
SLOVAKIA	ICSW Europe	Gabriela SIANTOVA	Secretary ICSW Europe

1) Opening and checking of Voting Rights (*paid up members*)

ICSW Europe President *Ronald Wiman* opened the General Assembly and welcomed all the present participants at ICSW Europe General Assembly which, due to the current Covid-19 epidemic situation, was held in online form. Checking of voting rights was carried out by ICSW Europe Secretary *Gabriela Siantova*.

Votes taken into accounts are those ones of members who have paid their annual 2019 membership fees.

ICSW Europe membership is as follows:

Category A (National Committees)= 6 members (Austria, Armenia, Finland, Germany, Norway and Spain) having two voting rights each according to ICSW Regional By-Laws¹;

Category C (Other national organisations)= 12 members having one voting right each according to ICSW Regional By-Laws (the Czech republic, Cyprus, France, Georgia, Italy, Ireland, Lithuania, Moldova, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Switzerland, Sweden);

Category E (Individual members)= 10 members – having no voting right according to ICSW Regional By-Laws.

Two C category members (Association of Citizens Advice Centres – the Czech republic and EAPN – Ireland) have not paid their membership fees and are not counted in the voting capacity.

Total membership **in capacity to vote** is then 16 out of 18 representing 22 voting rights.

The **present ICSW Europe members** in capacity to vote were as follows:

Category A members: 5 (five) members / 10 (ten) votes

Category C members: 6 (six) members / 6 (six) votes

Total votes: 11 (eleven) / 16 (sixteen) votes

The General Assembly was **quorate** representing 11 members with voting rights of 16 votes out of a total 18 members with 22 votes. No proxies have been obtained.

¹ ICSW Regional By-Laws – a document adopted by the Board on 7th July, 2014

2) Approval of the Minutes of the GA held in Chisinau (14th June, 2019)

The Minutes of the GA held in Chisinau, Moldova (14th June, 2019) written by *Gabriela Siantova* and previously approved by ICSW Europe Board were again distributed to all participants before the online GA. **The Minutes were approved** without any modification.

3) Election of ICSW Europe Board members 2020-2022 (for approval and decision)

Ronald Wiman informed the participants about election process to the vacant ICSW Europe Board posts. The list of nominees has been sent to all ICSW Europe members before the GA. These are the candidates and posts **open to election**:

[Table 2: The candidates and posts open to election to ICSW Europe Board]

Post in the Board	Number of vacancies	Nominations received
Vice President of ICSW Europe:	one	Mr. Jean-Michel Hôte (France)
Treasurer of ICSW Europe:	one	Ms. Monika Büning (Germany)
Board Member of ICSW Europe:	two	Mr. Vadim Moldovan (Moldova) Ms. Alina Petrauskienė (Lithuania) Mr. Njål Petter Svensson (Norway)

Ronald Wiman (Finland) was elected by ICSW Global General Assembly on 8th November 2020 and is in the function of ICSW Europe President for the next two year period.

Ballot papers for all the posts were sent to all ICSW Europe members on December 9th 2020. Voters have three options to mark each candidate: yes – no – abstain. For the post of the Board member of ICSW Europe only two candidates can be selected. Deadline for sending the filled in ballot papers was set on **December 17th 2020 by 12:00 noon CET**. The total number of votes = Ballot papers will be returned to Secretary *Gabriela Siantova*. The candidates with the largest (weighted) votes of Yes will be selected. The Secretary will send only totals to Election Committee (*Ms. Irene Köhler*). The details will be kept until Board endorses the report by the Election Committee and then deleted.

The GA **approved** the suggested procedure of election in per-rollam form without any amendments.

4) ICSW Europe President's Statement, presentation of the ICSW Annual Activity Report 2019, including a Preliminary Report of 2020 (for approval)

Ronald Wiman presented an ICSW Europe Annual Activity Report of 2019 year. He marked that ICSW Europe worked actively in accounted year 2019. In his report he also presented a preliminary report for 2020 as the GA took place nearly at the end of the year 2020. In the Activity report he highlighted the following items:

a) Mission

ICSW Europe kept the mission of promoting a comprehensive approach to social policy in the European Region as an integral element of sustainable development (SDG) agenda.

b) Management

In 2019 ICSW Europe Board consisted of:

President of ICSW Europe	<i>Ronald Wiman</i> (Finland)
Vice-President (and acting Treasurer) of ICSW Europe	<i>Jean-Michel Hôte</i> (France)
Board member of ICSW Europe	<i>Cornelia Markowski</i> (Germany)
Board member of ICSW Europe	<i>Njål Petter Svensson</i> (Norway)
Board member of ICSW Europe	<i>Vadim Moldovan</i> (Moldova)

Gabriela Siantova (Slovakia) acted as a Secretary of ICSW Europe.

ICSW auditors were *Hynek Kalvoda* (Czech Republic) and *Angele Cepenaite* (Lithuania).

The members of the Election Committee elected during the GA in Prague (27th May 2016), *Solveig Askjem* (Norway) and *Irene Köhler* (Austria) were still performing their mission.

c) ICSW Europe General Assembly

The last ICSW Europe General Assembly took place in Chisinau (Moldova) on June 14th 2019 at the invitation and generous hosting by Casa Mare Project headed by ICSW Europe Board Member, *Vadim Moldovan* in cooperation with the National Social Workers Association in Moldova.

The GA was preceded by a capacity building Seminar on June 13th. The seminar discussed strategic issues with the help of two tools: The Logical Framework Approach (LFA) and Balanced Score Card (BSC) tool.

A field trip was organized by the hosts to their project site in the countryside.

d) Registration of Association ICSW Europe

Association ICSW Europe has originally been registered at the Utrecht Chamber of Commerce on June 19th, 2007 and it has its registered office in the municipality of Utrecht. In 2018/2019 there was a risk of discontinuity due to the change in personnel of ICSW Member Organization in the Netherlands, the MOVISIE. The new management of MOVISIE decided to continue membership and cooperation with ICSW. The ICSW Europe President visited MOVISIE and agreed about the steps forward with Ms. *Anjo Leenen* of MOVISIE organization. The registration was updated by the devoted help by MOVISIE in the course of the year 2019.

e) Participation in ICSW Global Board

ICSW Europe was active in participation in ICSW Global Board in administration, and discussion on the substance.

f) Events and Conferences

The ICSW Europe President participated (13th February 2019 – 22nd February 2019) in the UN Commission on Social Development 57th Session in New York in the Finnish Government Delegation and as ICSW representative. He also participated in the Civil Society days (15/2/2019) together with ICSW UN Representative Mr. *Sergei Zelenev*.

ICSW, in cooperation with Finnish Federation of Social Sector and Health (SOSTE) and other partners, organized a Side Event "[Accountability dimension: social protection as a tool for the reduction of inequalities](#)".

One of the ICSW Europe key activities is to support the ICSW Europe members in organising seminars/expert meetings. ICSW Europe supported financially three events: 1) The German-speaking members organized an Expert Meeting on "The Situation of Family Caregivers in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland" on 14th-15th November, managed by our Austrian member ÖKSA; 2) Forening for Sosialt Arbeid – ICSW Norway organized a seminar on "Preventive work among young people" on 3rd May 2019 and 3) On 6th -7 th December there was the International Expert Meeting on "Poverty of Children in Nordic Countries" organized by ICSW Europe's Swedish Member. ICSW Europe President participated in this meeting in Malmö, Sweden.

ICSW Europe had the opportunity to be active in cooperating and supporting Finnish EU Presidency in the second half of 2019 and coorganizing the Social Platform Flagship Conference: Building Social Europe, in Helsinki, Finland, September 16th-18th 2020.

Ronald Wiman noticed that ICSW effort to have a world conference in Rimini was not successful because of COVID-19 situation worldwide. Although the terms for conference were postponed twice, the conference has not been finally hold (the preparatory Scientific Committee received around 2,400 abstracts and approved 1,200. This would have indicated very good participation and consequently income).

g) Partnerships and joint activities

ICSW Europe is active as a member of Social Platform (participating in the Steering group and SP General Assembly); it cooperates with SDG Watch Europe (but ICSW Europe does not have any representative in SDG Watch Europe); with AGE Platform Europe (thanks to the participation of *Jean-Michel Hôte*) and ENSACT (currently ENSACT is looking for a new way of cooperating with its members/partners).

ICSW Europe has its representatives in the Council of Europe (*Gérard Schaefer* (France) and *Nino Shatberashvili* (Georgia)). ICSW Europe has also its representative (*Angele Cepenaite*, Lithuania) in European Institute for Gender Equality – EIGE. *Angele Cepenaite* took part in its annual meeting in 2019.

h) Knowledge building and dissemination

ICSW Europe published four newsletters which were distributed electronically. There are approximately five hundred subscribers worldwide.

The Newsletter publishes Editorial, Statements, News, Activities of members, and Partners, conferences, etc.

Ronald Wiman encouraged the participants of the GA to contribute more in Newsletter with the news from their organisations.

i) Membership

In 2019 ICSW Europe was represented by:

- Category A (National Committees)= 6 members (Austria, Armenia, Finland, Germany, Lithuania and Norway);
- Category C (Other national organizations)= 12 members;
As it has been stated above, in 2019, two C members were unable to pay for their fees because of financial constraints.
- Category E (Individual members)= 10 members.

As a whole, there is no increase in membership even though we had the pleasure to welcome EAPN Spain as a new A member.

In this point *Ronald Wiman* remarked that A category members have tendency to turn into C category members (a motive is economic incentives) – it is a challenge that is waiting for being solved through review of the fee structure and regulatory framework at the global level.

Discussion:

Eva Holmberg-Herrström: commented on the point in the Activity Report, the point concerning Events and Conferences, that the International Expert Meeting on “Poverty of Children in Nordic Countries” (organized by ICSW Sweden in Malmö, Sweden on 6th-7th December) – was a common seminar of the Nordic countries and German speaking countries on the theme of child poverty in the countries – **will be corrected**.

Irene Köhler: pointed out that there were incorrect data of Rimini conference stated in the presentation. Planned Joint Conference in Rimini was not postponed to July 2019 and November 2019 but July 2020 and November 2020 – **will be corrected**.

The Activity Report of 2019 **was approved** with above stated modification.

Ronald Wiman presented a Preliminary Activity Report for 2020 year. In his presentation he highlighted the following points:

j) Global Priorities of Joint Global Agenda 2020-2024 have four priorities which derive from SDGs:

- 1) Poverty reduction
- 2) Gender equality
- 3) Reduced inequalities
- 4) Peace, justice and strong institutions

The years would each focus on one of those themes in the context of the global economic and political circumstances, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Climate Crisis.

k) There are currently changes in ICSW Europe Board: the German Association for public and private care is represented by Ms. *Monika Büning*. The previous representative of the national organisation was Ms. *Cornelia Markowski* who passed away in Spring 2020 shortly after having finished her activity within the organisation. *Ronald Wiman* invited the present to pay tribute in memory of the deceased and to join with a minute of silence.

Currently, the Elections 2020 to ICSW Europe Board are being held.

As the next point *Ronald Wiman* reminded that there have been quite intensive discussions about participation in Global process to review ICSW structure and regulatory frameworks. In cooperation with Ms. *Eva Holmberg-Herrström* and Mr. *Chua Hoi Wai* (President of the North East Asia ICSW), *Ronald Wiman* was called into an ad hoc working group to make an initial assessment on the structure and regulatory framework of ICSW. The working group submitted the analysis to the Global Board that directed it to the Global General Assembly (8th December, 2020) for decision on next steps.

l) Events and conferences

ICSW Europe continues in being active in UN CSocD, Social Platform (attendance in Steering Committee and GA; strategy formulation) and Age Platform (Age Platform organized an online joint Conference by the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, AGE and BAGSO (the German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organizations) on 28th-29th September 2020 on “*Improving human rights, participation and well-being of older persons in era of digitalization*” – *Jean-Michel Hôte* participated in the conference).

m) Other

Three ICSW Europe Newsletters have been produced (Issue No 3/2020 will be published by the end of 2020 year – currently working on its preparation).

o) Finances

Ronald Wiman informed that ICSW Europe has been economically well balanced until these days. In 2020 the cancelling of Rimini Conference caused major loss to ICSW Global. For this reason ICSW Global asked three regions to withdraw from receiving the allocation of membership fees which normally represents 50%. There was a discussion on this matter within ICSW Europe Board with coming to a conclusion that ICSW Europe has difficulties with withdrawing all its membership fees. However, ICSW Europe understands that on behalf of a principle of solidarity it should participate in this economic challenge which ICSW Global is facing. For this reason the GA should discuss and agree on advance. There is a proposal: **ICSW Europe participates in the covering of the global deficit by reclaiming only 50% of the membership income it is entitled to** which would result in a balanced budget of ICSW Europe.

Jean-Michel Hôte presented the situation of ICSW Europe in 2019, current situation in 2020 and prospects for 2021 – see Table 3 below. He underlined that in 2018 ICSW Europe decided to adopt the budget for 2019 with accepting a deficit (the GA voted for this proposal). The reason was to motivate work between members through the item of Budget in Work Programme. In 2019,

however, ICSW Europe has saved costs for managing ICSW Europe face to face General Assembly thanks to help of Moldovan Project Casa Mare and Vadim Moldovan. The result was a balanced situation with low deficit equal to **-239.16€**.

As ICSW Europe plans to financially support ICSW Europe members in organising expert meetings/conferences in 2021, there will be some expenses that needed to be included in the budget. For 2020 two versions of updated budget have been outlined: **version a)** counting with **50%** of membership fees received – in this case ICSW Europe will still reach a surplus of +1,400€ (see the second column of the Table 3 below) and **version b)** with **25%** of membership fees received (in this case ICSW Europe will generate a loss equal to -1,725€ – column 3 of the Table 3 below).

Jean-Michel Hôte informed that ICSW Europe agreed with receiving only 40% (instead of 50%) of membership fees distribution for the past two years as a temporary exceptional decision as decided at the Madrid Global Board meeting in 2017.

Jean-Michel Hôte as a Treasurer prefers **a) version** of the budget which he accounted that this issues a more stable financial situation in ICSW Europe's budget. If ICSW Global needs some financial support (as ICSW Europe used to do in the past) ICSW Europe can provide one-time support if needed instead of providing further 25% of membership income.

[Table 3: ICSW Europe Balance sheets 2019-2020, 2021]

ICSW Europe Balance sheets 2019-2020, 2021				
	2019 (50% of membership fees received)	a) 2020 (50% of membership fees received)	b) 2020 (25% of membership fees received)	2021 (50% of membership fees received)
Income	11,910.22	6,250.00	3,325.00	12,600.00
Expenditure	12,241.06	5,050.00	5,050.00	18,600.00
Balance	-239.16	+1,400	-1,725.00	-6,000.00

Discussion:

Ronald Wiman: “This is a very difficult situation as ICSW Global suffered income from Rimini conference as it has been cancelled due to the current situation with pandemic”.

Eva Holmberg-Herrström – gave a background to the history of distribution of membership fees to the regions. In the past, ICSW Global used to send on a normal basis 40% of membership fees income to the regions. After the situation was economically more positive, ICSW Global raised distributing membership fees to the regions on the level of 50%. The current budget of ICSW Global was discussed at the ICSW Global General Assembly. *Eva Holmberg-Herrström* characterised the

economic situation now as “a very terrible“. The way to survive for the ICSW Global lies in not distributing finances coming out from membership fees to the regions for 2020 year. However, the budget for 2021 counts with the distribution to the regions and in 2022 the finances will be repaid.

Monika Büning – supported *Jean-Michel Hôte's* standpoint for **a) version** concerning receiving of 50% of membership fees in 2020 as also ICSW Europe has to show activity and to support its members' activities via supporting financially their expert seminars/conferences.

Eva Holmberg-Herrström – commented on *Monika Büning's* standpoint that there is a possibility to ask for financial support for the events not only ICSW Europe but they can be financed from other different funds as it was in the case of the International Expert Meeting on “Poverty of Children in Nordic Countries and German speaking countries”.

Monika Büning: German Association for Public and private Welfare finances the prepared seminar for 2020 year from own source, too, however, to start looking for a different financer at this stage is not real.

Ronald Wiman – clarified supporting the members' activities and characterised the support from ICSW Europe only as a partial funding. ICSW Europe contributes with “incentive money“ to activate its members to their seminars. In 2021 the plan is that we should count for only one face-to-face seminar and one face-to-face General Assembly meeting. ICSW Europe may support seminars organised in online form with small contribution (e.g. from 500€ to 700€) for hiring external expertise to provide input to the seminar. This is also a part of developing an ICSW Europe's knowledge building activities.

Corinne Hutmacher-Perret – supported **a) version** of the budget. SKOS Switzerland does not have the possibilities to finance their conferences/expert meetings from other funds.

Kirsi Marttinen – thinks that it is important that ICSW Europe covers its expenditure. “Is it possible that we consider also other options, not only a) or b) of suggested versions? One possibility will be if ICSW Europe evaluates expenditure for 2020 year being 5,050€ and reclaims that amount of membership fees back. Do any other regions surrender their income from membership fees?”

Eva Holmberg-Herrström – clarified that within ICSW Regions there is an agreement that those regions that should have less than 2,000 USD back will not receive the money because of high charge for bank transfer. The reality is that only Europe, North East Asia and South East Asia have been entitled the 50% of their regional membership fees for each year. Europe is the region which contributes the highest amount to the global budget.

To discussion on this item also contributed:

Mariasole Raimondi – supporting a) version of membership fees received.

Angele Cepenaite – supporting a) version of membership fees received.

Michael Loehner – can see *Kirsi Marttinen's* proposal as feasible, too.

Irene Köhler – supported *Kirsi Marttinen's* proposal. To solve this situation needs a compromise.

Resolution 1/2020:

ICSW Europe General Assembly **agrees on** reclaiming of the sum in the amount of around **5,050€ of membership fees** from ICSW Global which is the sum needed for covering **the expenditure of ICSW Europe Of year 2020**. The final figure of expenditures will be known at the very end of the year; so the 2020 accounts would be just balanced.

This decision comes as a compromise between a) and b) of originally suggested versions.

In the next point, *Ronald Wiman* continued with ICSW Europe Activity Report and the visions for 2021 year. ICSW Europe counts on basing its activities on the Global priorities which means that ICSW Europe in terms of aligning with the Global ICSW will be working on setting social development agenda through conferences and webinars (mainly on-line); training programs on social welfare and social development with developing countries with special focus on Afirca (ICSW Europe can contribute to this task with an expert process input) and working on strengthening membership structure.

Further, ICSW Europe will work in terms of aligning with priorities of Member Organisations in Europe and will cooperate with partners in the context of Council of Europe and the European Union. As mentioned above, ICSW Europe is also planning to support webinars and organise one face-to face expert seminar and one face-to face GA in 2021.

Philippe Steck – in this point he suggested that ICSW Europe needs to take concrete action. As an example he proposed that he can meet with Paris Municipality and find out if it is feasible to organise a seminar with the theme of homelessness which is a serious matter (at least in France) these days.

Eva Holmberg-Herrström – asked the present participants to present their opinions on closing the African office and losing the expertise of Roselyn Nakiryra who has worked for ICSW for several years.

Ronald Wiman – informed that ICSW Europe Board has drafted an official letter to the ICSW Global President to reconsider options for the plan of closing the African office.

Eva Holmberg-Herrström – thanked ICSW Europe Board for this initiative. She expressed that she fully supports the initiative.

Sylvia Beales – expressed her support for having drafted the letter on reconsidering the closing of African office. She also reacted to *Philippe Steck's* proposal to be actively engaged in homelessness topic: “Referring to the Commission for Social Development which is coming up in January 2021 – the last year the topic was homelessness”. She together with Finland and other partners was involved in a really good initiative to bring the experience of Finland to eradicate homelessness. “This year there is a discussion now beginning about a side event to link homelessness to COVID-19 and response via social protection for all with the idea of establishing the global fund for social protection which is now being debated as a response to COVID-19 but also to make sure that the Sustainable Goal 1 of Social Protection floor is actually implemented as a means to deliver equality and the right to housing”. She remarked that it would be welcomed to have the support of ICSW Europe or ICSW Global to this initiative in any form. She will send a concept note to *Ronald Wiman*.

5) Report of 2019 from the Treasurer (for adoption and discharging of responsibility, after the auditors have made their comments)

This point of the Agenda was discussed in the point 4.

Angele Cepenaite presented Auditor's report on ICSW Europe 2019 accounts:

“We, appointed as auditors of ICSW Europe by the General Assembly in Vienna (23 November 2018), have examined the accounts for the period **1st January 2019 to 31 December 2019**.

Revenues and expenses could be verified and bank accounts in French Bank “Crédit Mutuel” could be checked.

Those information have been matched with the entries of the year (Excel table sent on November 13 previously approved by the Board).

The bank situation on the 31 December 2019 is as follows :

-Giro accounts : 505,87 €

-Savings: 48 253,70 €

Total assets : 48 759, 57 €

On the basis of the documents we checked, we propose the General Assembly to discharge the Vice-president presently acting as Treasurer, and the Board of the responsibility for the period that the audit covers”

The report was adopted and discharged the Treasurer and the Board of responsibility.

6) Confirmation of Auditors for 2021 (for approval and decision)

Two auditors have been elected in 2018: *Angele Cepenaite* and *Hynek Kalvoda*.

ICSW Europe does not know if *Hynek Kalvoda* will still be in capacity to carry on his duty. *Angele Cepenaite* has accepted to continue in the position of an Auditor for one more year.

She will receive the 2020 accounting documents for auditing.

7) Summary of ICSW Global General Assembly 8/11/2020 and Global Program 2021-2024 and implications for ICSW Europe (for discussion and decision)

This point was discussed in the point 4) of the Agenda.

8) Updating of the Budget for 2020 and Budget for 2021

This point was discussed in the point 4) of the Agenda.

9) Any Other Matters Arising

Irene Köhler – raised the matter of closing the African office and consequently losing *Roselyn Nakiryra's* expertise she characterised negatively. If Austria were asked for any subsidy for keeping African office they could partially financially donate it. It is important that ICSW Europe takes a stand to this matter and acts. As she said, “*Roselyn Nakiryra* presents the stability for ICSW and is a highly competent person within the organisation with a long time experience”. She made a proposal that other organisations of ICSW Global can be asked to voluntarily donate keeping the African office. This situation needs a solution, not a yes-no immediate decision under pressure.

Eva Holmberg-Herrström – supported *Irene Köhler's* viewpoint and she sees this decision as a short-sighted. She proposed that the ICSW Europe GA took a resolution to demand keeping the African office and *Roselyn Nakiryra* in the function.

After discussions the GA reached the resolution.

Resolution 2/2020:

ICSW Europe General Assembly will send its standpoint concerning disagreement with cancelling the African office and termination of *Roselyn Nakiryra's* contract as ICSW Information Officer. The draft of an official letter reflecting ICSW Europe GA's standpoint (1st document) and the Resolution of the GA (as a 2nd document) will be sent to all ICSW Europe GA participants for commenting/modifying and subsequently to be forwarded to ICSW Global President in an appropriate way.

For this resolution voted in favour:

14 (fourteen) participants with a voting capacity

A category member participants (member organisation has a capacity of two votes): 8 participants / 10 votes

C category member participants (member organisation has a capacity of one vote): 6 participants / 6 votes

Total votes for **YES: 16 (sixteen)**

10) Closing the General Assembly

Ronald Wiman – closed the GA with the statement that “We are in the situation that this year 2020 will have very long shadow and there is no way out of those impacts of COVID-19 without a comprehensive and equitable social policy. This is exactly what we in ICSW are promoting with our partners in Europe. Also we have a good access to intergovernmental organisations.” He further mentioned that “ICSW will work with the partners and organisations to alleviate the destiny of people who have been most seriously affected in Europe especially, but also in other continents through the Global level. It is best done by keeping with ICSW Mission to promote equity and economic and social innovations in the context of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. This perspective would be also used to recover from this economic and social distress we currently live”.

Ronald Wiman thanked all the participant of ICSW Europe General Assembly for their attendance.