



Europe

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ICSW Work Program

An ICSW Europe contribution to future ICSW Program and ICSW Europe Program:

Suggested themes for Global Programme:

- 1) Poverty (social and economic inequalities)
- 2) Migration
- 3) Children and young people

Suggested themes for ICSW Europe Programme:

- 1) Poverty
- 2) Migration
- 3) Segregation (Social cohesion)
- 4) Aging

Issues:

- 1) Migration and promoting global responsibility for victims of violent national and international conflicts could be mentioned specifically (or conflict prevention by active social development).
- 2) Human Rights are very relevant issue.
- 3) Social dimensions of conflicts and migration could be emphasized globally.
- 4) Continuing the work with Social Protection Floor Initiative.
- 5) Working towards sustainability could be broadened, e.g. "Working toward economic, social and environmental sustainability". Welfare economy (social economy) and social investment policy.
- 6) Family policies "Positive parenthood".
- 7) International trade treaties as means of furthering ICSW's support for forms of global

taxation; Global Carbon Credit system as one example, which is in line with the goal for sustainable development.

Other ideas for discussion:

- 1) Possibilities and threats of EU harmonization (social cohesion) – social policy, immigrant issues etc. (Question about whether EU is the best possible platform to further ICSW's goals, e.g. should ICSW support integration or not).
- 2) Austerity policies of several EU countries represent a possible threat for social welfare in the EU. Evaluating (and mitigating) social effects of these policies could be one area of priorities and actions for ICSW. Comparing EU and non-EU (or non-Euro) countries might be relevant in this context.
- 3) Decline of traditional international co-operation, projects and development aid. Discussion whether this process (if it exists) is beneficial from ICSW's perspective or not: what are the issues, what are the alternatives etc.
- 4) The ageing of families is going to appeal to new services for households with strong dependence in spite of the improvement of life expectancy quality. It is the case for home care.
- 5) The conciliation between professional family life and professional life is going to require payment for parental vacation, but also day-nursery services or nursery assistants, and also home employees, in more quantity.
- 6) The world progress of single-parent families (soon 25% in Europe in next years, current explosion in South America, beginnings in China), are certainly going to require basic welfare benefits, but also services of family mediation.
- 7) The emergence of the individualism and part of juvenile delinquency are going to require a support, called the "positive parenthood" in European Union, in contact with the Education.

- 8) The access to housing, now essential part of family budget, is going to favour its preservation in case of outstanding payments of rents.
- 9) Unemployment question, especially among the youth in Europa. That is 15% in OECD.
- 10) Emerging countries, in fight against the informal economy, and in the frame of a world base construction of social welfare, can be brought to reflect about the best ways and means to assure one fair social redistribution.

ICSW Europe will be active within Social Platform, which is the most representative organization representing European NGOs active within social sector.

Co-operation of national committee's (Member organizations) within regional and global organization should be farther improved.

(Miloslav Hettes, ICSW Europe President, Philippe Steck, CNAF France)

Social Platform

Social Platform in reaction to a current situation with refugee crisis has issued an open letter (available in different language versions: Arabic, Danish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish).

An open letter to people fleeing war, persecution and poverty

"As Europeans, We Apologise on behalf of our national and European leaders for their inexcusable lack of coordinated humanitarian aid to the situation you and thousands of others are in

while crossing our borders to escape war, persecution and poverty.

We understand that making this journey was not an easy decision for you and may have involved putting the lives of your loved ones at risk, or worse. We will continue to urge our decision-makers to provide safe and regular channels to the EU, so that your wellbeing does not rest in the hands of people smugglers.

Civil society organisations and thousands of people across the EU are taking a stand despite many governments' inaction by opening their homes, sharing their food and donating their clothes. We will keep pressuring our politicians to fulfil their humanitarian obligation to ensure the provision of such services rather than leaving it up to individuals or organisations to provide them without support.

The decision you made that led you here to Europe required a lot of courage. We implore our leaders to demonstrate the same courage by coming together to find a pan-European response that respects each individual's human rights regardless of their status

While several of our leaders seem to have forgotten the EU's core values of solidarity and human rights, we have not. The EU has the capacity to welcome you with open arms, and the unwillingness to do so is an embarrassment to us. We acknowledge your right to seek refuge in safer regions and to be treated with dignity. We also recognise the contribution that you can make and we will fight to give you this opportunity".

[\(http://www.socialplatform.org/what-we-do/over-arching-campaigns/migration/weapologise/\)](http://www.socialplatform.org/what-we-do/over-arching-campaigns/migration/weapologise/)

ICSW President Nomination

The President of the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) – Nomination

The Management Committee of the International Council on Social Welfare announced a world-wide search for a new President of the organization. The presidency of the ICSW is a prestigious honorary position that is not remunerated.

The President provides strategic and policy guidance to the organization, represents the ICSW in international meetings and other fora, and chairs the meetings of the Management Committee and the International Board. He is supported in his work by the Executive Director in New York and the Global Administrative Office in Entebbe, Uganda.

The position should be filled by 1 February 2016. The President will be elected by ICSW member organizations through electronic vote in December 2015. The mandate of the President has a duration of four years and is non-renewable. It is essential that a new President assume her/his position well before the next General Assembly of ICSW and the Joint World Conference in Seoul **at the end of June 2016**.

Interested candidates should have sent a letter of nomination accompanied by a personal statement and a detailed Curriculum Vitae before 15 October 2015. The new President will be elected before the end of 2015 year (or before the end of January 2016 at the latest).

ICSW Europe has nominated current ICSW Europe President – **Miloslav Hettes**.

EESC Consultative Commission on Industrial Change: delegates 2016-2020 – Nomination

Purpose of the CCMI: *“The European Economic and Social Committee set up the CCMI in 2002 taking on the heritage of the former European Coal and Steel Community when the Treaty expired. The CCMI is made up of 51 EESC members representing equally the three Committee's Groups and 51 external delegates, drawing on a wide range of knowledge and experience gained in a variety of socio-occupational organisations in various sectors affected by the modernisation of the economy. The CCMI's primary role is based on anticipation, pre-emption and analysis so as to ensure positive common approaches to the management of industrial change from an economic, social, territorial and environmental point of view”.*

(Pierre Baussand, Director of Social Platform)

Nomination to the EESC Consultative Commission on Industrial Change: delegates 2016-2020

The EESC asked Social Platform to propose 2 candidates (and one alternate to replace them in their absence) for the Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (CCMI) for the period 2016-2020 (deadline for sending proposals **by 4 November at the latest**). The Bureau of Group III will make the final selection in November [2015], in order to allow the CCMI mandate to begin on **1st January 2016**.

Dirk Jarré, President of EURAG has been Social Platform's representative to the CCMI's last mandate (2010-2015).

Following the EESC call for nomination for its Consultative Commission on Industrial Change, Social Platform proposes the following two candidates:

Dirk Jarré (President of EURAG)

Miloslav Hetteš (President of ICSW Europe).

Dirk Jarré (President of EURAG)

“EURAG is proud to be one of the founding members of the Platform of European Social NGOs. For many years I have had the honour to serve the Social Platform as member of the Management Committee, as Vice-President (three mandates) and as chair of one of its permanent working groups. Since several years I am, in my function as President of EURAG, a member of the Bureau of the United Nation Economic Commission for Europe’s governmental “Working Group on Ageing” where my responsibility consists in representing civil society concerns”.

The candidate Dirk Jarré possesses profound knowledge of European integration issues, European institutions, processes and working methods, being a university lecturer on such topics. In addition he also has extensive practical expertise in the functioning of the European institutions having already served the European Economic and Social Committee, the Social Platform and other organisations in this context.

Dirk Jarré has worked for more than 30 years in the area of general as well as specific social policy in the European as well as in the global context – with particular focus on its relations with general societal and economic issues and developments. Since more than a decade he has frequently served the European Economic and Social Committee as an expert on such matters.

Miloslav Hetteš (President of ICSW Europe)

“I wish to use my experience and knowledge in employment, industrial relations, sustainable development and in environmental balance with the social development. My intention is to advise The European Economic and Social Committee's Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (CCMI).

Important now are those areas of the industries and their production and consumption chains in which the EU is active. There is ongoing industrial change in many sectors that create repercussions on employment, social and structural policy measures, environmental and sustainable development policy, energy policy and trade policy. Especially I can be useful in questions of industrial change in the new Member States and candidate countries.

ICSW Europe is an independent part of global organization (since 1928) that works for sustainable social and economic development for everyone. ICSW Europe stands for an integrated approach of economic, social and socio-cultural strategies and actions. ICSW Europe promotes forms of social and economic development, which aim to reduce poverty, hardship and vulnerability, especially amongst disadvantaged people; strives for recognition and realization of fundamental rights to employment; promotes policies and programs which strike an appropriate balance between social and economic goals and which respect cultural diversity. ICSW Europe seeks implementation of these objects by governments, international organizations and non-governmental agencies in cooperation with its network of national organizations in Europe. ICSW Europe provides also an arena for international dialogue between practitioners, researchers and policy makers.

ICSW Europe is a member of Social Platform. I will

be representing also common position of the Social Platform as the largest platform of European rights and value-based NGOs working in the social sector.

In this way, I will use my experience of 17 years work national ministry of labour and foreign affairs in senior positions (structural funds, expert work in Bosnia and Herzegovina); EU (EPSCO representative for 6 years, SPC, EMCO, EU/ASEM working group chair in Indonesia, labour law twinning expert work in Macedonia); work with the International Labour Organization (expert work on shadow economy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova); Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN United Nations (resolution on elderly rights, working group on ageing chairing, social and sustainable development chairing).

My intention is to concentrate activities and experience with EU procedures and the acquis on the work with The European Economic and Social Committee's Consultative Commission on Industrial Change. I have time and availability for active contribution and attendance at meetings. My duties within ICSW Europe and in other activities will be not limited this new activity”.

Council of Europe



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONFERENCE DES OING DU
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The first information visit, as was announced in the new Action Plan of the Conference of INGOs adopted last June, was prepared. The countries selected for the first visit were: **Bulgaria, Moldova** and **Romania**. The period of the visit was fixed between **26th October and 7th November, 2015**.

The participation of organized civil society in decision-making process at local and national level is the cross-cutting theme to be discussed through the various activity sectors in which the NGOs encountered are involved. The objective is twofold: to better know how the NGOs are involved in the process of development and implementation of public policies and how they themselves mobilize the population around the actions of general interest.

During this visit, the Conference of INGOs intended to inform national NGOs about the actions and legal instruments developed by the Conference of INGOs and the Council of Europe and collect the information on participatory practices implemented in the visited country. The visits contributed to identify the innovative practices of NGOs and the obstacles they encounter in their daily work.

(Anna Rurka, President of the Conference of the INGOs of the Council of Europe)

Milan Conference



The conference "**Social Work Education in Europe: towards 2025**" was held in Milan, Italy, from **29th June to 2nd July 2015**. During this event the major breakthroughs and developments in the field of Social Work education, with a specific focus on Europe but from a global perspective were discussed. In addition to a top-rate scientific and educational program, there were many opportunities for networking, hands-on learning and sharing experiences and ideas about the future of social work education.

The conference partners:

Bicocca University Milan

European Association of Schools of Social Work (EASSW)

Italian Association of Teachers of Social Work (AIDOSS)

PowerUs – Service User Co-production in Social Work Education and Research

Annelise Murakami (ICSW Europe Board member) made a presentation on **Human rights based Citizenship**.

Miloslav Hettes contributed with the presentation **Social Protection Floors in Education**.

For the program of the conference see: <http://www.eassw.org/2015/program.html>

(editor ICSW Europe)

Tbilisi Workshop

ICSW Europe Regional Workshop took place at Tbilisi State University in Tbilisi (Georgia) on **October 30th, 2015**. 58 participants (50 were assumed) took part in the event.

Participant countries: Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Finland, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Norway, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Sweden.

International organizations/international NGOs: HelpAge International, ICSW Europe, IFSW, ILO Geneva, UNICEF CEE/CIS RO, UNICEF Georgia.



ICSW Europe plans to support social protection floors by using country examples; it is important to deal with EU member and non-member states, protection of human and social rights, to fight with exclusions and to work with different target groups as well with marginal. Poverty reduction, working poor, support of the poorest, refugees and homeless people, poverty in extreme rural areas, migration problems are among current problems in the region as is included in work program of ICSW.

ICSW Europe plans to work and expand the number of people and countries involved in promoting social welfare. In order to be a reliable and leading forum for the debate on social policy in Europe it needs more members and active members from this region. Invited were representatives from the region.

Results of the meeting will be published and used in future development of SPFs and will serve as a good example of regional cooperation within ICSW Europe.

The topics focused on **social protection, social investment and social protection floor**.

Program:

09:30 – 10:00 Registration

10:00 – 10:20 Opening

Ia Shekriladze, Director, Georgian Association of Social Workers (GASW)

Miloslav Hettes, President, ICSW Europe

10:20 – 11:30 Morning Session:

Social Protection Floors, Social Investment, Social Protection, Session I

Moderator: **Solveig Askjem**

- *"Social Protection Floors as an Investment in Central and Eastern Europe"*, **Miloslav Hettes**, Bratislava, ICSW Slovakia

- *"NGOs within Council of Europe Social Protection Activities"*, **Thomas Goldberg**, Stockholm, ICSW Sweden

- *"Long-term care for older persons as part of Social Protection Floors: An ILO perspective"*, **Xenia Scheil-Adlung**, International Labour Organization, Geneva

- *"Social Protection Floors and Demographic Ageing: Regional Trends and Considerations"*,

Roza Rayapova, **Daniel Horn**, HelpAge International

- Discussion

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee/Tea Break

Social Protection Floors, Social Investment, Social Protection, Session II

"Local, National, Regional Issues, Social Protection, Social Work, Social Development" – Part I

Moderator: **Natia Partskhaladze**

12:00 – 13:50

- *"Social Protection Floor for Europe and Region"*, **Angele Cepenaite**, Vilnius, ICSW Lithuania

- *"The challenge of effective social protection in absence of strong social work: A plan for action"*, **Vadim Moldovan**, Director of Project Casa Mare, Republic of Moldova

- *"Development of System of Social Protection of Population in Russia"*, **Ludmila Kononova**, Moscow Institute for Rising Qualifications of Social Workers (IPDSSE), Russian Federation

- *"Social work and the changing welfare system in Kazakhstan"*, **Sofiya An**, Nazarbayev University, Astana, Kazakhstan

- Discussion

13:50 - 14:40 Lunch Break

14:40 – 16:00 Afternoon Session:

Local, National, Regional Issues, Social Protection, Social Work, Social Development – Part II – Caucasus

Moderator: **Salome Namitcheishvili**

- *"Social Protection situation in Georgia"*, **Nino Shatberashvili**, ICSW Georgia/GASW

- *"The Role of the Third Sector in the Structure of Social Protection in Armenia"*, **Gohar Barseghyan**, ICSW Armenia/Mission Armenia NGO, Yerevan, Armenia

- *"Social protection and role of social workers in Azerbaijan"*, **Gunay Ismayilova**, Azerbaijan Social Work Public Union, Baku, Azerbaijan

- Discussion

16:00 – 16:15 Short Break

16:15 - 17:00 Regional Memorandum and Closure

16:15 – 16:30 Memorandum/Conclusions Draft Presentation, ICSW Europe, ICSW Georgia/GASW

16:30 – 16:45 Regional Memorandum Discussion

16:45 – 17:00 Closing remarks

Memorandum:

Participants of the ICSW Europe international workshop "Social Protection Floors – Regional and International Experiences" in Tbilisi, Georgia, 30th October 2015, share the Social Platform position on social situation in Europe. Civil society organisations are in a unique position to connect European and national policy-makers with the people and services their policies directly affect.

(N.B. Social Platform is the largest civil society alliance fighting for social justice and participatory democracy in Europe. Consisting of 48 pan-European networks of NGOs, we campaign to ensure that EU policies are developed in partnership with the people they affect, respecting fundamental rights, promoting solidarity and improving lives).

In time of political crisis over migration and alarmingly high poverty, social exclusion and inequality, the claim that Europe is in economic recovery remains a myth for many people across Europe. Job creation alone is not enough,

especially given the current in-work poverty epidemic and rising job insecurity.

Austerity-driven measures have led to discriminatory measures and decreasing social standards, as well as violations of fundamental rights.

Social policy must be recognised as an investment in human capital rather than a cost. Investment across the life cycle has measurable benefits – both socially and economically.

ICSW Europe remind importance of universally accessible social standards which would include:

1. **Adequate minimum income** schemes of at least 60% of national median income to protect people against poverty across the life cycle, linked to reference budgets that capture real needs in relation to access to goods and services.
2. **Adequate minimum wage** has to be set higher than adequate minimum income and with a minimum threshold of at least 60% of national median wage.
3. **Common standards for unemployment benefits** set at a level above adequate minimum income. Wide coverage must be ensured to avoid the exclusion of people who have not yet worked or have only worked for a limited period.
4. **Rights-based and non-discriminatory access** to quality, inclusive and affordable social, health, education and lifelong learning services, recognising that investment in such services also have a high potential for job creation.

We urge our governments to explore how its own financial instruments can support a more ambitious social agenda, whilst also speaking out against national budget cuts in the fields of social protection and services.

The adoption of Recommendation 202 by national tripartite delegations at the ILO Conference was

justified by the social situation, especially since the crisis. Not all European citizens benefit from the social protection floor. ICSW Europe stresses, that ILO member states have a commitment to keep the social protection floor defined nationally, with its content, level and funding depending on the authorities in each country.

Civil society organisations are in a unique position to connect policy-makers with the people and services their policies directly affect. Civil society organisations represent underused resource that can help deliver a more socially just Europe – a goal that is in our common interest. We look forward to sharing our expertise for common good and sustainable social development.

European national governments have to accept SPFs as new sustainable policy and not only as safety nets that redress the marginal imbalances of a mainstream market-based approach.

In Tbilisi, October 30, 2015

(Miloslav Hettes, ICSW Europe President)

Basel Expert Seminar

SKOS CSIAS COSAS

Schweizerische Konferenz für Sozialhilfe
Conférence suisse des institutions d'action sociale
Conferenza Svizzera delle istituzioni dell'azione sociale
Conferenza Svizzera dei Faggi sociali



Deutscher Verein
für öffentliche
und private Fürsorge e.V.



Expert seminar **“Social benefit – development, challenges, consequences. A Comparative Perspective: Austria, Germany and Switzerland”** took place in Basel on **November 9th – 10th, 2015.**

All proceedings were in German with no interpretation into English.

Program (in German):

1. Tag: Montag, 9. November 2015

14:00 Eröffnung ExpertInnen-Meeting

Begrüßung:

Dorothee Guggisberg, Geschäftsführerin
SKOS

Michael Chalupka, Präsident ÖKSA

Michael Löher, Vorstand Deutscher
Verein

Moderation 1. Tag Dorothee Guggisberg

14:15

Sozialpolitik auf dem Prüfstand: Sozialhilfe im Kontext der aktuellen politischen, wirtschaftlichen und rechtlichen Entwicklungen in den drei Ländern.

Keynotes:

Prof. Dr. Carlo Knöpfel



Mag. Dr. Marcel Fink

Prof. Dr. Gerhard Bäcker

15:30 Kaffeepause

16:00 Stand der aktuellen Diskussion und Entwicklungen in den drei Ländern

Diskussion Plenum

17:45 Fazit und Schlusswort zum ersten Tag
Dorothee Guggisberg

18:00 Apéro

19:30 Nachtessen

2. Tag: Dienstag, 10. November 2015

9:00

Begrüßung und Zusammenfassung vom Vortag
Mag. Michael Chalupka

Moderation 2. Tag Mag. Michael Chalupka

9:15

Auswirkungen der politischen, wirtschaftlichen und rechtlichen Entwicklungen auf die Sozialhilfe: Ausgestaltung, Leistungsumfang und Perspektiven in der Sozialhilfe

Keynotes:

Reiner Höft-Dzemski

Mag. Andrea Otter

Dr. iur. Claudia Hänzi

10:30 Kaffeepause

11:00

Zukunftsorientierte Modelle und Praxislösungen in den verschiedenen Ländern

Folgerungen für die Versorgung armutsbetroffener Personen, die institutionellen Rahmenbedingungen und die sozialpolitischen Perspektiven

Diskussion Plenum



12:45

Schlusswort Michael Löher



Verabschiedung Dorothee Guggisberg

13:00 Ende der Veranstaltung



Conferences/Expert Meetings

Human Rights Citizenship and Social Protection Floor

Europe and Denmark are changing. International Council on Social Welfare Denmark will put a critical focus on the European view of humanity and human rights and hereby invite you to the conference on **December 9th, 2015 (Wednesday) at 9:30 – 16:00** in PH Metropol, Kronprinsesse Sofies Vej 35, 2000 Frederiksberg, Denmark.

The conference is a collaboration with SDS Danish Social Workers Students and Metropolitan University College, with support from EuropaNávnet (Danish Ministry of Culture) and ICSW Europe.

Program (the main language of the conference is **Danish**):

Moderator: Marianne **Skytte**, Professor at Aalborg University, Copenhagen, Institut for Sociology & Social Work, board member ICSW Denmark

9:00 – 9:20 Enrollment & coffee

9:20 – 9:30 Welcome

Annelise Murakami, Chairman ICSW Denmark, Board member ICSW Europe, Professor Metropolitan University College

9:30 – 10:25 Views of human nature & challenges in a user mobilizing perspective

Iain Ferguson, Professor in Social Work and policy, University of the West of Scotland

10:25 – 11:05 User experiences & mobilization

Anja Plesner Bloch, Chairman Brugernes Akademi (Users Academy) og Board member and User-representative at Gadejuristen (Street lawyers)

11:05 – 11:15 Break

11:15 – 12:00 Empirical findings - Global Social Agenda – Europe

Kerstin Svensson, Professor at Lund University The European Observatory, ENSACT is part of The Global Agenda in cooperation with IASSW, ICSW og IFSW

12:00 – 12:20 Catch-up & intro for workshops

Marianne Skytte, Professor at Aalborg University, Copenhagen, Institut for Sociology & Social Work

12:20 Lunch

13:15 – 15:15 Workshops

The afternoon consists of workshops focusing on human rights, citizenship and Social Protection Floor

Leading the workshops:

Workshop A: Mandana Zarrehparvar, Institute for Human Rights, Denmark

Results from peoples-hearings, including Greenland, Faroe Islands and the Grenlandic population in a European perspective

Workshop B: Annelise Murakami, Professor Metropolitan University College, board member ICSW Europe

EUs strategy on Social Investments and NGO strategy on Social Protection Floors – promoting human rights and citizenship?

Workshop C: Ole Hammer, journalist and author *Democracy and minority positions, marginalization and out-bordering specific groups of citizens*

Workshop D: Michael Lodberg Olsen, Social Entrepreneur, ILLEGAL etc.

Danish and European experiences on innovation and mobilization of users

15:15 – 15:45 Workshop results

Conference fee:

Price: kr. 250,-

Students, unemployed and pensionnaires kr. 0,-

SWIFT code: MEKUDK21

IBAN: DK3084010001107640

Sign up:

Email: post@socialpolitisk-forening.dk

Please note in which workshop you wish to participate.



2016 Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development (SWSD) will be held in Seoul, Korea on **27th – 30th June, 2016**.

ICSW Europe will be represented by **Miloslav Hettes** (ICSW Europe President), **Philippe Steck** (ICSW France), **Elli Aaltonen** (CSW Finland), **Annelise Murakami** (CSW Denmark), **Thomas Goldberg** (ICSW Sweden).

Session Title:

Migration and Social Protection Floors in Time of Crises

Session Description

Europe has a challenge how to combine migration flows with ageing and future shortage of labour skill. Immigrants have their human and social rights. Europe does not use all international human rights instruments. Refugee crisis is also the result of previous wrong decisions. Social Autumn 2015

justice is not only for people born in EU. Social protection is a universal right which is now completed with right of guaranteed minimum. No punishment is entitled in case of human rights giving. Europe has to take its part of responsibility. There will be no full well-being in Europe, while other parts of the World suffer. Target audience includes social workers, decision makers, academicians, educators etc.

Synopses

Migration Problems in Europe. Universal social cover is an essential element of Social Protection Floors. SPFs must also apply to all residents, no matter of country of origin. Immigrants have to have guaranteed access to social protection that relies on humanitarian considerations. Humanity and solidarity cannot be punished as it happens frequently in many cases.

Miloslav Hettes, ICSW Europe President

The European Union has a population of 509 million. This includes 33 million foreigners: 22 million Africans or Asians, 11 million Europeans, from Eastern Europe, who are not EU citizens. In 2014, the country that took in the most migrants was Germany (465,000), followed by France (256,000) and Spain (216,000). Social Security entitlements continue to be determined by each individual EU member State. However, European directives from 1971 on free circulation in Europe, and especially the Pinna case law from 1986, provide a non-negligible framework. Entitlement decisions for political refugees require faster action.

Philippe Steck, ICSW France

Is Europe full of walls? The presentation opens the situation to migration nowadays. What kind of change in attitudes and politics is going on, example in Finland? Which are the possibilities

through Social protection floor Initiative to support positive development? Social state in many countries is in crisis because of bad financial situation and high unemployment rate. This reflects also to attitudes of politicians and citizens. People are less unwilling to take responsibility for others and especially for migrants. Many European countries have started to build walls to their boarders.

Elli Aaltonen, ICSW Finland

Refugee Crisis in Europe. Europe has for centuries been characterized by migration and moving. The background has been due to poverty, war etc. New political crisis in Europe? and wars? created refugee flows, many of which settled in Europe. Especially the group of migrants with so called third world background has challenged this construction of a national idea. Discussions of human rights, closing borders, regulate national legislation are current and rather disturbing. The thought of dignity and worth is being seriously challenged. How does the civil society respond, the professions and the political system?

Annelise Murakami, ICSW Denmark

Support for Foreign EU Migrants in Sweden. Sweden is one of the European countries that takes in high amounts of asylum seekers. Another group in need of special support are the foreign EU citizens and third - country nationals with permanent residence. A life in poverty, homelessness and unemployment is quite common in that group. They do not have access to the Swedish social welfare system and social services agencies are not equipped to meet their needs. These challenges are now focused upon in Sweden and they have to be handled locally and within the European Union.

Thomas Goldberg, ICSW Sweden

(For key dates of the conference see:

<http://www.swsd2016.org/eng/index.php>)

Useful Links

EASSW (European Association of Schools of Social Work) – Milan Conference 2015:

<http://www.eassw.org/2015/>

SWSD Conference in Seoul Korea, 2016:

<http://swsd2016.org/eng/index.php>

Social Platform – Open Letter:

<http://www.socialplatform.org/what-we-do/over-arching-campaigns/migration/weapologise/>

Colophon

ICSW Europe registered office is located in 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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