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International Federation of Social Workers – European Region

Delegates Meeting for IFSW Europe e.V.

Zagreb, Croatia, 13-15 May 2016

**Agenda Items 14.1 to 14.9 - Appointment of External and Internal Representatives**

This report summarises the arrangements for the appointment of members designated to undertake official duties on behalf of the Federation, the expectations of the work that will be carried out and the reporting arrangements and lines of accountability.

The report contains brief details and web references to sources of additional information about each of these positions, and the members currently designated to carry them out.

Other than in the case of the Election Officer, the designated person(s) are expected to:

* Coordinate the Federation’s input to the body or project concerned
* Consult members about and draft responses to policy documents
* Report key developments in European Social Worker, the IFSW website, blog and Facebook
* Provide a brief quarterly written or verbal report on their activities to the European President
* Present an annual report to the Delegates Meeting

Expenditure arising from the activities of designated representatives not eligible for reimbursement by the organisations concerned requires to be authorised in advance by the IFSW Europe Treasurer.

The Executive Committee hopes that members will find the following brief information about these important positions of assistance. Further details about activities carried out over the past year will be provided at the Delegates Meeting.

In the interests of equal opportunities and for the benefit of members wishing to be considered but unable to be present, all candidates for these appointments should complete the accompanying proforma and attach it to an email addressed to Cristina Martins, IFSW European President: [martinscristina25@hotmail.com](mailto:martinscristina25@hotmail.com) preferably by **25th April 2016** and certainly no later than **4pm on the 14th May 2016** when it can be presented to her in person at the Delegates Meeting in Zagreb.

The Executive Committee will appraise the Delegates Meeting of the Expressions of Interest received for each position and any recommendations they wish to make about the appointments that are considered most appropriate, having regard to the skills and experience of the members concerned and the position applied for.

Where a vote is necessary to determine a particular appointment there will be a ballot.

**Representative to the Council of Europe and a support team for this person**

The holder of this position and members appointed to support them represent IFSW Europe and the social work profession at meetings of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. The Council of Europe promotes human rights through international conventions, such as the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. It monitors progress in these areas and helps member states undertake necessary judicial reforms. Further information about the Council of Europe can be found at: <http://hub.coe.int/web/coe-portal>.

The current representatives are Fernanda Rodrigues from Portugal who was appointed in 2014 and again last year and Antonina Dashkina from Russia, Vice President of the Conference of INGO of the Council of Europe with the support of IFSW Europe who has been carrying out these duties for a number of years. A report on this year’s activities will be presented to the Delegates Meeting.

**European contact person for the Global Human Rights Commission and a support team for this person**

This position is concerned with ensuring effective links between IFSW Europe’s work in the Human Rights field and the initiatives taken by IFSW at a global level and in other regions. Graça André from Portugal has undertaken this role since 2009 and full details of her activities over the past year will be reported to members at the Delegates Meeting.

**European contact person for the Global Permanent Committee on Ethics and a support team for this person**

The holder of this position acts as a link between IFSW Europe and the Global Permanent Committee on Ethics. Jane Shears from the United Kingdom was appointed last year to undertake these duties and full details of her activities over the past year will be reported to members at the Delegates Meeting.

**IFSW Europe e.V Election Officer**

The job of the Election Officer is to ensure that IFSW Europe’s elections conform to the Federation’s statutes and byelaws. John Brennan from Ireland has carried out these duties for the past 7 years.

**Representative to the European Social Platform and a support team for this person**

IFSW Europe is a full member of the Social Platform which is a civil society alliance of 48 pan European networks of NGO’s fighting for social justice and participatory democracy and campaigning to ensure that EU policies are developed in partnership with people they affect, respecting fundamental rights, promoting solidarity and improving lives. Members of the Platform represent more than 2,800 individual national organisations, associations and other voluntary groups at local, regional and national level in every Member State.

The Platform is based in Brussels close to the European Parliament and has very effectively lobbied the Commission and Parliament about issues of concern to social workers and those using our services.

IFSW pays an annual membership fee and the Platform has been reimbursing the expenses of delegates of members attending Steering Group Meetings and General Assemblies (8 meetings per year) and participating in networking meetings with EU member countries assuming responsibility for the Presidency.

The Platform currently has 6 Task Forces addressing: Access to Services (TTIP & TISA; Criminalising Solidarity), EU Internal Strategy to Promote Human Rights, European Governance, EU Social Standards, EU Structural Funds and Public Procurement.

The Platform generates a considerable volume of correspondence. Further information about the Platform’s activities is available at: [www.socialplatform.org/](http://www.socialplatform.org/).

At the last 2 Delegates Meetings members were appointed to a small working group now designated the Social Platform Team (SPT). The Team which generally communicates by email and SKYPE conference is currently coordinated by Ian Johnston from the UK who is being assisted by IFSW Europe’s Brussels based Representative, Dalė Kabašinskaitė, Fran McDonnell from the UK, John Brennan from Ireland, Graça André from Portugal, Mira Antonyan from Armenia, Nicolai Paulsen from Denmark and Ana Radulescu from Romania.

There will be a presentation of the Platform’s work over the past year at the Delegates Meeting and an opportunity for members to debate some of the current issues being addressed and those IFSW Europe wish to be pursued in the forthcoming year.

**Representative to the European Anti-Poverty Network and a support team for this person**

EAPN is the largest European network of 29 national, regional and local networks, involving anti-poverty NGOs and grassroots’ groups active in the fight against poverty and social exclusion within the Member States of the EU, Norway, and the Western Balkans. It is a member of and based in the same building in Brussels as the Social Platform adjacent to the European Parliament and as well as campaigning for change it publishes data on the incidence and impact of poverty and comments authoritatively on measures taken or the lack of them to eliminate poverty and social exclusion. IFSW Europe is an organisational member of EAPN and pays a voluntary contribution of 200 euros per annum which entitles us to be reimbursed for attending approximately 6 meetings per year.

Further information about EAPN is available at: <http://www.eapn.eu/en>

Ian Johnston represented IFSW Europe at the EAPN’s General Assembly in Bilbao in July 2015 and was elected to serve on their Executive Committee for a period of three years. As EXCO members do not represent their member organisations, Fran McDonnell from the United Kingdom was appointed to represent IFSW Europe at EAPN last year and full details of her activities over the past year will be reported to members at the Delegates Meeting.

**Representative to the EU Fundamental Rights Platform and a support team for this person**

IFSW Europe is a member of the Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP) established by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). FRA provides independent evidence-based advice to institutions and Member States collects and analyses information and data with the aim of raising rights awareness and securing respect for fundamental rights across the EU. Further information about FRA’s activities can be found at: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/about-fra/>

Graça André from Portugal was appointed to represent IFSW Europe at FRP last year and full details of her activities over the past year will be reported to members at the Delegates Meeting.

**Representative to the European Organisation of Rare Diseases and a support team for this person**

EURORDIS is a patient-driven alliance of organisations and individuals working together to improve access to information and services for people suffering from rare diseases and their families or informal carers. It was founded in 1997 and is supported by its members and by the AFM-Telethon, the European Commission, corporate foundations and the health industry. EURORDIS represents 695 patient organisations in 63 countries providing a voice to the approximately 30 million people living with rare diseases in Europe alone.

IFSW Europe and EURORDIS have been working together to promote awareness about rare diseases amongst the social care workforce and the need for social services support for people living with a rare disease and their families as well as educating sufferers about the help that social workers can offer people of all ages at times of crisis. Guidelines for the Training of Social Workers and other care staff have been produced and joint workshops were delivered at the Courage in Social Work Conference in Helsinki and the IFSW Conference in Edinburgh last year. A Memorandum of Understanding between the 2 organisations has now been signed and IFSW Europe are contributing to and have been awarded 2 complimentary places at an international conference EURORDIS are holding in Edinburgh in June this year.

**Representatives to the H2020 Project(s)**

The 2 year EU funded ENS4Care project led by the European Federation of Nurses (EFN) to develop the use of ICT to support people challenged by illness or disability was successfully concluded in December 2015. The Executive Committee has accepted an invitation by EFN to participate in 2 further bids for Horizon Funding with consortiums that include general practitioners and physiotherapists.

The first of these concerns the development of ICT skills within the nursing and social care workforce both during professional and post qualifying training and the second bid concerns the development of Integrated Health and Social Care Services.

If these bids are successful IFSW Europe will secure the funds necessary to engage staff to carry out the developmental work that is required.

In the meantime the funding application required the appointment of Cristina Martins and Ian Johnston to oversee the project applications on behalf of the Executive Committee.

There will be scope for other members to be involved in this exciting project if funding is secured.

Further information about these funding bids will be presentedat the Delegates Meeting.

7 April 2016