



June 2017



The content of the June edition of the Newsletter has been prepared by ICSW Europe. It presents the salient features of the recent conference convened by ICSW Europe in Moscow in cooperation with its Russian members and other partners. Some of the statements made at the conference are also included. The Moscow conference with its emphasis on sustainable development and human well-being could be seen as an important regional step towards the preparation of the 2018 Joint World Conference in Dublin devoted to promoting environmental and community sustainability in the context of social work and social development.

As usual, we profile some recent books on matters of interest to our readers.

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International Conference “Human Well-Being, Social Cohesion and Sustainable Development: The Quest for the Responses to Contemporary Challenges”, Moscow (Russian Federation) – May 18-19th, 2017

Convening the international conference entitled “**Human Well-Being, Social Cohesion and Sustainable Development: The Quest for the Responses to Contemporary Challenges**” has been for ICSW Europe the most significant event in 2017 so far. It took place in Moscow on **May 18-19, 2017**. Apart from ICSW Europe the co-organizers of the event were the Moscow City Government, the Moscow Department of Labour and the Social Protection of the Population, the Moscow Institute for the Additional Professional Education of Workers for Social Services (IAPE of WSS) and the International School of Social Work.

The conference was conceived with a specific focus on the effectiveness of social work and social development in *promoting environmental and community sustainability* in the context of the preparations for the 2018 Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development in Dublin. Around 250

participants from 15 countries of Europe and Asia and more than 12 regions of the Russian Federation took part in the event.

The conference was opened by Vladimir Petrosyan (Minister of the Moscow City Government, Head of the Department of Labour and the Social Protection of the Population), and introductory speeches were made by **Galina Karelova** (Deputy Chair of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Parliament—(Duma)), and **Eva Holmberg-Herrström** (ICSW President). **Marina**



Gordeyeva (Chairman of the Board of The Foundation for Children in Difficult Life Situations) and **Vladimir Kuznetsov** (Director of the UN Information Centre in Moscow) also made introductory remarks.

The participants paid tribute to the late Miloslav Hettes, the past President of ICSW Europe. Miloslav's vision and leadership were important in creating the ICSW programme of work for 2016-2020 and other activities. **Jean-Michel Hôte** (ICSW Europe President ad interim) specifically mentioned his role in establishing professional links with Russian partners from IAPE and in encouraging it to become a member of ICSW Europe. The participants held a minute of silence in memory of Miloslav Hettes.

The conference programme proceeded with the first-track substantive session, entitled “Social Protection in the XXI Century: in Search of Effective Solutions in the Realization of Equal Rights and Opportunities”. The speakers were: **Paul Ladd** (Director of UNRISD in Geneva), **Elena Khohlova** (Minister of Social Protection of the Tver Region of Russia), **Odile Frank** (President, NGO Forum for Health and Special Representative of the ICSW at the UN Office in Geneva and the Specialized Agencies),

Sergei Zelenev (Executive Director of the ICSW) and **Lilia Ovcharova** (Director of the Institute for Social Policy of the National Research University *Higher School of Economics* in Moscow). The session was co-moderated by Tatiana Potyaeva (Moscow City Human Rights Commissioner) and Ronald Wiman, (Chief Specialist, National Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland).

The second-track theme session considered the topic "Social Protection: Universality, Accessibility and Effectiveness", with statements made by Philippe Steck, Lenara Ivanova, Elli Aaltonen, Natalya Pochinok, and Joaquin Eguren, with moderators Irene Kohler and Pavel Keller.

The third and the last session on May 18, entitled "Contemporary Challenges, Innovations and Civil Society Involvement",

was co-moderated by Solveig Askjem and Andrey Panov. The speakers were Marianne Skytte, Annelise Murakami, Angele Cepenaite, Valentina Yarskaya, Elena Yarskaya-Smirnova and Kaarina Tamminiemi. Please see the Programme of the Conference for more details regarding the affiliation of the presenters and moderators of the second and third tracks.

The conference outcome document was adopted by acclamation at the end of the first day of the meeting.

The video of the first conference day in the Golden Ring Hotel is available at:

- plenary speeches and 1st part: <https://yadi.sk/i/-VNwgEwY3JUdc5>
- 2nd part: <https://yadi.sk/i/-FPXDG0-3JUdbq>
- 3rd part: <https://yadi.sk/i/ZbB9GU2p3JUdbx>

The second day of the conference, May 19, was shaped by three field visits and related workshops: "Professional Development and Employment: Response to Challenges" (hosted by the State Centre for the

Employment of Youth, Moscow), "Ageing of the Population: Modern Challenges and the Quest for Solution Mechanisms" (hosted by the Tagansky Municipal Centre), and "Gender Equality, Gender Risks and Vulnerabilities, Social Inclusion in the Demographic Context" (hosted by the Rehabilitative Crisis Centre for Women). For the complete conference programme and a list of speakers, see <http://may18.soc-education.ru/en#conferencetimetable>.

Golden Ring Hotel is available at:

- plenary speeches and 1st part: <https://yadi.sk/i/-VNwgEwY3JUdc5>
- 2nd part: <https://yadi.sk/i/-FPXDG0-3JUdbq>
- 3rd part: <https://yadi.sk/i/ZbB9GU2p3JUdbx>

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The Russian hosts not only provided opportunities for field visits but also prepared a rich social and cultural programme for the participants and guests. The conference website is at: <http://may18.soc-education.ru/en>

The articles and conference proceedings will be available in printed form later this year.

Statements at the Conference selected by ICSW Europe team:

Translating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into Local Circumstances: Principles and Trade-Offs

Sergei Zelenev, Executive Director ICSW

I would like to share with you my thoughts on the role that the ICSW could play in translating the commitments of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into action at the regional and local levels.

Conceived as a universal and transformative global plan of action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development depends for its practical implementation on *national capacities* to translate commitments into results. It sounds like a truism, but in fact it is a huge challenge. The role of civil society is indispensable here, along with other key stakeholders – governments, the business sector and cities.

I will not open a new page if I say that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is everybody's business—because the Agenda addresses issues of vital importance for our planet and for all of us, including our children and grandchildren. At the same time, we cannot but notice that the level of the *national acceptance* of the need to adapt to climate change or the urgency in reframing national development priorities in order to reflect the threat of climate change varies significantly from one country to another. Despite all of the available data and the very convincing accumulated evidence regarding greenhouse gases, despite the melting ice-caps and severe climate disruptions such as severe storms or draughts, there are climate-change doubters, some of them among influential heads of Government. That fact alone can have



significant implications for policy-making, bringing, for example, a reduction in spending on renewable energy. The temptation to continue with the business as usual, or even to ignore the internationally agreed goals specified in Paris Agreement on climate change, which are aimed at a more sustainable future, is clearly detrimental for global development.

In my opinion, the ICSW should be very open and transparent in our attitudes to this issue. We should stand together with those organizations, businesses and city leaders who support the new 2030 Agenda of the United Nations and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We see the Agenda as a future-oriented, carefully crafted international policy document, promoting complex solutions to complex issues, created in an inclusive way for the benefit of the entire planet, for all people. The adoption of that document, as well as the preceding outcome documents of the Paris Conference of 2015, represented a recognition by the policy-makers of the vital importance of the scientific evidence regarding the impact of the carbon emissions on the Earth's climate collected by scholars from numerous countries over many years. In a certain sense, the acceptance and adoption of the Paris Conference's conclusions and recommendations reflected a willingness at the highest levels of government to trust the

scientific community, even when some important conclusions seem very technical and might not be clear to the public at large. The conclusions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) contained in the Fifth Assessment report of 2014 confirmed that “... *warming of the climate system is unequivocal, and since the 1950s, many of the observed changes are unprecedented over decades to millennia... It is extremely likely that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming.*”

While the diplomats from many countries were meeting to create technical guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreements, there has appeared a high level of uncertainty as to whether the climate change adaptation will be moved further—even if the Paris Agreement commitments do not officially begin until 2020. As an organization, the ICSW should not hesitate to take sides, placing our efforts and making our voice heard among those *who support* the new 2030 Agenda of the United Nations and the Sustainable Development Goals. That is a matter of principle.

But as the ICSW, we are not an environmental organization, our experience (and international recognition) is located elsewhere, first of all in the area of human well-being. In my view, a clear entry point for the ICSW in the context of the 2030 Agenda is to strive to improve the well-being of people and our long-standing principled support for *social protection* as a global public policy priority.

Social protection is an investment in people, in the development of their capabilities. It is beneficial for individuals, for families and for society as a whole.

As is well-known, social protection is addressed in the 2030 Agenda several times, starting as a way to deal with the eradication of global poverty: the main relevant provision in the document calls upon States to “implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all,

including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage for the poor and the vulnerable” (target 1.3).

But in an effort to make global efforts more comprehensive, social protection is identified in the document as a means by which one can recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work (target 5.4), and is put forward as a means of promoting greater equality, along with fiscal and wage policies (target 10.4).

In that light, the adoption of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda could be seen as a new window of opportunity for the proponents of the Social Protection Floor Initiative, including the ICSW, to advocate and push for the reinforcement of social protection policies on the ground in the context of sustainable development.

I would like to underscore that social protection is a political issue – as all social issues are by definition political issues. To be effective, social protection programmes must always be country-specific, there is no one-size-fits-all solution. It depends on history as well as on the prevalent values in society whom society considers to be in a situation of vulnerability and in need of support and protection. In practical terms, it depends on the national political class how policies and programmes are conceived and selected, and how national budget priorities are set up.

The immediate goals vary – in one country the key concern for social protection schemes could be older persons, in another it could be single mothers or poor children, it all depends on national circumstances and preferences. But I would like to stress that despite serving distinctly pronounced defensive functions aimed at building or strengthening the abilities of people to withstand various social risks or shocks, social protection schemes also play enabling and empowering functions. The key role they play in terms of strengthening human potential and its developmental dimension is quite obvious here.

The formulation of national plans that bear the 2030 Agenda commitments in mind is by definition a huge challenge, given the scale and ambition of the Agenda. In order to make implementation participatory and inclusive, all major groups and stakeholders should be involved in the discussion on the ways and means of implementation. Civil-society organizations, including the ICSW, along with the private sector, academia and philanthropic organizations, can help to delineate the national policy space, articulate public concerns in the context of building capacities to address national priorities connected to implementation, submit proposals for the allocation of financial and technical resources, and establish mechanisms for the monitoring of progress. The ICSW could definitely play a catalytic role here at the regional level, acting through various regional platforms, including the European Social Platform.

Given the ICSW's advocacy role in promoting social protection, we should continue our outreach policy, as the 2030 Agenda provides an obvious opportunity to advance the case for justice, dignity and social protection. Climate change has substantially re-shaped the international development discourse, focusing attention on several new issues taken in their complexity.

The key issues associated with global warming have captured universal media attention, as well as public attention. Promoting policies aimed at social protection through agreements that are conceived in the context of climate change can increase funding for several important sectoral programmes that make sense in the adaptation to climate change, as well as for the protection of people who are immediately affected by the climate change – such as indigenous people or those living in coastal areas or some remote communities. It is well known that many poor people are often disproportionately affected by climate change. In that sense, assisting the poor and

vulnerable groups through social protection schemes is important on moral grounds, as well as representing a way to reduce human suffering, but it also serves as an important effort in the mitigation of climate change. Social protection plays an important role here and could be even more important in the future.

The integrated national policy framework for such a two-pronged action becomes viable only if it is closely linked to top *national development priorities* reflecting the immediate needs of the population; only then can integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions – a key prerequisite for eventual success – be wholeheartedly embraced at the ground level.

But there is another, broader dimension here. I am referring to the possibility of the emergence of new *international social norms* associated with the 2030 Agenda. Social protection may be considered as one of those new norms that is gradually winning wider acceptance – the situation in that regard is changing. For example, at the beginning of 2000s UN member states had a chance to discuss the social protection agenda during one of the sessions of the Commission for Social Development, but the delegates were unable to agree on the need to support such efforts at either the international or the national levels. Yet only ten years later, the international community witnessed an undeniable *policy shift* when the Recommendation 202 was adopted by the ILO. The commitment of many countries to improved social protection has become a reality now, and that may be considered to be a normative shift. It became also clear that the new option is affordable even for medium-income countries. In my view, in our advocacy efforts we should emphasize the importance of recognizing social protection as a *new international social norm*. It may facilitate our efforts on other fronts of advocacy and technical cooperation.

And finally, a few words about the ICSW's role as a civil-society organization in monitoring commitments and decisions, if and when they are made, regarding social protection and climate change. I think that a bottom-up approach might be a useful way to include the voices of our members in local and national decision-making processes. It could be particularly effective, given that the next Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development in Dublin in July 2018 will address the priority theme of "Environmental and Community Sustainability".

In my opinion, the bottom-up reviews of the respective programmes undertaken by major independent stakeholders have proven their effectiveness in many areas of socio-economic development; their positive role can be particularly significant in identifying the bottlenecks and removing the obstacles to the national implementation of the core goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. If the ideals, objectives and actions contained in the national plans linking the SDGs and social protection are to be realized, all sectors of society must play a role in the implementation efforts and be involved in all phases of policy action. This process could only promote public awareness and generate knowledge for policy-makers at the same time.

Moreover, decision-making that is based on public evidence-based and is data-driven has a better chance to succeed, even if it calls into question some existing conventional approaches.

And finally, the existing evidence proves that citizens' engagement always makes a difference. National debates on the core themes of the Agenda, conducted in the civil-society circles, in the academic and policy-making communities could clarify the relationship between adaptation and development priorities. Adaptation activities represent a new policy area for most countries, and significant work on the part of all stakeholders is required to highlight the

scope for possible further action and the existing policy linkages. More effective outreach and media promotion activities might be essential for reaching the broader audience and obtaining a wider impact.

The abridged presentation. The full text of the statement will be published in the Conference proceedings later this year in both Russian and English



Odile Frank is a Public Health and Social Scientist and Social Policy Specialist. She has had over 30 years' experience in international development, in technical areas including data management, external

negotiations and senior management.

Currently, she acts as a Special Representative of the ICSW at the UN Office in Geneva and she is the President of the NGO Forum for Health in Geneva.

Her areas of expertise include rights-based global health policy; healthcare workers; occupational health and safety; HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections; gender and health inequalities; social development; demography and biostatistics. She has published more than 150 scientific publications.

Demographic Situation and Social & Economic Consequences: Comparative Analyses of European Countries

***Odile Frank**, President, NGO Forum for Health, Special Representative of the ICSW at the UN Office in Geneva and the Specialized Agencies in Geneva*

Odile Frank's analysis focuses on a selected number of countries that are representative of the interests and objectives of the participants at the Conference. The nine selected countries

are located in four regions of Europe: Northern Europe, Western Europe, Southern Europe and Eastern Europe. There are natural contrasts between those regions and countries and stark demographic differences that can be defined in patterns. The countries are compared on the basis of demographic growth due to natural growth and migration balance, and on the grounds of ageing based on estimates and projections of fertility, infant and adult mortality, and the age distributions of immigrants and emigrants. It is clear that

given current demographic parameters and on the basis of assessed projections, some countries are expected to compensate for significant ageing with in-migration; some countries are expected to experience ageing and its consequences more slowly because of higher adult mortality despite adult out-migration, and some countries are expected to experience significant ageing and reductions in the population. Each group of countries may face different substantive issues of social service needs for an ageing population. The economic causes and consequences of those patterns are also discussed, as are potential policy approaches to address long-term social service needs.

Countries: Austria, Belarus, Denmark, Finland, France, Lithuania, Russian Federation, Spain and Switzerland.

The demographic consequences of global economic and social trends are complex, as are the interactions between demographic, social, economic, political and cultural factors which cause demographic patterns and changes. To illustrate demographic causes and consequences in the particular context of this Conference's objectives, namely, to examine "Human well-being, social cohesion and sustainable development: the quest for responses to contemporary challenges", a defined set of issues and selected countries were highlighted in this analysis.

The choice of countries was made on the basis of the countries of institutional affiliation of the participants at the Conference (which may or may not be their country of origin). It is therefore a convenience sample of countries intended to be of most immediate interest to the Conference participants.

As it happens, the nine selected countries are located in four regions of Europe: Northern Europe, Western Europe, Southern Europe and Eastern Europe, according to the United Nations classification of member states. They therefore provide a good overview of regional

differences in the European region, which is quite vast and quite differentiated. The countries are Austria, Belarus, Denmark, Finland, France, Lithuania, Russian Federation, Spain and Switzerland. The four groups of countries represent substantial populations, although they represent varying proportions of the total populations of each region, as can be seen in Table 1 below. It is well to bear in mind also that the populations of the four regions themselves vary substantially: for example, the population size of all of Eastern Europe is three times the size of all Northern Europe and twice the size of Southern Europe, as defined by the United Nations.

Table 1. Selected European countries by sub-region, total population and estimated proportion of total population of each sub-region represented by selected countries

The analysis, which is abridged here, further discusses the issues that follow.

As it happens, the countries included in the analysis were classified as High-income economies in the United Nations classification in 2015 (for a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita above of US\$ 12,736 or more), with the exception of Belarus that was classified as an upper-middle-income economy (for a GNI between US\$ 4,126 and US\$ 12,735).

Demographic patterns

Total population; Fertility; Infant mortality; Life expectancy; Population proportions in the age groups: under 15 years, 15 - 59 years and 60 years or over; Life expectancy at 60 for men and women; Proportion of the population aged 80 years and over.

Region	Country	Total population (all countries combined) and estimated proportion of whole region	
		millions	per cent
Northern Europe	Denmark, Finland, Lithuania	14.1	14
Western Europe	Austria, France, Switzerland	81.1	43
Southern Europe	Spain	46.1	30
Eastern Europe	Belarus, Russian Federation	152.9	52

- Demographic trends and population ageing
- Ageing and social protection
- Demographic aspects of dependency

Percentage point change in the population aged 60 years or more; Total dependency ratio in 2015 and 2030: Increased dependency ratios; Potential support ratio in 2015 and 2030: Diminished potential support ratios; Pension coverage; Labour force participation of persons aged 65 years or over.

The countries are listed simply in alphabetical order hereafter, except when grouped by population size.

Discussion

The analysis showed that there are substantial differences among the nine selected countries along several demographic dimensions and ageing dimensions that underlie social policy. Nevertheless, all the countries experienced declines in fertility, such that none is above replacement fertility. Furthermore, all the countries are ageing, both structurally and in real terms, as adults experience longevity gains.

Accordingly, the nine countries are expected to experience the consequences of ageing differently. Three patterns can be discerned based on an analysis of the current projections of the demographic and ageing characteristics of the nine countries (for a summary of these characteristics, see Appendix 1 and Appendix 2).

Countries that are expected to experience significant ageing, but are likely to compensate some of its effects owing to in-migration of working-age adults of childbearing age (and of families with children). In the foregoing analysis, these include Denmark, France and Switzerland, and to a lesser degree, Austria and Finland. These countries can utilize their human and economic resources to adapt to the progressive ageing of their populations and can accommodate its consequences at individual and population levels.

Countries that are experiencing ageing later than other countries, because they had experienced reductions in life expectancy at birth in the late 1980s and 1990s. By 2010-2015, life expectancy in these countries recovered substantially, but they lag behind the level in other European countries. These countries, which include Belarus and the Russian Federation, and to a lesser degree Lithuania, now have the lowest levels of life expectancy of the selected countries but are also expected to see improvements in longevity between 2015-2020 and 2025-2030,

Belarus from 71.7 to 72.8 years, the Russian Federation from 70.4 to 71.6 years, and Lithuania from 73.7 to 75.1 years. In the case of Belarus and the Russian Federation, despite having also experienced marked levels of adult out-migration, because of the small proportion of older persons, the dependency ratios are lower and the potential support ratios higher than in the other countries. Although they are expected to follow the projected general trend quite rapidly, they are not expected to reach the levels in the other countries until after 2030. That aspect gives the countries a current advantage in addressing ageing and in seizing the opportunity of a longer head start to adapt policy so as to address ageing: more resources can be focused in the meantime on improving health at all ages so as to improve the chances of healthy ageing and longer life. In the meantime, also, social and economic policies can be directed at lowering infant and child mortality, which are also still higher in the Russian Federation, in particular, than in the other selected countries.

Countries that are experiencing significant ageing and are also experiencing significant out-migration of working-age adults. In this group of selected countries, Spain for example, projections show markedly lower fertility, markedly longer life expectancy and a markedly older population, when compared to other countries. At the same time, Spain is expected to see a decline in its population overall, owing to low natural growth and adult out-migration, whereas the return of migrant workers at older ages and retiree in-migration will both add to the older population and add to the economy.

Demographic trends and long-term social service needs

The social service needs of ageing populations are determined demographically both by the absolute and relative size of the older age groups and by their longevity. But such demographic aspects address only the underlying dimensions of social-service needs. Beyond that, longevity itself is determined by

such factors as income, education and life-style choices as well as the characteristics of health-care systems. Good social care, including health care, can further benefit the longevity and the quality of life of older persons, extending healthy life expectancy at older ages.

Good social and health care are policy choices that rest on political will and resource allocations. Furthermore, they need to be tailored to the prevalence and epidemiological reality of the major disabilities, as well as the causes of death of older persons, so that they are adapted and appropriate and can, in

effect, make a difference to the survival and quality of life of older persons. Critically, they must address health and well-being comprehensively, notably including mental as well as physical causes of ill health.

In that regard, it is worth noting that the major causes of disability are different globally for older women and older men, as are the major causes of death. The ten leading causes of disability and the ten leading causes of death in men and women who were 60 years old or more in 2012 are shown in Table 2 below, according to World Health Organization data (World Health Organization, 2014).

Table 2. Ten leading causes of disability and of death among women and men aged 60 years or more, globally, in 2012

Ten leading causes of disability, globally, 2012 (years of life lost due to disability/100,000 persons)				Ten leading causes of death, globally, 2012 (deaths in thousands)			
Women		Men		Women		Men	
Depression	1,465	A hearing loss	1,870	Stroke	3,102,405	Ischaemic heart disease	2,985,226
A hearing loss	1,427	Back and neck pain	1,530	Ischaemic heart disease	3,087,753	Stroke	2,614,535
Back and neck pain	1,413	Falls	1,347	COPD ²	1,225,348	COPD ²	1,541,208
Dementias	1,295	COPD ²	1,276	Pneumonias	780,539	Lung cancer	858,088
Osteoarthritis	1,201	Diabetes	1,121	Diabetes	656,592	Pneumonias	746,789
COPD ²	1,200	Visual impairments	902	Hypertensive heart disease	571,320	Diabetes	500,976
Diabetes	1,143	Depression	883	Dementias	455,616	Hypertensive heart disease	399,580
Visual impairments	1,066	Dementias	850	Lung cancer	389,966	Stomach cancer	353,508
Falls	998	Prostatitis	840	Breast Cancer	286,593	Prostate cancer	309,168
Cataracts	756	Osteoarthritis	739	Kidney diseases	279,398	Liver cancer	306,859

Further research could be applied in order to estimate the total input in social care required to address at least these 10 leading causes of disability and death in one or more specific countries, based on the age and sex distribution of older persons and informed by the evidence base in the scientific literature on health and disabilities, their care according to different standards, and their costs.

[The complete article will be available in the Moscow Conference Journal in autumn 2017 in both Russian and English]

² COPD is Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, which includes emphysema.

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ICSW Europe at the crossroads

By Jean-Michel Hôte, ICSW Europe President ad interim

The Conference, which took place in Moscow on May 18-19 2017, resulted from a partnership between the European Region of the ICSW ("International Council on Social Welfare") and IAPE WSS ("Institute for the Additional Professional Education of Workers

for Social Services"). We, as ICSW Europe, are most grateful to our colleagues from the Institute for their tremendous help with the organization of the Moscow Conference.

The onset of this partnership can be traced to the General Assembly of ICSW Europe in **Prague on 27 May, 2016**. The Institute had just joined the ICSW the year before, and its representatives proposed that such a conference to be organized in Moscow in order to commemorate the re-establishment of social work in post-socialist Russia, as well as present developments and challenges. This idea was strongly supported by the then president of ICSW Europe, Dr. **Miloslav Hettes**, who represented the Slovak ICSW Committee "Third Sector Organizations Standing Conference". Sadly, Miloslav did not have a chance to see the fruition of his efforts—he passed away on **12 January, 2017** at the age of 62.

Miloslav Hettes accepted the position of President of ICSW Europe in 2014; his mandate, which was renewed during the 2016 General Assembly, should have come to an end in 2018 together with the mandates of other members of the ICSW Europe Board. The Board played an instrumental role in conceptualizing the framework and the programme of the Moscow Conference. With the support of the Board, Miloslav proposed three policy directions:

- improving the communication policy within the European Region, starting with the renewal of a quarterly Regional Newsletter;
- improving the communication policy within the European Region, starting with the renewal of a quarterly Regional Newsletter;
- increasing the membership of the ICSW, bringing on board civil-society organizations (CSOs) and other relevant institutions from the Central-Eastern and

- Eastern parts of Europe, starting with Slovakia, but also CSOs from the Czech Republic, Armenia, Moldova, and the Russian Federation, and strengthening contacts in countries such as Azerbaijan, Georgia, Bulgaria, Romania. (The ICSW defines "Europe" in a broader regional sense, transcending the European Union countries, and along the lines taken by the Council of Europe).
- working more closely with our members in the various countries.



The Moscow Conference presented an opportunity to meet those three goals at the same time.

This event was enriched by the content of some recent seminars convened by ICSW Europe in 2013-2016; they will continue to impact the programme of work until 2020.

Listed below are some recent examples of partnership between ICSW Europe and its members in 2015 and 2016:

- **Madrid, 23 April 2015:** *"Migrants and Social Protection Floors: Facilities and Obstacles to Access Different Welfare State Services in Time of Crisis"*, with the support of CEBES (Spanish Committee) and Comillas Pontifical University;



- **Helsinki, 9-10 June 2015:** *"Social Investments"* in cooperation with SOSTE (Finnish Committee);
- **Tbilisi, 30 October 2015:** *"Social Protection Floors as Investment in Central and Eastern Europe"* in cooperation with GASW (Georgian Association of Social Workers) and the Social Work Faculty in collaboration with the Lithuanian and the Slovak Committees;
- **Basel, 9-10 November 2015:** *"Social Benefits, Development, Challenges, Consequences: A Comparative Perspective between Austria, Germany and Switzerland"*, with the support of CSIAS-SKOS (Swiss Committee) and in collaboration with DV (German Committee) and OEKSA (Austrian Committee);

Frederiksberg (Denmark) 9 December, 2015: *"Human Rights, Citizenship, Radicalization and Working poor People"* with the support of Socialpolitisk Forening (Danish Committee) and Metropolitan University College;

- Prague, 26 May 2016: *"Good Practice and Exchange of Experiences in Social Work with People in Danger of Poverty"* in cooperation with Association of Citizens Advice Centres (Czech Committee).

We have all been resolutely working on the programme and the practical aspects of this event since September 2016.

We will always remember our late President, Miloslav Hettes.



Miloslav Hettes lectured at the Social Work Institute of St Elizabeth University of Health and Social Sciences in Bratislava and the University of Trnava (Slovakia) on social work, social policy, unemployed people issues, ageing matters, social

protection, social services, social economy, sustainable development and other International and European issues.

From July 1997 to December 1999 he worked as a Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations. He was a chairman of the UNECE working group on ageing in Geneva and vice-chairman of the UN Committee on Social Development and the UN Committee on Sustainable Development in New York.

From 2006 to 2010 he worked as a Director General at the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic; he was responsible for the section of international labour and social policy.

Useful resources and links- the find of the month

Du village gaulois au village global.

Christian Rollet

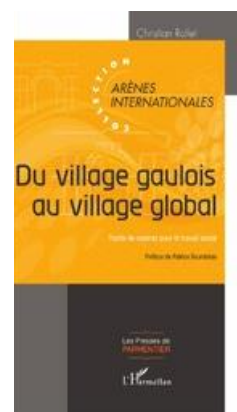
Points de repères pour le travail social.
L'Harmattan, 2017

The author of the book, a distinguished French scholar and practitioner, occupied high positions in French Government; he is

the former President of International Council on Social Welfare (2008-2012) and ICSW Europe (2012-2014). Using rich historical landscape, the author analyses peculiarities of social work in France, in the context of French and global social developments.

For more details:

<http://www.editions-harmattan.fr/index.asp?navig=catalogue&obj=livre&no=52157>



Mobilising Bond Markets for a Low-Carbon Transition

OECD, Paris, 2017

This report prepared by OECD describes the development of the green bond market as an innovative instrument for green finance, and provides a review of policy actions and options to promote further market development and growth.

For further details:

http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/mobilising-bond-markets-for-a-low-carbon-transition_9789264272323-en



Survey Questions

Dear readers of the ICSW Global Cooperation Newsletter,

In an effort to make the ICSW Newsletter a better read in terms of regional and global coverage I am writing to ask your views on the length and content of the Newsletter.

Kindly respond to three questions:

- a) Are you satisfied with the Newsletter as it stands? (Yes or No)
- b) What length of the Newsletter would you consider optimal:
 - 5-7 pages
 - 8-12 pages
 - More than 12 pages
- c) Apart from the regional coverage of activities of ICSW-affiliated organizations, what substantive social policy issues would you like to see explored in the Newsletter in the near future.

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