

GLOBAL AGENDA FOR SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Theme 3: Promoting environmental and community sustainability

Progress Report

IASSW Board Meeting

Zagreb, Croatia - January 26-29, 2018

Introduction

The tripartite meeting of the three global bodies (IASSW; ICSW; IFSW) was held in March 2017 in Dublin, Ireland. The President, Prof Annamaria Campanini, attended the meeting. The President and I had a Skype meeting following the meeting.

The three global bodies have appointed Dr David Jones as the Global Agenda Coordinator, responsible to them all. This global role will include leading the process into the 2020 conference. That conference will make recommendations about the future of the Global Agenda process just as the Hong Kong 2010 conference laid the foundations for the current Agenda process.

David Jones and I Skyped twice on the process with regard to the process for the Global Report on theme 3, and the regional observatories' reports and processes.

Theme 3 Global Agenda Report

The three global bodies aim for the 2018 report is to include more analysis of the general context of social work and social development in each region than has been possible in the previous reports – with a specific focus on the effectiveness of social work and social development in *Promoting environmental and community sustainability*. This theme should be presented in the context of the other three pillars, as they are all inter-related.

Each Regional Observatory needs to respond to the pressures, priorities and organisational arrangements in its region and therefore the regional reports will be approached differently and will have its unique elements. This is intended to encourage a more consistent format across the regional reports and address the wider context of social work and social development. The Global Co-ordinating Group asked Regional Observatories to structure their reports around the following themes in their 2018 submissions.

- The main/key/core social problems related to community and environmental sustainability affecting the country/region now.
- Essential policies that will effectively address these problems.
- What people with whom you work want to see changed.
- The actors/stakeholders/partnerships currently involved in addressing these issues and who should be involved.
- What people are doing about these problems; providing the evidence that social work and social development interventions are having a social, economic and/or political impact.

The Global Group was not asking for new research studies into these questions but encouraged Regional Observatories to refer to existing research and reports, such as reports prepared by regional bodies like The European Union and African Union. However, it is the prerogative of the respective regions to decide how they want to present the regional reports.

Case studies and examples can also be submitted; examples of good practice from core services and relevant examples of innovative and new approaches or projects. Examples should be used to illustrate the response to the abovementioned core themes.

Time table for Global Agenda report

The timetable for the Global Agenda report which we will publish at the Dublin conference is as follows:

- 29 February - regional reports submitted
- 30 April - full report completed including global overview

The regional coordinators have received an e-mail from David Jones on the abovementioned deadlines. He indicated that he will Skype with coordinators as necessary.

Way forward

The planning for the next phase of The Global Agenda process is supposed to start now with a view to focussing the 2020 conference on an Agenda building process, similar to that held in Hong Kong. The process leading into 2020 will be announced at the 2018 conference. It will, however, not be a joint conference which hopefully will not distract the united commitment of the three bodies to the outcome of the process.

For discussion at Board meeting

How involved are IASSW Board members / social work educators in regional Global Agenda processes? Is it a joint process between the regional associations of IASSW; IFSW and ICSW? As coordinator of the Africa region, I can report that the three bodies collectively decided on the questions of the survey in the region that will inform the regional report.

Ideas for a statement on the fourth theme of the Global Agenda: *Strengthening recognition of the importance of human relations* which will be launched at the conference in Dublin, July 2018.

Discuss ideas for the second phase of the Global Agenda when the current phase ends in 2020 to ensure that IASSW has well-prepared agendas for the discussions in 2020.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antoinette Lombard', with a stylized, cursive script.

Antoinette Lombard
Chair: Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development