

“ECONOMIC CRISIS in EUROPE-CHALLENGE and RESPONSE of SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION”

Dear Colleagues,

This questionnaire has been prepared as a part of IFSW Europe’s new project called “Economic Crisis in Europe-Challenge and Response of Social Work Profession”. The aim of the questionnaire is basically “to gather data about the “response” of social workers/social work to the economic crisis at the national levels”.
Thank you for your contribution.

IFSW EUROPE e.V.

Questionnaire: United Kingdom - BASW

The UK is made up of 4 countries England, Northern Ireland (NI), Scotland and Wales. NI, Scotland and Wales have devolved budgets and responsibilities for developing social policy. This information is based on UK data, with some examples from specific countries.

As an example, this is a link to a paper which reviews the devolved countries approaches to tackling child poverty. http://cdn.basw.co.uk/upload/basw_111232-3.pdf Joseph Rowntree Foundation Programme Paper – Anti- Poverty Strategies for the UK – A Review of Devolved Approaches to Child Poverty (October 2013)
Jim McCormick

Theme	Question	Information
<i>General Data - changes since 2011</i>	Has the GNP (BIP) risen in your country since 2011?	The UK economy is growing at its fastest rate in more than three years after a 0.8% increase in national output in the quarter to September 2013.
	Has unemployment risen, %? actual data	<p>The unemployment rate dropped from 7.8% in the three months to June to 7.6% – its lowest level in four years – in the quarter ending in September following the 48,000 drop in joblessness to 2.47 million on the internationally agreed labour force survey measure.</p> <p>http://www.theguardian.com/business/2013/nov/13/unemployment-rate-falls-bank-of-england-interest-rate-target</p> <p>Figures do vary from country to country e.g. In NI, unemployment currently stands at 7.3%, a short drop of 0.8% this year which is above UK average. Britain's rising population means that a record number of people – 29.95 million – are in work but the employment rate remains lower than it was before the deep recession of 2008-09. The current rate of 71.8% compares with 73% at the peak in early 2008 but above the trough of 70.8% reached in 2011.</p> <p>The bulk of the jobs created in the latest three months were full time but a record 1.46 million people are working part time because they could not find a full-time job. Unemployment as measured by the number of people out of work and claiming eligible benefits dropped by 41,700 in September to 1.3 million.</p> <p>Therefore the labour market has increased with the number of employed rising. However real wages were stagnating before the recession and have fallen further since, putting a squeeze on living standards for many more families. Many of the jobs are part time and low wage. Older workers have benefited</p>

		<p>most, younger workers least.</p> <p>The principal problem is that those working simply do not earn enough to escape poverty. The UK has one of the highest rates of low pay in the developed world. The National Minimum Wage is now worth £1,000 less in real terms than it was in 2008. Today, 4.8 million workers, often women, earn less than the Living Wage.</p> <p>http://cdn.basw.co.uk/upload/basw_10710-8.pdf</p> <p>Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission: State of the Nation 2013 Presented to Parliament October 2013</p>
	Youth unemployment risen % ?, actual data	<p>Across the UK, youth unemployment was unchanged for June to August 2013 at 21.0%. Numbers of young people unemployed for two years or more are at a 20-year high.</p> <p>Again there are regional and country variations e.g. In NI, in January 2012, 20% of all young people in NI were unemployed. By August 2013 this had reduced to 18%, which is still very high.</p>
	Has government implemented special programs and are social workers engaged?	<p>In order to take steps towards tackling youth unemployment, the £1 billion Youth Contract was announced in April 2012, which aimed to provide nearly half a million new opportunities for 18-24 year olds. This is a means of incentivising the private sector to create jobs for young people.</p> <p>in February 2013 the government announced £126 million investment to tackle the number of 16-17 year olds not in employment, education or training. The youth contract is expected to create an additional 430,000 work opportunities by 2015.</p> <p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-19638255</p> <p>The Work and Pensions Select Committee in 2012 said the contract was "a good start" but alone would not be enough to tackle the high level of youth unemployment.</p> <p>Special programs for youth unemployment vary in each country. In NI there is a Youth Employment Scheme, funded by the Department of Education and Learning. (DELL)</p> <p>The scheme supports young people aged 18 to 24 by offering three options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A short 4-6 week placement with an employer (ii) A longer term 6-9 months placement (iii) A subsidy of £5,000 for an employer who offers a young person employment.
	Rise of poverty- %?	<p>The Joseph Rowntree report in 2011, Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion by Aldridge, Parekh, MacInnes and Kenway1 December 2011</p> <p>http://data.jrf.org.uk/?gclid=CMXtwPyg-7oCFfMdtAodHnUATA</p> <p>found that 22% of the population was in poverty; Poverty is increasing for working age adults as a whole and there are more adults in deep poverty.</p> <p>Broken down by age, 29% of children and 16% of pensioners were in poverty. The pensioner poverty</p>

		<p>rate had fallen dramatically from 29% in 1996/97.</p> <p>Among working age adults, 25% of those with dependent children were in poverty, as were 20% of those without. But whereas for the former group this represents little change over the years, the poverty rate for the latter has risen quite consistently over the last decade. Almost a third of young adults are in poverty. Fuel poverty is increasing.</p> <p><i>Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission, State of the Nation Report 2013</i> http://cdn.basw.co.uk/upload/basw_10710-8.pdf shows that numbers of children in relative poverty have fallen recently but those in absolute poverty increased by more than 275,000 in 2011/12. Since 2010 there has been a dramatic 15% decline in the number of children in workless households but a big rise in the proportion of poor children who are in families where someone is in work. Two-thirds of poor children are now in working households.</p> <p>The availability of easy credit, short-termism and excessive risk-taking in financial markets across society has fuelled speculative behaviour, giving rise to bubble-driven growth and important imbalances.</p> <p>The 27 EU economies are highly interdependent: the crisis underscored the close links and spill-overs between our national economies, particularly in the euro area. Reforms, or the lack of them, in one country affect the performance of all others.</p>
<p><i>Have you recognized?</i></p>	<p>Cuts in national social budgets yes – no social protection systems: safety net reduced or stabilized, Education: early school leave, increase? Cuts: for materials, books, sports, cultural events Vocational training, Poverty: increase detailed for women, elderly, unemployed, children, families with children, increase of the gap between poor and rich Health: availability of health and care services, Health problems because of poverty, infant mortality, women, men, substance abuse, alcohol - increase? Life expectancy decrease? Mental health problems, suicide, increase? Homelessness: Men, women, Families, covered homelessness increase? Debt and insolvency of private persons, families, number of foreclosures</p>	<p>Cuts in National budgets - yes The Government is implementing wide ranging welfare reforms including radical changes to welfare benefits and a programme of austerity cuts across all government and local government services. In theory health and education have been protected.</p> <p>There have been huge cuts in social budgets with £81bn cut from public spending over four years. The Spending Review for 2015 -16 requires further savings of £11.5bn. There will be a 1% cap on public sector pay rises and automatic progression pay to be ended in civil service, schools, hospitals, prisons and the police but not the armed forces.</p> <p>There will be a new cap on elements of welfare spending from April 2015. Housing benefit, tax credits, disability living allowance will be included but state pension is to be excluded.</p> <p>A report for the Poverty and Social Exclusion Unit by <i>Professor Peter Taylor-Gooby, University of Kent</i> http://www.poverty.ac.uk/articles-government-cuts-international-comparisons-public-spending-whats-new/uk-heading-bottom-place indicates that by 2017 the UK is set to have the lowest share of public spending among major capitalist economies, including the USA, as a result of the exceptionally harsh cuts in public spending</p>

Cuts in social services:
which kinds mainly:
family counseling
health services
care services for elderly
care services for children

currently planned. The consequence, according to the International Monetary Fund's latest predictions, is that while before the 2008 financial crisis, the UK's public expenditure as a percentage of GDP was in about the middle of the major capitalist economies, above the USA, Japan and Canada though below Germany, Italy, Sweden and France, the UK is heading swiftly to the bottom.

While the government is determined to shrink public spending, it is maintaining spending on pensions, health and education. These are highly popular areas of spending and it would be electorally damaging to cut them. Welfare for the poor, by contrast, is being cut back sharply though this also appears to be popular.

The consequences of these policies for those on low income have been extensively analysed. The Institute for Fiscal Studies predicts an increase in poverty (by the standard 60 per cent median income poverty line) of the order of 0.8 million by 2015 and of 2.3 million by 2020. This increase will be concentrated among families with children and single people of working age (Brewer, 2011). The Resolution Foundation shows how job insecurity is increasing and wages stagnating, particularly at the bottom end (Brewer et al., 2012). Housing problems are growing steadily more pressing.

Services focused on prevention have been particularly vulnerable to cuts which means services have to deal with more people at crisis point and fewer services to support them.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-23060592>

The policies of devolved administrations can make a big difference and shows that there are alternatives to the approach of the coalition government. An example of differences between countries is that Children's social care spending in England in 2011-12 was planned to be reduced by an average of 24% compared with 2010-11. In contrast, a number of Welsh councils increased their children's social care budgets for 2011-12 and spending was only projected to fall by 1.96% in Wales as a whole.

In Scotland, Campaign groups have launched a manifesto outlining the need for genuine reform of the social security system based on increasing benefit rates to a level where no one is left in poverty and all have sufficient income to lead a dignified life.

A Manifesto for Change, Scottish Campaign on Welfare Reform Manifesto Nov 14 2013

Please provide examples and information on some of these topics:

Poverty:

The Poverty and Social Exclusion research project, funded by the Economic and Social Research

Council, is the largest ever study of poverty conducted in the UK. The research found that the situation is worse today than it has been for the past thirty years

http://www.poverty.ac.uk/sites/default/files/attachments/The_Impoverishment_of_the_UK_PSE_UK_first_results_summary_report_March_28.pdf (March 28 2013)

The results show that:

- Over 30 million people (almost half the population) are suffering to some degree from financial insecurity.
- Almost 18 million in the UK today cannot afford adequate housing conditions.
- Roughly 14 million cannot afford one or more essential household goods.
- Almost 12 million people are too poor to engage in common social activities considered necessary by the majority of the population
- About 5.5 million adults go without essential clothing.
- Around 4 million children and adults are not properly fed by today's standards.
- Around 2.5 million children live in homes that are damp
- Around 1.5 million children live in households that cannot afford to heat their home

Fiscal consolidation has been regressive with the bottom 20% in society making a bigger contribution than all but the top 20%.

Families with children (32% of working-age families) bear half the cost of tax and benefit changes and almost two-thirds of spending cuts.

As evidenced above, today child poverty is overwhelmingly a problem facing working families, not just the workless.

Two thirds of Britain's poor children – compared to less than half in 1997 – are now in families where an adult works. The available data suggest that in three-quarters of those, someone already works full-time. The principal problem is that those working parents simply do not earn enough to escape poverty.

The JRF Report Monitoring poverty and social exclusion in Scotland 2013 Aldridge, Kenway and MacInnes found that in the decade to 2010/11, the child poverty rate in Scotland fell from 31% to 21% after housing costs (AHC). From having a higher rate than England and Wales, Scotland now has a much lower rate due to Scottish government policies to reduce child poverty.

Other trends in Scotland have resonance with the rest of the UK:

- Since 2008, the number of under-25s who are unemployed has almost doubled to 90,000.
- Among those without dependent children, there was a rise in the number living in low-income,

working families from 125,000 to 150,000

- The number of people working part-time, who want a full-time job, has risen from 70,000 in 2008 to 120,000 in 2012.
- A boy born in the most deprived 10 per cent of areas has a life expectancy of 68 – 8 years below the national average and 14 years below boys born in the least deprived areas.

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/monitoring-poverty-scotland-2013>

Food Poverty: Northern Ireland food bills are predicted to be joint highest in UK with London. This despite the Northern Ireland income being 36.6% being lower than that of London.

Fuel Poverty: 44% of Northern Ireland's households experience fuel poverty. Many have to make the decision whether to eat or heat

Inequality

A balanced economic recovery, between different parts of UK, does not seem to be currently within reach. If, as seems likely, the recovery sees the trend of the last decade continuing, where the top part of society prospers and the bottom part stagnates, inequalities will grow and the rungs of the social ladder will grow further apart.

Such changes have profoundly affected the environment by creating new inequalities and vulnerabilities, while reducing the forms of social support available. The Welfare Reform Act has meant that the most vulnerable in society — children and families, disabled people and young single adults — all face cuts to their benefits. The government argues that they need to simplify the system and make work pay, but the underlying reason is to save billions of pounds to deal with the economic crisis created by the banking and financial sector.

Social mobility has not been opened up, whether at top universities or in the top professions. Despite past reforms high youth unemployment and falling living standards affecting prospects for social mobility.

Marmot said on the six measures that affect health – relating to employment, education, income and health, child development and environment – he was "not sanguine that we are doing enough on any of them".

Although he said there was around a three point improvement in the percentage of 5-year-olds achieving a good level of development between 2010 and 2011 – from nearly 56% to 59% – this left almost 250,000 children failing to meet the standard set by schools. Such tests include being able to dress, concentrate, and the ability to speak and recognise words.

	<p>Violence and abuse: violence in the families, against women, children, at work (mobbing and bossing), at school (bullying)</p> <p>Disabled people and people with special needs: cuts, discrimination rising, Human rights violence</p> <p>Human Rights violations</p> <p>Racist occurrences</p> <p>situation of minorities, refugees cuts in the cultural sector, decrease of participation for poor, disabled etc.</p>	<p>Marmot said this was evidence that Britain was failing its young children on a grand scale owing to inequality, with many not achieving basic levels of social and emotional development.</p> <p>Children’s services FAMILIES ON THE FRONT LINE? Family and parenting Institute October 2012 http://www.niace.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/projects/Family/External_research/FAMILY-AND-PARENTING-INSTITUTE-Local-Spending-on-Childrens-Service-in-Austerity.pdf</p> <p>Austerity is evidently prompting local authorities to refocus their resources and so redefine their priorities. This research shows that Children’s Services departments have endeavoured to use the upheaval to devise ambitious approaches to service redesign and integration to deliver cost savings. In some instances, budget pressures have seemingly prompted changes that were perhaps overdue, or provided opportunities to ‘innovate in austerity’ for managers able to identify more effective ways to meet the needs of families and children. It is also apparent from both the analysis of spending data and the interviews that this period has seen many local authorities going to considerable lengths to shield front-line service provision from direct cutbacks. However going forward, there is little scope for introducing yet more efficiency measures that will not directly impact on the front line or on services for the most vulnerable. As cuts become increasingly visible to families, public opposition is likely to increase.</p> <p>Government priorities have been the School Academies and Free School agenda being led by the Department for Education, the Troubled Families initiative pursued by the Department for Communities and Local Government and expectations that councils should improve their performance in child protection and early intervention. These priorities have often taken money away from local authorities with reduced scope for early intervention such as those provided by Sure Start. With less money to go around, many local authorities will inevitably need to target their limited resources among groups with the highest need and thresholds for services are being increased making it increasingly difficult to justify resourcing work with families before crisis point is reached.</p> <p>Cuts to funding for services aimed at less vulnerable families may also have the unintended consequence of escalating need and increasing pressure on more costly social work services.</p> <p>Benefits Since taking office the Coalition Government has introduced a multitude of cuts to benefits and tax credits, including reductions in the rate at which all benefits and tax credits are uprated, freezes in the</p>
--	--	---

value of some elements and significant cuts to Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit and childcare tax credits and the introduction of the "Bedroom Tax".

Disability

Demos's new report, *Destination Unknown*, exposes the real impact the cuts are having on people with disabilities and their capabilities for independence and autonomy. Demos estimate the government's proposed welfare reforms will cost some 3.2 million disabled people over £9bn by the end of this Parliament. Also presented in the report are a series of case studies, which reveal the true effects that the cuts will have on disabled households over the years ahead.

Whether it's social care cuts, the Bedroom Tax, or Work Capability Assessments to name a few, the research reveals that disabled people are bearing the brunt of the austerity measures, losing an estimated £28.3bn by 2017/18.

http://www.demos.co.uk/press_releases/destinationunknownapril2013

<http://www.centreforwelfarereform.org/uploads/attachment/354/a-fair-society.pdf>

Education

In NI, Education Board budgets are reduced each year. For example in 2010/11 the current expenditure was reduced by 2.6% and capital expenditure was reduced by 11.5%. The Education Minister, John O'Dowd is currently consulting on plans to reduce the budgets given to some schools to increase the budgets of schools in lower socio economic areas. This is an attempt to counteract the fact that 69% of children and young people receiving free school meals do not attain 5 GCSE's on leaving higher education.

Student fees in England have risen from around £3,125 a year to between £6,000 and £9,000.

Alongside this, the higher education teaching budget has been slashed by 75% - the highest cut out of any departmental sector. Taken as a whole, this could be presented as a tax on the youngest generation.

Housing

"Bedroom tax" is a new tax whereby housing benefit is docked by 14% a week for one "spare" room, and 25% for two or more. The misguided, punitive idea was to somehow push people out of "under-occupied" social housing and free them up for bigger families. However in many areas there is a shortage of 1 and 2 bedroom properties for people to move into.

Councils and housing associations forecast huge increases in rent arrears, and the financial problems that would create, which is exactly what is happening. Thousands of people who were never in debt now are.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/jun/>

09/bedroom-tax-huge-problems-worse

A Scottish government study estimated that by May 2013, the bedroom tax had cut the housing benefits for 82,500 Scottish households. The Scottish government is to devote £20m in emergency funds for families and tenants affected by the "bedroom tax". This is on top of another £136m over the next two years to help staunch the effects of other welfare cuts.

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2013/sep/11/scotland-20m-bedroom-tax>

The cuts will make it more difficult for many young people to find stable and affordable accommodation as the social housing building budget has been slashed by 60%. There is a double effect here because in the private sector, house building has also ground to a halt and overall, building rates are at their lowest since the 1920's.

Youth Services

Local authorities are not by law obliged to provide youth services, so many councils have concentrated financial savings in this area. For example, one county council, , in 2010 slashed spending on youth clubs, residential activities, training and volunteering opportunities by 73% over three years.

Health

NHS has to save £20bn. A parliamentary inquiry has warned that one in three hospitals could end up in major financial difficulties in the next few months as a result of an unprecedented NHS-wide cash squeeze. <http://www.theguardian.com/society/2013/nov/08/nhs-cuts-hospitals-financial-crisis-squeeze>

NI receives a block grant from Westminster which funds the work of the Health and Social Care Executive. This has been reduced and a total of £4Billion will have been taken out by 2015. This has led to cuts in health and social care budgets, reductions in services available to support children and adults needing care and support. The move towards a resource rather than needs led model of care was highlighted as a problem in a NIASW survey conducted with social workers working in adult services settings in NI in 2013.

Many NHS services are being put out to tender to private companies.

In NI Transforming Your Care strategy has been prepared to plan how to meet the health and social care needs of an aging population into the future.

Adult services

According to the Association of Directors of Adult Services (ADASS), £2.7bn has been cut from the adult social care budgets of councils in England in the past three years, the equivalent of 20% of the budget.

		<p>An increasing number of referrals, major restructure and high turnover among senior staff are adding to the pressure in adults' and children's services. Yet, at the same time, professionals are being told they must do better, with regulatory changes creating what some have warned is fast becoming a blame culture in social care departments.</p> <p>For most local authorities, the easiest options to save cash have now been exhausted and they are looking at radical changes to the way they deliver services – through, for example, partnerships with the voluntary and private sectors, and new organisational models.</p> <p>http://www.theguardian.com/social-care-network/2013/oct/16/social-care-under-pressure</p> <p>More <u>older people</u> and citizens with disabilities will be denied state-funded care support over the next two years as local authority finances continue to take a battering from funding cuts.</p> <p>Even as demand for services continues to rise Councils plan to make £800m in adult social care savings over the next 12 months alone. Around £104m of this would be made through the "direct withdrawal of services". Keene said continued reductions on this scale were unsustainable, despite the transfer to local authority budgets of around £850m of NHS funds this year and the prospect of further such transfers in future. Councils say they are facing year-on-year rises in "demography pressures" of 3% – the demands on care services caused by an ageing population and severely disabled people living longer.</p> <p>The government has published its <u>Care and Support bill</u>, which aims to clarify people's rights to social care. This may herald closer working between social care and NHS services but is unlikely to solve the wider care funding problems faced by councils.</p> <p>http://www.theguardian.com/social-care-network/2013/apr/03/way-forward-for-social-work</p> <p>Hate Crime</p> <p>In NI, Incidents1 & Crimes with a Hate Motivation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2012/13 the PSNI recorded 1,372 sectarian incidents, 750 racist incidents, 246 homophobic incidents, 74 disability incidents, 22 faith/religion incidents and 15 transphobic incidents. • Compared with the previous year there were increases in all of the 6 hate incident types. Sectarian incidents increased by 28 (2.1%), racist incidents were up by 54 (7.8%), disability incidents were up by 41 (124.2%), homophobic incidents were up by 46 (23.0%). In addition, there were 14 more faith/religion incidents.
	<p>increase of prices – inflation</p> <p>Prices for energy, heating, housing, rents, basic food, % of income that is spent on food</p>	<p>Recently UK inflation has dropped to 2.2%</p> <p>However the cost of essentials has driven up the earnings required by families. Over the past five years:</p>

	<p>and energy by each household.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare costs have risen over twice as fast as inflation at 37% • Rent in social housing has gone up by 26% • Food costs have increased by 24% • Energy costs are 39% more and; • Public transport is up by 30%. <p>Cuts to benefits and tax credits have exacerbated the problem over the past 12 months. The Coalition's flagship policy of raising the personal tax allowance to £9,440 in April has helped - but is cancelled out by the cuts and the rising cost of essentials.</p> <p>Cuts to benefits and tax credits – especially cuts to support for childcare – combined with stagnant wages and the rising cost of essentials is resulting in an unprecedented erosion of living standards</p> <p>http://www.jrf.org.uk/media-centre/minimum-cost-living-soars 28th June 2013</p> <p>Debts and insolvency</p> <p>In NI, in 2003 there were a total of 835 orders relating to debt and insolvency. In 2013 this number had risen to 3,189. That gives an indication how the economy has adversely affected those living in NI.</p> <p>Ethnic Minorities</p> <p>Within NI we have a population of people who have no recourse to public funds as they haven't yet been resident and paying national insurance contributions for one year. This means that they have no way of accessing help or support, if for example they are forced to leave an abusive relationship. There is some support for those women who have children but none for those who don't.</p>
<p><i>Response of social work on the crisis</i></p>	<p>Has your association</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> engaged in national programs or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes made statements on social politics - through interviews on national and local TV and radio, website, PSW magazine, social media, press statements and statements made in partnerships with other organisations.</p> <p>Some examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing up for social workers in the media • November 2013 BASW signed a Joint Statement from children's charities and others on the Immigration Bill and concerns for children's welfare. • In Scotland SASW publically criticised the 'bedroom tax' "One of the issues which may impact on vulnerable families is the deplorable bedroom tax." • BASW's CEO made a statement on George Osborne's 2013 autumn statement, and considered the implications for social workers in a blog for Community Care. • BASW responded to the Comprehensive

Spending Review 26th June 2013 by saying that “It can only be a source of extreme concern, however, that the Chancellor has, as anticipated, imposed new cuts of 10% on local authorities. Combined with fresh limits on welfare spending – potentially slashing £4 billion from low income people – social workers will be forced to support ever greater numbers of vulnerable people with ever dwindling resources.”

Yes elaborated concepts for social programs –

YES organized meetings, participation in demonstrations

BASW joined the rally against austerity 18th October 2012

YES meetings and talks to politicians

BASW managers, staff and members in all 4 countries meet regularly with Government ministers and MPs e.g.

- An All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Social Work has been set up at Westminster and a BASW survey warned ministers that social workers were already struggling to properly fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities. More than 94% of respondents to the survey said more cuts would put the lives of vulnerable people in jeopardy, coming on top of already unmanageable reductions in spending since 2010.
- Recently there have been meeting with Norman Lamb, Minister of State for Care and Support in England to talk about the role of social workers in adult services in the future, the impact of financial cuts, the needs of older people and the possibility of taking different approaches such as developing more community social work.
- In Wales, Scotland and NI, BASW has been involved with Government in developing new legislation for social services and how to structure social work services in times of austerity. Members have been involved through surveys of their views on proposals.
- BASW has had events at Westminster and in all the countries to promote the Global Agenda.

supported members-social workers to install projects

YES supported NGOs with know how: Asylum seeking and immigration is one example where BASW is a member of Refugee Children Committee, which has lobbied against cuts to legal aid, for the UN Convention of Rights of the Child to have priority over other legislation and for multi-agency guidance on age assessment.

engaged in self organized NGO-projects

YES organized emergency and relief-programs for benevolent fund

social workers (members) – BASW has increased funding to the Social Work Benevolent Fund to help social workers who are suffering

		hardship. <input type="checkbox"/> for people (clients and public)
	Are there other activities by your association (please specify)?	
	Have you been asked by government organizations to participate or contribute with know how etc.?	Yes – see above
	Has your association supported social work based programs, in which way mainly?	Yes – see above
	Have you attended public conferences discussing measures to tackle the crisis?	Yes – in each country
	Have new NGOs been founded or established in your country providing aid to people?	The Trussell Trust - Food banks
	Have new networks been established to concentrate profession's know how and information?	Memorandum of Understanding between JUCSWEC International Committee and Social Work Health Inequalities network, which aims to promote the Global Agenda as well as research, discussion and action by social work researchers, educators, practitioners and managers, to combat the causes and consequences of unjust and damaging socially created inequalities.
	Have you recognized employment of low educated and/or non-social-workers in programs?	Scotland is looking at the scope of membership and whether this should open up to other non-social workers in social services
<i>Role of international social work, IFSW</i>	Has information by IFSW-EUROPE been useful?	IFSW- Europe provides up to date information that social workers can access. This is communicated widely to members of BASW so that individuals can observe the many advantages of using the site. The challenge is getting this marketed to a nonmember which is on-going work in NIASW.
	Have you contacted IFSW-EUROPE for special information for your work	We work closely with Ian Johnston, an IFSW Europe Executive member, and this enables us to keep up to date with information, Social Platform and EU projects and developments by IFSW Europe.
	What kind of information have you been missing?	<p>More information on supporting staff to build resilience to cope with the demands of social work and avoid burnout would be helpful.</p> <p>BASW is very willing to support IFSW Europe and engage in projects. We would find it helpful to have clarity about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The remit for each of the agencies that IFSW is linked with and expectations about country involvement • Agreed priorities as the scope is huge

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timescales and timetables for projects/ consultations and when it is most useful to try and influence.
	Is the homepage and facebook-site of IFSW-EUROPE helpful?	Yes. The song is excellent and a great way of creating fun ways of sharing the messages of social work. The video is also compelling viewing. Brings a sense of pride to the profession.
	Do you want more personal exchange?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On the webpage – discussion forum/chat <input type="checkbox"/> Personal meetings with other members. This may help to be clear about what is expected as a delegate <input type="checkbox"/> Skype-discussions organized by IFSW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Download-area for good practice examples This would be useful
<i>Combating the effects of the crisis – work plan for IFSW-Europe</i>	What could/should IFSW-Europe do additionally for support of your national situation?	There is scope to make our national issues heard in the European context due to the shared experiences of the recession and how this impacts on social work with disadvantaged groups. Resilience research could contribute to our knowledge base around our common experiences and differing contexts across Europe. The work of Ungar in Canada has a global appeal to resilience and it would be appropriate to measure issues in a local context in Northern Ireland in a similar manner.
	Should IFSW-EUROPE intensify the contacts to international politics?	<p>Yes. Social work is a global affair and what happens in one context has an impact elsewhere. Social work has a unique contribution to make in all matters related to powerless and disadvantaged groups and therefore is in an pivotal position to engage with our international colleague in a political arena to push our agenda forward.</p> <p>We should promote Social Work as an important factor in building Europe's capacity for responding to the realities of austerity and alternative solutions. However we understand this is time consuming and requires support.</p>
	Should IFSW-EUROPE build a task-force to visit and assess your national situation	<p>Yes in Northern Ireland which is a post conflict society and as well as experiencing the many social and economic issues that are felt elsewhere, it is important that the overall context is considered. Sectarian issues remain a current experience for areas of Northern Ireland and how this impact in an already damaged social, political and economic situation has its own particular challenges.</p> <p>We would welcome a better engagement and dialogue about what other countries are doing and learning from them.</p>
	Should IFSW-EUROPE provide reports (with your support) about the effects on people's	Yes This would be achievable with a stepped approach to gaining insight through sensitive research on aspects of living that impacts on the

	lives	most disadvantaged. Could develop European Observatory to share practice and examples and analyse but this would require more finance.
<i>Austerity effects on people's lives</i>	In what way do you make specific vulnerable groups aware of their human/ socio-economic rights?	Through social work practice, lobbying, working with other organisations, publications and policies. Our Vulnerable Adults and Adult Safeguarding processes. Child protection legislation and policy are example of how social work manages to uphold the human rights of children and adults in our society.
	In what way are you involved in advocating for the socio-economic rights and inclusion of vulnerable people?	Through direct discussions with politicians, media, supporting social workers through Advice and representation and through the social work union, through articles and policies. Through committee work in all the countries.
	How are socio-economic inequalities defined in your area?	Conventions – minimum wage etc
	Who or what issue/right have you tried to influence and at what level (local, national regional, international)? What is the nature of the activities you have undertaken? How successful have your actions been? What lessons can be learnt from the successes and failures?	Please describe: More involved policy development Importance of representing members experience to policy makers Working with media
	THANK YOU!	The results will be published; an excerpt sent to EU- and national politics (if agreed with you) and will also be provided for the Global Agenda observatory.
<i>Name of</i>	Organization/Association:	BASW
	Country:	UK
	Person in charge:	Bridget Robb - CEO
	Person who filled in:	Fran McDonnell – Policy Manager
	City:	London
	Date:	25 th November 2013
	Signature:	F. McDonnell