

## Biography of Anna Rurka, President of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe

Anna Rurka was born in Warsaw on 20 March 1978. Given her original training at Warsaw University as a social education worker, social education applied to social work remains a source of inspiration for her daily work. It provides a basis for focusing on the purpose of and methods for mobilising the resources available in individuals' and groups' living environments so that they can become real players in the process of participation in the private and public sphere.

In 2000, while studying for a master's degree in education at Warsaw University, she decided to go on an Erasmus programme exchange year. Direct contact with social realities in France and their intercultural dimension very quickly encouraged her to explore social work in France, in the area of street education work. She has good memories of that period, in particular in terms of the time spent with residents in urban neighbourhoods and of having constantly to come up with fresh opportunities to optimise those vulnerable young people's and families' chances of success.

She returned to Poland to complete her master's studies in 2001 and began doctoral studies in Nanterre immediately thereafter. She obtained a research contract, which enabled her to devote herself entirely to doctoral research on the effectiveness of educational measures from the point of view of parents and professionals. In 2006, having completed her doctorate, she returned to street work with young people, while also being involved in new academic projects.

In 2008, Anna Rurka was appointed at the University Paris Ouest Nanterre La Défense as Senior Lecturer in Education Science, in the family education and family social work research team. She still holds that post, and her research focus and publications involve participation in assessing measures for people receiving social work support, access to rights by vulnerable groups and systemic and institutional analysis of the power dynamics in public policies.

In 2003, she joined EUROCEF (European Committee for Home-based Priority Action for the Child and the Family), an INGO set up in 1998 and granted participatory status with the Council of Europe in 2003. She very quickly became its Chair, and has been involved in the Conference of INGOs' activities concerning children's rights since 2005. In January 2015, she was elected President of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe. She combines her commitments at the Conference of INGOs with her academic work in France, Poland and other European countries.