



Social Platform EU Delegation to Sweden

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Eszter SALMON
Vice-President of [Social Platform](#)
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Eszter Salamon is the Vice President of Social Platform and the President of the European Parents' Association.

Originally trained and practiced as a teacher, she later became an economist specialised in non-profit management, education and culture, non-profit marketing and public relations.

She started dealing with rights of the child issues in 1989 and has specialised in students' rights and parents' rights in the past 18 years. She has been working on the issues of European education and social topics including equity and inclusion, lifelong learning, the prevention of early school leaving and youth unemployment, reconciling family life and work, and the importance of developing key competences.



Julien DIJOL
Deputy Secretary-General, [Housing Europe](#)
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Julien Dijol is Deputy Secretary-General and Policy Coordinator at Housing Europe, the European Social Housing Federation. He has been mostly working on the relationships between EU policies in the field of territorial cohesion and social inclusion and national housing policies. He has been involved in various EU projects, in particular in the field of urban development, energy, ageing and social inclusion, and contributed to various EU studies and reports.

Julien was also member of the Board of Social Platform, the European network of social NGOs (2011-2013)

Julien holds several degrees in social sciences (sociology, political sciences, economics) from the University of Stuttgart (Germany), the Institute of political studies (IEP) in Bordeaux (France) and the Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium).



An-Sofie LEENKNECHT
Human Rights Officer, [European Disability Forum](#)
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An-Sofie Leenknecht is a Human Rights Officer at the European Disability Forum (EDF). She has been working for the past eight years in the sector of human rights and disability rights.

Prior to joining EDF, An-Sofie worked briefly for the regional office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Chile. Afterwards, she started working as a legal adviser at the Belgian Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism, where she handled complaints of people with disabilities facing discrimination. She also worked on the monitoring body for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Belgium.

An-Sofie completed a Masters in International Public Law at the Ghent University and a LLM degree in International Human Rights Law at the University of Nottingham.



Elsa LAINO

Social Services Coordinator, [Solidar](#)

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Since 2012, Elsa Laino has worked at SOLIDAR , where she coordinates the policy and advocacy work related to social services, migration and fundamental rights.

Prior to joining SOLIDAR, she worked as research assistant at the Housing Europe Observatory on a number of research projects and publications on European social policies with a focus on housing and social services.

She holds a Master's degree in Political Sciences and Public Management from the University of Bologna.



George JOSEPH

Member, [Caritas Europa](#)

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George Joseph works on migration, asylum and anti-trafficking issues for Caritas Europa and the Catholic Church in Sweden.

George has worked in very different countries in the past. He was a Red Cross volunteer in Vietnam, a Field Officer for UNDP in Africa and in Central Asia, a Protection Officer for the UNHCR in Africa, Caucasus, Central Asia and Geneva, a Professor at the University of Wisconsin, and visiting Professor at the University of Tokyo.

He holds a Doctorate in International Human Rights Law with special focus on Migration issues, a Master's degree in Law and a Master's degree in Counselling Psychology, and a Bachelor's degree in Theology.



Luca LASZLO

Member of [European Parents' Association](#)

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Luca Janka Laszlo is assistant of the President of the European Parent's Association and manager of the ParentHelp project. She has a Bachelor in Political Science and is currently completing a Master in Nationalism Studies at the Central European University.

She is one of the leaders and founders of an important grassroots organisation that started helping refugees and migrants in Hungary and in other countries of the Balkan route.

She has been involved in projects promoting inclusion of minorities in Europe.



Rachele BEZZINI

Member of the [European Anti-Poverty Network](#)

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Rachele Bezzini is a member of the organisation „Differenze Culturali e Nonviolenza Onlus“, which is part of CILAP-EAPN Italy, and a member of the EAPN Migration/Refugee Task Force.

Rachele has worked as an Italian teacher and English-Italian translator in asylum-seeker reception centres, and also volunteered to help refugee children in Italy.

She holds a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Social Anthropology from the University of Siena and is currently a PhD candidate in Migration Studies at the University of Sussex.



Salome MBUGUA

Board Member of the [European Women's Lobby](#)

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Salome Mbugua is the founder and president of AkiDwA-The migrant women's network in Ireland. She is the head of mission with the Wezesha-African Diaspora-led development Organization.

Salome has been involved in the development of several policies and strategies with various Irish government departments and units on migrants' integration. Salome is also involved at European level with the EU expert group on Economic migration and the European Women's Lobby expert group on Violence against Women. She is the vice chair of the European Network of Migrant Women and is a board member of the European Women's Lobby. She is a former board member of the Equality Authority and vice chair of the National Women Council of Ireland.

Salome holds a Master's degree in Equality studies from University College Dublin and is currently undertaking a doctorate research on conflict resolution and peace building at Trinity College Dublin.



Manuela VOLLMANN

Board Member of [European Network of Social Integration Enterprises](#)

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Manuela Vollmann finished her university degree in Educational Sciences with a focus on adult education, vocational training and feminist sciences in 1988.

She is founder, executive director and chair woman of the board at abz*austria, an Austrian social-profit-organisation that promotes gender equality in education and on the labour market and provides qualification, counselling and support to approximately 8,000 women per year.

Since 1999, Manuela Vollmann has been chair woman of the board at arbeit plus, a federal association of social enterprises in Austria, and represents arbeit plus at the board of directors of ENSIE (European Network of Social Integration Enterprises).

Social Platform Secretariat



Annica RYNGBECK

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Annica RYNGBECK is a Policy & Advocacy Adviser for Social Platform, her field of expertise is human rights, equality, anti-discrimination and migration.

Before joining Social Platform in 2010 she worked on policy and advocacy in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights, and LGBT rights, in both a Swedish and European context. She has been involved in NGOs since 1999, holding various board positions and project management.

Annica holds a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in International Migration and Ethnic Relations from Malmö University (Sweden).



Valentina CAIMI

Policy & Advocacy Adviser

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Valentina Caimi is Policy and Advocacy Advisor at Social Platform. She is responsible for the policy and advocacy work on social and health services, the EU Budget, and social economy and social enterprises.

She is member of the European Commission's Expert Group on the Social Business (GECES) and of the European Structural and Investment Funds Structured Dialogue group of experts.

Valentina previously worked for thirteen years in EU social policies and project management in Italy, in NGOs, social cooperatives, local authorities and vocational training institutions.



Gilberto PELOSI

Policy & Advocacy Officer

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Gilberto joined Social Platform in 2015 and is responsible for the work on social policies, employment and European economic governance.

He previously worked on the same subjects at the European Commission and for the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation during the Italian Presidency of the Council of the EU.

Gilberto holds two Master's degrees in Economics and European Studies, and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Relations. He speaks Italian, English, Spanish, French and Portuguese.