

socialplatform

MEMBERSHIP GUIDE



ABOUT SOCIAL PLATFORM

Social Platform is the largest network of European rights- and value-based civil society organisations working in the social sector.

Social Platform's mission is to advocate for policies that bring social progress to everyone living in the European Union, applying a human-rights approach to fight for a socially just and cohesive Europe that promotes equality, diversity, solidarity, democracy and human dignity.

The topics Social Platform works on can be divided into six key areas:





PEOPLE CENTRED SERVICES:

Our work in this area focuses on guaranteeing access to affordable and quality public and social services of general interest and ensuring a strong social dimension of the internal market.



CIVIL DIALOGUE:

Our work in this area focuses on the shrinking space for civil society and issues of partnership between civil society organisations and public authorities in different policy fields.



SOCIAL PROTECTION:

Our work in this area focuses on the promotion of inclusive, effective and efficient social protection and welfare systems and their centrality to maintaining and securing the European social model.



QUALITY EMPLOYMENT:

Our work in this area focuses on active inclusion strategies around key topics, such as adequate minimum income, equality on the employment market, work-life balance, etc.



EQUALITY FOR ALL:

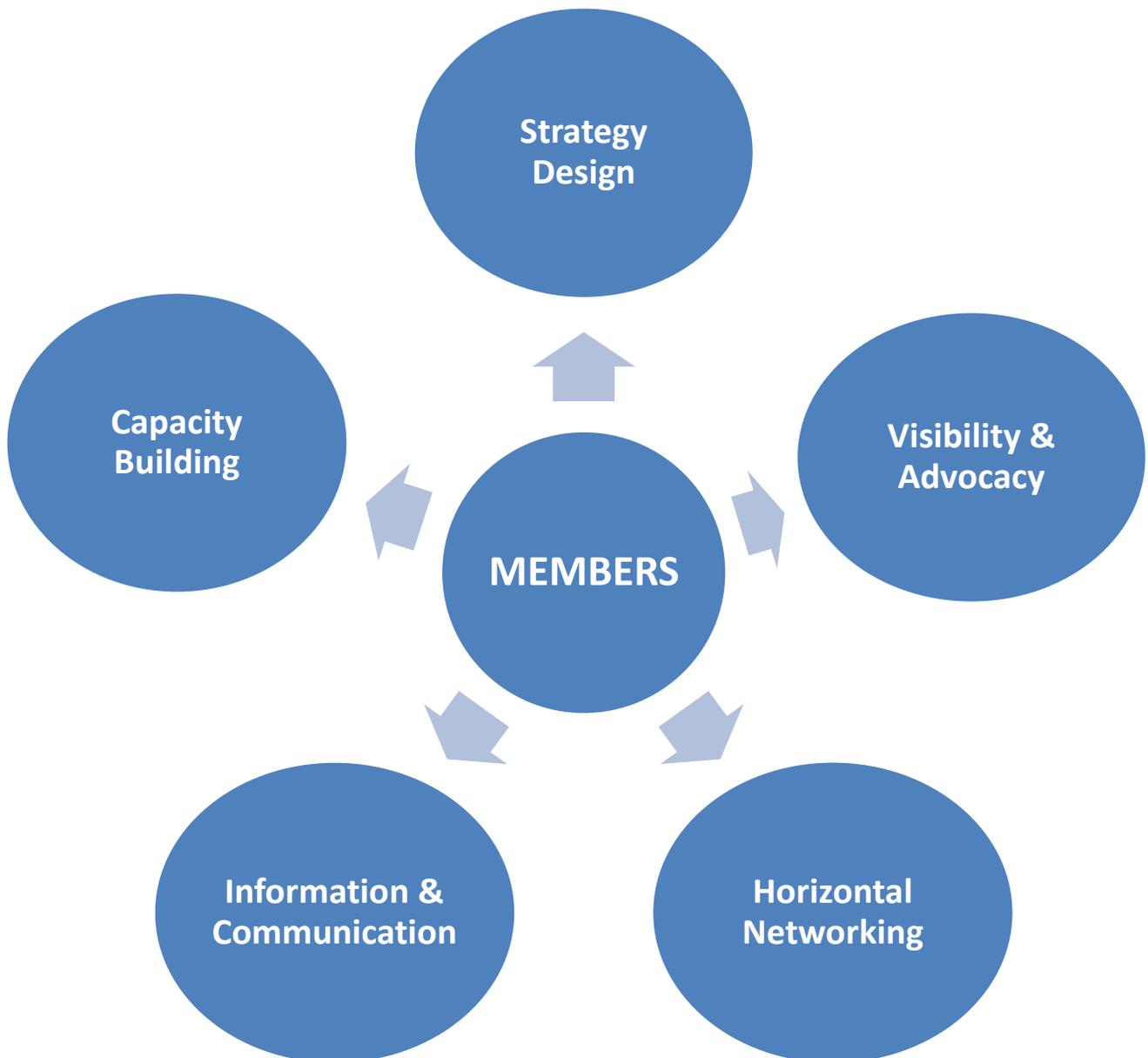
Our work in this area focuses on combating discrimination on all grounds (including social, economic and residency status) to ensure equality in practice.



SOCIO-ECONOMIC JUSTICE:

Our work in this area focuses on the reduction of inequalities in wealth redistribution and the provision of services (such as housing, education, health, etc.) to close the growing gap in European societies.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



Strategy Design

- Participate in Steering Group meetings and shape Social Platform's policy and advocacy strategy
- Input into Social Platform's multi-annual strategic plans, annual work programmes and annual budgets
- Stand for election and/or elect Social Platform's Management Committee

Visibility & Advocacy

- Make your and your members' voices heard by contributing to Social Platform campaigns, common positions and open letters
- Have your events, positions and publications disseminated through the network and campaigns supported by Social Platform
- Participate in high-level meetings with MEPs and European Commissioners

Horizontal Networking

- Benefit from the diverse membership of several dozen European-level civil society organisations and other Social Platform contacts
- Benefit from Social Platform's membership in different networks
- Take part in Social Platform events in Brussels and abroad

Information & Communication

- Receive Social Platform's 'Week Ahead' newsletters containing updates on events, campaigns and EU developments
- Access Social Platform's online 'Members' Area' containing advocacy documents and policy positions
- Receive electronic copies of Social Platform documents and publications

Capacity Building

- Participate in Social Platform's Task Forces, seminars, training sessions and conferences
- Exchange good practices and experiences with Social Platform members
- Access online resources and toolkits developed by Social Platform and our members

TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

Social Platform has grown considerably in size and influence since it was founded in 1995, from 19 to more than 45 members today, representing thousands of organisations, associations and other voluntary groups active at local, regional and national level in all EU Member States (find a list of our members [here](#)).

From women and LGBTIQ persons to migrants, from children, youths and elderly people to individuals with disabilities, from families and carers to people living in poverty and victims of discrimination and violence, the work of our members spreads across various focus groups. Likewise, our members demonstrate a wide array of expertise through active involvement in and promotion of social action and service provision across different sectors, be it housing, health, employment, education, the social economy or volunteering.

Social Platform is open to any European federation or network of non-governmental organisations active in the social sector, which meet the criteria for membership set forth in our [statutes](#) (as summarised below).

Social Platform has two types of membership:

- (i) Full membership
- (ii) Associate membership

Full Membership

Full members set the guidelines and priorities of Social Platform and make an ongoing contribution to the network's activities. Notably, they have the right to contribute to and vote on Social Platform's annual work programmes, budgets, accounts, and the election of the Management Committee.

To become a full member, the network or federation must:

- Be composed of organisations (not individuals) in at least the absolute majority of EU Member States
- Be established as a not-for-profit and non-governmental organisation in one of the EU Member States. The majority of the organisation's membership must themselves be legally established, not-for-profit and non-governmental
- Have separate legal status
- Be active in the social sector, working to promote the general interest of society and contribute to social cohesion
- Demonstrate its representativeness and that it is structured and managed in a democratic way
- Bring added value to the work of Social Platform

Associate Membership

Associate members take part in and input into the activities of Social Platform, but cannot take part in formal votes.

To become an associate member, the network or federation must:

- Be composed of organisations (not individuals) in at least a quarter of EU Member States
- Be established as a not-for-profit and non-governmental organisation in one of the EU Member States. The majority of the organisation's membership must themselves be legally established, not-for-profit and non-governmental
- Be active in the social sector, working to promote the general interest of society and contribute to social cohesion
- Have separate legal personality, or be in the process of acquiring legal status

Networks or federations that are accepted as associate members and have not yet acquired legal status will be granted membership for one year, with further membership subject to annual review by the General Assembly.

Annual Membership Fees

<i>For organisations with an annual income of:</i>	<i>Full Members</i>	<i>Associate Members</i>
- Less than 50,000 EUR	737 EUR	370 EUR
- Between 50,000 and 200,000 EUR	1,475 EUR	737 EUR
- More than 200,000 EUR	2,209 EUR	1,106 EUR

Interested in becoming a Member?

Fill in the [application form](#) and send it back to:

Ilias Papageorgiou
Administrative & Financial Officer
Email: ilias.papageorgiou@socialplatform.org
Tel: +32 2 508 16 30