socialplatform



Call for member-led workshops during Social Platform's 2nd Flagship Conference in Helsinki

16-18 September 2019

The context:

Our 2nd Flagship Conference will take place at a crucial time: European leaders will prepare the next EU legislature following the European election results, negotiate, nominate and elect the future European Commission, and fill top EU jobs. All this will take place while we witness growing popular mobilisation for greater social justice and democracy, stopping and reversing the environmental crisis and securing the future for the generations to come.

The conference will take a closer look at the future of a more social Europe and consist of many exciting elements: 2 high-level panel debates, up to 6 workshops and study visits, the *Made in Social Europe Exhibition* of inspiring practices and various social activities.

Our conference will also be organised back-to-back with the High-Level Conference on the *Economy of Wellbeing* held in the framework of the Finnish Presidency, where a delegation of members will have the opportunity to deliver our key messages and recommendations to EU and national policy-makers.

The call:

We invite members to express their interest in co-organising and facilitating a workshop during the Flagship Conference! This includes suggesting and shaping a concrete workshop topic, providing input for the workshop format and speakers to invite, and suggesting national and local members to be engaged in the workshop and the study visits. Up to 6 workshops will be held around the following themes[1]:

1. Employment
2. Health
3. Homelessness/housing
4. Minimum income
5. Services
6. Inclusion of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

1 The themes are chosen as they directly relate to the topics of the High-level Conference on the Economy of Wellbeing organised by the Finnish Presidency.

The workshops should produce specific recommendations, which on the one hand will feed into the Finnish Presidency's high-level conference, and on the other hand contribute to Social Platform's policy development, defining how to '*Make the Economy work for People*'.[2] For that purpose, each workshop should discuss the following aspects:

- What is the added value of the EU working on this topic?
- What does the EU already do in this field (state-of-play)?
- What is missing (gaps)?
- What are our recommendations for steps forward?

The workshops will be thematically linked to the study visits: as well as the more theoretical discussions in the meeting venue, participants will have the opportunity to visit an inspiring project at grassroots level (e.g. recommended by your national member)!

Are you interested?

*If you are interested in co-organising a workshop, please contact Silvana (silvana.roebstorf@socialplatform.org) **by 15 May**, briefly stating which workshop theme you are interested in and what specific focus you have in mind.*

For any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Silvana.

2 Thematic fiches will be developed with members' active participation after the Flagship Conference.