



**social**  
**platform**

# **Strategic Framework 2026-2030**

Adopted by Social Platform's General Assembly June 2025

Social Platform is the leading network of European civil society organisations working for a more social Europe.

We represent the interests of social civil society organisations and people in all their diversity, including those in the most vulnerable situations, as well as social economy actors, including not-for-profit social service providers. Our membership brings together European wide networks, which together represent tens of thousands of local and national NGOs working directly with people in or at risk of social exclusion.



## MISION, VISION, VALUES

**Social Platform believes in: A Europe FOR all and A Europe WITH all.**

Social Platform strives for a society based on social justice, where dignity, wellbeing, respect for every person and their human rights are at the centre of all decisions and actions. Our vision of a social Europe is based on a sustainable socioeconomic system, where no one is left behind.

The mission of Social Platform is to contribute to building a sustainable socioeconomic system that tackles inequalities, includes all members of society and respects human rights.

# NAVIGATING CHANGE, SHAPING THE FUTURE

Social Platform's 2026-2030 strategic framework emerges in response to a shifting and often turbulent landscape. Across Europe, we are witnessing democratic backsliding, a shrinking space for civil society, and mounting threats to civic freedoms. These trends are compounded by deepening socio-economic inequalities, poverty, labour market shifts, the accelerating impacts of climate change, demographic shifts, rapid digitalisation, and heightened economic and financial volatility. At EU level, political agendas are increasingly shaped by dominant narratives of austerity, competitiveness, and geopolitical security. Together, these dynamics bring a growing risk of side-lining the voices of those most affected by structural injustices.

These dynamics profoundly shape people's lives, and, in turn, shape our priorities, responsibilities, and strategies as civil society organisations. While Social Platform does not aim to address every emerging issue directly, navigating this environment demands that we continuously reflect, learn, adapt, and realign, so that we can continue to do what we are here to do: to put social justice at the heart of European politics and policymaking and to strengthen the civic space.

In this context, Social Platform wants to step forward with purpose, not simply reacting to external developments, but responding with clarity, strategy, and shared conviction. **This framework reflects a clear ambition: to position Social Platform as the leading voice for social justice in Europe, and a trusted ally for EU decision-makers and policy-makers in building a more just, inclusive, and democratic Union.**

Social Platform is about building collective strength from the strength of each member organisation. Our impact comes from harnessing the diversity of experience, knowledge, and expertise across our network, and transforming it into shared analysis, strong collective positions, and compelling political messages. We are here to co-create a more coordinated, more effective civil society voice that can shape Europe's social agenda.

## **STRATEGIC GOALS AND ROLES OF THE SOCIAL PLATFORM**

This strategic framework recognises that, in order to achieve our larger purpose, we need an approach that allows us to be agile and responsive to shifting political and policy landscapes. This is a guiding tool designed to steer our work while allowing for flexibility and adaptation. It thus focuses on overarching goals and centres on the key roles that Social Platform must play to contribute meaningfully to long-term change.

Social Platform's strategic goals are to ensure that:

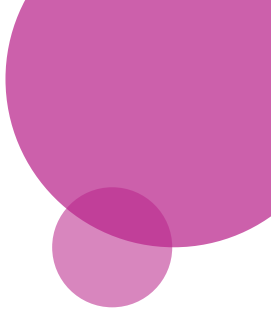


### **I. The EU prioritises social rights and adopts strong, inclusive, socially just policies and legislation**

Social Platform does this by:

- **Securing the strategic influence of the social justice sector in EU decision-making processes that shape socio-economic conditions in Europe:**

Social Platform leads strategic engagement in decision-making on larger structural processes, such as socio-economic governance, relevant financial policies, and just transition, from a social rights perspective.

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- **Strategically aligning members' priorities into comprehensive policy positions to effectively address social inequalities in the EU:**

Social Platform advocates for cross-cutting EU social policy development, the protection and promotion of social rights and a Union of equality.


Social Platform amplifies shared priorities through integrated, common political messages that connect thematic policy areas, complement members' positions and highlight structural links across issues and communities.

Social Platform brings a socially inclusive narrative to strategic EU legislative and non-legislative processes to advance initiatives that help build a stronger Social Europe.

- **Mobilising broad and strong political support for social justice policies:**

Social Platform builds and strengthens relationships with key political and institutional actors, expanding influence beyond traditional social policy stakeholders to new allies across EU policy making spaces.

Social Platform uses strategic internal and external communications to engage with relevant stakeholders, to inform audiences and shape policymaking.



## **II. There is a resilient and influential European social civil society sector, and meaningful structured civil dialogue**

Social Platform does this by:

- **Defending and strengthening civil society space at EU level:**

Social Platform takes a leading role in advocating for the protection of civic space and for sustainable public financing of civil society at the EU level.

- **Fostering cross-sectoral collaboration between the social justice sector and other civil society actors to address shared challenges:**

Social Platform connects social justice organisations with other civil society organisations that contribute to strengthening civic space and reinforce cross-sector priorities.

- **Contributing to collective sense-making, learning and strategising**

Social Platform facilitates strategic discussions, knowledge-sharing, and capacity-building around emerging trends and opportunities in the social justice sector, aiming to strengthen our collective ability to respond, align efforts, and amplify our impact.

# WHERE STRATEGY MEETS PRACTICE: ORGANISATIONAL & OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

No strategy lives in a document. Its members, organisational dynamics and staff team bring it to life by living its shared values every day. For this framework to succeed, it is essential that we have a strong, trusted, and well resourced secretariat, and a network of members who are engaged, connected, and committed to navigating the complexities of our world together.

## 1. Strengthening the organisation

To support the implementation of this strategic framework, the Social Platform secretariat must be empowered and trusted to lead and be proactive, both in direction and in creating the conditions for others to engage. This means having sustainable funding, a team with the capacity and time to reflect and learn, and strong operational foundations. But it also means Social Platform remains a safe, inclusive environment for its members where ideas can be tested, relationships can deepen, and diverse perspectives are genuinely heard. This will continue to be done through:

- Ongoing fundraising to ensure our sustainability and grow our capacity.
- Building team capacity, time for reflection, and space for learning.
- Strengthening governance and operational systems.
- Upholding the values of a safe, inclusive space for members.

## 2. Strengthening the collective

Working together as a collective requires shared ownership. Social Platform's organisational culture values mutual support, curiosity, openness and a willingness to reflect together, not only on where we are succeeding, but where we need to shift course.

Implementing this strategy also requires strengthening joint work methods, as a platform, a community, and a collective voice. This means embedding reflection and learning at the core of shared practices, supported by:

- Collaborative structures that enable the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and collective thinking.
- A culture grounded in trust, mutual support, and shared purpose.
- Members taking initiative and ownership for the change they want to help create.
- A spirit of individual contribution, where each member brings their unique strengths, while also shaping a shared project together.



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