



# Impact Report 2025

# 30 years of standing up for social rights

2025 was a milestone year for Social Platform, marking 30 years of advancing social progress in Europe. Established by 19 organisations with a shared commitment to championing social rights in EU policymaking, Social Platform was created to be a unifying force for change. Now representing more than 40 diverse European social rights organisations, this is a mission still at the heart of our work today.

From bold campaigns to landmark victories, we are proud of the legacy our network has built together. While there is a stronger need than ever to stand up for a stronger Social Europe, Social Platform is proof that when people come together, we can transform policies, protect rights, and create a future where everyone can thrive.

**“A heartfelt thank you to all who have stood with us over our 30 years of work - together we will keep building a future where social rights are a reality for all.”**

- Mikael Leyi, President of Social Platform



# Keeping social rights high on the EU agenda

Foreward by Laura de Bonfils, Secretary General

“Competitiveness, defence and security. These political priorities are dominating the European Commission’s agenda and are the driving force behind current and future decision making.

However, the pursuit of these aims **must not come at the cost of Europe’s social foundations**. Social Platform has been raising the alarm that the wellbeing of people is at risk of being overlooked in the race for economic gains.

Europe can only be competitive if it strategically invests in its people throughout the lifecycle. To avoid leaving people in vulnerable situations behind, it should support investments in strong social protection systems contributing to strong and resilient societies.

The biggest challenges facing our continent—including a rise in poverty, inequality and discrimination, climate change, changes in the labour market, and regional conflicts near the European Union's borders—all require greater public investment rather than cuts in order to adequately respond to these needs.

As we look ahead to the post-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework negotiations, Social Platform will continue to call for an EU budget that secures adequate social investment for resilient, ”



# Impact: advocacy

As a megaphone for marginalised and underrepresented groups, we make sure that social rights and equality are mainstreamed in EU policy-making.

To ensure the EU's social agenda is strengthened, not reduced, Social Platform's work in 2025 has been **to ensure new and upcoming EU social initiatives are ambitious and robust**. We made sure to focus our impact where it mattered most:

## 1. Driving the debate on the next Action Plan on the Pillar of Social Rights

Throughout 2025, Social Platform has been a key civil society voice shaping the future of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) with its upcoming Action Plan. Here's a quick timeline of the top highlights from the year:

- January** We shared our call for a strong social inclusion dimension across all policy areas directly with Executive Vice-President Mînzatu.
- March** Social Platform's 'What Next for Social Europe?' event set out clear priorities from members to newly elected MEPs, representatives of the European Commission and Member States.
- April** We presented our draft input on the EPSR Action Plan at the Informal EPSCO in Poland and established key relationships with ministerial representatives from Poland, Ireland, Netherlands, Austria and Finland. We also spoke at an EESC event and input into their opinion.
- May-December** We published our input document for the public consultation, bringing our messages to a series of high-level debates in Mental Health Week, MERGE Social Europe deep dive, the PES Social Europe meeting, and the European Commission's strategic dialogue on the EPSR Action Plan.
- July** We underlined the importance of the social dimension of the competitiveness agenda at the Informal EPSCO meeting in Denmark and met with Li Andersson, EMPL chair, as well as representatives from Spain and Lithuania.



## 2. Championing an ambitious EU Anti-Poverty Strategy

To ensure that the EU's first ever Anti-Poverty Strategy is rights-based, has a multidimensional approach and includes binding measures, Social Platform provided input at every key stage of the process. Some of our key actions in a nutshell:

- **We amplified our position** through meetings with DG EMPL leadership, the Committee of the Regions rapporteur, and targeted exchanges with the European Parliament rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs.
- **We published a comprehensive policy paper**, and contributed directly to the European Parliament's draft report through amendments and to the UN OHCHR consultation.
- **We put forward our recommendations** to the special EMPL hearing and contributed to the European Commission's stakeholder dialogues and consultation process.



## 3. Defending social investment in the Post-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework

The future of Social Europe depends on the EU's next long-term budget. Throughout the year, **we presented our analysis and recommendations to high-level policymakers** across the Commission, including DG EMPL leadership, the cabinet of President von der Leyen and other key stakeholders working on funding priorities.

Gathering valuable perspectives from across our membership **we published both a policy position paper and a follow-up analysis paper** of the MFF proposal. These papers empowered us to frame the debate and push for a strong social perspective to be firmly embedded in early discussions on the EU's future budget.

Together with the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D) **our conference 'Social Investment and Poverty Reduction in the next MFF'** gave a platform to civil society organisations working on-the-ground in Member States and the real life impact of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+).



## 4. Advancing a Just Transition For All

Following our successful campaign in 2024 for an EU Commissioner leading on the Just Transition, this year we continued to reinforce our call for climate neutrality policies to go hand in hand with social justice:

- We brought our proposals directly to key decision-makers, including Executive Vice-President **for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition, Teresa Ribera**.
- **We engaged with major EU initiatives** such as the Clean Industrial Deal, the Affordable Energy Action Plan and the Omnibus proposal, publishing an op-ed in the EU Observer.
- Together with our members, **we created a collective position** calling for a 'stronger EU Just Transition Policy Framework' and continue to amplify their work on the topics via our newly established Just Transition mailing list for MEPs.
- **We addressed policymakers** at the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)' flagship conference 'Call to Europe' in Denmark and the BWI European Conference on Just Transition in the Built Environment.
- We contributed to key discussions at the **Just Transition Pavilion at COP 30**



## 5. Standing up for social Europe in the European Semester

Our long-standing engagement in the European Semester process means that Social Platform is now a leading civil society voice for EU policymakers to consult on how the social dimension of the Semester can be strengthened.

In response to the Autumn Package, Social Platform highlighted specific concerns including the predominant focus on competitiveness. We made **recommendations to the Social Protection Committee (SPC) and the Employment Committee (EMCO)** on how to achieve the EU headline targets on employment rates, skills and poverty reduction.

We were invited to present our analysis again for the Spring Package as well as provide input for the draft EMPL report on the European Semester.

We continue to lead the way in ensuring our members have the knowledge and understanding to engage with the process through **capacity-building activities** and practical support.



## 6. Protecting social rights in the wellbeing economy



The EU treaties make it clear, wellbeing is a core objective. However, our current economic system, designed to promote economic growth, is neither inclusive nor sustainable.

With increasing need to address these concerns, we solidified Social Platform's position by publishing a new Wellbeing Economy paper.

Kicking off the year at the 'Measuring What Matters' public policy event by MERGE, also set the course for 2025.

## 7. Defending Quality Jobs

Social Platform contributed to shaping the EU Quality Jobs agenda by bringing civil society evidence and social economy perspectives into the policy process:

- We **responded to the public consultation on the Quality Jobs Roadmap**, grounding our input in positions developed through our work on the European Pillar of Social Rights and the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy.
- Through the organisation of **two virtual study visits** we were able to present shared challenges, needs and good practices from social economy enterprises and cooperatives to a diverse audience of policy-makers and civil society, helping to feed into the broader European debate on the future Quality Jobs Act.
- At the **European Social Forum in Porto**, we joined over 400 EU leaders, ministers, social partners and representatives of civil society to discuss the Forum's theme of 'Quality Jobs in a Competitive Social Europe'. Secretary General, Laura de Bonfils addressed the Forum, which resulted in overall conclusions presented to the EPSCO Council for consideration.
- With the publication of our **position on Quality Jobs**, Social Platform reinforced its role as a key civil society voice linking social rights, decent work and inclusive labour markets.



# Impact: knowledge-building

Throughout the year, Social Platform has worked to provide timely and inclusive spaces for our membership to build its knowledge, understanding and capacity in diverse areas of work.

We are constantly learning from and with our members on how we can maximise and strengthen our impact. Our wide range of Task Forces, Working Groups and Peer Learning Networks are important forums to do just that.

Some of the opportunities we have created this year to enhance this exchange of knowledge include:

- A Workshop on **Diversity and Inclusion** Policies with presentations from ENAR, IGYLO and Unia
- A workshop for our Communications Network focused on '**Communications for advocacy**: Navigating social media in 2025 and beyond'
- A social learning platform on a **wellbeing economy**, where participants heard from Social Platform, Caritas Europa and OECD Centre on Well-Being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE)
- A special Taskforce meeting on **the next MFF** to exchange views and insights with a representative from ETUC.



# Impact: projects and outreach

## Amplifying our message on social media

In response to the rise in hate speech featured on X, we made the decision to stop our outreach via this platform at the start of 2025.

While giving up our well-established audience on X was a challenge, we have aimed to grow our presence on Bluesky - more than doubling our following - and also on Instagram, reaching 1.3k monthly profile views. We have also seen a 30% increase in followers on LinkedIn.

## Bridging the gap between policy and research

Through our role in European-wide research projects Social Platform has joined forces with researchers, academics, think tanks and other stakeholders to bring new data, evidence and insights on social rights to EU policymaking.

Social Platform is a partner in:

- SPES (sustainability performances, evidence and scenarios)
- MERGE, which brings together and supports the ongoing European Horizon Europe projects ([SPES](#), [ToBe](#), [WISE Horizons](#), [REAL](#))
- SWINS (Sustainable Well-Being Through Investment in Social Services) which aims to trigger a structural rethinking of the role of social services in European societies.

## Joining forces for underrepresented voices

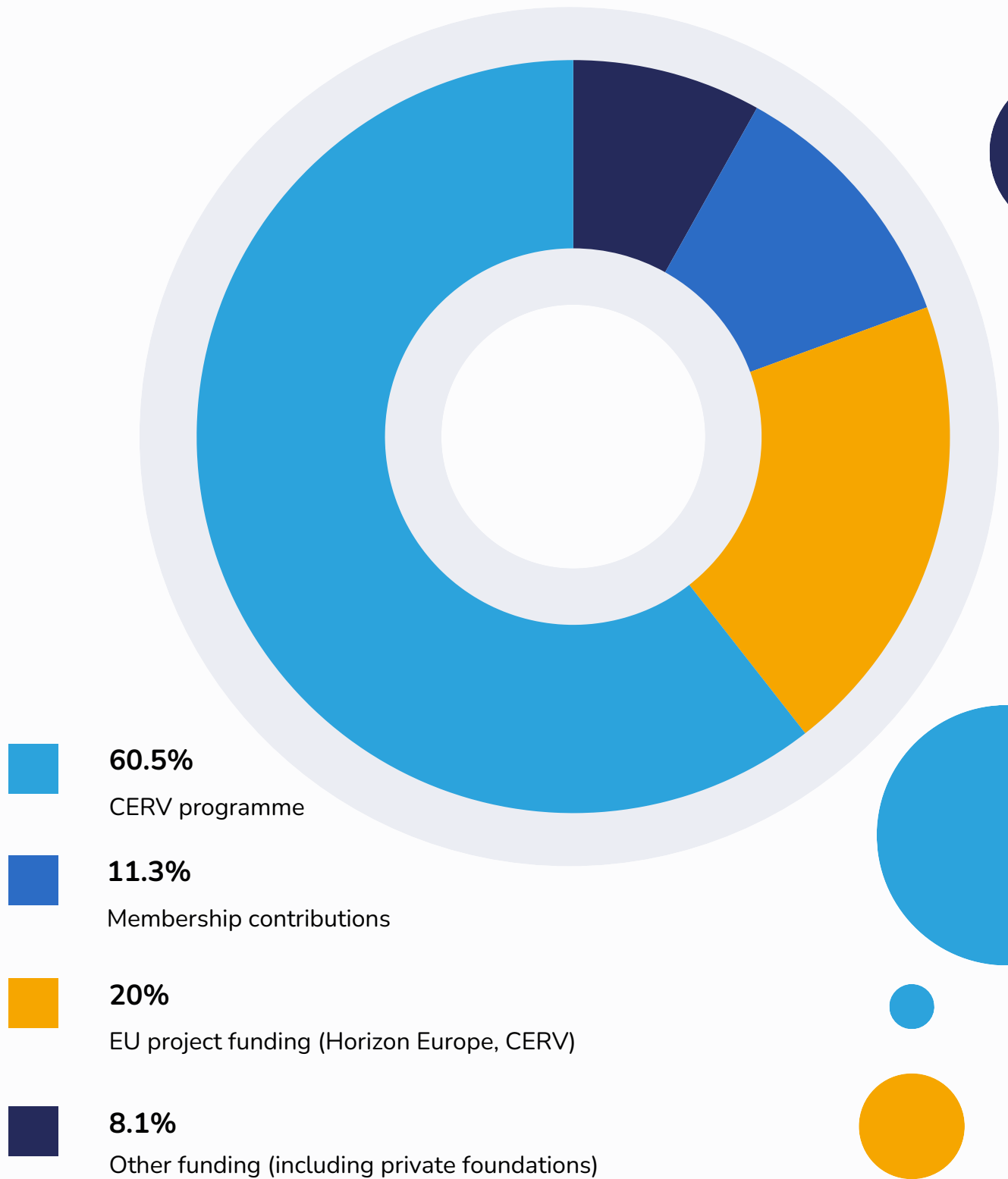
We are also proud to have supported:

- Bridge (Building Resilience through Inclusive Democratic Governance and Engagement), a project run by the Council of Europe to foster debate on democracy in Europe
- HYPE, a project which engages youth in public dialogue to encourage solidarity and cooperation



# Funding

In 2025 Social Platform received a total of €789,754.00 in funding for its operations and activities from the following sources:



# Our network

The work of our members reflects the diversity of Europe, bringing together civil society voices representing women, the LGBTIQ community, families, carers and children, youth and older people, migrants, people with disabilities, racialised people or people living in poverty or social exclusion.

## Our member organisations in 2025:





Social Platform is the leading EU network of civil society organisations working on social issues, collectively uniting tens of thousands of organisations and hundreds of millions of people in Europe representing, among others: children, women, migrants, families, social economy actors including not-for-profit social service providers, Roma, people with disabilities, carers, youth, and the people that provide invaluable services and work with these groups.

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