



Organised by  socialplatform

FLAGSHIP CONFERENCE
29 - 30 November 2018
Lisbon, Portugal

#buildingsocialeurope

in cooperation with the
Ministry of Labor, Solidarity
and Social Security



REPÚBLICA
PORTUGUESA
MINISTRO DO TRABALHO,
SOLIDARIEDADE E SEGURANÇA SOCIAL

About us

Social Platform is the leading civil society alliance fighting for social justice and participatory democracy in Europe. Consisting of 49 pan-European networks of NGOs, Social Platform campaigns to ensure that EU policies are developed in partnership with the people they affect, respecting fundamental rights, promoting solidarity and improving lives.

Conference aims

The aim of the conference is two-fold. Firstly, we want to mark the 1st anniversary of the proclamation of the European Pillar of Social Rights which EU leaders adopted last year at a high profile Social Summit and which we supported and advocated for. We want to have initial evaluation and most importantly, we want to discuss how that political commitment and proclaimed Pillar are translated into effective and meaningful implementation.

Secondly, we want to ensure that the decision making process on social issues fully include and involve civil society organisations. As one of our platform members puts it: “Nothing about us without us!” We believe that a truly strong, sustainable, socially and economically just Europe is only possible when people and their well-being are the core of the debate and civil society is part of that debate and decision making.

Conference context

Our conference is a direct result of the proclamation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and we are planning to organise it annually.

On 17 November 2017, Social Platform delegation at the Social Summit in Gothenburg called on Heads of States and Government to revive the European Union and to regain people’s trust by prioritising tackling inequalities, delivering a strong social agenda that goes beyond employment and partnering with organised civil society to leave no one behind.

We did that in the framework of the proclamation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, which underscored the united political commitment of Europe's leaders to realise a truly socially and economically just Europe, based on a new instrument that we contributed to shape from the initial launch of the initiative until its final adoption.

Following years of distrusts and inaction, this has been welcome as a new window of opportunity that has the potential to bring about the necessary policy changes. A meaningful implementation of the Pillar would not only be an opportunity for the political establishment to regain people's trust by showing that the EU brings real added value to their daily lives, but would also respond to people's concerns and expectations.

That is why we want our conference to combine discussions on the implementation of the Pillar with those concerning some of the most pressing challenges of our time: inequality and sustainability.

We will do this taking into account the upcoming European elections, ongoing discussions on the future of Europe and the next multi-annual financial framework, and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which are just three areas where the argument for a broader EU social agenda can gain real traction, beyond employment.

Conference format and content

Plenary

We will look at inequalities in Europe, discussing the state of art, the main drivers behind recent trends and the necessary measures to address inequalities, with a specific attention to the packages of new tools following the proclamation of the Social Pillar. We will take a forward looking angle and will look at solutions to rebalance social, economic and environmental objectives to build a Europe that is inclusive, fair and sustainable for all. High level speakers from academia, EU and national decision makers, social partners and civil society will take part in the debates.

Workshops

The three parallel workshops will discuss the role of and the tools available to civil society to promote progress on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the construction of a more social Europe.

Exhibition

"Made in Social Europe" photo exhibition will showcase projects that civil society organisations from across our membership are already delivering on the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights on local and national level.

Local project visits

Participants will be able to visit local projects carried out by the Portuguese civil society organisations.

Gala Dinner

Participants will be welcomed to a Gala Dinner hosted by the Government of Portugal.

Who this conference is for?

Our conference is for civil society, social partners, local, national and EU decision makers, and researchers.