



socialplatform



With People. For People.
Social Platform Annual Report 2018

Introduction

Table of Contents

Introduction	-----	page 3
Building Social Europe: Social Platform's Flagship Conference	-----	page 4
From Words to Action: The European Pillar of Social Rights	-----	page 6
Partnerships	-----	page 8
Building Bridges	-----	page 10
General Assembly 2018	-----	page 12
A Look under the Hood	-----	page 13
Facts and Figures	-----	page 15
Show Me the Money!	-----	page 15

Welcome to Annual Report 2018!

2018 was a pivotal year for Social Platform. With the European Pillar of Social Rights being proclaimed in 2017, it was vital to move quickly to ensure that this new political instrument became an initiative for the people, many of whom feel left behind. As a result, much of our work in 2018 was centred on advocating for a Social Pillar that has teeth.

We can feel proud of our collective efforts, with many gains for a socially sustainable future of Europe. But let us not be complacent: much more must be done if the EU social agenda is going to live up to its lofty aspirations. This was a theme of our first ever Flagship Conference, which brought together key influencers to debate and discuss the state-of-play and how we can maintain and increase momentum for drastic social change.

One theme in particular recurred over and over again in 2018 – that is the huge role that social civil society organisations have to play in designing, implementing and monitoring EU and national policies. We act with and for people, many of whom rarely have their voices heard in decision-making processes.

As we witness shrinking civic space and campaigns to discredit and defund civil society organisations, it is more important than ever for the EU to strengthen civil dialogue and participatory democracy.

Join us in taking stock of the year's activities, and re-energising ourselves for the journey ahead!

Best wishes,



Jana Hainsworth
President, 2015–2019



Kélig Puyet
Director

Europe for Citizens



Social Platform receives the majority of its funding from the EU's **Europe for Citizens** Programme, which is managed by the **Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)**.

Europe for Citizens is a unique and highly symbolic programme, focused on the future of the EU, debating issues related to European rights and values, democratic

engagement and civic participation – values that make up the very DNA of Social Platform.

It acts as a listening exercise on civil society's debates and in-depth reflections on the European project.



Social Platform is the leading alliance uniting networks of civil society organisations advocating for social justice and participatory democracy in Europe. With a membership of 49 pan-European networks, 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.



BUILDING SOCIAL EUROPE: Social Platform's Flagship Conference

On 29 and 30 November 2018, Social Platform, in cooperation with the Portuguese Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security, organised its first Flagship Conference – 'Building Social Europe' – at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon, Portugal.

The two days were filled with engaging debates, interesting workshops and elaborate discussions.

European and national decision-makers, social partners, academics and civil society organisations participated in the conference.

Our plan is to make the Flagship Conference an annual platform to discuss the EU social dimension and find ways to translate the commitments of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals into tangible political goals.

The conference took place at a critical time, a few months before the European elections and institutional transitions in 2019.

In order to fulfil the commitments made at 2017's Social Summit in Gothenburg, it is necessary to demonstrate how people's lives will benefit. It is important to show not only how the EU can help create more and better quality jobs, but also how it can strengthen effective social safety nets so everybody can live in dignity and realise their full potential.

CONFERENCE VIDEO



Ahead of our Flagship Conference we produced a video of our members' views on the European Pillar of Social Rights to kick-start the debates.

[Watch it here.](#)

FLAGSHIP CONFERENCE IN NUMBERS:



150 participants



from 14 EU Member States



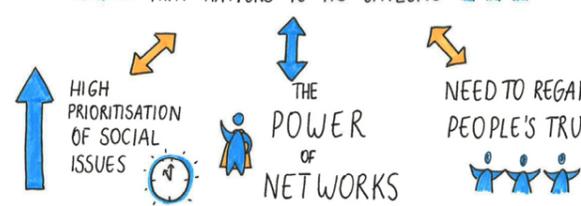
25 speakers

KEY MESSAGES OF THE CONFERENCE

KEY MESSAGES BUILDING SOCIAL EUROPE

NEED ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PILLAR NOT JUST WINDOW DRESSING

WE NEED A EUROPE THAT MATTERS TO ITS CITIZENS



IF THE ISSUES TRANSCEND INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES SHOULD'N'T THE SOLUTIONS DO SO TOO? LET'S MAKE SURE SOCIAL EUROPE DOESN'T BECOME ANOTHER MISSED OPPORTUNITY TO ACT AT EU LEVEL



FROM WORDS TO ACTION: THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

In 2018, Social Platform adopted its [position paper](#) “Building Social Europe: A comprehensive implementation plan for an effective European Pillar of Social Rights”.

It serves as a compass for our work on implementing the Social Pillar structured around four key areas of action: legislation, governance, funding and participation. Here are the highlights of our activities in these areas in 2018.

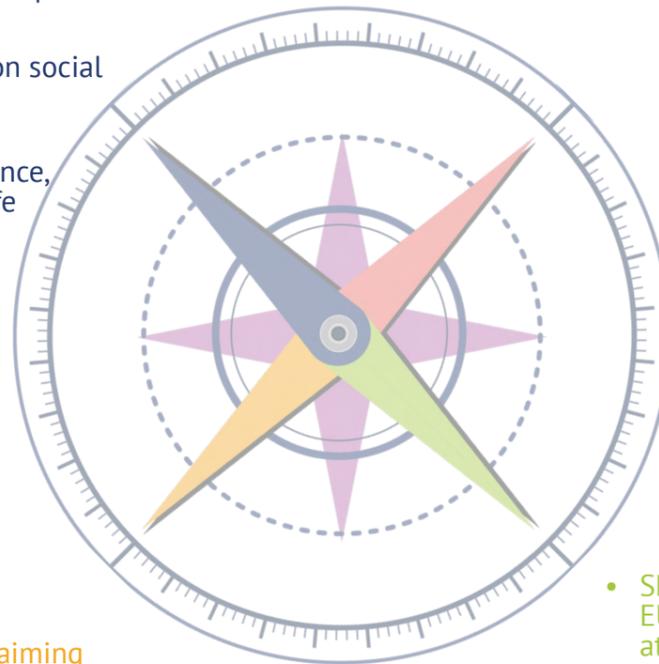


Representatives of the Work-Life Balance Coalition

Legislation

We influenced key legislative packages, including:

- Directive on transparent and predictable working conditions.
- Council recommendation on social protection in the field of employment.
- Directive on work-life balance, by supporting the Work-Life Balance coalition and its social media campaign to improve the rights of parents and carers.



Funding

Adopted two position papers which have been used for active and successful advocacy work on the Multiannual Financial Framework:

- European Social Fund post-2020: A financial tool to deliver the European Pillar of Social Rights.
- Investing in social Europe: Social Platform’s position on the next Multiannual Financial Framework.



The Social Platform Steering Group finalises the details of the position paper on the European Social Fund post-2020



European Commission Marianne Thyssen announces a more social European Semester cycle for 2019

Governance

- Did strong advocacy work aiming at increasing the social dimension of the European Semester process.
- Spoke at a number of high-level events on social governance, and enabled the participation of several of our member organisations.

High-level participation

- Shared recommendations with EU Ministers of Social Affairs at the informal meetings of the European Council’s Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) council in Bulgaria and Austria.
- Spoke in final panel discussion of the EU’s Annual Convention on Inclusive Growth, presenting the views of civil society in the social field.



Social Platform President Jana Hainsworth with Beate Hartinger-Klein, Austrian Minister for Social Affairs, at the EPSCO Council in Vienna

PARTNERSHIPS

Sustainable Development Goals: High-Level Multi Stakeholder Platform



2018 saw Social Platform become one of the leading civil society voices on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through our membership of the

European Commission's high-level multi stakeholder platform.

We were on the platform's core drafting team of the [advisory report](#) "Europe moving towards a sustainable future" [endorsed](#) by all platform members in October 2018.

The report fed into the European Commission's reflection paper "Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030" (January 2019) which is a key part of the Future of Europe debate launched by Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and the EU's contribution to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in New York (July 2019).

The contribution of the platform stresses the need for an overarching Sustainable Europe 2030 strategy. It sets out clear recommendations across the fields of social inclusion, sustainable consumption and production, climate and energy, food, farming and land use, and cohesion. It also suggests ways to strengthen governance tools, financing and accountability.



Social Platform President Jana Hainsworth hands over the contribution of the high-level multi-stakeholder platform on the SDGs to European Commission First Vice-President Frans Timmermans

ReSOMA Project



In 2018 we became a partner of a two-year Horizon 2020 project, the 'Research Social Platform on Migration and Asylum' (ReSOMA). ReSOMA brings together a network of over 600 practitioners, stakeholders, researchers and policy-makers around asylum, migration and inclusion policies, to better inform EU policies and public debate in the field of migration.

The nine thematic topics of 2018 included:

- The crackdown on non-governmental organisations assisting refugees and other migrants, tying in with our years-long campaign on [decriminalising solidarity](#) and online petition.
- The social inclusion of undocumented migrants, drawing on our collection of [inspiring civil society projects](#) that show how this can be achieved in practice.

Do you want to join the ReSOMA Community and share your knowledge and experience? Then visit www.resoma.eu.

Stronger Together!

Through partnerships we learn, we inspire, and we amplify and give credibility to our messages. Thank you to all organisations with whom we cooperated in 2018, including:

- Civil Society Europe
- EU Agency for Fundamental Rights
- Eurofound
- European Citizens' Initiative, 'We Are a Welcoming Europe'
- European Coalition to End Violence against Women and Girls
- European Institute for Gender Equality
- European Minimum Income Network
- Europe We Want
- Human Rights and Democracy Network
- SDG Watch Europe
- Stand Up for the Social Pillar Alliance
- Work-Life Balance Coalition



BUILDING BRIDGES

Made in Social Europe: A Collection of Inspiring Practices



Social Platform's **'Made in Social Europe'** exhibition demonstrates how social projects, including many that receive EU funding, give life to solidarity mechanisms and the principles of the Social Pillar.

With this exhibition of 27 inspiring practices in areas such as the inclusion of migrants, the social economy and quality employment, we want to bring the EU closer to people and contribute to the debate on the future of Europe at local, regional and national level.

In June, the exhibition was shown in English and French at an event in Paris, organised by national members of the European Association of Service Providers for persons with Disabilities and the Red Cross EU Office, attended by some 3,500 people.

In November, it was displayed in English and Portuguese during our Flagship Conference in Lisbon, and was visited by over 150 conference participants and visitors to the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

Fact-Finding Visits in Lisbon

To complement our Flagship Conference in Lisbon, a delegation of Social Platform members took part in a series of fact-finding visits to five solidarity projects. The visits allowed for mutual learning, showcasing the important work done at grassroots level.

Thanks to the following organisations for welcoming us:

- Street Children Project
- Housing First Programme
- The Lisbon Community-Led Local Development Network
- LARGO Residências
- EmPoderar Project



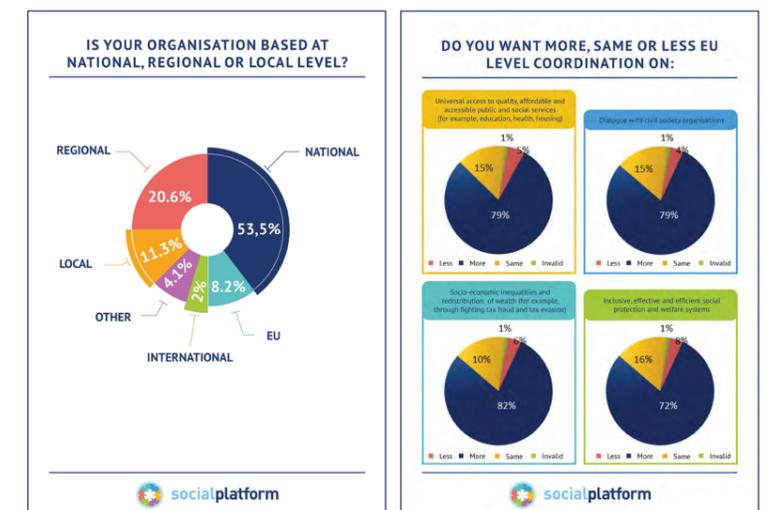
Social Learning Platform



In 2018 we launched the Social Learning Platform, a member-led space where social rights advocates can come together to share best practices and personal experiences, and engage in peer-to-peer learning. The two meetings were on the theme of promoting equality in practice, and focused on the inclusion of people with disabilities in meetings and events, and the inclusion of women of colour in the workplace.

Speaking to the Grassroots

Ahead of the European Parliament elections in 2019, we launched a survey investigating how local, regional and national civil society organisations working in the social field view the EU. More than 700 ideas and opinions were received from 97 national organisations from 23 EU countries.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2018

A LOOK UNDER THE HOOD

On 24 April, members of Social Platform gathered for the 23rd spring General Assembly, our highest governing body. Here are the highlights of what was an action-packed day:

Exchange with Joost Korte, Director-General of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion



Having taken up his new role in March 2018, our General Assembly was our first opportunity to meet and exchange with Joost Korte. The meeting launched a renewed spirit of cooperation between civil society organisations and DG Employment, towards the realisation of a more sustainable and inclusive EU.

Developing our Common Vision to Implement the Social Pillar

There was considerable time set aside for a series of breakout sessions on the implementation of the Social Pillar. The resulting recommendations were reported back to members, as well as Jeroen Jutte, Resa Koleva-Demonty and Maria Baroni of DG Employment, who shared their reflections.



Building Each Other Up: Supporting Minimum Income

Empowering civil society organisations to act and grow is not the sole responsibility of national governments and EU institutions – we also have a duty to each other.

This is the spirit in which the General Assembly participated in the launch of the European Minimum Income Network's European bus tour, organised by the European Anti-Poverty Network. Armed with banners touting the social and economic benefits of minimum income schemes, our members were joined by other civil society actors, faith leaders, Members of the European Parliament, and European Commissioner Marianne Thyssen.



Secretariat



Kélig Puyet
Director



Masha Smirnova
Policy & Advocacy
Advisor



Giulio Pelosi
Policy & Advocacy
Officer



Katja Reuter
Policy & Advocacy
Officer



Silvana Roebstorff
Policy & Project
Officer



Helen Joseph
Sr. Communications
& Media Officer



Juris Lavrikovs
Communications
& Campaigns
Coordinator



Tutut Christen
Communications &
Event Assistant



Nathalie Franck
Finance &
Administration
Officer

Thanks to those members of the Secretariat who only joined us on a temporary basis:

Giacomo Manca	Policy Officer
Annelies Stalpaert	Governance Officer
Cécile Barbier	Policy & Research Advisor
Sabine Hoffmann	Finance & Administration Officer

Special thanks to our permanent Secretariat members who left us in 2018:

Annica Ryngbeck	Policy & Advocacy Advisor
Giulio Pelosi	Policy & Advocacy Officer



Management Committee

President

Jana Hainsworth (Eurochild)

Vice-Presidents

Maciej Kucharczyk (AGE Platform Europe)
Catherine Naughton (European Disability Forum)

Treasurer

Jorge Nuño Mayer (Caritas Europa)

Ordinary Members

Michele LeVoy (Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants)
Piotr Sadowski (Volonteuropé)
Patricia Scherer (European Association of Service Providers for persons with Disabilities)

Social Platform Members



At our 2018 General Assembly meeting members voted to welcome Save The Children International as an associate member of the network. Save the Children has led global action on children's rights for almost a century.

In 1919, Eglantyne Jebb established the Save the Children Fund to feed children facing starvation after the First World War.

Today, Save the Children is present in 120 countries across the globe, where it implements programmes and advocates for change to realise all children's rights.

In Europe, Save the Children is present through the EU Advocacy Office based in Brussels and national members in Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

Thank you to all of our members for your engagement, expertise and passion in 2018!



Join the Family!



By becoming a member of Social Platform you will add your voice to the largest alliance of civil society organisations fighting for social justice and participatory democracy in Europe. We are recognised as a key interlocutor by EU institutions and by EU Member States, and through our advocacy and communications channels can bring visibility at the highest-level to the issues that matter most to your constituencies.

Are you interested in joining our family? [Find out more here.](#)

FACTS AND FIGURES

21
Task Force meetings

2
General Assemblies

4
Steering Group meetings

7
Management Committee meetings

2
new member

4,742
Facebook friends

4,886
Twitter followers

26
infographics & visuals

46
newsletters

48,714
website visits

SHOW ME THE MONEY!

€698,050 Total income



€685,745 Total expenditure

€449,573
Staff costs

€236,172
Other expenditure

SOCIAL PLATFORM ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Social Platform acknowledges the financial support of the European Commission's 'Europe for Citizens' programme, managed by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). This publication reflects the author's views. Neither the European Commission nor the EACEA is liable for any use that may be made of the information contained in this publication.

Published in May 2019

Drafted and edited by Helen Joseph | Designed by Tutut Christen