



# BUILDING SOCIAL EUROPE

## FLAGSHIP CONFERENCE

16 - 18 September 2019 | Helsinki, Finland



**socialplatform**

in cooperation with:



**MINISTRY OF  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH**

Official side event of Finland's Presidency  
of the Council of the European Union

EU2019.FI

# socialplatform

Uniting networks of civil society organisations for social justice and participatory democracy in Europe



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# WELCOME FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF FINLAND

Finland is committed to work towards socially, economically and ecologically sustainable societies. Reducing inequalities is essential in all EU cooperation. The social dimension is a key area for the EU. An up-to-date minimum regulation of social rights and working life, together with more effective implementation, is vital for strengthening the social dimension of the EU. The future of the EU's social dimension should lay on a horizontal perspective and cross-sectoral cooperation. EU actions and measures in different policy fields should strengthen the wellbeing of EU citizens. Promoting wellbeing is after all a central aim of the Union integral to the Sustainable Development Goals.

At the same time, we are facing many future challenges such as rapidly changing working life and technological change, societal inclusion and population aging. The European Pillar of Social Rights is central to the EU and its Member States in responding to these challenges and can work as an important compass for our future actions. Moreover, climate change is a major global challenge affecting all of us. Transition to a climate neutral economy should be implemented in a fair manner and by promoting social justice. During its Presidency Finland is emphasising the importance of raising the EU's profile as a global leader on climate action.

To tackle the political, economic and societal challenges of the next decade, we need to approach them horizontally. We believe that by investing in the wellbeing of people we can boost productivity and employment, generate economic growth and stability, attract investments and reduce public expenditure.

Furthermore, societal inclusion and social justice are at the heart of each citizen's personal security, allow and support everyone to actively participate in society, and create social stability and security. Inclusive and sustainable economic growth and resilience also contribute to the wellbeing of the planet. We call this the Economy of Wellbeing.

As the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, we propose the Economy of Wellbeing approach to be adopted in the EU's policies. We challenge the EU to discuss how people-centred wellbeing policies are essential to ensure social cohesion, resilience and competitiveness both nationally and at the EU level. The Economy of Wellbeing approach also contributes to the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030, which highlights the balance between economic, social and environmental policies. The Economy of Well-being underlines better cross-sectoral cooperation that must include close collaboration with civil society organisations. After all, if we wish to promote a horizontal perspective in people-centred policy-making, promotion of wellbeing and economic growth, it must be done together.

This is why we are pleased that Social Platform is organising the 'Building Social Europe' Flagship Conference in Helsinki on 16-18 September 2019 in cooperation with the Finnish Presidency.



Welcome to Helsinki!

**Aino-Kaisa Pekonen**  
*Finnish Minister of Social  
Affairs and Health*

# WELCOME FROM SOCIAL PLATFORM

Dear Friends,

We warmly welcome you to our second Flagship Conference, 'Building Social Europe'. We are grateful to the Government of Finland for the opportunity to organise our event back-to-back with the high-level conference on the Economy of Wellbeing held in the framework of the Finnish EU Presidency, where a delegation of Social Platform members will have the opportunity to deliver our key messages and recommendations to EU and national policy-makers.

We find ourselves at a crucial moment after the European Parliament elections and amidst on-going nominations and election of members of the new European Commission. At the same time, we are seeing a rise in people's mobilisation to stop and reverse a social and environmental crisis and to secure the future for the next generation.

As a network of civil society organisations active in the social sector, we are taking responsibility to make sure that the common good prevails over the interests of a few. This year's Flagship Conference creates a unique opportunity to discuss how the EU can recapture the spirit of social justice and champion democracy and trust in the EU.

For social justice to be central to all policies we need to be clear about who the key actors in our democracies should be, and what role civil society organisations should play. We need to promote new economic models and create mechanisms to ensure that nobody is left behind.

These fundamental questions will be debated during our Flagship Conference, bringing together representatives from national and EU institutions, local public authorities, civil society organisations, social partners and academics. Plenary debates will be complemented by thematic workshops and study visits, looking at the policy areas of employment, health, housing, care, services and migration.

We sincerely thank the Government of Finland for their enthusiastic cooperation, as well as all members and partners who contributed to shaping and delivering our Flagship Conference. We hope that the momentum that these exchanges create will have a lasting impact on the forthcoming five-year EU legislature, and beyond.

Best wishes,



**Piotr Sadowski**  
*President of Social Platform*



**Kélig Puyet**  
*Director of Social Platform*

# WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR OF HELSINKI

Dear Delegates,

We are delighted to host your visit to Helsinki as part of the 2nd Flagship Conference “Building Social Europe” during the Finnish EU Presidency.

In recent years, it has become evident that many of the world’s most profound transformations - from digitalization and climate change to urbanization - take place at the local level. The desire to impact the global agenda is shared among numerous cities. We are responsible for providing the best possible conditions for the everyday lives of our citizens.

Helsinki’s new City Strategy illustrates many areas in which the city can be a pioneering local implementer of global responsibilities. Our vision is to be the world’s most functional city, based on equality, non-discrimination, strong social cohesion and open, inclusive ways of operating. Ensuring comprehensive economic, social and ecological sustainability is one of the growing city’s core missions.

The strategy has also given impetus to Helsinki’s decision to set out to become the first city in Europe and the second in the world to start reporting its local achievements in implementing the UN Agenda 2030.

The Social Platform shares with our city this holistic vision of sustainability and works, together with its members, on UN Agenda 2030 and the implementation of SDGs putting people and planet first. We believe that your conference will contribute to the debate on building a Social Europe that will leave no one behind.

As cities, our prime responsibility is to recognize the powers shifting the world and prepare our governance for these new circumstances; ensuring a sustainable future to our citizens, including through cooperation with social NGOs. Our ability to keep up with the transitions around us require a solid foundation – shared values, functional everyday life and good governance, something that is also accentuated in the EU. Social cohesion and a sense of mutual confidence and togetherness are the cornerstones for the success of any city.



Warmly welcome!

**Jan Vapaavuori**  
*Mayor of Helsinki*

# THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**Social Platform's** staff took on a tremendous workload to organise this Flagship Conference, and our sincere thanks go to the whole team.

Our thanks go to **our member organisations and their Finnish members** for their contribution to developing conference workshops and study visits.

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**MINISTRY OF  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH**

Social Platform expresses its gratitude to the **Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland** for its cooperation and partnership in organising the Flagship Conference.

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**SOSTE**

We are grateful to the **Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health (SOSTE)**, which provided support in organising our Flagship Conference.

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**Helsinki**

We express our sincere thanks to **the City of Helsinki** for organising a welcome reception for conference participants.

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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).

# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

## MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

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11:00 – 13:00	Registration
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 15:00	Public action
16:00 – 16:30	Opening, welcome & key note speech
16:30 – 18:00	<b>Panel 1: Regaining people's trust – addressing the EU's democratic deficit through civil dialogue</b>
19:00 – 20:00	Reception hosted by the City of Helsinki

## TUESDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

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9:00 – 10:00	<b>Plenary: Implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights</b>
10:00 – 12:00	Study visits and parallel workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The economy of well-being starts at work</li><li>• Health equity and social justice</li><li>• Homelessness in Europe</li><li>• Long-term care</li><li>• How best to fund community-based social services?</li><li>• Funding a long-term comprehensive approach to migrant inclusion at local level</li></ul>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch

13:00 – 14:30	Study visits and parallel workshops (continued)
14:30 – 15:00	Break
15:00 – 16:30	Study visits and parallel workshops (continued)
16:30 – 16:45	Break
16:45 – 18:00	<b>Plenary: Reporting from study visits and workshops</b>
18:30 – 20.30	Dinner

## WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

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9:00 – 10:00	<b>High-level round table with EU institutions, national governments and civil society</b>
10:00 – 10:30	Break
13:00 – 12:00	<b>Panel 2: People first! How to create an economy that serves social justice</b>
12:00 – 12:30	<b>Plenary: Concluding remarks and closing</b>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch and departures

# FULL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

## Monday 16 September

13:00 – 15:00

### Public action

On the first day of our conference, we invite participants and Finnish civil society organisations to gather in central Helsinki to talk about Social Europe. We welcome members of the public to join the discussion about what Social Europe means to them, about their concerns and their hopes.

It will be an opportunity to increase awareness of the European Pillar of Social Rights and will be a strong reminder to decision-makers that people should be at the heart of policy-making ahead the Finnish EU Presidency's high-level conference on the economy of wellbeing on 18 and 19 September.

Location: Kolmensepänaukio/Three Smiths Square (see map on page 38)

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16:00 – 16:30

### Opening and welcome

- **Veli-Mikko Niemi**, Director General, EU and International Affairs, Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
- **Ronald Wiman**, Europe Region President of the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) and Chair of the Finnish ICSW Committee
- **Piotr Sadowski**, President of Social Platform

**Key note speech - Tarja Halonen**, Former President of Finland

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16:30 – 18:00

### Panel 1: Regaining people's trust – addressing the EU's democratic deficit through civil dialogue

We are facing times of great societal upheaval. Trends including population ageing, globalisation, digitalisation and climate change are leading to growing inequalities. In turn, these inequalities are fuelling social tension and questioning political representation in contemporary Europe. Who represents us? Which interests do our leaders defend? How can decisions be made differently, in ways that leave no one behind?

Recent civic movements – from the French ‘Yellow Vest’ protests to EU-wide school strikes for the climate – illustrate the importance of taking people’s concerns into account in decision-making processes.

In response to public concerns around democratic legitimacy, political leaders have shown more interest in citizens’ consultations, both at national and EU level. Another recent trend is that political parties are seeing rising numbers of affiliated members from civil society organisations running for election.

In this context, what is the role of civil dialogue? Can it contribute to addressing the EU’s democratic deficit? What should the key components of this dialogue be? At European level, could this lead to a broader reform of democracy and governance?

**Panel:**

- **Corina Stratulat**, Senior Policy Analyst and Head of the European Politics and Institutions Programme, European Policy Centre
- **Gunta Anča**, Chair of the Latvian Umbrella Body for Disability Organisations (Sustento), Board Member of the European Disability Forum
- **Laura Sullivan**, Executive Director of We Move Europe
- **Maciej Kucharczyk**, Vice-President of Social Platform

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**19:00 – 20:00**      **Reception hosted by the City of Helsinki at the Old Court House, Aleksanterinkatu 20.**

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**Tuesday 17 September**

**09:00 – 10:00**      **Plenary: Implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights**

The European Pillar of Social Rights has created momentum for progress in the EU social dimension. Its implementation is ongoing, and the responsibility to make it a success lies at different levels, with different actors.

The second day of our conference opens with a plenary session that introduces the conference’s thematic approach to the issues at stake. Speakers will share their views from both a European and national perspective, to identify how to translate the Social Pillar from words to action.

The session will also introduce the day's workshops and study visits.

**Panel:**

- **Kélig Puyet**, Director of Social Platform
- **Rait Kuuse**, Chair of the EU Social Protection Committee (SPC)
- **Vertti Kiukas**, Secretary-General of the Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health (SOSTE)

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10:00 – 12:00	Study visits and parallel workshops
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 14:30	Study visits and parallel workshops (continued)
14:30 – 15:00	Break
15:00 – 16:30	Study visits and parallel workshops (continued)
16:30 – 16:45	Break
16:45 – 18:00	Plenary: reporting from study visits and workshops
18:30 – 20:30	Dinner

## Workshops and study visits

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Through six parallel workshops, participants will exchange expertise and brainstorm ways to bring the EU closer to people. Social Platform will use the results as input to its policy work on promoting socio-economic justice.

During these workshops, we will answer the following questions:

- What is the added value of the EU working on this topic?
- What does the EU already do in this field, and what is the state-of-play?
- What could still be done?
- What are key recommendations?

## Workshop 1 – The economy of wellbeing starts at work

Co-organised by



Against a backdrop of debate on the future of work and the challenges presented by new technologies and forms of employment, workshop 1 will address the topic of quality jobs. In light of Finnish EU Presidency discussions on the economy of wellbeing, speakers will discuss what quality employment and wellbeing at work entail in today's world of work.

Participants will examine the future of work trends and their influence on the quality and sustainability of jobs, as well as looking at implications for the future of social protection. Panellists will outline factors that lead to social justice from an economic point-of-view and discuss the cooperative model as a solution. Moreover, a concrete example will be shared from Finland of how new forms of employment are affecting the daily lives of workers and how the cooperative model is responding to these challenges.

The workshop will be followed by an interactive session in which participants will identify policy recommendations.

The workshop will contribute to Social Platform's policy work on 'making the economy work for people', focusing on the need to renew political commitment to the European Pillar of Social Rights and Social Europe by ensuring that work-related principles are fully implemented.

### Study Visit

The group will visit Demos Helsinki, an independent think tank, working together with the public sector, private sector, and NGOs. Demos Helsinki works to impact the ongoing global transformations actively and aims to build sustainable and fair societies. The group will meet The One Planet Economy team that develops solutions to enable resource-smart lifestyles and societies, specifically working on the Future of Work and Education.

## Workshop 2 – Health equity and social justice

### Organised by



Social justice and health equity are two sides of the same coin: social inequalities drive health inequities, and vice versa. Many of the harmful effects of poverty and social exclusion manifest themselves as health problems, which further exacerbate poverty and social exclusion, creating a vicious cycle.

For instance, people who are exposed to socio-economic vulnerabilities experience higher rates of poor health, such as mental ill-health and obesity, and impaired access to adequate prevention, treatment and care. The costs associated with this state of affairs – many of which again manifest as health-related – are a major burden on the European economy and significantly hinder people's life chances and social mobility.

Workshop 2 will explore how socio-economic policies can promote health equity and how health policies can promote social justice, exploring this multi-dimensional dynamic. This will help align these perspectives for the creation of a strong, integrated policy agenda for a Europe with the wellbeing of people at its core.

### Study Visit

A study visit will explore a practical initiative that connects the health and social justice agendas. The visit aims to deepen understanding of the interlinkages between health and social affairs, and inspire the workshop discussions with real-life experience.

## Workshop 3 – Homelessness in Europe

### Organised by



FEANTSA

Ensuring the right to decent, affordable housing is rapidly becoming a priority on the EU agenda. The European Pillar of Social Rights includes principle 19 on housing and assistance for the homeless. The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda commits the EU and Member States to eliminating extreme poverty and ensuring the right to decent, affordable housing for all. Decent housing is a key component of wellbeing and a pre-determinant of health. Tackling housing problems emerged as a key priority in the European election campaign. In the context of a new European Commission and Parliament, workshop 3 will bring together experts, policy-makers and stakeholders to discuss the state of homelessness in Europe and what can be done about it.

The workshop will provide an overview of the extent and nature of homelessness, and the perceptions held by the European population. Panellists will present concrete and practical ways the EU can support Member States in their efforts to prevent and tackle homelessness. The workshop will then zoom in on the successful Finnish approach to homelessness, which made Finland the only EU Member State where the number of homeless people has consistently decreased over the last decade. Participants are invited to contribute to the debate and co-construct a proposal for a European strategy on the urgent issue of homelessness.

### Study Visit

A study visit to Y-Säätiö will explore Finland's trend-bucking success in tackling homelessness through an ambitious Housing First strategy. Y-Säätiö is one of the biggest social housing providers in Finland and a key player in the provision of housing solutions to homeless people. It is at the origin of the Housing First approach in Finland and brought it to scale. The success of Finland's homelessness policies are to a great extent related to the consistent application of this approach.

## Workshop 4 – Long-term care

### Co-organised by



Access to long-term care is a pressing policy issue. Demand for services is increasing, driven by demographic ageing and new social realities. However, most EU countries are currently unable to guarantee access to quality services to all who need it.

There are strong dignity- and equity-based, as well as economic arguments in favour of enforcing the right to long-term care, and the EU has shown increasing interest in having further involvement in this area.

Workshop 4 will explore the status quo in Europe and the potential for further EU action on long-term care. It will also seek to gather participants' ideas around what policy initiatives the EU should put forward and will produce a set of recommendations for the Finnish EU Presidency's high-level conference on the economy of wellbeing. Organisers will use the ideas gathered to influence the hearings for the next European Commissioners at the European Parliament.

### Study Visit

A study visit will explore family carers' experiences and the quality of long-term care for older people. The 30-minute long dance film 'Yours, my love' is based on the PhD thesis written by Ulla Tikkanen. The thesis and the dancing reflect the feelings of both family carers and those in need of care, at home and in institutions. It is all about the power of love, the state of bondedness, and the pain of giving up. After the film, there will be a discussion with participants facilitated by Ulla Tikkanen, Tiina Lindfors who choreographed the film, and some NGO representatives from the field of care for older people in Finland.

## Workshop 5 – How best to fund community-based social services?

Organised by



Social services provide the necessary support that enables millions of people to participate actively in life, to be in employment, to be educated and to relax and enjoy leisurely activities. They not only impact the lives of people with support needs themselves, they are often equally important for their families and friends and, consequently, for businesses and society as a whole. Social services are crucial to the economy of wellbeing.

With shrinking budgets, increasing demand and evolving social needs, Europe is asking social services to do more with less money. In this context, we must be clearer about what we want to achieve and create the right instruments to achieve it. If the objective is an economy of wellbeing, then it is important to identify which funding models are best suited to make this happen.

Workshop 5 will allow participants to discuss which funding model (reserved markets, public procurement, personal budgets or private investment) is best suited to the development of quality care services. The outcome will be to give a clearer picture as to how social services should be funded if they are to contribute to the economy of wellbeing.

### Study Visit

A study visit will introduce participants to Aurinkolinna, a service providing 24/7 support to 20 young people with support needs. The young people have known each other since a young age and wanted to live close to one another. The service is tailored to each individual based on their support needs and hopes. The main concept of the service is strong self-determination, active support and collaboration with the families.

## Workshop 6 – Funding a long-term comprehensive approach to migrant inclusion at local level



Negotiations on the next long-term EU budget (the multi-annual financial framework 2021-2027) will have an important impact on the structure of EU funding concerning the inclusion of migrants. For the first time, the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) includes a thematic objective directly targeting the inclusion of third-country nationals, and new proposals for the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) – which focuses on the early stages of inclusion – foresee a relevant increase in its budget.

However, the success of migrant inclusion will strongly depend on how the programming of funds is managed at national level, and which priorities, included in the policy objectives of these funds, will be given precedence by Member States.

Workshop 6 will bring together different stakeholders to discuss current challenges in the definition of these funds, synergies across different funding instruments, the level of accessibility of funding and the subsequent impact on the work of civil society organisations and local authorities.

### Study Visit

A study visit will introduce participants to the Centre of Psychotraumatology, which provides treatment to tortured and traumatised refugees and asylum-seekers and their family members, including seriously traumatised children and adolescents.

Funded by the Funding Centre for Social Welfare and Health Organisations (STEA) and the EU's AMIF fund, the centre consists of three multidisciplinary units: a torture survivors team, a war trauma team and a children and youth team.

The centre also offers nationwide consultation, education and supervision services for health care and other professionals working with tortured refugees and asylum seekers.

## About ReSOMA – The Research Social Platform On Migration and Asylum

Policy-making in the migration, asylum and integration field needs accurate and reliable knowledge. Politicians at all levels, civil society representatives and researchers need suitable ways of working together in the face of a rapidly changing environment. The ReSOMA project, of which Social Platform is a member, is the initiative mobilising for sustained, regular policy dialogue across Europe and facilitating policies based on evidence. In a unique partnership of European civil society and local authority organisations, think-tanks and research networks, ReSOMA creates new opportunities for consultation and provides policy-relevant expertise. Launched in 2018, ReSOMA is a two-year project supported by the EU's Horizon 2020 research programme.

Join  
**ReSOMA**  
and share  
your knowledge!

[www.resoma.eu](http://www.resoma.eu)  
 @ReSOMA\_EU  
 [resoma@resoma.eu](mailto:resoma@resoma.eu)

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under the grant agreement 770730.

**ReSOMA**  
RESEARCH SOCIAL  
PLATFORM ON MIGRATION  
AND ASYLUM

ReSOMA provides a platform for networking through the exchange of knowledge and practice in the field of **Asylum, Migration and Integration.**

**Project objectives:**

- Creating a mutually beneficial platform for collaboration between EU research and practitioner networks and policymakers
- Making the policy debate on asylum, migration and integration more evidence-based
- Introducing new evidence-based priorities for the EU's policy agenda

European Council on Refugees and Exiles | PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS | in collaboration with

## Wednesday 18 September

### 09:00 – 10:00 **High-level round table with EU institutions, national governments and civil society**

The final morning of our conference is followed in the afternoon by the Finnish EU Presidency's high-level conference on the economy of wellbeing. To build upon this, the third day of our conference opens with a round table featuring key influencers of the upcoming EU agenda, including the present and upcoming EU Presidencies.

#### **Panel:**

- **Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca**, Former President of Malta, President of Eurochild
  - **Saila Ruuth**, State Secretary to the Finnish Minister of Social Affairs and Health
  - **Marija Pletikosa**, State Secretary to the Croatian Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy
  - **Rolf Schmachtenberg**, Permanent State Secretary to the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
  - **Katarina Ivanković Knežević**, Director for Social Affairs in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
  - **Catherine Naughton**, Vice-President of Social Platform
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### 10:30 - 12:00 **Panel 2: People first! How to create an economy that serves social justice**

Social justice cannot be achieved through social policies alone; it requires a fundamental shift in Europe's economic model, and a move towards a more global, sustainable development perspective.

While the Finnish Presidency is promoting an economy for the wellbeing of people, there remains the question of the economy's ultimate goal: is it GDP growth or people's wellbeing?

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides an overarching framework for the future vision of Europe, and together with the European Pillar of Social Rights it can address the persistent imbalance between the EU's economic and social policies.

With this in mind, how can the pursuit of profit and economic growth be better balanced with social and environmental goals? Is it unavoidable that social and environmental objectives are always the variable? Are Agenda 2030 and the European Pillar of Social Rights fit for purpose to finally bring about socio-economic balance?

**Panel:**

- **Pia Pakarinen**, Helsinki City Deputy Mayor for Education, Vice-Chair of EURO CITIES Economic Development Forum
  - **Enrico Giovannini**, Economist and statistician, former Italian Minister of Labour and Social Policies in Italy with past roles at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
  - **Luc Cortebeek**, Former President and current member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization
  - **Claire Hédon**, President of ATD Quart Monde
  - **Leo Williams**, Ordinary Member of Social Platform's Management Committee
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**12:00 – 12:30**

**Plenary: Concluding remarks and closing**

- **Shannon Pfohman**, Ordinary Member of Social Platform's Management Committee
- **Piotr Sadowski**, President of Social Platform

**12:30 – 13:30**

**Lunch and departures**

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# SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Monday 16 September - Opening and welcome



**Veli-Mikko Niemi**

*Director General, EU and International Affairs, Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health*

Veli-Mikko Niemi has been Director General and the Head of the International Affairs Unit of the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health since January 2018. The unit is tasked with developing, planning and coordinating the Ministry's International and EU affairs. From 2014-2017, he worked as Director General of the Ministry's Department for Promotion of Welfare and Health. He worked as Director of Food Safety at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry from 2007-2014, and before that as Deputy Director General. He also worked as a national expert at the European Commission from 1998-2000.

@vmn1005



**Piotr Sadowski**

*President of Social Platform*

Piotr Sadowski has been Secretary General of Volonteurope (an international civil society network advocating for volunteering and active citizenship as routes to achieve more social justice) since 2008. He was directly involved in the advocacy and subsequent implementation of the 2011 European Year of Volunteering (EYV), as a member of the 2011 EYV Civil Society Alliance Executive Group. In 2017 he was elected to Social Platform's Management Committee and in April 2019, became its President. His passion for volunteering dates back to his International Baccalaureate studies at UWC Atlantic College in Wales, UK (1996-1998). He then went on to study Economics at the London School of Economics, UK.



**Ronald Wiman**

***Europe Region President of the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) and Chair of the Finnish ICSW Committee hosted by the Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health***

Ronald Wiman is Europe Region President of the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) and Chair of the Finnish ICSW Committee that is hosted by the Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health (SOSTE).

He has recently retired from post of Chief Social Policy Specialist at the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) working on the EU Social Protection Systems Programme (EU-SPS), which was supporting eleven developing countries in their efforts to systematise their social protection.

He has held various management and global social policy expert positions at the THL, the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Namibian Government, and the United Nations, and has had many short-term assignments with a number of international organisations.

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## Key note speech



**Tarja Halonen**  
*Former President of Finland*

### Political Career

Tarja Halonen was the 11th President of the Republic of Finland 2000-2012 and Finland's first female head of state. She acceded office on 1 March 2000, and was re-elected in 2006. She graduated from the University of Helsinki in 1968 and has a Master of Law degree. Her professional career started in the national Union of Finnish Students, where she worked as the Social Affairs Secretary in 1969–70.

She started as a lawyer in the Central Organization of Finnish Trade Unions in 1970 and held this position throughout her political career. Tarja Halonen joined the Social Democratic party in 1971. Her political career began in 1974 when she was appointed parliamentary secretary to the Prime Minister. She was elected to the Parliament for the first time in 1979, and after that she was re-elected four times, until she assumed the office of the President of Finland.

In the Parliament she served as Chair of the Social Affairs Committee in 1984–87, Deputy-Chair of the Legal Affairs Committee in 1991–95, and Chair of the Grand Committee in 1995. A central part of Tarja Halonen's political activity has been her five terms in the Helsinki City Council in 1977–96.

She has served in three cabinets and her ministerial appointments have been: Minister at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health in 1987–90, Minister of Justice in 1990–91, and Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1995–2000. She was also Minister responsible for Nordic co-operation in 1989–91.

During her time as Foreign Minister, Finland held for the first time the EU Presidency from July to December in 1999. Tarja Halonen has also played an active role at the Council of Europe, first as Deputy-Chair of the Finnish Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly from 1991 to 1995 and later in the Ministerial Committee. She was also a Member of the Committee of Wise Persons of the Council of Europe in 1998–99.

### **International Duties**

During her presidency, Tarja Halonen served as co-chair of World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, appointed by International Labour Organization ILO, from 2002 to 2004. From March 2009 until September 2014, she served as the Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders. In August 2010, Tarja Halonen was appointed co-chair of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability. She was the co-chair of the High Level Task Force for ICPD 2012–16.

After presidential term Tarja Halonen has continued her work as a member of many organizations and networks in Finland and abroad. She has particularly close contacts with the UN and she also works with the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

### **Interests**

Tarja Halonen has paid close attention to the issues of human rights, democracy, civil society and gender equality. Issues concerning social justice and the promotion of equality have also been central themes throughout her political career.

The TH Global Sustainability Foundation was established in 2012 to promote the work of President Halonen in the field of Sustainable Development. The Foundation published in 2014 a report called "Challenges to Global Sustainability", which sums up the key substance of a seminar held in December 2013 titled "Challenges to Sustainable Development: Global Approaches and Practical Work in the Baltic Sea Region".

Tarja Halonen is married to doctor Pentti Arajärvi. She is interested in theatre and she has held several honorary positions in this sphere. Her other interests include the history of arts, and painting and drawing are among her hobbies. She has also been closely involved in rhythmic competition gymnastics and exercises regularly.

@ TarjaHalonen

## Panel 1: "Regaining people's trust – addressing the EU's democratic deficit through civil dialogue"



### **Corina Stratulat**

**Senior Policy Analyst and Head of the European Politics and Institutions Programme, European Policy Centre**

Corina Stratulat's work at the European Policy Centre focuses on EU institutional developments and enlargement towards the Balkans. She holds an MPhil in Contemporary European Studies from the University of Cambridge, UK, and a PhD in Political and Social Sciences from the European University Institute, Italy. Her main research interests include comparative Central and East European politics, parties and party systems, elections, democracy, EU institutions, integration, and enlargement policy.



### **Gunta Anča**

**Chair of the Latvian Umbrella Body for Disability Organisations (Sustento), Board Member of the European Disability Forum**

Gunta Anča has been a proactive disability rights activist throughout her career. She started her work in this field as founder and editor of the Disability newspaper in 1989. Latvia was part of the Soviet Union at that time, and disability issues had been hidden because the government did not acknowledge that Soviet society also included people with disabilities.

Since 2002, she has been Chair of the Latvian Umbrella Body for Disability and patients organisations SUSTENTO – National Council. It has 49 member organisations of people with disabilities, which represent all kinds of disabilities.

Since 2005, she has been a Board Member of the European Disability Forum. As an active promoter of gender equality, she was involved in the work of EDF's Women's Committee, and was twice elected as a Board Member of the European Women's Lobby. In 2013 she became Vice-President of the European Disability Forum and is now Secretary General of EDF.

Since 2004, she has represented Latvia as a member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). She has a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and a Master's degree in Business Administration and Management.



**Laura Sullivan**  
***Executive Director of We Move Europe***

Based in Brussels, Laura Sullivan has been a campaigner for social and environmental justice for almost two decades. In October 2018, she started her role as Executive Director to campaigning organisation WeMove Europe. She began her career in the European Parliament, moving on work with the trade union confederation Education International. For ten years, she worked for ActionAid International as European Campaigns Manager and later Regional Director for Europe and the Americas. Laura has an MA in Governance and Development specialising in civil society democratic participation. Her main expertise lies in systemic change thinking for NGOs, feminist leadership and the EU institutions. She has a passion for all things related to music, language and justice.

@laura\_sullivan

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**Maciej Kucharczyk**  
***Vice-President of Social Platform***

Maciej Kucharczyk is Policy Director of AGE Platform Europe – a network of over 100 organisations ‘of’ and ‘working for’ people aged 50 years and over. He has been working at AGE since 2006 on issues such as adequacy and sustainability of social protection, minimum income, promotion of human rights, social justice and dignity. Maciej is Vice-President of Social Platform, the largest network of European rights- and values-based NGOs working in the social sector.

Graduating in International Economic Relations at the University of Lodz, Poland, he holds post-graduate degrees in European Affairs from the College of Europe, Belgium, and in Public Administration from the Ecole Nationale d’Administration, France.

## Tuesday 17 September - Plenary: Implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights



**Kélig Puyet**  
*Director of Social Platform*

Kélig Puyet has acquired extensive experience of the civil society sector and the impact that EU and national policies have on people in vulnerable situations. Prior to joining Social Platform, she was Head of Global Advocacy at SOS Children's Villages International, and she has been actively involved in the work of different organisations including the European Youth Forum, Eurochild, CONCORD and the International Civil Society Centre. She holds a Master's degree in Law from the Robert Schuman University, France, and a European Master's degree in Human Rights and Democratisation from the University of Padova and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (University of Lund).



**Rait Kuuse**  
*Chair of the EU Social Protection Committee*

Rait Kuuse has worked in the public sector of Estonia since 1999. He started his career as a probation officer, and in 2001 moved to the Ministry of Justice to deal with criminal justice reforms with a focus on community sanctions and measures. Since spring 2014, he has been Deputy Secretary-General of Social Policy in the Ministry of Social Affairs.

He is responsible for the overall coordination and development of Estonia's social policy. He has been responsible for many statewide reforms, including pension reform, workability reform and preparation of a new framework for long-term care. He also directed several legislative and administrative changes in the areas of social protection, child protection and equality policies, and is responsible for EU funds used in the areas his portfolio covers.

He has been internationally active throughout his career, and contributed to the projects of many international organisations. He is the Chair of the EU Social Protection Committee. His higher education focused on social work, and he graduated with a Master of Business Administration degree in European Studies from the University of Tartu, Estonia. He is currently preparing a doctoral thesis at the University of Tallinn on the subject of deinstitutionalisation.

@RaitKuuse



**Vertti Kiukas**

***Secretary-General of the Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health***

The Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health (SOSTE) is an umbrella organisation of all social and health NGOs and some other institutions in Finland. Vertti Kiukas has a Master's degree in History from the University of Helsinki. He has worked for over 15 years as a CEO of various voluntary social and health organisations, and for shorter periods as a Project Manager at the Finnish Ministry of Law and Chief of Staff at the Finnish Social Democratic Party. He holds several posts in foundations, corporations, and NGOs.

@VKiukas

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**Wednesday 18 September - High-level round table with EU institutions, national governments and civil society**



**Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca**

***Former President of Malta, President of Eurochild***

Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca was the ninth President of Malta, after being active in politics for forty years and serving in parliament for 16 years. She graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Law and Humanities as Notary Public from the University of Malta. She was awarded an Honorary Professorship by the University of Warwick, UK, and an Honorary Doctorate of Law by the University of Leicester, UK.

She has dedicated her life to the wellbeing of the most vulnerable in society, and contributed to bring about effective changes in the social policies of Malta. Her major achievements while President of Malta include the setting up of The Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society, The Malta Trust Foundation, and the Emanuele Cancer Research Foundation Malta – foundations that she chairs.

In April 2019, she was elected President of Eurochild, a pan-European network of children's rights organisations with over 176 members from over 34 countries.

She is an internationally acclaimed speaker covering various areas, including children's rights, women, and vulnerable groups including migrants. She is a Member of the Council of World Women Leaders; Adviser to Women Political Leaders; Patron and Ambassador of the International Girl2Leader Campaign; and an Honorary Member of the Società Italiana di Storia della Medicina. She is a UNIDO Goodwill Ambassador, a Champion for the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDAIII), and a UNWTO Special Ambassador for Sustainable Tourism.

@MarieLouise\_MT



**Saira Ruuth**

***State Secretary to the Finnish Minister of Social Affairs and Health***

Saira Ruuth is State Secretary to the Finnish Minister of Social Affairs and Health, Aino-Kaisa Pekonen. Before her appointment as State Secretary, she worked in the Finnish Industrial Union as an expert in social affairs and working environment. Her other previous workplaces include the Ministry of Education and Culture, employment pension company Ilmarinen, and the unemployment fund of the Finnish Food Workers' Union. She holds a Master's degree in Social Sciences. She has served as the Chair of the Left Women in Finland, a Member of the Executive Board of the European Left, and a Member of the Board of Directors of the Left Alliance.

@sailaruuth

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**Marija Pletikosa**

***State Secretary of the Croatian Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy***

Marija Pletikosa has been State Secretary of the Croatian Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy since November 2016. Since 2009, she has been a Councilperson in the City Hall of the City of Zadar, and a Member of the Croatian Democratic Union (HZD) City Committee Presidency of the City of Zadar. Previously, she was Director of Home for Adults in Zadar for 21 years, being responsible for coordination, management, organisation and the introduction of new social services for users.

She was also responsible for development and proposing new strategies and social policies in the social welfare system. She has completed Postgraduate Specialist Study, CDC Atlanta, Faculty of Medicine of the University of Zagreb, Croatia, and she has acquired the title of Master of Social Work at the Faculty of Law of the University of Zagreb.



**Rolf Schmachtenberg**

***Permanent State Secretary for the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs***

Dr Rolf Schmachtenberg has been Permanent State Secretary for the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs since March 2018. He is responsible for the areas of Social Insurance/Provision for Old Age, Participation/Matters relating to Persons with Disabilities, Social Compensation/Social Assistance, and European Employment and Social Policy.

After studies of Mathematics and study visits to the United States and Norway he earned a doctorate in Economics. Since 1990, he has held various leading positions in the field of labour and social affairs at the Länder and federal level. He has many years of experience in labour market policy, participation/matters relating to persons with disabilities and European labour market and social policy. In particular, his responsibilities included the Federal Participation Act, the further development of the Act on Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and the National Action Plan regarding the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In his three-year term of office as Director of the Indo-German programme for social security at the Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), he also gained experience in international development cooperation work.



**Katarina Ivanković Knežević**

***Director of Social Affairs in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion***

Since September 2018 Katarina Ivanković Knežević has been Director of Social Affairs in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. Her area of activity is modernisation of social protection systems and wider social policies fostering social and labour market inclusion, through the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and other relevant social policies of the EU. Before joining the European Commission she was a State Secretary to the Ministry of Labour and the Pension System of the Republic of Croatia, where she was responsible for the management and implementation of the European Social Fund and other EU instruments aiming at human resources development. For the last 20 years her professional interests have been human rights and gender equality, social policy and employment, with a particular focus on labour market policies.

@katarinaik



**Catherine Naughton**  
***Vice-President of Social Platform***

Catherine Naughton is Director of the European Disability Forum (EDF), a unique platform that brings together representative organisations of persons with disabilities from across Europe. She is also the Vice-President of Social Platform.

She has an academic background in public health, and 20 years of experience in the field of disability, with a particular focus on inclusive development: the rights of persons with disabilities in low- and middle-income countries.

She has worked in many countries, and at the EU and international level in promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities in mainstream development and humanitarian programmes.

@catherinenaugh



## Panel 2: People first! How to create an economy that serves social justice



**Pia Pakarinen**

***Helsinki City Deputy Mayor for Education, Vice-chair of EUROCITIES Economic Development Forum***

Pia Pakarinen is Deputy Mayor of the Education Division in the City of Helsinki. Helsinki is the highest-ranked city in Finland as far as Pisa-results are concerned. Schools co-develop EdTech with companies, and phenomenon-based learning is one of the key elements.

She is a former marketing and sales professional, entrepreneur, CEO of Helsinki Entrepreneurs and Director of the Helsinki Region Chamber of Commerce. She joined the Court of Justice of the EU in the early years of the membership of Finland in the EU as a lawyer-linguist and lawyer-revisor.

According to the strategy of the Helsinki Education division, the City of Helsinki is the world's most impactful place for learning. For Pia, this means excellence and equity: every pupil and student, regardless of his or her demographic background, has a possibility of making a good and meaningful life and a career by studying. Education can change lives. She will promote Helsinki as an internationally known frontrunner city, where people learn to study and work together. The whole city is an inspiring learning environment.

She graduated as a Master of Law and a Master of Political Sciences from the University of Helsinki, and as a Master of Science (Economics) from the Helsinki School of Economics and Business Administration.

@Pia\_Pakarinen



**Enrico Giovannini**

***Economist and statistician, former Italian Minister of Labour and Social Policies with past roles at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development***

Enrico Giovannini is an Italian economist and statistician, and a professor at the University of Rome 'Tor Vergata'. He was Minister of Labour and Social Policies (2013-2014), President of the Italian Statistical Institute (2009-2013), and Director of Statistics and Chief Statistician of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (2001-2009).

He is the founder and Director of the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development, a coalition established to implement the UN 2030 Agenda in Italy. He is President of the European Statistical Governance Advisory Board, a member of the Global Commission on the future of work at the International Labour Organization, and a board member of several Italian and international institutions.

In October 2014, the President of the Italian Republic made him 'Cavaliere di Gran Croce al Merito della Repubblica', the highest ranking honour of the Italian Republic. He is the author of more than 100 articles on statistical and economic topics, as well as five books.

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**Luc Cortebeek**

***Former President and current member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization***

In 1972, after his secondary education at the Saint-Rumbold's College in Mechelen, Luc Cortebeek graduated from the Social School, University College in Leuven, Belgium. He was appointed as a staff member of the Confederation of Christian Trade Unions of Belgium (ACV-CSC).

He joined the national staff of the Enterprise department in 1973. From 1983-1987 he was Secretary of the ACV-federation of Mechelen. From 1987-1999 he was National Secretary in charge of the Region of Flanders, and in this role he was Chair of the Flemish Economic and Social Council (SERV) for three years.

From 1999 to the end of 2011, he was President of ACV-CSC, and in this capacity:

- Regent of the Central Bank of Belgium (2000-2012)
- Member of the G-10, the 'Group of Ten', representing the social partners, employers and workers of Belgium (2009-2011)
- Vice-President the World Confederation of Labour (1999-2006)
- Deputy-President of the International Trade Union Confederation (2006-2014)
- Vice-President of the Trade Union Advisory Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (1999-2012)
- Chair of the Workers' Group of the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Committee on Application of Standards (2000-2011)
- Workers' Vice-Chair of the Governing Body of the ILO (2011-2017)
- Chair of the ILO's Governing Body (2017-2018)
- Global Commission on the Future of Work 2017-2019
- Current member of the ILO's Governing Body



**Claire Hédon**  
***President of ATD Quart Monde***

Claire Hédon is a radio journalist. Since September 2017 she has been Programme Director of Radio France Internationale (RFI) after having been a presenter for 14 years of the radio show “Priorité Santé”, a one-hour daily programme on Global Health.

She is the co-author of several books on health, the latest of which is “La Vérité sur vos médicaments”, published by Odile Jacob. She graduated with a Master’s degree in Communication from CELSA, Paris Sorbonne, France, and holds a Master’s degree in Law from Paris II University, France. She is Chair of ATD Fourth World Movement France, and has been an active member of the NGO for 25 years.

@clairehedon

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**Leo Williams**  
***Ordinary Member of Social Platform’s Management Committee***

Leo Williams is Director of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), the largest European network of national, regional and local networks, involving anti-poverty NGOs and grassroot groups as well as European organisations, active in the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

Previously he was Director of Beyond 2015, a global campaign of over 1500 civil society organisations from more than 140 countries pushing for a transformative and ambitious post-2015 agenda, where he stayed for nearly five years.

He previously worked at Bond, the UK platform for international development organisations, and the Scotland Malawi Partnership. He has worked extensively on issues of peace and justice in the Middle East, notably focusing on the relationship between Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel during his role as Manager of the UK Friends of the Abraham Fund Initiatives.

More recently, he has also undertaken consultancy roles with organisations including the United Nations, Sightsavers and Transparency International.

@lafwilliams

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## Plenary: Concluding remarks and closing



**Shannon Pfohman**

*Ordinary Member of Social Platform's Management Committee*

Shannon Pfohman is Policy and Advocacy Director of Caritas Europa, where she oversees the advocacy work of the European network in the areas of social economy, social rights and policy; migration, asylum, and integration; international cooperation and development policy; and humanitarian action.

Prior to this, she worked as the Deputy Director of Policy at the European Network against Racism in Brussels and also as the Competence Centre Manager for Equal Opportunity in the Migration and Qualification Department of the Confederation of German Trade Unions in Düsseldorf. In Germany, she also worked for five years as a migration and ethnicity researcher at the Berlin Institute for Social Comparative Research (BIVS), as a freelance diversity, antiracism and intercultural communication trainer, as a volunteer coordinator with the Jesuit European Volunteers in Munich, and as a hospice aid worker with Caritas Nuremberg. In addition, she worked in inner-city Chicago with formerly homeless adults as a social worker.

She has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Studies, a Master's degree in Intercultural Communication and Conflict Management. Her PhD from the Free University in Berlin, was a comparison of integration modalities based on a sample of Bosnian refugees in Berlin and Chicago.

@SPfohman



**Teresa Küchler**

*Conference Moderator*

Since 2010, Teresa Küchler has been the Brussels-based EU affairs correspondent for Swedish daily Svenska Dagbladet. She also broadcasts a bi-monthly podcast about European affairs in her native Swedish, called Brysselbubblan, and writes columns about European affairs for three regional newspapers in Sweden.

Teresa appears regularly as an expert EU analyst on television channels including Euronews and Sveriges Television, as well as on various radio programmes.

@TeresaKuchler

# PRACTICAL INFORMATION



## Time difference

Please note that Finland is 2 hours ahead of Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), i.e. one hour ahead of the time in Belgium and other UTC+1 countries.

## Getting from Helsinki airport to Helsinki centre

Helsinki airport is the biggest airport in Finland. It is situated in the suburbs in Vantaa, 19 kilometers from the city centre. You can get to central Helsinki from the airport via three transport options: **train**, **bus**, or **taxi** (transfer).

### **By train:**

The train between the main train station of Helsinki and the airport takes approximately 30 minutes.

There are two electric train lines on the route, and the interval of each train is 10 minutes on workdays (Monday-Friday 09:00 to 19:00, Saturday 9:00 to 16:00). The first train from Helsinki airport to the city centre departs at 04:00 (at 05:00 on weekends), and the lines close at midnight. These trains are comfortable, clean and spacious. The price for a one-way ticket is €5, and a daytime travel card costs €12. You can get a ticket from the special machine on the train or from the conductor.

### **By bus:**

You can also get to the city centre by bus in 35-40 minutes for €3.

One option is to take bus No. 615 that runs right to the central train station of Helsinki.

You can also take a branded Finnair bus that takes approximately 30 minutes. Tickets cost €6.80. Please note that you should buy regional tickets.

[www.pohjolanliikenne.fi/en/finnair-bus-timetable.html](http://www.pohjolanliikenne.fi/en/finnair-bus-timetable.html)

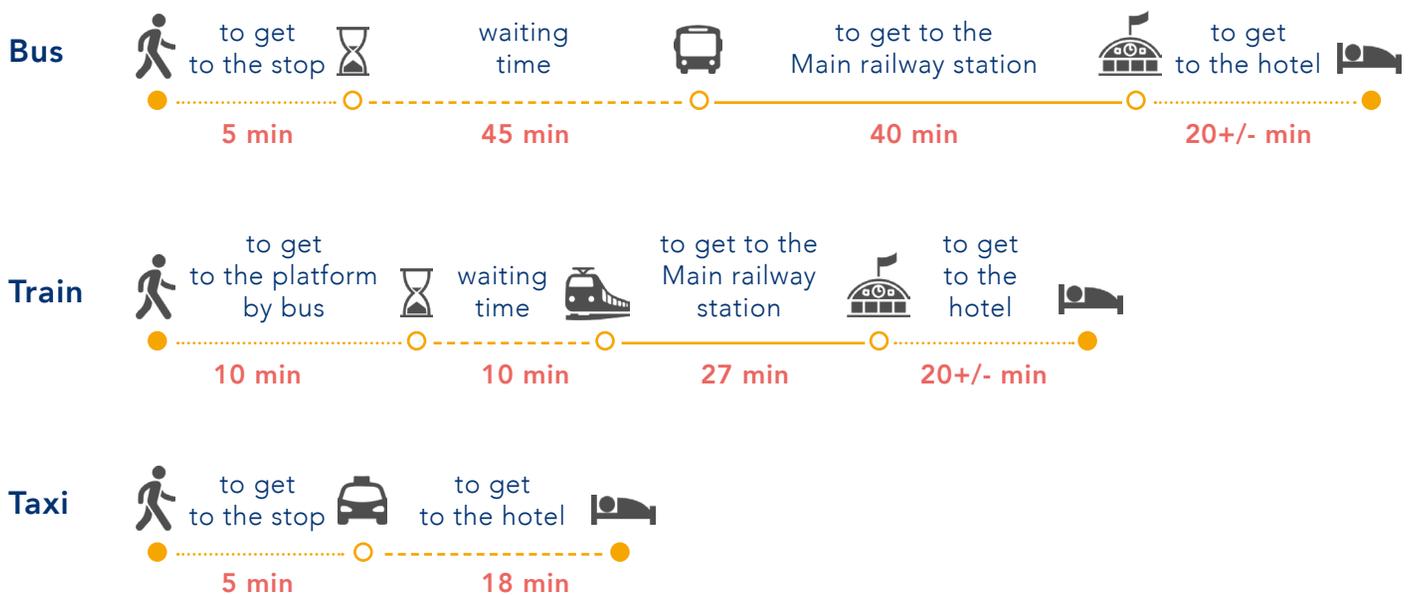
### Tickets for trains and buses:

Ticket information [www.hsl.fi/en/timetables-and-routes/terminals/transport-links-helsinki-airport](http://www.hsl.fi/en/timetables-and-routes/terminals/transport-links-helsinki-airport)

You can buy your ticket via the HSL app: [www.hsl.fi/en/app?itm\\_source=airport-info](http://www.hsl.fi/en/app?itm_source=airport-info)

### By taxi:

The quickest but more expensive option is to take a taxi or book a transfer. The price for taxis depends on several factors: the time of day, the number of people and the distance, so the trip cost may vary between €30 to €50. The duration of the trip is about 30 minutes.



### Public transport in Helsinki

While Helsinki city centre is compact and you can easily walk around it, you will need to use the tram between the city centre and the conference venue.

Single tram tickets cost €2.80 and are valid for 80 minutes. You must purchase your ticket prior to boarding the tram from a ticket machine or a sales point.

A day ticket is handy if you plan to make several journeys, and costs €8.

Further information about Helsinki public transport: [www.hsl.fi/en](http://www.hsl.fi/en)



## Commuting between the hotel and conference venue

The easiest way to reach the conference venue is via tram 4. Tram 4 stop 'Aleksanterinkatu' is just a few meters from Original Sokos Hotel Helsinki. Take tram 4 (direction 'Munkkiniemi') and get off at the 7th stop 'Kansaneläkelaitos', which is nearest to the conference venue.

# CONFERENCE VENUE

## About Folkhälsan

Folkhälsan is a versatile, modern non-profit organisation operating in the field of social and health services. Folkhälsan's activities include assistance, support, education, and care, being present at every stage of life. Founded in 1921, Folkhälsan currently employs approximately 1,200 people full-time. Its local associations across Swedish-speaking Finland have almost 19,000 members. Folkhälsan works towards a society where health and quality of life are central concerns.

## Folkhälsan Education

Folkhälsan's education activities span sports, vocational education, adult education, public education, and workshop activities.

Its Solvalla education centre is located in Espoo in the capital city region, and its Norrvalla centre is in the Vörå municipality in western Finland. In addition, the Föregångarna centre in Vaasa organises workshop activities. Folkhälsan is the largest owner of the Prakticum institute of vocational studies.

## Folkhälsan Research Centre

One of the three main fields of activity at Folkhälsan is scientific research. The Folkhälsan Research Centre, responsible for Folkhälsan's research activities, is an internationally renowned unit with a focus on biomedical and health research within programmes on genetics, preventive medicine and public health.

The centre operates in Biomedicum Helsinki in the medical campus of the University of Helsinki and in Folkhälsan's main building near the medical campus. The centre accommodates a staff of approximately 200.

## Health promotion

Folkhälsans förbund (Folkhälsan's Federation) combines the roles of a health-promoting voluntary organisation and an expert institution. Folkhälsans förbund is formed by four regional associations (Uusimaa, Åboland, Åland and Ostrobothnia), which are in turn comprised of 98 independent local associations with a total of around 19,000 members.

## Service production

Folkhälsan Välfärd Ab is a company wholly owned by Samfundet Folkhälsan. The company manages service production on behalf of Folkhälsan and provides services in the Swedish-speaking areas of Finland: Uusimaa, Åboland, Ostrobothnia, and some smaller Swedish-speaking areas.

For children, young people and families it offers day care, after-school care, summer activities, neuropsychiatric examinations, rehabilitation, family rehabilitation and family support, children's homes and sheltered accommodation, as well as short-term care for children with disabilities.

For older people, it offers various types of supported housing, from independent apartments in Folkhälsan Houses to group residences for those who require assistance from care personnel around-the-clock. It also offers daytime activities and rehabilitation, home services, and home health care.

Folkhälsan's medical centre in Karis, its rehabilitation centres in Korsholm and Jakobstad, and its genetic clinics in various parts of Swedish-speaking Finland serve people of all ages.

## Folkhälsan's main building

Folkhälsan's main building (1933) at Topeliusgatan 20 is designed by architect Gunnar Nordström. The building accommodates:

- Samfundet Folkhälsan's and Folkhälsans förbund's administration
- Health promoting services
- Consulting for children, youths and families
- The genetic clinic
- The public health research programme
- Lunch restaurant 'Ossian'
- Conference facilities

# VENUE FLOOR PLAN



 Plenary room

 Workshop rooms

## WIFI

Network: FHVLGUEST | Password: FHVLGUEST









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