



JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

A guide to Social Platform for prospective members 2024



Social Platform is the largest, leading organisation working on social issues in Europe.

Our mission has always been to champion a more social Europe, with equal and inclusive societies based on social justice.

We call for:

- **A just transition to greener, fairer societies**
- **Fair working and living conditions for all**
- **Strong civil society**
- **Reaching Agenda 2030 targets**

From women and LGBTIQ persons to migrants, from children, youth and older people to individuals with disabilities, from families and carers to people living in poverty and victims of discrimination and violence, the work of our members reflects the diversity of Europe.

Our membership is composed of:

- **equality networks**
- **non-profit service provider organisations**
- **social enterprises**



**OUR
NETWORK**









OUR IMPACT

Social Platform has a strong track record of achieving change and the strength in numbers to amplify our influence.

With our unique position as the recognised voice on social issues at EU level, we use our access to policymaking spaces to maximise our impact.

Our members benefit from:

-  **Our influence**
-  **Our outreach**
-  **Our capacity building**
-  **Our expertise**



OUR INFLUENCE

A reliable and experienced interlocutor at EU level, we are a megaphone for the voices of citizens and civil society organisations who fight for social justice. We make sure that social rights and equality are mainstreamed in EU policy-making.

Recognised as the key voice on Social Europe, we were the only civil society organisation invited to speak at the Porto Social Summit and co-sign the Porto Social Commitment alongside Heads of State and Government. We successfully influenced the European Commission to adopt the European Pillar of Social Rights, and we have regular opportunities to bring our members' voices to high-level spaces.



OUR OUTREACH

The strong, collective voice of Social Platform ensures that the ideas, concerns and demands of our members are heard and amplified at European level through media outreach, events and speaking opportunities, as well as through dedicated communications channels which serve to boost the dissemination of our network's news.



EURONEWS
TONIGHT

HELEN WILLETTS
SOCIAL PLATFORM





OUR CAPACITY BUILDING

Through coordinating a wide range of Task Forces, Working Groups and Peer Learning Networks, Social Platform regularly creates spaces for our members to connect, share knowledge and advance joint advocacy objectives.

Members have regular access to Social Platform led training and development opportunities.



OUR EXPERTISE

Social Platform takes a proactive and flexible approach to our advocacy and capacity building. We go where Social Platform is needed most and plan ahead to ensure we use our expertise to maximum effect to the benefit of our network.

Our skilled team working in the heart of Brussels offer expert knowledge on social policy, including on topics such as:

- **European Pillar of Social Rights**
- **EU economic governance**
- **European Green Deal**
- **Social protection and employment**



OUR FUNDING

The majority of Social Platform's work is co-financed by EU grants. In 2023 our work was supported by...

CERV

EU's Europe for Citizens Programme, managed by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).



Co-funded by
the European Union

Horizon 2020

Social Platform has been a partner of the Euroship Project financed by the Horizon 2020 programme.



Co-funded by
the European Union

Civitates

Civitates provides funding for civil society actors to come together, revitalise public discourse, and ensure that all voices are heard.





TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to any European federation or European network of NGOs with activities in the social sector, which meet the criteria set out in the statutes.

Social Platform has 3 types of membership:

Full Full members set the guidelines and priorities of Social Platform and make an ongoing contribution to the network's activities. They notably have the right to contribute to and vote on Social Platform's annual work programmes, budgets, accounts, and for the election of the Management Committee.

Associate Associate members take part in and input on the activities of Social Platform, but cannot take part in any formal votes.

Observer Observer members take part in some working groups, task forces or networks of Social Platform, but cannot take part in any formal votes or policymaking.



FULL MEMBERSHIP

What does it mean to be a full member?

- Each full member shall have one vote at the General Assembly and at the Steering Group. The expenses of a full member relating to its attendance at meetings of the General Assembly and the Steering Group shall be paid by the Association, insofar as these expenses are reasonable and the Association has the financial capacity to pay them.
- Each full member shall be informed and consulted on an ongoing basis about the activities of the Association.
- Each full member has the right to stand for election to the organisational structures of the Association, as specified in Article 14.



FULL MEMBERSHIP

To become a full member, the Network or Federation must:

- Be composed of organisations (not individuals) in at least the absolute majority of EU Member States,
- Be established as a not-for-profit and non-governmental organisation in one of the EU Member States. The majority of the organisation's membership must themselves be legally established, not-for-profit and non-governmental,
- Have separate legal personality,
- Be active in the social sector, working to promote the general interest of society and contribute to social cohesion,
- Demonstrate its representativeness and that it is structured and managed in a democratic way,
- Bring added value to the work of the Social Platform.



ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

What does it mean to be an associate member?

- Associate members may attend meetings of the General Assembly at their own expense with speaking rights but they shall not be entitled to vote and have no right to stand for election to the organisational structures of the Association.
- Associate members may participate in Steering Group meetings of Social Platform at their own expense but do not have voting rights.
- Associate members, at the invitation of the Steering Group and in consultation with the relevant groups, may take part in one or more working group, task forces or networks of the Association at their own expense. If they decide to do so, they undertake to make an active contribution to the activities of these group, in particular by attending meetings and producing written contributions if required.
- Associate members may, at their own expense, attend other meetings, conferences and networking events organised by the Association.



ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

To become an associate member, the Network or Federation must:

- Be composed of organisations (not individuals) in at least a quarter of EU Member States,
- Be established as a not-for-profit and non-governmental organisation in one of the EU Member States. The majority of the organisation's membership must themselves be legally established, not-for-profit and non-governmental,
- Be active in the social sector, working to promote the general interest of society and contribute to social cohesion
- Have separate legal personality, or be in the process of acquiring legal personality.
- Networks or federations who are accepted as associate members and who have not yet acquired legal status shall be granted membership for one year, with further membership being subject to annual review by the General Assembly.



OBSERVER MEMBERSHIP

What does it mean to be an observer member?

- Observers may attend meetings of the General Assembly during the open sessions at their own expense, but they shall not be entitled to vote and shall have no right to stand for election to the organisational structures of the Association. They should not be invited to procedural parts of the General Assembly including on budgetary issues.
- Observers may participate in Steering Group meetings when invited and at their own expense without voting rights.
- Observers, at the invitation of the Steering Group and in consultation with the relevant groups, may take part in some working groups, task forces or networks of the Association at their own expense. If they decide to do so, they undertake to make an active contribution to the activities of these group, in particular by attending meetings and producing written contributions if required. As they do not have voting power, their contributions do not have to be adopted by the Association.
- Observers may, at their own expense, attend other meetings, conferences and networking events organised by the Association.



OBSERVER MEMBERSHIP

An organisation that wishes to be connected to Social Platform but which does not satisfy the criteria for either full or associate membership, may be considered for observer status if they meet the following criteria:

- Have a separate legal entity or be an informal coalition containing national members of Social Platform members
- Be a university, research centre, national platform of organisations, active in the social sector, working to promote the general interest and contributing to social cohesion
- Be aligned with and fully subscribe to the mission and values of Social Platform



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

The membership fee for Social Platform members depends on the financial capacity of each organisation and the number of EU countries they represent.

Membership fee categories were last reviewed and updated by the General Assembly in November 2023 and the new scale will be applied from 2024.



# EU countries represented	Category	Fee/year	Member's annual income	Status
≤13	A0	180 €	less than 25 000 €	Associate
≤13	A1	370 €	between 25 000 € and 50 000 €	Associate
≤13	A2	737 €	between 50 000 € and 200 000 €	Associate
≤13	A3	1 106 €	between 200 000 € and 400 000 €	Associate
≤13	A4	2 300 €	higher than 400 000 €	Associate
≥14	F1	737 €	less than 50 000 €	Full
≥14	F2	1 475 €	between 50 000 € and 200 000 €	Full
≥14	F3	2 209 €	between 200 000 € and 400 000 €	Full
≥14	F4	3 000 €	Higher than 400 000 €	Full
0	Observer	1 000 €		Observer



Interested in joining our community?



**Please contact Secretary General,
Laura de Bonfils, for more information.**

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