

SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH A JUST TRANSITION

Organisational strategy
for SOLIDAR 2021 - 2025

A SUMMARY



STRATEGIC VISION AND STRUCTURE OF OUR OBJECTIVES AND POLITICAL PRIORITIES



SOLIDAR and SOLIDAR Foundation's (SOLIDAR) new strategic direction is based on the realisation that social rights and environmental rights are inseparable and mutually reinforcing. We cannot achieve the progressive objectives if we are not guaranteeing their sustainability. There are no jobs on a dead planet, nor a welfare system, vibrant democracy, or a functioning state. The political, social, and economic process through which we have a possibility to achieve both lays in the pursuit of a Just transition. A socially just transition is the guarantee that the transformation processes and drastic structural adjustments that are needed in the coming years to meet the climate emergency, the digital revolution and the reoccurring social and economic crises are being implemented taking the rights and needs of affected communities into consideration. To guarantee accuracy, foster participation and build acceptance, processes of social and civil dialogue are inherent to the notion of a just transition. This strategy coincides with the period of recovery and rebuilding from the effects of the pandemic, and we are determined to do what we can to make sure that we build back better towards a new normal.

The strategic objective for the coming five years is therefore that SOLIDAR together with our members and allies has *influenced the recovery processes at the EU as well as the national level for a socially just and sustainable Europe through a just transition, mirrored also in the EU's external relations.*

The crises that are currently unravelling demand an active citizenry that articulate collective answers and builds strong alliances for a progressive alternative. Only this way we can advance a strong and solidaric European Union with sustainable development and social justice as its core objectives. This requires solidarity, mass mobilisation, new ways of organising and

new kinds of alliances and partnerships, since the transformation we must win is not within the reach of any sole movement or organisation, state, or region. SOLIDAR is well positioned to play an important role here based on our diverse membership of civil society spanning from trade unions to NGOs, and wide reach, with access to many kinds of contexts and decision-making arenas. This is also a central part of the added value that our network represents for our members – opening doors and opportunities for collaborations, influence, and impact, otherwise closed.

To achieve the strategic objective, **we are directing our work to three sub-objectives:** realising a Social Europe for all, building learning and sustainable societies, and organising international progressive alliances.

These three policy areas summarise our diverse memberships' aspirations, constitute the foundation of our network and it is here that **we have the best possibilities to influence policy proposals and recommendations**, to rally our members, to engage our progressive allies and to inspire to action, both at national and European level in a mutually reinforcing way.

The pandemic has exposed and deepened the existent weaknesses of our societies, painfully exacerbating inequalities, and injustices. And adding to this Europe is currently involved in several parallel and intertwined processes of transformation. **We have identified four political priorities that are directed towards these challenges to guarantee the relevance of all our interventions:** the climate and environmental emergency, the threats to our democratic systems and civic space, the drastic implications of the digital revolution and the backlash for the rights of women, minorities, migrants and LGBTQI. These

political and social processes are articulated as transversal priorities in this period and will be applied in all our work, for example, as a starting point for analysis or when developing new projects or programs, when defining purpose and aim of internal and external cooperation, when developing advocacy and communication messages, or when working with organisational and institutional development. In short, they will be treated as necessary planning and analytical tools in our work and everything we do must relate to one or more of these priorities explicitly.

The extent to which we succeed with the ambitions expressed in this strategy **will first and foremost be contingent upon how strong the relationships and commitment are in our network.** Engaging with our members to build a strong and sustainable organisation and developing our communicative

abilities will therefore also be prioritised in the period. They are a precondition to achieve our strategic objectives and to be able to offer the best possible support we can to our members. So that we can continue to support the formation of alliances, provide space for cooperation, initiate, and support political campaigns and advocacy initiatives, and facilitate access to both decision makers and decision making at the European and international level.

We are confident that the time is ours as a progressive movement. It is time for our values, ideas, visions, and dreams. The political project of achieving social justice and sustainability through a just transition is the grand narrative that we should rally behind. The future of our societies depends on it.



solidar **solidar** FOUNDATION

50 Avenue Des Arts.,
Box 5, 2nd floor.
B1000 - Brussels
Belgium
www.solidar.org

SOLIDAR is a European and worldwide network of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working to advance social justice through a just transition in Europe and worldwide. SOLIDAR voices the concerns of its member organisations to the EU and international institutions across the policy sectors social affairs, international cooperation and lifelong learning.

SOLIDAR organises its work for lifelong and life-wide learning through the SOLIDAR Foundation for progressive education and citizenry participation. The purpose of the Foundation is to gather both the external policy work and the internal learning needs in what we consider a learning house for the network.

For more info www.solidar.org / © SOLIDAR 2021



This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of SOLIDAR and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union

