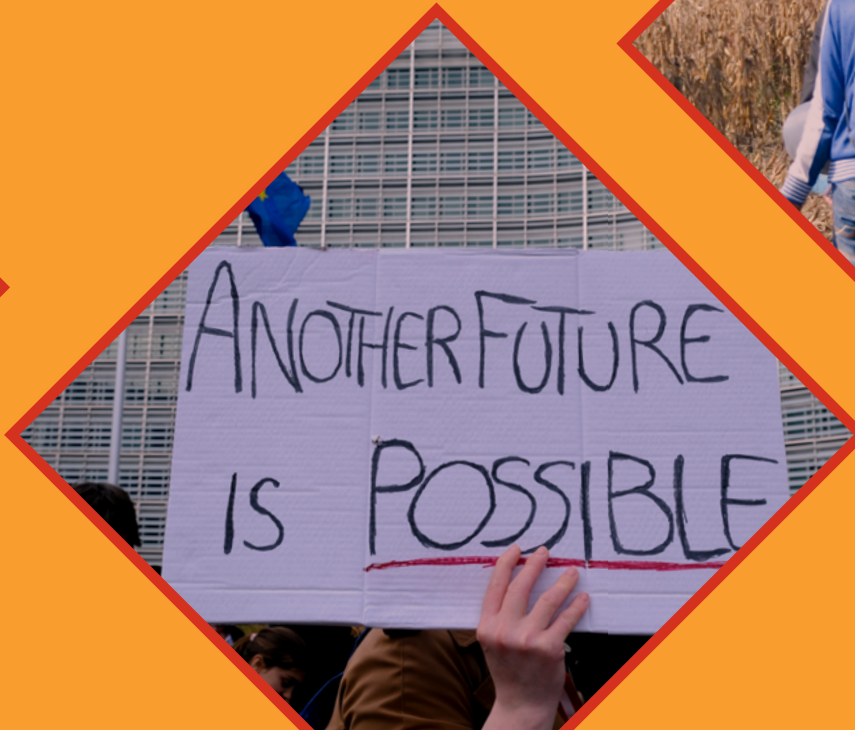


**solidar** **solidar**  
FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2021



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introductory words from the Secretary General	3
SOLIDAR Strategy 2021-2025	4
Our members	5
Board and Secretariat	7
Partnerships	8
<b>Policy focuses: our 3 pillars</b>	<b>10</b>
• Social Affairs: Realising a Social Europe for all	10
• International cooperation: Organising International Solidarity	12
• Education and lifelong learning: Building learning societies	14
<b>Campaigns</b>	<b>16</b>
• Civic Space	16
• Conference on the Future of Europe	17
• Just Transition	18
• Silver Rose Awards	19
<b>Organisational development</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>2021 in a nutshell</b>	<b>21</b>



# INTRODUCTORY WORDS FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

2021 was a year to remember for SOLIDAR. It was marked by both successes and challenges, as we saw yet another year defined by the tidal waves of the pandemic, the policy responses that arose from it and its devastating effects on lives of citizens and societies across the world.

Thanks to the commitment, creativity and dedication of our Board, staff and the support and work of our members and allies, we managed to:

- Launch the [new organisational strategy](#) to achieve social justice through a just transition together, as well as our new By Laws, Organisational Values and Code of Conduct and several other governing documents that will guide us for the next 4 years.
- Create and put in the water the [European Alliance for a Just Transition](#) with now more than 30 allies at the European level coming from both environmental and social movements, as well as political parties and groups.
- Play an active role and contribute to the [Conference on the Future of Europe](#), the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan and the [Porto Summit declaration](#): advocating for social and civil dialogue and a just transition.
- Consolidate the global network of more than 100 civil society organisations, trade unions and political representatives, diaspora and MEPs to push for the [recognition of the state of Palestine](#) in a concerted effort with our allies in Europe, Palestine, Israel and the world.
- Join our progressive family in the organisation of the [Global Progressive Forum](#), which saw thousands of people all over the world engage in policy discussions on our most pressing challenges.
- Commemorate the life and work of Myrtle Witbooi & the fight for domestic workers' rights with a [Lifetime Achievement Award of the Silver Rose](#).

- Publish statements and publications and participate in hearings and consultations on social rights, education, civic space, just transition, migrants' rights, digitalisation, humanitarian crisis, women's rights, focusing on Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Latin America and Africa.

We continue to be a sought-after voice at the EU level among policy makers and allies and through these active collaborations, relations and participation in platforms, we have influenced policies, positions and found new funding opportunities for us and our members.

When joining SOLIDAR, I was tasked with stabilising our financial situation, invigorate and develop our membership relations and commitment, chart a new political direction that our network would see as purposeful and commit to, as well as improve the organisation of the Secretariat and the wellbeing and satisfaction of staff. I am proud to say that, with the support and dedication of all in the SOLIDAR family we have made important progress on all these fronts.

2022 will be a year when we continue to reinforce what we have achieved and go even further wherever possible, as well as readjust to going back to a Brussels scene which is looking to open up more.

Mikael Leyi, SOLIDAR & SOLIDAR Foundation Secretary General



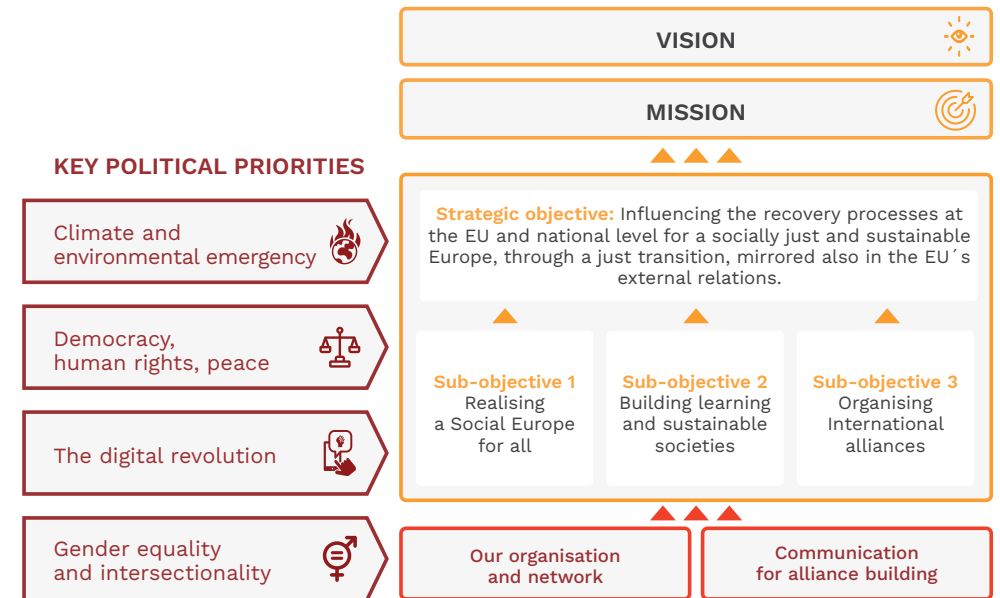
# SOLIDAR STRATEGY 2021-2025

In 2021, SOLIDAR and SOLIDAR Foundation (henceforth SOLIDAR) adopted a **new strategic direction** with a five-year focus. This strategic direction is based on the recognition that social justice and climate & environmental action are inseparable. 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 our progressive objectives, lays in **the pursuit of a Just Transition**. SOLIDAR views a socially Just Transition as the guarantee that the transition to a green and digital economy is implemented **taking the rights and needs of affected communities into consideration**.

Therefore, our **strategic objective** for the coming five years is that SOLIDAR, together with our members and allies, influences the recovery processes at the EU, as well as the national level, for a socially fair 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 articulates collective answers and builds strong alliances for a progressive alternative.

To achieve this 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 objectives summarise our diverse memberships' aspirations and constitute the foundation of our network. Moreover, 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 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. 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 workers, women, minorities, migrants and LGBTQI**. These political and social processes are articulated as transversal priorities in this period and will be treated as necessary planning and analytical tools in our work.

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.

# OUR MEMBERS




























## Full Members (in alphabetical order):

1.  Asamblea de Cooperación por la Paz (ACPP), Spain
2.  ARCI Aps, Italy
3.  ARCS Culture Solidali, Italy
4.  Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASBÖ), Austria
5.  Auser, Italy
6.  Centres d'Entraînement aux Méthodes d'Education Active (CEMEA), France
7.  International Cooperation Network (CGIL), Italy
8.  Centre for Labour Rights (CLR), Albania
9.  Center for Peace Studies (CMS), Croatia
10.  Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS), EU
11.  Fagligt Internationalt Center (FIC), Denmark
12.  Foundation Max van der Stoel (FMS), The Netherlands
13.  Fonds voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking - Socialistische Solidariteit (FOS), Belgium
14.  Humanitas, The Netherlands

15.  International Federation of Workers' Education Associations (IFWEA), South Africa
16.  Instituto Sindical de Cooperacion al Desarrollo (ISCOD), Spain
17.  International Solidarity Foundation (ISF - Solidaarisuus), Finland
18.  La Liga Española de la Educación y la Cultura Popular (La Liga Española), Spain
19.  La Ligue de l'Enseignement (La Ligue), France
20.  Movimiento por la Paz, el Desarme y la Libertad (MPDL), Spain
21.  Solidarité Syndicale (OGBL), Luxembourg
22.  Olof Palme International Center (OPIC), Sweden
23.  PRODIVERSA, Spain
24.  Solidar Suisse, Switzerland
25.  Solidarité Laïque, France
26.  Volunteering Matters, United Kingdom
27.  WEA Adult Learning Within Reach, United Kingdom
28.  Willi-Eichler-Akademie, Germany

# OUR MEMBERS

## Affiliate Members (in alphabetical order):

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
|    | 1. <u>Arbeiterwohlfahrt (AWO)</u> , Germany  |    | 11. <u>Initiative for Development and Cooperation (IDC)</u> , Serbia        |
|    | 2. <u>Arbeiterwohlfahrt International (AWO INTL)</u> , Germany   |    | 12. <u>Institute for Social Integration (ISI)</u> , Bulgaria                |
|    | 3. <u>Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB)</u> , Germany  |    | 13. <u>Institut für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik (ISS)</u> , Germany    |
|    | 4. <u>Asociácia odborných pracovníkov sociálnych služieb (AOPSS)</u> , Slovakia                          |    | 14. <u>International Union of Tenants (IUT)</u>                             |
|    | 5. <u>Berufsförderungsinstitut Oberösterreich (BFI OÖ)</u> , Austria                                     |    | 15. <u>Istituto Sindacale di Cooperazione allo Sviluppo (ISCOS)</u> , Italy |
|    | 6. <b>Baltic Platform comprising:</b><br><u>Johannes Mihkelsoni Keskus (JMK)</u> , Estonia;              |    | 16. <u>Multicultural Center Prague (MKC)</u> , Czech Republic               |
|    | <u>Latvian Trade Union of Education and Science Employees (LIZDA)</u> , Latvia;                          |    | 17. <u>NEXUS Emilia Romagna</u> , Italy                                     |
|    | <u>Lithuanian Labour Education Society (LLES)</u> , Lithuania  |    | 18. <u>Pour la Solidarité (PLS)</u> , Belgium                               |
|  | 7. <u>Central and Eastern European Network for Gender Issues (CEE Gender Network)</u> , Slovenia/Croatia |    | 19. <u>Progetto Sud</u> , Italy   |
|  | 8. <u>Community Development Institute (CDI)</u> , North Macedonia  |   | 20. <u>Rede Sem Fronteiras</u> , Portugal - Brazil                          |
|  | 9. <u>Czech Council on Foreign Relations - Rada Pro Mezinarodní Vztahy (CCFR)</u> , Czech Republic       |  | 21. <u>Samaritan International (SAMI)</u>                                   |
|  | 10. <u>IFSI-FGTB</u> , Belgium   |  | 22. <u>Solsoc (SolSoc)</u> , Belgium  |
|   |  |  | 23. <u>Solidaridad Internacional Andalucía (SIA)</u> , Spain                |
|   |  |  | 24. <u>Union Aid Abroad (APHEDA)</u> , Australia                            |
|   |  |  | 25. <u>Volkshilfe Österreich Bundesverband (VH)</u> , Austria               |

# BOARD AND SECRETARIAT

## BOARD

### President

Francisca Sauquillo – MPDL, Spain

### Vice-President

Sergio Bassoli – CGIL, Italy

### Treasurer

Susanne Drake – Willi-Eichler-Akademie, Germany

### Board members

Daniel Boys – La Ligue de l'enseignement, France

Claus Larsen Jensen – FIC, Denmark

Isabelle Palanchon – CEMEA, France

Jean Michel Miller – OGBL, Luxemburg

Simon Parkinson – WEA, United Kingdom

Klaus Thieme – Solidar Suisse, Switzerland

Anna Sundström – OPIC, Sweden

María del Rosario Sánchez – La Liga Española de la Educación, Spain

## SECRETARIAT

Secretary General: Mikael Leyi

International Cooperation & Sustainable Development

Coordinator: Barbara Caracciolo

International Cooperation Officer: Alba González

International Cooperation Fellows:

Giulia Traversi / Maria Cotado Sánchez / Júlia Miragall Mas

Social Policy Coordinator: Carlos Roldán Mejías

Social Affairs Officer: Martina Corti

Social Inclusion Officer: Julie Martinaud

Social Affairs Fellow: Beatrice di Padua

Education and Lifelong Learning Coordinator

– SOLIDAR Foundation: Elisa Gambardella

Education and Lifelong Learning Officer

– SOLIDAR Foundation: Andrei Frank

Education and Lifelong Learning Fellow

– SOLIDAR Foundation: Myriam Ciza Gambini

Just Transition Policy Officer: Andrea Casamenti

Communication Officer: Giorgia Gusciglio

Administration and Finance Officer: Ajeng Tita Susanto

Administration and Finance Assistant: Giulia Traversi

# PARTNERSHIPS

## European Parliament Political Groups

SOLIDAR and SOLIDAR Foundation have continued to cooperate closely with the **S&D Group** to promote our key advocacy messages among policy-makers. Over the reporting period, we disseminated the findings of our annual publications to influence ongoing policy-making and advocated for the involvement of CSOs in the Recovery and Resilience Plans, as well as the Conference on the Future of Europe. SOLIDAR and SOLIDAR Foundation have also strengthened their relations with the **Greens/EFA Group** and, therefore, with policymakers from the whole progressive caucus in the EP. SOLIDAR and SOLIDAR Foundation are regularly in contact with Advisors and MEPs.

## Party of European Socialists (PES) networks

In 2021 SOLIDAR has regularly attended meetings from the **PES Migration and Integration Network** in 2021, and contributed actively to the joint drafting of the position paper “**PES vision for an inclusive European society. A new approach on migration and inclusion**”, to be published soon. SOLIDAR also took part in meetings of the PES Environment, Climate Change & Energy Network.

## Trade Unions

Over the past year, SOLIDAR and SOLIDAR Foundation have been cooperating closely with ETUC and ITUC, achieving mutually reinforcing strategic messages and synergies in voicing them publicly as well as in policy proposals. As a result, our alliance with the Unions is now more consistent and regular. With ETUC, SOLIDAR has found common positions and ways forward in the work on Civil and Social Dialogue building up to the Conference of the Future of Europe, the Global Progressive Forum and as a political ally in questions related to Action Plan of the EPSR. With the ITUC, SOLIDAR is advocating on enabling space for trade unions and CSO in the Global South. SOLIDAR also reinforced its partnership with ETUCE, which aided SOLIDAR Foundation in developing its annual Policy Paper.

## Foundation for European Progressive Studies

FEPS and SOLIDAR and SOLIDAR Foundation are engaged on a partnership basis. For the second year, the 2021 edition of the Social Rights Monitor was released and publicly presented jointly with FEPS. The reinforced cooperation allows for a greater outreach of our policy recommendations, and also enriches them thanks to the academic expertise provided by FEPS.

## Lifelong Learning Platform

SOLIDAR Foundation has stayed actively involved in all relevant meetings of the Lifelong Learning Platform (LLL), including conferences and Working Groups. In September, the SOLIDAR Foundation Policy Coordinator was elected Vice-President to the LLLP Steering Group, and policy-wise, the focus has been on the launch of the 2021-2027 programming period and the debate on how to equip all learners with the competences needed to successfully transition to an inclusive digital and green society.

## Civil Society Europe

SOLIDAR Foundation has been actively engaging in the Civil Society Convention for the Future of Europe, initiated by Civil Society Europe. The team in Foundation coordinates the work of SOLIDAR in the Convention to voice our membership priorities and concerns for the future of Europe, with special regard to Social Europe. The thematic cluster Social Europe of the Civil Society Convention is coordinated by SOLIDAR. Besides, SOLIDAR was also actively involved in the cluster “Digital Transformations”, “Our European Life” especially with drafting the conclusions on the subtopic of migration, as well as in the cluster “The fight against climate change and environmental challenges”.



## CONCORD

SOLIDAR has been actively involved in CONCORD Financing for Development Working Group with a focus on programming at National and Regional Levels. This space has allowed SOLIDAR to be constantly updated on the programming process and to shape training modules for its members. SOLIDAR Foundation has engaged with the Global Citizenship Working Group of CONCORD. At the same time, SOLIDAR and SOLIDAR Foundation have provided input into the revision of the Network's strategy.

## Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF)

SOLIDAR is a founding member of the GCSPF, which was created in 2011 to support the adoption of the ILO Recommendation on Social Protection Floor (R202). SOLIDAR has been supporting the Coalition's demand for international solidarity to fund comprehensive social protection systems in poor countries.

## Social Platform

Social Platform is the largest network of civil society organizations in the European Union advocating for a social Europe. SOLIDAR is a member of the board and participates in numerous working groups, among them the Social Pillar Working Group, and the Task Forces on Income and Just transition.

## SDG Watch Europe

SOLIDAR is a founding member of this platform and has been a member of its Steering group since 2016. On February 2021, SOLIDAR has been re-elected as a member of the Steering group. Through this platform, SOLIDAR monitors the implementation of the SDGs in Europe and by the EU across all sectors, promotes its integration in EU policies and the engaging of CSOs & citizens at local, national and EU level.

## Liaison Group of the EESC

Since mid-May 2021, SOLIDAR is officially part of this group, set up in 2004 to provide a framework for political dialogue and cooperation between the EESC and the European organisations and networks on cross-cutting issues of common interest. A unique bridge between CSOs and the European institutions, enabling civil dialogue and promoting participatory democracy. On 4 May 2021, SOLIDAR organised, together with the Social Platform and this group, a workshop in the framework of the Civil Society Days. SOLIDAR also regularly contributes to the monthly newsletter of the Group.

## European Alliance for a Just Transition

SOLIDAR is the initiator of the European Alliance for a Just Transition, an informal group of 30+ European stakeholders – social movements, climate and environmental NGOs, political groups in the EP and parties – working together to ensure a Just Transition to climate neutrality in Europe. The list of member organisations and their [Joint Declaration](#) can be found [on the Alliance's website](#).

## CIVICUS Monitor

SOLIDAR contributes to the monitoring of civic space in 7 European Countries for the CIVICUS Monitor, a research tool of CIVICUS that provides data on the state of civil society and civic freedoms in 196 countries. The data is generated through a collaboration with more than 20 civil society research partners, among which is SOLIDAR.



# POLICY FOCUSES: OUR 3 PILLARS

## 1 SOCIAL AFFAIRS: REALISING A SOCIAL EUROPE FOR ALL

In 2021, the Social Affairs Forum's work focused on three main thematic areas: employment policies & social rights, migration & inclusion and civic space.

We kept monitoring civic space in 7 European countries (Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Norway, The Netherlands, Sweden): have a look at the [CIVICUS Map](#) to read the latest updates.

Together with our members, we published the third edition of the [Social Rights Monitor \(SRM\)](#). By monitoring the national implementation of the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#), we found that – across all the countries – inequalities increased. Labour markets play a crucial role in providing equal access and opportunities for all, but we found that wage gaps and increased unemployment levels led to widened inequalities, greatly impacting the most vulnerable groups in societies. We also published the thematic publication “[Working for nothing in the platform economy](#)” authored by two KU Leuven researchers, Valeria Pulignano and Claudia Mará, who investigated the institutional contexts that allow unpaid labour to be a reality for an increasing share of workers. Both publications, the SRM and the thematic publications, were presented in public online events, respectively the [European Conference](#) and the [European Roundtable](#).

In addition, in the framework of the [Porto Social Summit](#) we participated in [Social Platform's official side event](#) “Building Social Europe” with a workshop on quality employment co-organised with the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN). There, we could develop a set of recommendations that were presented to EU and national



institutions gathered in Porto. In occasion of the [EESC Civil Society Days](#), we co-organised a workshop with Social Platform to reflect on ways to ensure that the European Green Deal is a roadmap to a socially inclusive future for all. Exploring the interlinkages between EU environmental and social challenges, in the framework of our Training Academy co-organised with SOLIDAR Foundation, we produced a Toolkit titled “[Acting for a Sustainable and Socially Just Transition](#)”.

Through the [SIRIUS Project](#), we analysed the main obstacles that migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers encounter in the European labour markets. Together with the University of Parma and the Hand Made Theatre, we created “Routes”, this [short theatre play](#) to present the project's results in a creative way. We also organized, together with ISMU, the launch of [SPriNG](#), a Horizon 2020 project aiming to gather and share knowledge on practices of migrants' integration. SOLIDAR's role there was to communicate and disseminate the good practices.

In October, we organised a delegation to participate in the [Sabir Festival - the festival of Mediterranean cultures](#)- co-organised by members ARCI and CGIL in Italy. With our members ARCI and MPDL, the Task force on Migration and Inclusion was kickstarted at the beginning of December. We also met our members during two study visits this year. One was [online](#) and consisted in an exchange of good practices among our members on the inclusion of migrants during the pandemic and beyond. The last one was [in presence](#) and was hosted by our North Macedonian member Community Development Institute (CDI) in Tetovo. On that occasion CDI presented their activities, organised meetings with their partners and exchanged views with the other members on their respective actions aimed at including people in vulnerable situations.



## Flagship activity: Routes

The [SIRIUS project](#) – Skills and Integration of Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Applicants (MRAs) in European Labour Markets – looked at the enablers and main obstacles that MRAs encountered when looking for work in Europe. Started in 2018, the project ended in July 2021. Along with project coordinators in the University of Parma, SOLIDAR had the idea to conclude the project in a creative and accessible format, based on ethnotheatre. This qualitative research method aims to convey research results by using the communication and expression styles of a theatre, and was also used to disseminate previous project findings.

We came up with the idea of a key deliverable: a short theatre play developed as an original screenplay, but based on the project's existing findings. Catalan theatre company [Hand Made Theatre](#) was selected to execute the deliverable: writing, directing and enacting the play. SOLIDAR, project coordinators and all universities in the consortium worked in close collaboration with the Hand Made Theatre to write the scenario. The outcome was "Routes": a theatrical and audiovisual piece made of three parts, each of which follows the story of a newcomer to the EU in search for a better life, finding and sometimes fighting their way into the labour market.

Due to the impossibility of hosting a live theatre performance as initially planned because of the Covid-19 sanitary restrictions, Routes was filmed and shown during an online première. This screening, which was followed by a discussion between the actors, the author and the production team, SIRIUS partners and an audience of stakeholders, constituted the project's final event.

The videos are available below to watch. They are multilingual and subtitled in English.

Part 1: ['Sono un bravo ragazzo un po' fuori di testa'](#)

Part 2: ['Kneading dough'](#)

Part 3: ['Home'](#)

## 2 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: ORGANISING INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

The main thematic areas of work in SOLIDAR's International Pillar in 2021, together with the Campaign for the recognition of the State of Palestine, were:

- 1) Building alliances to counter shrinking space;
- 2) Promoting a just transition that leaves no one behind;
- 3) Realising decent work for all.

All along 2021, SOLIDAR members denounced the progressive **shrinking space** they witnessed globally, and we continued to build alliances to counter these trends and strengthen the work of our partners all over the world. Our **ten countries monitoring reports**, as well as the Regional Synthesis Report with focus on Asia, voiced this concern. At the same time, as highlighted in the Regional Report, *“despite the shrinking civic space ... human rights activists and civil society have continued their efforts to push for fundamental improvements ... Sharing experiences and strategies ... remains paramount.”*. We welcomed the **European Parliament resolution on Cambodia**, we supported the **call for peace in Colombia**, and, together with SOLIDAR SUISSE and OPIC, we brought together 103 people from 60 organisations among SOLIDAR members, Members' partners and allies to coordinate advocacy actions on 'countering shrinking space' in Asia.

**Enhanced cooperation in the field among SOLIDAR Members to realise decent work for all** was the main outcome of the Small Grant Facility (SGF). In 2021, SOLIDAR Members worked together in 15 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America to promote Decent Work with a focus on women and migrant people. You can 'meet' some of the members and partners involved by watching the **video presentations** they realised. Moreover, we **celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the ILO Convention** on decent work for domestic workers (ILO C189) and we organised a seminar on the **EU law on Due Diligence**.

**In 2021, Just Transition was integrated in the OIPA's work. You can discover all that we did by taking a look at the Flagship section of this report!**



We enhanced Members' Dialogue with EU representatives through one online study visit on decent work for women in the Maghreb and Mashreq countries, co-led by ARCS, SOLSOC, and ACPP, and the publication of a **paper on empowering women through access to decent work** showcasing Members' good practices to promote gender equality (SDG 5) and the EU GAP III; through MOs participation in INTPA consultation on the 2021-2027 CSO-LA Programming for the Asia and the Pacific, the Americas and the Caribbean and the Sub-Saharan Africa; and through direct exchanges with EU Delegations in Colombia, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Mozambique.

The coordination mechanisms put in place with Members at Head Quarters and at field level were positively evaluated by the Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) undertaken by the European Commission, DG International Partnership (INTPA). Moreover, it allowed to feed our platforms' work (CONCORD and the EU-LAC working group).

Finally, we consolidated our alliances within [the Campaign for the recognition of the State of Palestine](#) and co-organised, together with ETUC and ITUC, two public events on June 29<sup>th</sup> and [on November 29<sup>th</sup>, Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People](#).

## Flagship activity: Just Transition in International Cooperation

In 2021, Just Transition became an integral part of SOLIDAR International Cooperation's work. While still very much earmarked in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development narrative, Just Transition remains a relatively new concept for SOLIDAR members. Therefore, the work done in 2021 focused on developing a common understanding of Just Transition, starting from existing Members' good practices, and on looking at how EU development cooperation policy integrates the European Green Deal.

To do so, SOLIDAR designed a **members-led process** that included training, advocacy and social media activities. To start with, a **Members' Just Transition Task Force** was set up at the end of 2020. Including 12 members, its aim was to develop SOLIDAR Network advocacy messages for the [Global Week of Action](#) for Social Justice (February 2021) and for the [European Development Days \(June 2021\)](#), whose focus was on the Green Deal in the EU International Partnerships.

Aside its advocacy objectives, the Task Force contributed to two publications: 1) the study [“Promoting a Just Transition in Europe and Worldwide: How Civil Society and Trade Unions are Driving the Change”](#), where 5 case studies illustrated SOLIDAR members' good practices and 2) the Policy Paper [“The EU Green Deal in International Partnerships: an examples' guide of EU and SOLIDAR members' work](#).

The Task Force also contributed to the development of the **OIPA Just Transition Training Academy** program, which provided a peer learning space, as well as the opportunity for a direct dialogue with INTPA's officials. The main training module was developed by the Olof Palme International Center and made available to all members. The training was held in English, Spanish and French to allow the participation of

SOLIDAR Members' staff from the headquarters and from the partner countries offices.

Together with OPIC, we engaged with partners from the Global South and did not shy away from criticisms and doubts on how a transition to the green economy can be really 'just': *“To move from coal to renewable energy you need minerals. That means more mining of critical minerals, and also much more recovery and recycling of minerals. Right now, the jobs, especially in the recycling and recovery of minerals, are terrible. They're informal, dangerous and poorly paid.”* The book developed by the OPIC, together with SOLIDAR, [“A Just Transition for the Global South”](#) looks into those issues.



Finally, we took a closer look at what Just Transition means for grassroots organisations from Latin America, and co-organised with MPDL the online seminar [“Just, feminist and grassroots ecological transition”](#) in Central America. Just Transition is becoming more and more a shared goal and, above all, a common practice: some SOLIDAR Members have already integrated it in their activities in 2021 and will do so also in 2022.



### 3 EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING: BUILDING LEARNING SOCIETIES

Over 2021, a new SOLIDAR Foundation strategy was finalised, in cooperation with the membership, establishing the organisation as the learning hub of SOLIDAR. In the frame of its new status, SOLIDAR Foundation organised two study visits, one Training Academy and one workshop as capacity building actions. In this year's first [Study Visit focused on Green and Digital Competences](#), zombies, digital ethics, carbon footprint, organising through online tools were the topics the members exchanged on. The [second study visit](#) on shrinking civic space culminated with this collective [Statement](#). Together with SOLIDAR, the Foundation delivered the Training Academy 2021, on how to adapt members' work to the Just Transition, while developing this [toolkit](#) as a final outcome.

Over 2021, alliances with the [ETUCE](#) and [ESU](#) were built in the frame of the SOLIDAR Foundation [workshop during the LLLWeek](#). Developing the capacity building activities required a robust policy and advocacy work, which SOLIDAR Foundation continued in 2021. The Foundation joined the [campaign run by Values Unite to launch a European Citizenship Education Agency](#), getting the support of 6 MEPs while [including this demand in one of the Parliament's opinions](#). The Foundation launched its [annual Citizenship and Lifelong Learning Monitor](#), in the framework of a [High-level Conference](#), organized in partnership with [FEPS](#), and discussed about the enablers and barriers for developing digital and green competences. The Foundation also contributed to the revision of the [European Digital Competence Framework](#). The policy work was done from the perspective of boosting the membership's understanding of the topics being currently discussed within the EU institutions, with the Foundation publishing briefing notes [on the Individual Learning Accounts](#), [on Education for Environmental Sustainability in the EU](#), but also a [Policy Paper on the Commodification of Education](#).



By collecting and disseminating the work of its membership and by amassing data through research for building evidence-based recommendations, SOLIDAR Foundation cemented its status and reputation on education and lifelong learning, hence being invited to contribute to the European Parliament Reports on the role of education, culture, media and sport in the fight against racism, on citizenship education actions in the EU, and on the European Education Area.

Foundation's five EU-funded projects contributed to achieving [a truly inclusive higher education sector](#), [a model on evaluating inclusion in primary and secondary education](#), building up anti-cyberbullying resources for the youth, [discovering what solidarity is within the EU](#), and [developing a competence framework for the managers of non-profit organisations in Europe](#). SOLIDAR Foundation Coordinator, Elisa Gambardella, was elected as vice-president of the LLLP, to better represent the Foundation members' views there. Over 2021, SOLIDAR Foundation has contributed actively to the CoFoE, for the EU to become a more inclusive project.

## Flagship activity: Learning Hub of the network

SOLIDAR Foundation became SOLIDAR network's learning hub, supporting members in building capacity on policy, advocacy or operations relevant towards achieving social justice and a Just Transition. The 2021 flagship process for Foundation represents the consolidation of its work on capacity building, ushering two study visits and one Training Academy.

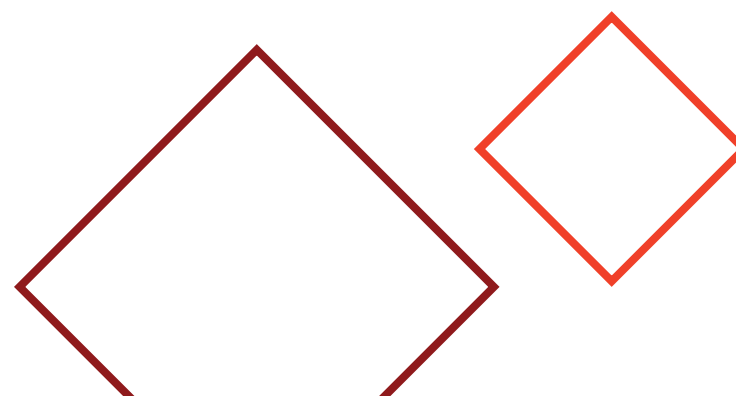
The March 2021 Online Study Visit "[Learning from each other to Build Digital and Sustainable Societies](#)" was organised in cooperation with International Federation of Workers Education Associations and Workers' Education Association UK, but also in collaboration with Foundation's partner ABF. The programme aimed to strengthen international partnerships to promote adult education for the green and digital transition and it presented 12 case studies that participants discussed and learned from. The following members, beyond the organisers, provided case studies: CEMEA (France), AWO and AWO International (Germany), ARCI (Italy). Members were aided in understanding how just, green and digital transitions can be achieved in their daily work and to support them in adapting their work programmes along 21st century challenges. The first Study Visit's visual report can be found [here](#). Given increasingly restricted freedoms for civic space across Europe, Foundation members showed interest for a peer-learning opportunity on fighting the shrinking civic space.

The Secretariat organised the second study visit on "[The State of the Civic Space in Europe](#)", in July 2021, analysing its relationship with Citizenship Education and the importance of an enabling environment for learners to exert civic competences. The Study Visit involved experts and stakeholders as well as member organisations, including a keynote speech by MEP Daniel Freund, presentations from CIVICUS, the LLLP and Civil Society Europe as well as ECNL, and showcasing 6 case studies from Southern and Eastern Europe. The study visit allowed members to recognise threats to civic space and learn how to fight them back. Most importantly, it featured the Foundation's members drafting SOLIDAR Foundation's Statement on the civic



space situation which can be accessed [here](#), together with a [graphic recording](#) of this capacity building action.

The year of training concluded with the Foundation's collaboration with SOLIDAR to organise the 2021 Training Academy for staff and activists of members which was centered on the strategic priority of SOLIDAR Foundation: building learning and sustainable societies. For this reason, the overarching topic was the Just Transition and in particular the role of education in it. Members learned about developing their projects on Global Citizenship Education and Education to Environmental Sustainability. A final [toolkit](#) allows members to keep using and disseminating the exchanges that took place during the study visit, multiplying the impact of the activity.



# CAMPAIGNS

## CIVIC SPACE

Throughout 2021, SOLIDAR was active on countering shrinking civic space and monitoring its state in Europe and Worldwide, in a joint effort with our members and partners. Civic space is a strategic area for SOLIDAR, the more so because its deterioration is affecting the participatory democracy and fundamental freedoms in Europe and the world.

In Europe, SOLIDAR monitors the state of civic space (specifically freedom of association, freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of expression) in the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway. SOLIDAR produces updates for the CIVICUS Monitor, researching the state of civic space in 196 countries worldwide. At the EU level, SOLIDAR has also been advocating for the respect of the Rule of Law and an open and thriving civic space in which CSOs can work freely to the benefit of social progress. We did so by contributing to the work of Civil Society Europe, co-organising the European Civic Academy with the European Civic Forum, drafting dedicated briefing notes and insights from the ground for policymakers as well as by organising a dedicated study visit for our members which resulted in a statement. Finally, we worked closely with our partners the CSOs Convention for the Conference on the Future of Europe and the Unions to promote the implementation of the Civil Dialogue at EU level.

Worldwide, SOLIDAR relies on the work of its Members active in Southeast Asia, Latin America, and Africa to monitor shrinking civic space and how it affects the work of civil society on the

ground. In 2021, Solidar Suisse, OPIC and SOLIDAR coordinated a regional meeting on shrinking civic space in Asia with more than 100 activists, trade unions and NGOs. At the same time, 6 country reports and 1 regional report on countering shrinking space were produced and will lead SOLIDAR advocacy work vis à vis the EU institutions.

**SETTING THE SCENE – INTRODUCTORY SESSION**  
The state of the civic space in Europe: what's at stake? - 12 July 2021

**Keynote speech**  
Daniel Freund, MER, AFCD Committee Greens/EFA Group in the EP  
IT HAS BECOME HARDER FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE PAST YEARS.  
THE FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY SHOULD BE ONGOING!  
FREE MEDIAS  
NGOs  
FUNDRAISING  
ATTACKS  
THE RULE OF LAW CANNOT WAIT!  
CHALLENGES  
TOOLS  
INFRINGEMENT PROCEDURES  
RULE OF LAW  
EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE  
MONEY IS THE GREATEST LEVER!  
PERSPECTIVES  
MEPS  
FIGHT TO PUSH THE EU COMMISSION TO TAKE ACTION BY TAKING THE CASE TO COURT.  
WE HAVE TO BUILD A SOCIAL EUROPE  
THE CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR OPINION  
ACTIVISTS ON THE GROUND ARE DOING A GREAT JOB!

**Panel Debate**  
The state of the civic space in Europe  
Aarti Naarse CIVICUS  
TRACK & RATE CIVIC SPACE AROUND THE WORLD  
THE ONGOING HEALTH EMERGENCY SHOULD NOT REDUCE THE CIVIC SPACE!  
ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS  
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION  
COVID USED AS AN EXCUSE  
VIOLATION OF MINORITY GROUPS' RIGHTS (LGBTQI, WOMEN)  
EXCESSIVE FINING OF CLIMATE ACTIVISTS  
DETENTION  
USE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE  
CIVIL SOCIETY IS RESILIENT BUT WE HAVE TO CHECK THAT RESTRICTIONS STOP AFTER THE PANDEMIC!  
CREATIVITY  
FREE CIVIL SOCIETY IS CRUCIAL TO SAFEGUARD THE RULE OF LAW  
EU SHOULD PROMOTE THE RULE OF LAW  
OUR ALLIES ARE IN THE PARLIAMENT.  
CSO MONITORING IS NOW ONLY USED FOR COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE EU! WE NEED TO USE THIS TOOL IN THE EU.  
SUGGESTIONS  
MONITORING BY CIVIL SOCIETY  
BETTER DIALOGUE  
ASK FOR SUGGESTIONS BY CIVIL SOCIETY  
POLITICAL & FINANCIAL SANCTIONS

**Citizenship education for strengthening the democratic fabric of our societies**  
Jessica Fiorelli Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, LLLP  
LIFELONG LEARNING PLATFORM  
EUROPEAN NETWORK PROMOTING EDUCATION ALL THROUGHOUT LIFE  
FOR MORE INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES  
CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION  
CRITICAL THINKING  
MEDIA LITERACY  
DEMOCRACY  
POLICY FRAMEWORK  
EU DEMOCRACY ACTION PLAN  
EU YOUTH STRATEGY  
DIGITAL EDUCATION ACTION PLAN  
EUROPEAN EDUCATION AREA  
EUROPEAN COMMISSION COOPERATION ON EDUCATION & TRAINING  
FUNDING PROGRAMMES  
ERASMUS+ DERV  
RISK OF MISSING THE GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP ASPECT  
TOO EUROCENTRIC!  
IS THERE REALLY A LACK?  
ALREADY EXISTING INITIATIVES  
BRIDGE 4.7  
NEED (INTEGRATING EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION)  
EU PARLIAMENT IS AN ALLY  
CALL FOR EUROPEAN AGENCY FOR CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION  
WE NEED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
EDUCATION IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MEMBER STATES WHICH STATES IT SHOULD TO MONITOR!

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union  
solidar FOUNDATION  
GRAPHIC RECORDING BY COLINE GRAPHICS



## CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

The Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE) has been an opportunity for European citizens to debate among themselves and with European stakeholders to define Europe's priorities for the future. Debates and discussions during working group and plenary meetings were animated by the active participation of the social partners, civil society, EU institutions, and citizens, and will determine the results of the Conference, in May 2022. Throughout this period, SOLIDAR has worked towards making the Conference participatory and reflecting the great diversity of European civil society, and for voicing in its Plenary the position of our membership. We do so thanks to the representation in the [Civil Society Convention on the Future of Europe](#), which gathers over 80 European networks and platforms with constituencies across Europe, uniting millions of citizens active in all areas of life: from education to culture, social inclusive, environment, governance and transparency. Within the Convention, SOLIDAR is coordinating the cluster Social Europe which is leading to a comprehensive set of proposals contributing to the overall CSOs' vision for the future of European democracy and the priorities for the EU and which has been influencing the recommendations discussed in the Plenary of the Conference. The proposals developed by the thematic clusters will be presented and discussed in the plenary sessions of the Conference and sent to decision-makers, media, and civil society all around Europe.

[Find here an intervention of SOLIDAR in the Plenary meeting, voicing the priorities for CSOs advancing social justice in Europe.](#)

[Find the proposals here](#)



For a Just Transition

to a Social and

Sustainable Europe



## JUST TRANSITION

2021 is the year SOLIDAR embarked on a brand-new adventure: focusing on and advocating for a **Just Transition** to climate-neutral, sustainable and fair societies. This new area of work draws links between the fight for social justice and the need for urgent action to combat climate change and environmental degradation. It views climate and environmental policies and strategies, at all levels, as opportunities to rethink and rebuild our societies and economies and as instruments to reduce inequalities and improve access to rights.

To kick-start our work on Just Transition, we acted on several fronts: firstly, we built capacity and developed knowledge by publishing a **Just Transition Monitor**, which maps the state of Just Transition in the European Union, and a collection of best practices titled **'Promoting a Just Transition in Europe and Worldwide: How Civil Society and Trade Unions are Driving the Change'**. Secondly, in order to promote and support Just Transition narratives and actions at national and regional level, we worked cross-pillar to provide training opportunities for SOLIDAR members (with

two Just Transition Academies and an online toolkit), and supported the organisation of events on Just Transition in Croatia, Serbia and other countries in Europe.

To promote synergies among European stakeholders and strengthen our impact on the European Green Deal and other EU policies, we created the **European Alliance for a Just Transition**, an informal coalition of 30+ social, climate, environmental and party-political European organisations that pledge to work together for a Just Transition. We also organised a handful of events aiming to promote our vision for a Just Transition in Europe and across the globe, such as the **launch of the European Alliance for a Just Transition**, a pre-COP26 workshop with Members of the European Parliament, and the **conference** "Roadmap to quality employment through a just transition and a fair recovery" ahead of the Porto Social Summit, together with the Social Affairs team.

## SILVER ROSE AWARDS

Since the year 2000, SOLIDAR organises annually its Silver Rose Awards in the European Parliament in cooperation with the [S&D Group](#), an occasion to celebrate Civil Society Organisations and individuals whose extraordinary struggles contribute greatly to social justice and solidarity throughout the world. In 2021, SOLIDAR hosted the award under the umbrella of the [Global Progressive Forum](#), a large mobilisation of progressive forces to set new priorities for the next decade.

The [2021 Silver Rose Lifetime Achievement Award](#) went to **Myrtle Witbooi**, President of the [International Domestic Workers Federation](#) and Secretary General of South African Domestic Service and Allied Workers Union **for her lifelong struggle for decent work and decent lives of household and domestic workers in South Africa and the world.** Ms Witbooi and the IDWF supported millions of domestic workers who were at the frontline throughout the pandemic and in many occasions lost their source of income. Domestic workers, despite the key role they have in our societies, are subjected to precarious working conditions, with their work often not being recognised as such. In light of these factors, they had to keep working at significant risk during the height of the pandemic. Myrtle was awarded in the European Parliament by S&D MEP Udo Bullmann, member of the EP Committee on Development, and SOLIDAR Secretary general Mikael Leyi.

[Read more here](#)



# ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SOLIDAR and SOLIDAR Foundation have continued to develop routines, structure, membership relationships and staff management. This includes our financial management, planning and capacity. In this challenging period, the fact that we have maintained a positive and professional atmosphere and be able to count on the dedication from all staff, has been essential and continues to be our most valuable resource.

The process of developing routines and increase cross-pillar coordination and activities is a work in progress, but a lot has already been done in relation to just transition and shrinking space that has informed publications, positions, study visits and advocacy work at EU and national level inside Europe and beyond.

In 2021 we managed to finalise all governing documents through the realisation of two annual general assemblies and member's workshops and dialogue. A focus for the year has otherwise been on retaining and further engaging all existing members as well as finalising a new proposal for a fee structure. This work will be finalised in 2022 and resulting in a membership development strategy to guide our work together.

SOLIDAR Foundation has taken important steps in realising its transformation into the learning hub of our network. To this effect a pilot leadership training programme is under development together with members to be launched in 2022 and with the aim to be rolled out to all members in 2023.

Finally, our ambition to modernise and digitalise our office environment is progressing, with the aim of completing a new and improved digital archive and workplace in the spring of 2022.



# 2021 IN A NUTSHELL



## THE NETWORK

53 Members  
26 Countries (19 EU Countries)



## EVENTS

24 Events organised  
and jointly organised



## FACEBOOK

36 544 Page reach  
3.3k Followers  
3.3k Page likes



## PUBLICATIONS

4 Regional Monitors  
42 Country Reports  
11 Publications



## EU PROJECTS

Involved in 9 active Projects  
12 Small Grant Facility Projects led  
by Members



## TWITTER

5.7k Followers  
373 New Followers  
517 Tweets  
53.9k Profile visits



## GEOGRAPHICAL REACH

28 Country Case Studies



## MEMBERS CAPACITY BUILDING

5 Study Visits with Members  
2 Just Transition Training Academies



## YOUTUBE

17.9k Views  
240.9k Impressions  
231 Subscribers



## OUR POSITIONS

51 News Articles  
14 Statements



## SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

+11k Followers  
across channels



## NEWSLETTER

2.5k Subscribers  
36 Newsletters  
throughout the year



## WEBSITE

29k Users  
77k Page views  
41k Sessions  
88% New Users



## LINKEDIN

1.5k Page views  
1.9k Followers  
10.8k Impressions



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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](http://www.solidar.org) / © SOLIDAR 2022



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