

**solidar** **solidar**  
FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2022



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# INTRODUCTORY WORDS FROM SOLIDAR's SECRETARY GENERAL

2022 was a year full of turmoil and continued crises for Europe and the world. In February, Europe was generally optimistic about the prospects of coming out of the pandemic back to something more familiar. With the brutal military invasion of Ukraine at the hands of the Russian Federation, however, optimism turned into a new phase of crises as millions have been forced to flee, thousands have died, economies stagnated, energy prices and inflation soared, poverty increased and living conditions deteriorated.

Throughout the year, we mobilised resources together with our progressive family, members, partners, and allies, to support Ukrainian civil society and Russian opposition, refugee reception and integration, for a Russian de-escalation that could give way to peace and dialogue, and allow the social and climate ambitions of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the European Green Deal to remain high on the political agenda.

These parallel crises will continue to define the coming years. As a movement, we are called to face them jointly and in solidarity. To continue working among our membership, together with partners and all our progressive family, based on our shared values of solidarity, equality, and inclusion, pushing for social justice through a just transition everywhere.

A positive aspect of 2022 was the opportunity to meet again after two years of online activities. To rediscover the joy and personal manifestation of our network in meetings, discussions, debates, and collaborations. It made 2022 an eventful and productive year for our membership!

Thanks to the commitment, creativity and dedication of our members and staff, and the support from our allies, we managed, among other things, to:

- ◆ Strengthen our cooperation and relations with our progressive family at the EU level, through joint activities, seminars, projects and meetings. Finding new forms of cooperation and dialogue in the processes of the **Conference of the Future of Europe** – among other discussions on how to reinforce **social and civil dialogue at the European level** with **ETUC**.
- ◆ Strengthen our position as a reference point for a just transition in Brussels and a dialogue partner for the European Commission, as we grew our **European Alliance for a**

**Just Transition** and joined our members in national level activities such as the **UN's Stockholm+50 conference**.

- ◆ Facilitate the coordination and dialogue among members through **study visits in Serbia and Croatia**, as well as fostering closer cooperation in migration through the work of our task force and dialogue meetings in Matera, Bonn, and Toledo.
- ◆ Organise our first in-person **General Assembly** in three years, in which we elected a new Board of Directors under the leadership of a new President and Vice President and **adopted the Common Security Report 2022** as our guiding principle for work on peace and common security during the **European Peace Conference**.
- ◆ Take our first steps to make SOLIDAR Foundation the learning hub of our network with the launch of the pilot training – **Eurogap**.
- ◆ Organise a successful **Silver Rose Awards Ceremony** in the European Parliament, together with the **S&D** and **PES**, awarding **Women Political Leaders** and **Lee Cheuk-yan** this year's prizes.
- ◆ Strengthen the support for the **recognition of the state of Palestine**, through the coordination of an European Alliance together with members and the organization of a successful **webinar on countering shrinking civic space in Palestine** at the end of 2022.

The 2022 Annual report is a moment to look back at all we have achieved, highlight the progress we have made in pushing the social justice agenda further, and reflect on all the work done closely with the membership. These achievements can help us build on success and hard work going forward, keeping in mind our strategic objectives, mission and values. I hope it is an inspiration for a next year of work towards a fair and social just transition in Europe and beyond.

*Mikael Leyi, SOLIDAR & SOLIDAR Foundation Secretary General*





# SOLIDAR STRATEGY 2021-2025

We are in the middle of the implementation of the Strategy of SOLIDAR & SOLIDAR Foundation adopted in 2020 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, lies in the **pursuit of a Just Transition**. SOLIDAR views a socially Just Transition as the guarantee that the transition to a green, digital, and social economy is implemented **taking the rights and needs of affected communities into consideration**.

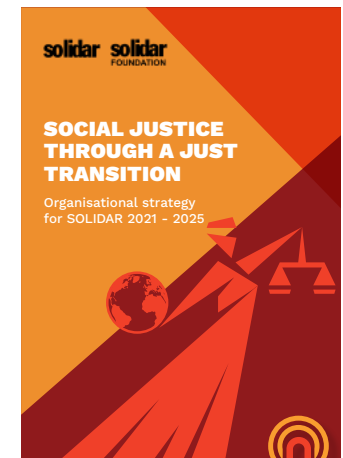
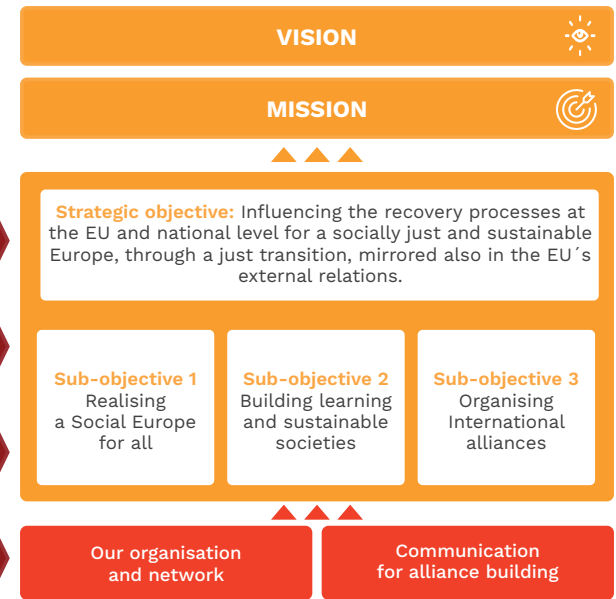
Therefore, our **strategic objective** is that SOLIDAR, together with our members and allies, influences the recovery processes at the EU and at the national levels, for a socially fair and sustainable Europe through a Just Transition, mirrored also in the EU's external relations. The crises that are 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 and with 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 and the war in Ukraine have 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, refugees, asylum seekers, and LGBTQI+ people. 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 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.

## KEY POLITICAL PRIORITIES

- Climate and environmental emergency
- Democracy, human rights, peace
- The digital revolution
- Gender equality and intersectionality





# FULL MEMBERS 2022

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER):

1.  [Asamblea de Cooperación por la Paz \(ACPP\)](#), Spain
2.  [ARCI Associazione di Promozione Sociale \(ARCI\)](#), 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 Stoep \(FMS\)](#), 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 Cooperación 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








# AFFILIATE MEMBERS 2022



(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER):

1.  Arbeiterwohlfahrt (AWO), Germany
2.  Arbeiterwohlfahrt International (AWO INTL), Germany
3.  Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB), Germany
4.  Asociácia odborných pracovníkov sociálnych služieb (AOPSS), Slovakia
5.  Berufsförderungsinstitut Oberösterreich (BFI OÖ), Austria
6.  Community Development Institute (CDI), North Macedonia
7.  IFSI-FGTB, Belgium
8.  Initiative for Development and Cooperation (IDC), Serbia
9.  Institute for Social Integration (ISI), Bulgaria
10.  Institut für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik (ISS), Germany
11.  Istituto Sindacale di Cooperazione allo Sviluppo (ISCOS), Italy
12.  Multicultural Center Prague (MCK), Czech Republic
13.  NEXUS Emilia Romagna, Italy
14.  Pour la Solidarité (PLS), Belgium
15.  Progetto Sud, Italy
16.  Rede Sem Fronteiras, Portugal - Brazil

17.  Solidaridad Internacional Andalucía (SIA), Spain
18.  Samaritan International (SAMI)
19.  SolSoc (SolSoc), Belgium
20.  Union Aid Abroad (APHEDA), Australia
21.  Volkshilfe Österreich Bundesverband (VH), Austria

## STRATEGIC PARTNERS:

-  Central and Eastern European Network for Gender Issues (CEE Gender Network), Slovenia/Croatia
-  International Falcon Movement – Socialist Educational International (IFM-SEI)
-  International Union of Tenants (IUT)

# BOARD AND SECRETARIAT 2022

## BOARD

### President

Anne van Lancker – FOS, Belgium

### Vice-President

Klaus Thieme – SOLIDAR Suisse, Switzerland

### Treasurer

Susanne Drake – Willi-Eichler-Akademie, Germany

### Board members

Daniel Boys – La Ligue de l'enseignement, France

Claus Larsen Jensen – Forum for International Cooperation, Denmark

Jean Michel Miller – OGBL, Luxemburg

Simon Parkinson – WEA, United Kingdom

Andrea Malpassi – CGIL, Italy

Concha Gutierrez – MPDL, Spain



## SECRETARIAT

Secretary General: Mikael Leyi

International Cooperation & Sustainable Development  
Coordinator: Barbara Caracciolo

International Cooperation Officer: Alba González

International Cooperation Fellows:  
Julia Miragall Mas / Lavinia Mazzei

Social Policy Coordinator: Carlos Roldán Mejías

Social Affairs Officer: Martina Corti

Social Inclusion Officer: Julie Martinaud

Social Affairs Fellow: Hilmi Tekoglu / Rosa Dennis

Education and Lifelong Learning Coordinator  
– SOLIDAR Foundation: Elisa Gambardella

Education and Lifelong Learning Officer  
– SOLIDAR Foundation: Andrei Frank / Ilenia Ventroni

Education and Lifelong Learning Fellow  
– SOLIDAR Foundation: Alexandra Matthys / Francesca Genovesi

Just Transition Policy Officer: Andrea Casamenti

Just Transition Policy Officer: Irene Queralt / Hilmi Tekoglu

Communication Officer: Giorgia Gusciglio

Administration and Finance Coordinator: Valerie Garnier

Administration and Finance Officer: Ajeng Tita Susanto

Administration and Finance Assistant: Giulia Traversi



# PARTNERSHIPS



WE ARE MEMBERS OF:



WE INITIATED:

WE WORK WITH:



# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022



FEBRUARY

SOLIDAR statement:  
**NO WAR IN UKRAINE |**  
**Human Security & Peace First!**

SOLIDAR Global week  
of action: **Countering**  
**Shrinking Space / Connect**  
**the struggles**

MARCH

EU event:  
**4th Plenary of the**  
**Conference on the**  
**Future of Europe**

APRIL

SOLIDAR statement:  
**Safety and Health at Work:**  
**A Fundamental Right at the**  
**heart of EU Global Social**  
**Agenda**

MAY

Event with members:  
**2022 Sabir festival**  
**in Matera**

JUNE

Event with members:  
**Just Transition Event at the**  
**UN Conference Stockholm+50**

Annual General Assembly &  
European Peace Conference:  
**“Charting a Path for Common**  
**Security in Europe”**

JULY

Open letter:  
**A gloomy 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**for Hong Kong**

Activity with members:  
**Study Visit in Serbia**

Activity with members:  
**Migration conference**  
**in Bonn**

DECEMBER

Activity with members:  
**Annual Social**  
**Conference in the**  
**European Parliament**

SEPTEMBER

Activity with members:  
**Study Visit in Croatia**

SOLIDAR Foundation  
Statement:  
**An inclusive journey to**  
**peace: Peace Education as**  
**a public good**

OCTOBER

Open letter: **A bold and transformative**  
**Social Climate Fund (SCF) is needed,**  
**now more than ever!**

Event with members: **Civil Society**  
**Dialogue and Social Rights**  
**Ambassador workshop in Spain**

Event with members: **Training Academy**  
**and Social Rights Ambassador**  
**workshop in Italy**

NOVEMBER

EU event: **Silver Rose**  
**Awards Ceremony in the**  
**European Parliament**

Activity with members:  
**1<sup>st</sup> edition of Eurogap Training**  
**Program**

Webinar: **Countering**  
**Shrinking Space**  
**in Palestine**



### EU PROJECTS

Involvement in 13 EU Funded Projects and 10 Small Grant Facility Projects led by members



### ADVOCACY

Launched 1 Interactive Map monitoring social rights in Europe



### EVENTS

Organised over 35 SOLIDAR and SOLIDAR Foundation events with members and partners



### PRESENTATION

A network of over 50 members, based in 26 different countries



### POLICY

Published over 30 political statements and publications



### SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

Over 12K followers across our social media channels



# OUR POLICY AND ADVOCACY WORK IN 2022

## SOCIAL AFFAIRS: REALISING A SOCIAL EUROPE FOR ALL AND WITH ALL

### Impact of our work in 2022

In 2022, the Social Affairs Pillar worked hard to advocate for the implementation of the **European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR)** at national level, and the social and labour market inclusion of marginalised groups, including migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. We have been active on the Single permit and Long-term resident directives, minimum income, platform work, minimum wages, social economy, and the so-called “instrumentalisation of migrants”. The approval of the **EU directive on adequate minimum wages** was the long-awaited outcome we have been calling for in the past years, **together with our partner Social Platform**. Also, our advocacy from 2021 bore fruit as we were invited to contribute to two European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) positions on **pushbacks at the border with Belarus**, and **EU Talent Partnerships**, respectively on instrumentalisation of migrants and attracting skills and talent to the EU. To further consolidate our progressive voice in Brussels, we held several public events involving key stakeholders. For instance, we organised a European Conference on the future of social protection and the welfare state co-hosted by **S&D** MEP Marc Angel in the European Parliament and co-organised with **Social Platform**. We took part in numerous consultations with EU institutions, bringing in the perspective of our progressive members, such as the Commission’s call for evidence on the **Council recommendation on adequate minimum income schemes**. Outside of structured consultations, we pushed our advocacy messages forward, such as **pledges** that emerged from **members-led events on migration**. We joined forces with value-aligned civil society and trade unions to amplify our recommendations, such as the joint letter for an **effective Directive on platform work**, co-signed with **ETUC** and others. We continued our participation in processes such as the discussions at the **European Migration Forum on youth and migration**. Behind the scenes, we developed a new methodology to assess the state of social rights in Europe from civil society’s perspective, with the **Social Rights Map**.



### Outcome of our work with members and partners in 2022

SOLIDAR members’ input has been crucial to revamp the methodology of our flagship publication, leaving more space for each NSG to advocate on key specific issues. In 2022, SOLIDAR made a point of supporting the implementation and dissemination of the European Pillar of Social Rights at national level. To this end, we worked in close cooperation with our members to design activities linking their work to EU policy processes. **ARCI**’s event *Strati della cultura*, highlighted a key convergence of access to culture, mental health, and social inclusion, allowing SOLIDAR to present EU initiatives promoting culture and participation, highlighting synergies with EU frameworks for social inclusion. SOLIDAR members from all over Europe **gathered in Italy to take part in this exchange** as well as in our Training Academy, aimed at enhancing members’ capacity to foster social inclusion through cultural participation.

We pushed for coherence between migration and inclusion objectives at **MPDL**’s **Civil Society Dialogue** in Spain. It hosted the screening of a documentary following a civilian ship rescuing people in the Mediterranean, and exiled people’s demise in the streets of

Paris, leading to a debate on the inhumanity of EU's migration system. The *Diálogos* were the last of three events in which SOLIDAR's Task Force on Migration promoted a rights and solidarity- based European governance of migration and asylum, after delivering the message in [Italy](#) and [Germany](#). The European Migration Forum allowed advocacy and networking, and a [SprInG workshop](#) led to discuss co-production approaches between research and practice on migrant integration.

2022 was a year for synergies also on our [Study Visit to Initiative for Development and Cooperation in Serbia](#). During the roundtable on labour disputes resolution, SOLIDAR brought perspectives from Albania, Italy, and Spain, creating a space for mutual learning on unions' and labour rights. The visit of a local social enterprise made social economy emerge as a key topic for members, something we took with us in 2023.

## Flagship activity: the interactive Social Rights Map

In 2022 the Social Affairs Pillar worked towards making its advocacy and communication tools more effective and impactful. Among other things, we realised - in collaboration with a team of web developers and designers - an [Interactive Web Map that showcases the findings of the Social Rights Monitor](#) - our annual assessment of the state of social rights, civic space, and just transition in Europe. By selecting a country on the map, the user has an overview of the social rights situation (Equal opportunities and access to the labour market, Fair working conditions, Social Protection and Inclusion), civic space, and just transition through the score assigned for each of the categories analysed and a narrative elaborated from the most relevant developments in each area over the previous year. As in the previous editions of the Monitor, the data on which the assessment stems from a questionnaire filled in by national civil society actors led by SOLIDAR's members through the so-called National Strategy Groups.

The user-friendly and interactive tool will make it easier for SOLIDAR to disseminate its analysis, to present them in a compelling manner, and to advocate for a more socially and environmentally just Europe, bringing progressive civil society's voice to EU institutions. As a matter of fact, advocacy points targeting EU-level decision-makers will be listed in a dedicated section of the web page to clearly highlight our key recommendations. The first edition of the Social Rights Monitor with its new methodology, including the Web Map, will be available online at the end of 2023, but you can have a [sneak peak of how the Map will look like](#).

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: ORGANISING INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

### Impact of our work in 2022

The European Union acknowledges the role of CSOs in strengthening and protecting democracies. Nevertheless, its action must be much bolder in promoting an enabling space. Therefore, SOLIDAR, together with its members in the International Cooperation Fora and the Geographic Working Groups (Asia, Latina America and Palestine), has been **raising awareness on the shrinking space**, namely in **Hong Kong**, with a meeting the Chair of the China Delegation in the European Parliament and a **joint letter from SOLIDAR, ITUC, and ETUC** to EU high Representative Borrell. In **Palestine**, we stood up against the designation of 7 Palestinian human rights and civil society organizations as “terrorist organizations”, and co-signed the **Cairo Institute for Human Rights’ Statement**, and in **El Salvador**, our members met to identify strategies to counter the shrinking space in the country. With these activities we are keeping the EU accountable in its mission and vision to support independent CSOs’ work.

Our participation in the **CSOs Forum at the 6th European Union (EU) – Africa Union (AU) Summit**, and in the “Meet the Leaders” session, promoted trade unions participation in the Forum and a focused workshop on decent work. Moreover, the work done together with the Latin America working group and the exchanges with MEPs members of the European Parliament’s Delegation for Latin America resulted in SOLIDAR being consulted by the **S&D group** on its strategy for Latin America and invited by INTPA and EEAS to contribute to the program of the EU LAC CSOs days taking place in July 2023.

Finally, the works done on Just Transition for the Global South triggered the interest of a new donor (the Open Society Foundation) with whom SOLIDAR has started a cooperation, which will ensure the continuity of the work started in 2021.

### Outcome of our work with members and partners in 2022

Together with members, we have worked to improve coordination and cooperation within the network. We have done so at the operational level through, among others, the creation of the **Members’ Operations Database**, and a **Map listing more than 300 projects in more than 40 countries** where Members operate. In addition, we supported Members joint work through 10 small grant facility projects awarded in 2022. The **Africa Regional Exchange**, led by our member **Forum for International Cooperation (FIC)**, from Denmark, allowed members to meet and exchange on their programs in the region.



At the political level, we have worked with the ICF members, leading and supporting advocacy actions on countering shrinking space, Just Transition, and decent work for all (see the **open letter** on banning white asbestos sent to all Parties to the Rotterdam Convention).

With **CONCORD**, we called on the EU to ensure a meaningful dialogue with CSOs. In this regard, SOLIDAR co-signed the document “**No decision about us without us**”, developed by **CONCORD members** and CSOs who contributed to the EU-AU CSOs Forum organisation. This document raises the main concerns that civil society identified during the organisation of the EU-AU Summit, mainly the lack of consultation and participation of CSOs ahead of the Summit as well as the lack a systematic approach for CSOs to engage in political dialogue with EU-AU leaders. SOLIDAR joined the voices of civil society asking for a more structured and meaningful participation of CSOs in the EU-AU partnership.



## Flagship activity: Countering Shrinking Space and the promotion of human rights in Palestine and Israel

As every year on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, in 2022, SOLIDAR, in collaboration with **EuroMed Rights**, hosted an online public event dedicated to the topic of Countering Shrinking Space and the promotion of human rights in Palestine and Israel. The webinar looked into the situation of the Palestinian people living under occupation, including the constantly shrinking space for their civil society organizations and human rights defenders, and the existing Campaigns and Initiatives to promote human rights in Palestine. The high level speakers included: **Iratxe García Pérez** MEP, President of the **S&D Group** in the European Parliament - who called for a prompt negotiation and implementation of the two-state solution as “the only viable long-term solution to this conflict” -, and **Francesca Albanese**, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory, occupied since 1967, who talked about her **first report** focused on the right of the Palestinian people self-determination.

Inspired by the testimonies from Palestinian and Israeli organisations and by the words of Evin Incir MEP, member of the **S&D Group** in the European Parliament and Vice-Chair of the Delegation for relations with Palestine - who stressed that the EU institutions shall not “be afraid of criticising any country for violating international law” -, SOLIDAR will keep showing solidarity with the Palestinian people and pushing governments to demonstrate political will. As **Anna Sundström**, Secretary General of the **Olof Palme International Center** and SOLIDAR’s Board Member said: “silence is complicity, and we will for sure not keep silent.”





## EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING: BUILDING LEARNING SOCIETIES

### Impact of our work in 2022

In 2022, SOLIDAR Foundation focused on advocating for **Peace Education** as well as a solidarity-driven vision for the future of Europe, while developing capacity-building activities for the membership that help transitioning SOLIDAR Foundation to fulfil its vocation as Learning Hub for the network. Against the backdrop of war and strategical political discussions (such as the **Conference on the Future of Europe - CoFoE**), SOLIDAR Foundation engaged with multiple partners at the EU level in the promotion of the role of associations working for citizenship, popular, and workers education, to educate the citizenry for active participation in society. Our advocacy actions succeeded in giving prominence to the conceptualisation of Peace Education in the frame of Global Citizenship Education, thus aimed at combating structural inequalities and making our societies truly democratic. Moreover, the results of the **valUE project** fed into the debate of the **Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE)**, promoting a solidarity-driven vision of the EU, and leading to inclusive and sustainable learning societies. Along with the policy work, SOLIDAR Foundation also organised a diverse set of capacity-building activities that supported the development of a Learning Hub: **five Policy pills** on the main policy developments related to education and lifelong learning in Europe, one Online Training on advocacy at the EU level, one Peer Learning Activity on Peace Education, two training sessions in-person (on digital and global citizenship education

and **EUROGAP**), and a workshop on education as a public good. These activities reached out to more than fifty stakeholders, mainly from our members and partners.



### Outcome of our work with members and partners in 2022

In 2022, SOLIDAR Foundation and its members worked on the topic of **Peace Education** and notably on the role of non-formal and informal learning (NFIL) for the citizenry to develop the necessary competences to advance democracy in our societies. This work was kicked off by a **Policy Roundtable** with policymakers, experts, and members and partners from SOLIDAR Foundation, whose contributions resulted in our **Policy Paper on Peace Education: A Sustainable Journey to Peace: Peace Education in the Context of Global Citizenship Education**, which was released in November at the **Thematic Conference**. In the framework of our annual theme, a **Study Visit, held in Croatia**, focused on Education for Inclusive and Democratic Societies and elaborated on Global Citizenship Education – including Peace Education, Gender Equality and Interculturalism. SOLIDAR Foundation also released a **statement** on the International Day of Peace and a **Manifesto for Peace Education as a Public Good**.

In 2022 we also published the 6th and last edition of our flagship publication: the **Citizenship and Lifelong Learning Monitor 2021**, zooming in on Education for Environmental Sustainability (EES). To highlight the work of SOLIDAR Foundation's membership, we presented the **Citizenship and Lifelong Learning Monitor 2016-2021 Repository of Case Studies**.

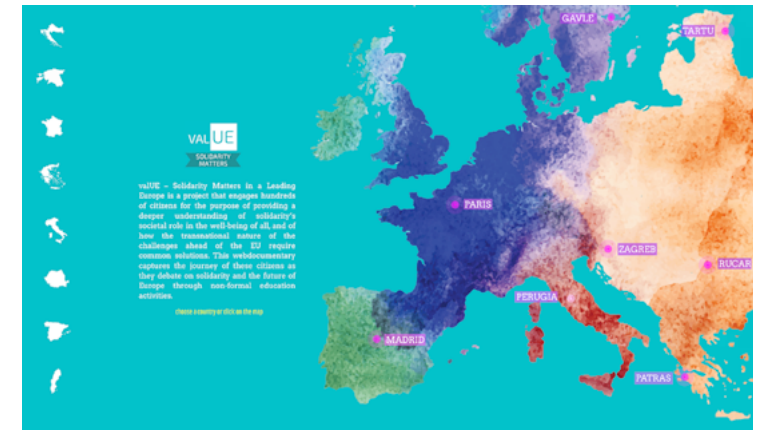
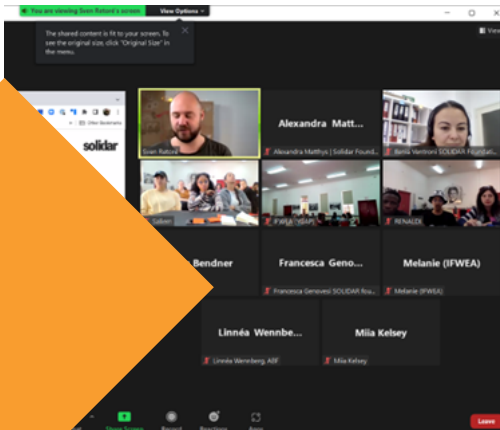


## Flagship activity: EUROGAP

In 2022, SOLIDAR Foundation launched the pilot edition of the **EUROGAP training program**, in which eleven young leaders from our member organisations **CEMEA**, **WEA**, and our partner **ABF**, successfully participated. **EUROGAP** is an initiative that emanates from a conversation on how to advance climate, environmental and social justice simultaneously, how to overcome the threat of nationalist and populist right, and how progressive education organisations can strengthen their positions regarding these issues through collective action in a European movement. Further, the programme reflects a conversation among members who wish SOLIDAR Foundation to offer a space for educational organizations that share the same values and come from different backgrounds in Europe to exchange ideas, practices, and support each other in a more elaborate and institutional way to enhance international

cooperation and develop new perspectives. The **EUROGAP program** also represents an opportunity for SOLIDAR Foundation to develop and implement a structured and recurrent capacity-building programme in Brussels, an activity that has been in demand for a long time.

In 2022, the programme was directed at young and emerging leaders (aged 25-35) that are engaged in or work for progressive, popular, and citizenship education organisations in Europe. It focuses on increasing participant's leadership skills and creative thinking when it comes to challenges mentioned previously, developing their sense of belonging to a European movement of like-minded but different organisations, fostering cooperation and dialogue among participants, and to tying our membership closer to each other. Read more on the pilot [here](#).





# PROJECT COOPERATION

## ADVOCACY THROUGH EU FUNDED PROJECTS IN 2022



**Organising International Solidarity:** the EU Framework Partnership Agreement supported our work to promote Civic Space and democracy, Decent Work for All and enabled us to support members direct and meaningful dialogues with EU Representatives.



**REAL DEAL - Reshaping European Advances towards green Leadership through DELiberative Approaches and Learning:** it is a Horizon 2020 project that aims to generate a pan-European debate to reshape citizens' and stakeholders' active participation through deliberative processes around the European Green Deal (EGD) with a specific focus on engaging disenfranchised groups in this process.



**#YouthAgainstCyberBullying:** we developed and implemented tools and training sessions for young people to combat Cyberbullying. The project was concluded in 2022 with a policy conference organised in Brussels by SOLIDAR Foundation.



Smile

**SMILE - Social Meaning Impact through Lifelong Learning universities in Europe:** the project aims to achieve inclusive higher education, focusing specifically on ethnicity, women in leadership and socio-economic background divergences when evaluating the way to boost inclusiveness.

**SPRING**

**Sustainable Practices of Integration (SprINg):** the project aims to develop a toolbox to improve the innovation, effectiveness and sustainability of the work done by Europe's integration stakeholders at national, regional and local levels in the integration and inclusion of recently arrived migrants.



**Realising social Europe for all and with all:** Through the EU Programme EaSI, we aim to foster social justice and combat poverty and inequalities in Europe through the monitoring of the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights at EU and national levels.



**IMAGES - I Manage and Empower My Skills:** this Erasmus+ project aims to support managers of CSOs in identifying their competences and further developmental needs and provides them with opportunities to develop their skillset in a way that benefits their organisations.



**ECO-IN - Algorithm for New Ecological Approaches to Inclusion:**

the Erasmus+ project proposes a new and innovative training model to generate inclusive schools and communities. Through an ecological approach and based on scientific evidence, it promotes an active participation of teachers, school heads, policy-makers, parents and families.



**ECHO - Ethical Common Human Open Source Network:**

the project aims to develop new and innovative training models to generate inclusive schools and communities. In order to achieve this, the project consortium runs in-depth research on the inclusion practices in primary and secondary education in 5 EU countries.



**Building Learning and Sustainable Societies:**

the Operating Grant for SOLIDAR Foundation, through which we organise all the main advocacy actions and capacity-building activities for members aimed at enhancing the role of NFIL for achieving Social Justice through a Just Transition. Co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme



**TRANSVAL-EU:**

the project aims to experiment innovative approaches for the validation of non-formal and informal learning (VNFIL) of transversal skills in five EU pilot countries. It aims to professionalise validation and guidance practitioners, bridging sectors and stakeholders of education and employment.



**ValUE - Solidarity Matters:**

Through Solidarity Labs organised in 9 EU countries, the pEurope For Citizens project has fostered civic and democratic engagement at EU level and the debate on the future of Europe. **Explore the web-documentary to learn more!**



**AKA Active Citizens:**

the project aims to promote democratic participation and engagement at the EU level of young citizens with vulnerable backgrounds in 8 countries. Through 24 GCE-based activities in local Community Centres, the youth involved will be empowered to tackle social challenges for a Just Transition as well as structural inequalities in a collective and transnational manner.

# CAMPAIGNS

## COUNTERING SHRINKING SPACE AND FOSTERING CIVIL DIALOGUE

In 2022, SOLIDAR took an active role in the frame of the [Conference on the Future of Europe \(CoFoE\)](#), participating both in the [plenary](#) and in the working group on Social Justice as delegate of the [CSOs Convention](#), established to represent Civil Society during the CoFoE. We engaged with fellow CSOs, Unions, MEPs, representatives of the Committee of the Regions, and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in the joint promotion of the Civil Dialogue as a mean to protect the civic space and enhance participatory democracy at the EU level. This effort led to the inclusion of a recommendation on the introduction of the Civil Dialogue among the official conclusions of the CoFoE.

SOLIDAR also 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, producing updates for the [CIVICUS Monitor](#). At the EU level, SOLIDAR has 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](#), both in the Steering Group and the Working Groups.

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 2022, “Countering shrinking space” was the focus of our Global Week of Action ahead of Social Justice Day.







2022 marked the **kick-off of the REAL DEAL project** on enhancing citizens' and civil society's engagement in the green transition and the European Green Deal (EGD). As part of the project consortium, SOLIDAR organised two fora gathering civil society organisations, with the aim to debate on the gaps of the European Green Deal, as well as the current instruments for participation in climate and environmental policymaking. Considering backsliding and shrinking civic space in the EU, the **Civil Society Forum** aims to involve different stakeholders and societal actors in the green and just transition by providing an informal space for collective action and advocacy. Two fora were organized in 2022, with over fifty and over forty CSOs participating, respectively. The **first civil society forum for**

**sustainability** addressed the gaps in the European Green Deal (EGD) and the participants engaged in a structured dialogue with policymakers from Global Policies and Sustainability, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Eurostat, the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, and the European Commission. The **second civil society forum for sustainability** focused on existing participatory processes in the EU such as the **Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE)**, the Just Transition Platform, the European Climate Pact, and the Citizens Assemblies at National level. Both fora contributions resulted in reports on the Gap Assessment of European Green Deal and Annual Report on Civic Participation and the EGD, which will be shared with key policymakers and stakeholders.



## JUST TRANSITION

Russia's horrific invasion of Ukraine has drastically shifted the geopolitics of decarbonization and strongly affected climate, environmental, economic, and social policymaking in Europe. Due to the high energy prices, the issue of lack of access to affordable energy resources has taken center stage in the political debate. Unsustainable businesses and far right nationalist parties are applying political pressure to drop or delay climate legislation and even roll back wider social and environmental protections. Against this worrying and challenging backdrop, SOLIDAR is playing a fundamental role as a powerful advocate for a socially Just Transition to climate neutrality in Europe and beyond.

After a successful first year working with Just Transition issues, in 2022 SOLIDAR continued to be at the forefront of the fight for stronger social considerations in EU policies for the green transition. Firstly, we significantly contributed to the political debate around policy files, such as the **Council Recommendation on a fair transition towards climate neutrality** and the **Social Climate Fund**, mainly through the **provision of our analysis and recommendations**, as well as their widespread promotion through consultations, campaigns, and other actions, leading to the adoption of more socially conscious legislative texts. Secondly, we advocated for Just Transition to feature prominently throughout the whole European Green Deal (EGD), and we provided several concrete examples of how to do so, by answering sets of questions

during the policy-making and implementation phases (see our **“Social Goals for the European Green Deal”** checklist) and by drawing stronger links between the EGD and the European Pillar of Social Rights (see our publication **“Can Europe Lead a Just Transition?”**). Thirdly, we promoted widely key messages around the need for systemic change, bold progressive social and climate policies, strengthened solidarity among member states, as well as placing Just Transition higher on the EU's green agenda.

Making a real impact for a Just Transition is only possible through close cooperation with like-minded allies. Therefore, in 2022, we continued to lead the **European Alliance for a Just Transition**, an informal coalition of thirty-five European stakeholders with a shared vision for a Just Transition in Europe. In its framework, together with several other organisations, we produced a **joint statement** on the Social Climate Fund and a set of **policy recommendations** on how to maximise the social benefits of climate action, which several decisionmakers took into consideration in their work. In addition, we partnered with numerous member organisations and like-minded networks to publish joint statements and co-organise public and closed-door events, which strongly contributed to amplifying our messages on Just Transition and getting decisionmakers on board with our vision for fairer and more sustainable societies.

### Our Joint Statements on Just Transition:

- ◆ **A Just energy Transition** (with FEPS)
- ◆ **European Green Deal as a peace project** (with EEB)
- ◆ **The reform of the EU fiscal rules** (with FiscalMatters coalition)

### Our events on Just Transition:

- ◆ **Energy poverty** (with FEPS and Social Platform)
- ◆ **A Just Transition in France** (with La Ligue de l'Enseignement and Ceméa)
- ◆ **Territorial Just Transition Plans** (with FEPS, WWF EU Policy Office, CEE Bankwatch and FES)
- ◆ **Building a Democratic Economy for a Just Transition** (with Social Economy Europe, Cooperatives Europe and EEB in the framework of the EESC Civil Society Days)
- ◆ **Just Transition: The path to a healthy planet for the prosperity of all** (with Olof Palme International Centre in the framework of the UN's Stockholm+50 conference)







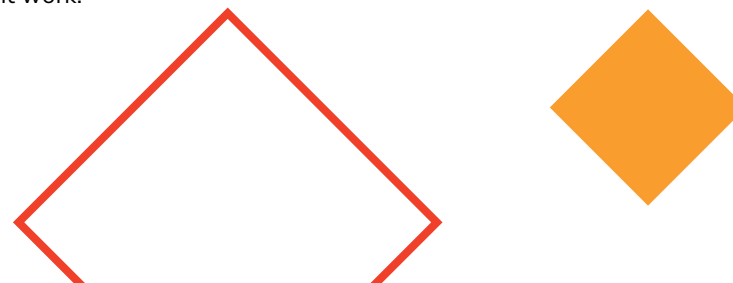
*“As authoritarianism is gaining ground around the world, civil society and the trade union movement have a particularly crucial role to play. It is a fight that often comes at a high personal cost for the leaders and activists involved, to their sacrifices we are indebted as their struggle serves as an inspiration and a reminder of what is at stake.”*

*Anne Van Lancker, SOLIDAR President*

## SILVER ROSE AWARDS

On 16 November 2022, SOLIDAR held the **Silver Rose Awards Ceremony**, the annual flagship event organised for more than 20 years, together with the progressive family, the **Socialists & Democrats** in the European Parliament, and the **Party of European Socialists (PES)**. This award marks an important moment for the progressive movement to come together, celebrate and amplify the voices of individuals and organisations working towards social justice, human rights, equality, and fundamental freedoms. In 2022, after two online editions, we were able to bring the ceremony back to the European Parliament,

hosted by our closest partners in this endeavour, the family of the Progressives. A novelty of this edition was the introduction of a thematic award, that considering the ongoing war in Ukraine, aimed to celebrate initiatives organising and working for peace and common security. Alongside that, we also awarded the lifetime achievement prize, celebrating figures from the progressive movement worldwide that fight for social rights, social justice, and decent work.



## MEET THE WINNERS OF THIS YEAR'S SILVER ROSE AWARDS:



### **Lifetime Achievement Award Winner: Lee Cheuk-yan**

The Lifetime Achievement Award goes to Mr Cheuk-Yan for his outstanding contributions and perseverance in building the independent trade union movement in Hong Kong, upholding peace and non-violent struggles in the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong and mainland China. He serves as an example for all of us and the need for personal commitment, dedication and struggle to advance our progressive values.



### **Peace and Common Security Award Winner: Women Political Leaders 4 Peace**

“Common security requires participation of wider variety of stakeholders and interest groups to be sustainable. It is thus of crucial importance that peace processes are inclusive as per resolution 1325 and that a feminist perspective permeates and guide them. The Silver Rose Jury firmly believes in the importance of initiatives such as WPL, gathering women leaders globally in a joint effort for a different kind of peace, for common security, and by doing so this initiative greatly embodies the values of this year’s award”.



# FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

SOLIDAR & SOLIDAR Foundation continued to pursue its mission with passion and purpose in 2022, and increased its turnover by 15% compared to 2021, reaching € 1.683.465, mainly due to the membership fees and new grants. The 2022 operating result shows a positive net result of € 93.069, which represents an important step in the recovering plan. To continue to deal with its past debt, the 2022 audited accounts show a positive net result of € 15.674, after taking an extraordinary charge of € 77.395 (co-financing from the past).

## INCOME 2022

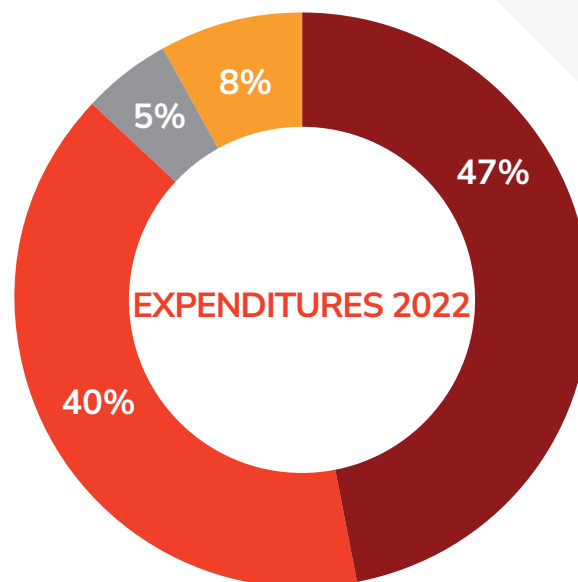
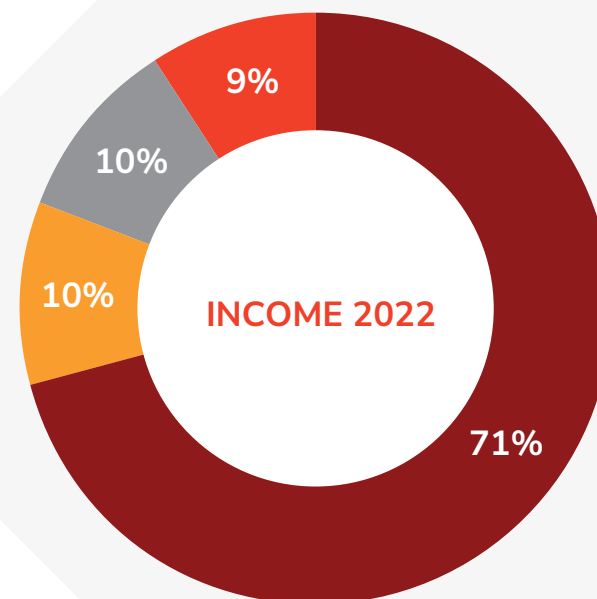
**1.694.568 €**

■ Project funded by European Commission	1.209.990 €
■ Membership fee	165.750 €
■ Other income	165.518 €
■ Project funded by foundations	153.310 €

## EXPENDITURES 2022

**1.678.894 €**

■ Staff costs	797.263 €
■ Activities	675.168 €
■ Co-financing from the past	77.395 €
■ General costs	129.068 €





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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.**

Front cover images: COP27 Protest in Brussels - Alexandros Michailidis, Ukraine war protest in Warsaw - Damian Lugowski, Shutterstock.com.

For more info [www.solidar.org](http://www.solidar.org) / © SOLIDAR 2023



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