



**solidar**  
FOUNDATION



Annual General Assembly  
ACTIVITY REPORT

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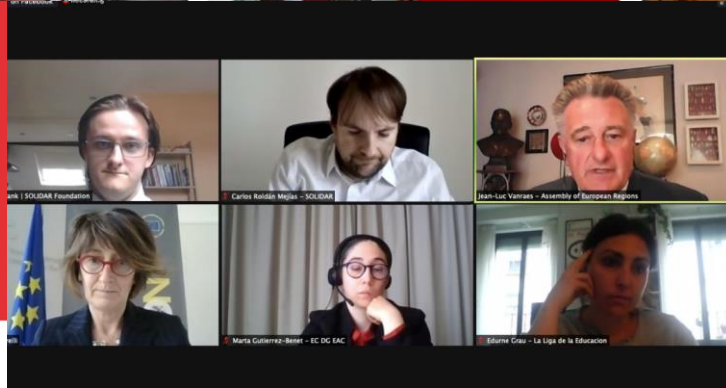
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**Civic Competences and Lifelong Learning for the Green & Digital Transitions: is Europe ready?**

3 ONLINE SESSIONS  
7, 8, 9 APRIL 2021



## Introductory words from the Secretary General

This annual report is a testimony to all the things that we have done together in this extraordinary year. When 2020 started no one could have foreseen just how dramatic and life changing it would be. Even as I joined in the middle of May most of us were thinking, or perhaps hoping that the worst would have been behind us after summer. But then the second and third waves came, and we have been forced to continue our work in an everchanging political, economic and social reality.

As our private and professional lives saw different levels of restrictions and tragedies, the pace in which the EU have been moving ahead with policy proposals have been extraordinary fast. In many ways it was a ground-breaking year, with the EU moving into new policy territory with higher ambitions than ever before. For SOLIDAR 2020 has been no less eventful and fast paced, with a need for our network to try to move as fast as policy makers, foreseeing and mobilising in relation to important events and decision making in the fields of social affairs, education and lifelong learning and international development cooperation. At the same we have had to adapt, amid the pandemic, to a situation without an office or, for the first half of the year, a Secretary General. Since that board meeting in May I have gotten to know the astonishing staff of SOLIDAR, and I have had the chance to meet almost all our members, to get to know and understand each other better and charter a shared future path. I am a firm believer in the importance of relationships and dialogue, and it has been a wonderful journey together so far, even as I have done most of it sitting all alone in my bedroom closet.



Since the last AGA an ambitious change agenda to rethink and restructure the network started, looking at all governing documents, the structure and organisation of the Secretariat and digitalising our work, and parallel to this we have also developed a new strategic direction for a just transition to social justice. It has been a monumental task that I look very much forward to presenting at the coming AGA. The current parallel crises of the climate and environmental emergency, the social, health, and economic crises, of rising inequality and poverty and increasing precariousness of work in Europe, must be dealt with through a transformation process that leaves no one behind. SOLIDAR now firmly recognises that the social and climate and environmental justice are mutually exclusive and reinforcing. We cannot have one without the other. SOLIDAR has a unique position to bridge the remaining gap between social, environmental and political actors in relation to the need for a just transition and to inspire our members to rally behind the same cause in their respective countries. 2020 has also been a year in which SOLIDAR are finding firmer organisational ground to stand on and we have started a clear path to organisational and financial sustainability. To succeed in this endeavour, we will have to continue to work and support each other as a family of progressive civil society.

Thank you to the staff and to all our members for the work done, it is inspiring to read about it, and thank you for welcoming me so kindly. I look forward to continuing this political journey together in the coming years!

## 2020-21 Highlights



### THE NETWORK

- 56 members
- 29 countries (26 European)



### EVENTS

- +10 online public events
- 30 VIP guests



### PUBLICATIONS

- 15 Publications, 7 Policy papers
- 3 Monitors: 1 per pillar



### EU PROJECTS

- Involved in 13 active projects



### GEOGRAPHICAL REACH

- 37 country/region case studies



### MEMBERS CAPACITY BUILDING

- 6 Study visits/Trainings
- 8 Pillar meetings



### OUR POSITIONS

- 10 Statements
- 61 News items



### SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

- +10k followers

## Our members

### Full Members:

1. [Asamblea de Cooperación por la Paz](#) (ACPP), Spain
2. [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. [Foundation for European Progressive Studies](#) (FEPS), EU
9. [Fagligt Internationalt Center](#) (FIC), Denmark
10. [Foundation Max van der Stoep](#) (FMS), The Netherlands
11. [Fonds voor Ontwikkelingsamenwerking - Socialistische Solidariteit](#) (FOS), Belgium
12. [Humanitas](#), The Netherlands
13. [International Federation of Workers' Education Associations](#) (IFWEA), South Africa
14. [Instituto Sindical de Cooperacion al Desarrollo](#) (ISCOD), Spain
15. [International Solidarity Foundation](#) (ISF - Solidaarisuus), Finland
16. [La Liga Española de la Educación y la Cultura Popular](#) (La Liga Española), Spain
17. [La Ligue de l'Enseignement](#) (La Ligue), France
18. [Movimiento por la Paz, el Desarme y la Libertad](#) (MPDL), Spain
19. [Solidarité Syndicale](#) (OGBL), Luxembourg
20. [Olof Palme International Center](#) (OPIC), Sweden
21. [Solidar Suisse](#), Switzerland
22. [Solidarité Laïque](#), France
23. [Volunteering Matters](#), United Kingdom



Affiliate Members:

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. [Asociatia pentru Dialog, Ocupare si Migratie \(CONNECT\)](#), Romania
6. [Berufsförderungsinstitut Oberösterreich \(BFI OÖ\)](#), Austria
7. Baltic Platform comprising:
  - [Johannes Mihkelsoni Keskus \(JMK\)](#), Estonia;
  - [Latvian Trade Union of Education and Science Employees \(LIZDA\)](#), Latvia;
  - [Lithuanian Labour Education Society \(LLES\)](#), Lithuania
8. [Central and Eastern European Network for Gender Issues \(CEE Gender Network\)](#), Slovenia/Croatia
9. [Community Development Institute \(CDI\)](#), North Macedonia
10. [Center for Peace Studies \(CMS\)](#), Croatia
11. [Czech Council on Foreign Relations - Rada Pro Mezinarodni Vztahy \(CCFR\)](#), Czech Republic
12. [DGB-Bildungswerk \(DGB BW\)](#), Germany
13. [IFSI-FGTB](#), Belgium
14. [Initiative for Development and Cooperation \(IDC\)](#), Serbia
15. [Institute for Social Integration \(ISI\)](#), Bulgaria
16. [Instituto de Soldadura e Qualidade \(ISQ\)](#), Portugal
17. [Institut für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik \(ISS\)](#), Germany
18. [International Union of Tenants \(IUT\)](#)
19. [Istituto Sindacale di Cooperazione allo Sviluppo \(ISCOS\)](#), Italy
20. [Multicultural Center Prague \(MCK\)](#), Czech Republic
21. [NEXUS Emilia Romagna](#), Italy
22. [Pour la Solidarité \(PLS\)](#), Belgium
23. [Progetto Sud](#), Italy
24. [Rede Sem Fronteiras](#), Portugal - Brazil
25. [Samaritan International \(SAMI\)](#)
26. [Solsoc \(SolSoc\)](#), Belgium
27. [Solidarity Overseas Service \(SOS\)](#), Malta
28. [Union Aid Abroad \(APHEDA\)](#), Australia
29. [Volkshilfe Österreich Bundesverband \(VH\)](#), Austria
30. [WEA](#), United Kingdom
31. [Willi-Eichler Akademie \(WEA\)](#), Germany



## Our Board

### President

Francisca Sauquillo - [Movimiento por la Paz - MPDL](#), Spain

### Vice-President

Sergio Bassoli - [CGIL](#), Italy

### Treasurer

Vice- President Sergio Bassoli acts as Treasurer, until end of the mandate of the current Board (2021).

### Board members

- Jean-Michel Ducomte, [La Ligue de l'enseignement](#), France
- Claus Larsen Jensen, [Forum for International Cooperation](#), Denmark
- Isabelle Palanchon, [CEMEA](#), France
- Francesca Chiavacci, [ARCI](#), Italy
- Zuzana Schreiberova, [Multicultural Center Prague](#), Czech Republic
- Klaus Thieme, [SOLIDAR Suisse](#), Switzerland
- Alain Canone, [Solidarité Laïque](#), France
- Anna Sundström, [Olof Palme International Center](#), Sweden
- María del Rosario Sánchez, [La Liga Española de la Educación](#) (Cádiz), Spain

## Partnerships

### European Parliament Political Groups

SOLIDAR Foundation has continued the close cooperation with the **S&D Group** to promote among policy-makers our key advocacy messages. Over the reporting period, we disseminated the findings of our annual publication 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. Over the reporting period, SOLIDAR Foundation has also strengthened its relations with the **Greens/EFA Group**, starting a promising cooperation for a wider outreach to policy-makers. SOLIDAR Foundation is regularly in contact with Advisors and MEPs (mainly CULT Committee).

### Trade Unions

Over the past year, Foundation has been cooperating closely with ETUCE, achieving mutually reinforcing strategic messages and synergies in voicing them publicly as well as in policy proposals. As a result, the alliance of SOLIDAR Foundation with the Unions is now more consistent and regular. SOLIDAR continues to deepen our cooperation with the ETUC in several arenas and processes. Finding common positions and ways forward in the work 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.

### Foundation for European Progressive Studies

FEPS and SOLIDAR Foundation are engaged on a partnership basis. For the second year, the 2021 edition of our annual publication "Citizenship & Lifelong Learning Monitor" was released and its results 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, including conferences and WGs. In particular, the launch of the 2021-2027 programming period and the revision of strategic frameworks such as the European Education Area and the Digital Education Action Plan, the Skills Agenda and the Green Competences Framework have been the focus of the past year.

### **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.

### **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.

## Education and lifelong learning: Building learning societies

**We work towards creating an inclusive learning society based on openness and democracy, where all members have a chance to participate in lifelong and life-wide learning opportunities.** An educated citizenry forms an indispensable part of a democratic society and is a prerequisite for active citizenship.

**SOLIDAR Foundation** advocates for ensuring that its vision is reflected in the structure of strategic frameworks such as the European Education Area to enable personal emancipation; the enhancement of an individual's full civic, social, and economic participation in society and the development of human talents – to ensure that everyone achieves the maximum according to their abilities. To achieve inclusiveness in participation to the democratic dimension of communities across Europe, SOLIDAR monitors and advocates for the promotion of citizenship and common values of freedom, tolerance, and non-discrimination through education, as outlined in the dedicated 2015 Declaration of the Education Ministers Council in Paris. Our network looks at the Conference on the Future of Europe and similar initiatives as processes for enhanced civic engagement in Europe and fora for the involvement of CSOs in the debate.

SOLIDAR strives to ensure that everyone is prepared to

actively participate in a fast-paced and constantly changing society, especially by means of developing skills and competences through all types of education, in a lifelong and life-wide manner, for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, for adapting to the digital revolution and for pursuing environmental and climate justice. It does so by ensuring that such aspects do not fall through the cracks of initiatives such as the European Green Deal, the Digital Education Action Plan, the Updated Skills Agenda and the AI White Paper and the Regulatory Framework for AI, and by promoting transformative global citizenship education.

### Some VIPs involved in our events and work

- MEPs Victor Negrescu, Marcos Ros Sempere, Evin Incir, Gabi Bischoff.
- Prof. Jernej Pikalo (former Minister Education Slovenia)
- Rilli Lappalainen (President of CONCORD)
- Brikena Xhomaqi (co-chair EESC Liaison Group and Director of LLLP), Representatives of DG EAC and DG DEVCO, Jean-Luc Vanraes (Vice President European Assembly of Regions)

### Main projects

- [Erasmus+ \(Operating Grant\) 1/1/2018 –31/12/2021 \(prolonged\)](#)

Promoting the cross-sectoral cooperation between stakeholders involved in education and training; Education and Lifelong learning Forum (ELF); Activities of ELF.

- [ECO-IN - Algorithm for New Ecological Approaches to Inclusion](#); Erasmus+; 01/01/2020 – 31/08/2023

Setting up good practices for the whole-school approach enabling learning environments to be more inclusive and, at the same time, developing effective monitoring tools. The project will draw conclusions in the form of a white paper for policy makers.

- [#YouthAgainstCyberBullying](#); Erasmus+; 02/09/2019 –30/06/2022 (prolonged)



International Training for young people to become multipliers at the national level of anti-cyber bullying techniques. Development of a dedicated application. Drafting of an e-brochure addressing the issue of cyber bullying among young people.

- NEW! [IMAGES – I Manage and Empower My Skills](#); Erasmus+; 01/10/2020-31/03/2023

Supporting managers of not-for-profit, third sector organisations to identify their competences, their further developmental needs and providing them with opportunities to develop their skill set to the benefit of their organisation as well as for transnational cooperation between CSOs.

- NEW! [SMILE - Social Meaning Impact through Lifelong Learning universities in Europe](#); Erasmus+; 01/12/2020-30/11/2023

Achieving inclusive higher education, focusing on migrant background, women in leadership and socio-economic background divergences when evaluating the way to boost inclusiveness. Improving participation, progress and achievement of disadvantaged learners in higher education institutions.

- NEW! [Value – Solidarity Matters](#); Europe for Citizens; 01/03/2021-31/08/2022

Carried out by a consortium comprising 11 partners and coordinated by SOLIDAR Foundation, the project provides with a deeper understanding for the participants involved of the role of solidarity for societal well-being. Through the 9 Solidarity Labs (Action Trainings), the project fosters civic and democratic engagement at EU level and the debate on the future of Europe.

- NEW! [TRANSVAL-EU - Validation of transversal skills across Europe](#); Erasmus+; 2021-2023

Making the validation processes of transversal skills acquired in non-formal and informal settings explicit and embedding the lessons learned in validation and guidance policies. SOLIDAR Foundation is an associate partner providing with expertise.

## Highlights

- **Annual publication - [Citizenship and Lifelong Learning Monitor, 2020](#) edition**
  - 11 members & partners involved
  - 100 participants in the Conference
  - 30 stakeholders actively involved in the dissemination
  - 50 policy-makers reached out for dissemination
- **Policy Paper on Global Citizenship Education**
  - 8 members involved
  - Presented at the LLLWeek in partnership with Bridge47 and CONCORD Europe



- **Position Paper on Artificial Intelligence**
  - Basis for the contribution to 10+ conferences, debates, amendments and public consultations
- **5 Briefing Notes**
  - Informing the membership on major policy developments at the EU level and gathering their feedback
- Re-envisioning the future of SOLIDAR Foundation to become the Learning Hub of the network: Dedicated workshop with 20+ members and regular consultation and gathering of feedback.

## Communication highlights

### Outreach in numbers



#### FACEBOOK

3.5k followers  
90k reach



#### TWITTER

5.5k followers  
644k impressions



#### YOUTUBE

78k total channel views



#### E-MAILING

2.5k subscribers



#### WEBSITE

25k users  
35k sessions  
76% login from desktop



#### LINKEDIN

1k followers  
700 organic impressions/month

## Members' intranet

A novel way to stay connected inside the network! Stemming from demands of our members in the Fora meetings, SOLIDAR & SOLIDAR Foundation activated a Basecamp project environment to work together with, but also amongst, members.

With the objective of making collaboration simpler, the tool is being tested in 2021 by the "pioneers" who have registered to be part of the platform and try out all its functionalities.

The screenshot displays the Basecamp intranet interface with several key sections:

- Docs & Files:** Includes 'SAF Forum minutes', 'RECORDINGS', and 'Social Rights Monitor'.
- Schedule:** Features a calendar entry for 'Tue, Jun 8' titled 'SPRING Project - Launch conference: Promoting evidence based Community of Practices on migrant integration' from 3:00pm to 5:00pm.
- Message Board:** Lists several discussions with icons for 'Strategic dialogue on the European Semester', 'Consultation - European Forum on Migration 2021', 'Workshop "Roadmap to quality employment through a', 'Webinar on Collective bargaining & adequate', and 'Consultation Legal Migration'.
- Campfire:** A section for 'Chat casually with the group, ask random questions, and share stuff without ceremony'.
- Automatic Check-ins:** A section for 'Asking 30 people the 1st Monday of each month at 6am. Do you have anything to be featured in this month's SAF newsletter?' with a row of country flags (NL, JA, MA, MD, GB).

## Silver Rose Awards 2020

Due to the COVID19 pandemic, the traditional format of the Silver Rose Award changed to an online event, where [the 2020 winners](#) were interviewed by the Jury who had selected them at the beginning of the year.

The chosen date to celebrate these social justice fighters was 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020, coinciding with the International Human Rights Day, and providing a perfect backdrop for the theme of the ceremony: "A pandemic is no excuse to bypass Human Rights".



The 4 awardees exchanged views with **Evin Incir (MEP Sweden)**, **Zita Gurmai (PES Women)**, **Esther Lynch (ETUC)** and **Julie Ward (former MEP UK)** on topics related to their work, addressing issues of gender, migration, trade unionism and lifelong learning in a lively debate.

The [ceremony was livestreamed](#) and reached 513 viewers, apart from the more than 100 registered participants, and counted on the established support of the **S&D Group in the European Parliament and PES**.

For 2021, the format will be adapted and possibly linked to the [Global Progressive Forum](#).

**solidar**  
FOUNDATION

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**SOLIDAR Foundation** is the cooperation platform of SOLIDAR; a European network of NGOs working to advance social justice in Europe and worldwide. SOLIDAR brings together over 50 member organisations based in 25 EU members states and in 6 candidate countries. We work together in Social Affairs, International Cooperation and Lifelong Learning. The Building Learning Societies pillar hosts the work of SOLIDAR Foundation.

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