

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 Foundation 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 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








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

Treasurer

Susanne Drake – Willi-Eichler-Akademie, Germany

Board members

Simon Parkinson – WEA, United Kingdom

Isabelle Palanchon – CEMÉA France

SECRETARIAT

Secretary General: Mikael Leyi

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

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 WORK WITH:



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022



JANUARY

SOLIDAR Foundation
Statement for International
Day of Education:
Is observance all we can
do? Support teachers &
quality education for all!

MARCH

SOLIDAR Foundation
Publication: Citizenship
and Lifelong Learning
Monitor 2021 European
overview and 11 country
reports

MAY

SOLIDAR Foundation Publication:
Learning for citizenship never
ends: Repository of Good
Practices on Citizenship and
Lifelong Learning (from the
Citizenship & Lifelong Learning
Monitor editions 2015-2021)

JUNE

SOLIDAR Foundation Roundtable:
Peace Education as a Lifelong
Learning Means to European
Democracy

JULY

Final Conference of ERASMUS+ Project:
A Bottom-up Approach for a Safer
Online Environment: The Results of
#YouthAgainstCyberBullying

Final Event and Conclusions on the VALUE
Project – Solidarity Matters: Celebrating
a Solidary European Citizenship with the
publication of WebDocumentary as a result
from the 9 Solidarity Labs (Action Trainings)
organized in Greece, Romania, France, Italy,
Croatia, Estonia, Spain, Sweden and Belgium

SEPTEMBER

SOLIDAR Foundation Study Visit:
Education for Inclusive and
Democratic Societies
SOLIDAR Foundation Statement:
An inclusive journey to peace: Peace
Education as a public good

OCTOBER

First Training Session
of Global Educators
Development Forum
(GEDF) programme

NOVEMBER

SOLIDAR Foundation Policy Paper:
Peace education in the context of
the Global Citizenship Education
(GCE)

First Edition of
EUROGAP Training Programme



EU PROJECTS

Involvement in 8 EU Funded Projects



ADVOCACY

Launched a Citizenship and Lifelong Learning Monitor 2021



EVENTS

Organised and co-organised 6 events with members and partners



SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

Over 12K followers across our social media channels



POLICY

8 policy documents including Policy Pills and Policy Briefs

SOLIDAR FOUNDATION'S POLICY WORK FOR MEMBERS

EDUCATION PILLS



SOLIDAR Foundation's first game tracing the development of EU policy on Education for Environmental Sustainability (EES)



SOLIDAR Foundation game on Developments of the Updated Digital Education Action Plan (DEAP)



The Aftermath of the Conference on the Future of Europe: A Turning Point for Citizenship Education?

An interview with MEP Domènec Ruiz Devesa, S&D Group



Culture for Social Inclusion: How can culture contribute to social inclusion and wellbeing?



Peace Education: What is Peace Education and how does it work in practice?

OUR POLICY AND ADVOCACY WORK IN 2022

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 strategic 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**.

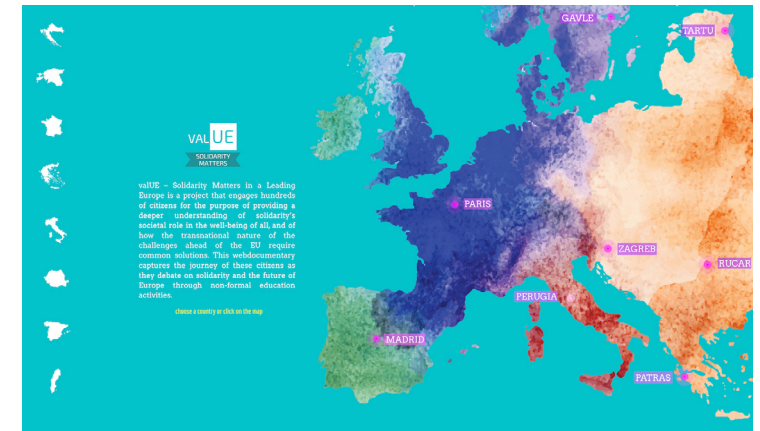
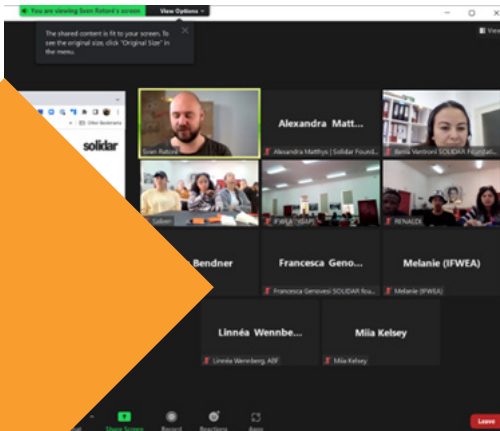
In 2022 we also published the 6th and last edition of our flagship publication: the **Citizenship and Lifelong Learning Monitor 2021**, zooming in on Education for Environmental Sustainability (EES). To highlight the work of SOLIDAR Foundation's membership, we presented the **Citizenship and Lifelong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



#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.



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



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.



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!**



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.

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.

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.





“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:



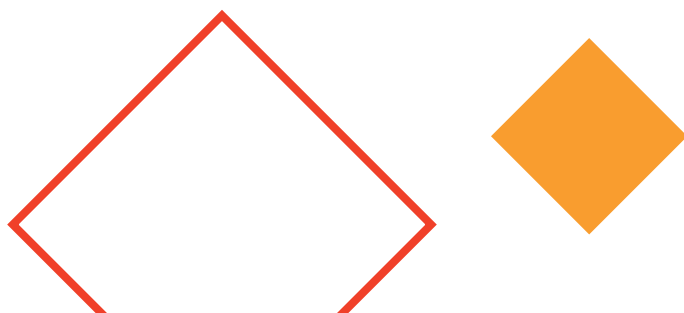
Lifetime Achievement Award Winner: Lee Cheuk-yan

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”.



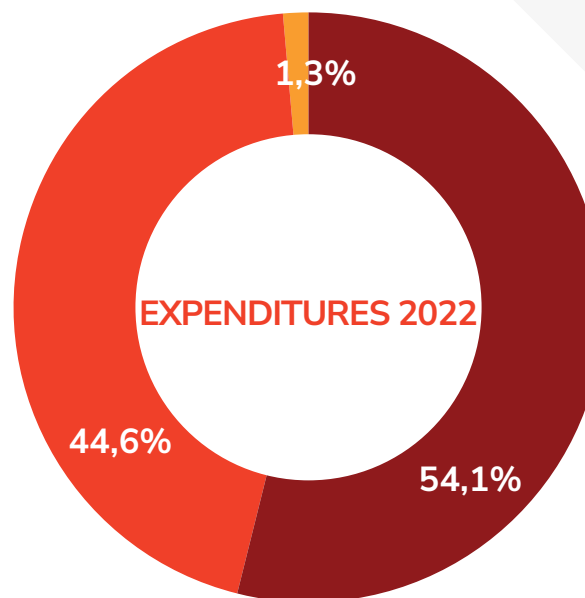
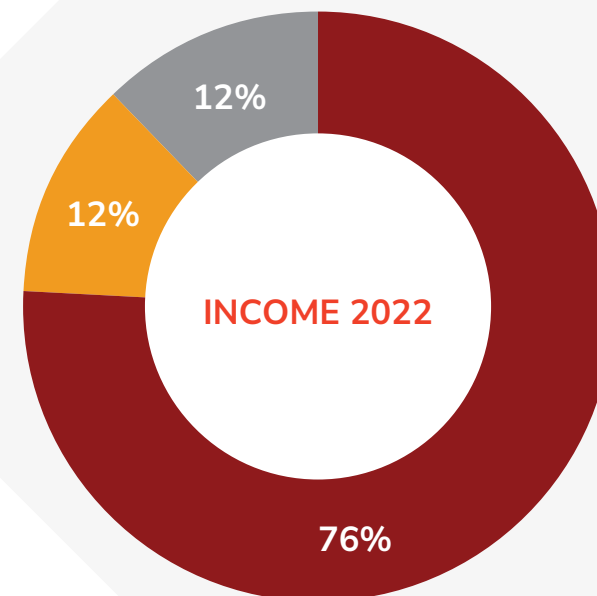
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Solidar foundation continued to pursue its mission with passion and purpose in 2022, and increased its turnover with 22% compared to 2021, mainly due to the development of new activities with members (Eurogap capacity building) and membership fees.

The 2022 operating result shows a positive result of 10.749€.

INCOME 2022	296.079 €
■ Project funded by European Commission	224.549 €
■ Membership fee	36.000 €
■ Other income	35.530 €

EXPENDITURES 2022	285.330 €
■ Staff costs	154.321 €
■ Activities	127.323 €
■ General costs	3.686 €



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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, Senza scuola non c'è futuro - Luca Prestia, Shutterstock.com

Back cover images: Mathieu CUGNOT © European Union 2022, Ukraine war protest in Warsaw - Damian Lugowski, Shutterstock.com

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