



ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2023

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FOREWORD BY SOLIDAR PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY GENERAL



2023 was the last full year of this European Commission and Parliament. It was an intense legislative period in the midst of perpetual crises. On several crucial issues, it has done more and gone further than ever before. We would have liked it to be even more progressive, more outspoken, and bolder, but from many angles, the glass remains half full, not half empty.

Throughout 2023, the [Green Deal](#) and the [Action Plan of the European Pillar of Social Rights](#) have provided much of the inspiration behind a practical avalanche of directives, regulations, decisions, opinions, and recommendations. They also underpin much of the logic behind the EU's revolutionary borrowing capacity (from an institutional point of view) and most budgetary decisions. We are convinced that this work must continue towards a truly progressive vision. A vision that focuses on the necessary transformation of our economies and societies, and on the inequalities that underpin so many of the injustices of our time. A vision that calls for a just transition framework within which all the Union's actions and decisions must take place. One that is sufficiently bold and rapid, in line with what science and the times tell us.

Our commitment to a Europe of solidarity continues amidst disappointing developments when it comes to showing a rights-based approach to people fleeing persecution and war. Europe has gone further from its values when approving the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum to be voted in 2024. The Europe we want is a Union that does not turn its back on people in need and that shows the same solidarity to all people on the move, regardless of their skin colour or where they come from.

But there can be no progress, no equality, no transition, no justice, and no freedom without peace. 2023 has been the year where we witnessed thousands of dead and wounded, villages, towns and homes destroyed in the many wars and conflicts tearing the fabric of societies apart around the world. Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine continues with unabated force, and the list grew during the year with the ongoing and deepening wars and conflicts in Israel-Palestine, Nagorno-Karabakh, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Yemen, and many other countries and regions. SOLIDAR has called on the EU and all member states to spare no effort to achieve peace, to maintain development cooperation

and humanitarian assistance to the many in need, and to demonstrate an unequivocal commitment to the multilateral order and the carefully constructed body of international law. Without it, we have nothing.

In 2024, a large part of the world's population will go to the polls. There will be parliamentary or presidential elections in some of the world's major powers, including the EU, the US, India, Russia, Pakistan, South Africa, Indonesia, and Mexico. We are at a crossroads about all the major crises of our time - the climate and environmental emergency, rampant inequality, growing poverty, wars and conflicts. And for all their procedural and structural flaws, the cumulative effect of these upcoming elections has the potential to tilt the future of us all towards more destruction or the beginning of the implementation of solutions.

Let's make sure that we, as a progressive civil society movement, play our part.

Let's not underestimate the role we can play, the strength we have, or the importance of our voice. Let's do what we can to make sure that the EU leads the way to a more progressive future.

Let's do what we can to mobilise against bigotry, chauvinism and denial of our times.

Let's inspire people to act and organise for a different, more hopeful vision of the future.

Always in solidarity,



*Anne Van Lancker, President of SOLIDAR
Mikael Leyi, Secretary General of SOLIDAR*

ABOUT SOLIDAR



SOLIDAR is a European network of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) with a global reach working to advance social justice through a just transition in Europe and worldwide.

Our over 50 member organisations are based in **24 countries (19 of which are EU countries)** and include national CSOs in Europe and abroad. Our greater family also entails partner organisations active at the international level as well as local organisations spread across more than 40 countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

SOLIDAR represents and amplifies the voices and demands of its members and partners at the European and international level. SOLIDAR organises its work for lifelong and life-wide learning through the SOLIDAR Foundation for progressive education and citizenry participation. The network is brought together by its shared values of solidarity, equality and participation, and its mission that we achieve more together in solidarity.

Tackling the ongoing climate and environmental crises at the same time as we fight social injustice and inequalities have been SOLIDAR's main political priority since 2020 and is shaping our policy and advocacy work up to 2025. Together with our members and allies, we strive to advance social justice through a socially just green transition in Europe and beyond, putting people and the planet at the core of the political agenda.

HOW WE WORK

1. We advocate for social justice through a just green transition.

We bring our large network of members together to influence European and international policy-making. SOLIDAR voices our members' concerns and their priorities at any relevant opportunity before European institutions and stakeholders, providing our members with the ability to shape the debate at the EU level and engage with policy makers and stakeholders. In so doing, we constitute a counterweight to authoritarian, nationalistic, and right-wing populist forces, as well as to conservative and neoliberal interests.

2. We build and share our expertise through capacity building for our members and partners.

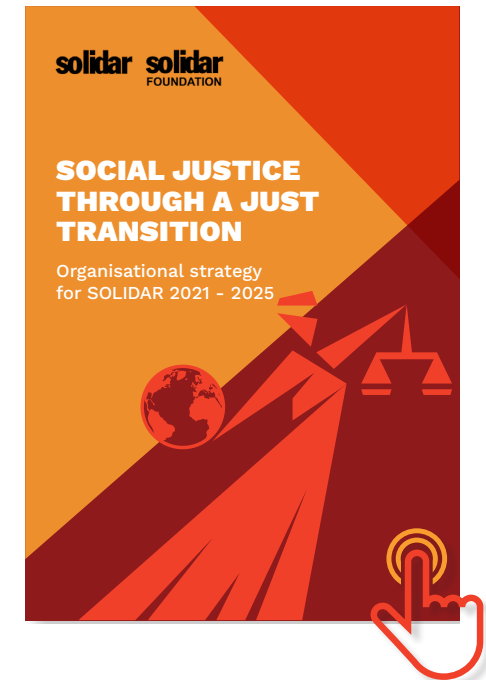
We organise trainings, conferences, seminars and roundtables to fine-tune our knowledge and strengthen our role as experts in our key thematic areas. We provide support to our members related to EU decision-making processes, access to funding, and much more.

3. We foster alliances and dialogue to increase cooperation with our members and partners.

We create spaces of exchange for our members and partners to share best practices, knowledge, and expertise to advocate for a fair and sustainable Europe. We act as a bridge between political parties, civil society, and trade unions to facilitate dialogue and cooperation. This entails coordinating regular platforms of exchange between members and partners, identifying synergies between different members and partners' activities, sharing resources and contacts, initiating joint action, and more.

SOLIDAR STRATEGY 2021-2025

We are just past the middle of the implementation of the Strategy of SOLIDAR & SOLIDAR Foundation adopted in 2020 with a five-year focus. This strategic direction was based on the recognition that social justice and climate & environmental action are inseparable, and it is even more evident today. There are no jobs on a dead planet, nor a welfare system, vibrant democracy, or a functioning state. The political, social, and economic processes, through which we can achieve our progressive objectives, lies in the pursuit of a socially just green transition. SOLIDAR views a just transition as the guarantee that the transition to a green, digital, and social economy eliminates poverty and reduces inequalities, especially for the vulnerable communities. The crises that are currently unravelling demand an active citizenry that articulates collective answers and builds strong alliances for a progressive alternative.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

January Final conference of the Spring project



A two-year journey into sustainable integration practices came to an end – Spring final conference: presentation of tools and lessons learnt.



February Global Just Transition Training of Trainers

Jointly organised with the Olof Palme International Centre (OPIC), with members and partners to become trainers as well as to create alliances around Just Transition at regional and national level. The training handbook **Building alliances for a just transition to a climate friendly and fair economy** was developed.



July Call to Action Just Transition: A New Social Contract for the Wellbeing of People and the Planet

At the high-level event **"Coming together for a Just Transition"** organised by SOLIDAR, the Foundation for European Progressive Studies and Movimiento Por La Paz (MPDL) in Spain in July 2023, the Belgian and Spanish Ministers for Climate, Zakia Khattabi and Teresa Ribera, signed a **"Call to Action"** presented by SOLIDAR and several members of the Alliance.

September ELF & SAF Peer Learning Activity: **Social Portrait of Patras, Greece**

SOLIDAR and SOLIDAR Foundation policy teams were hosted by DAFNI KEK in Patras, Greece. During the Peer Learning Activity, DAFNI KEK presented its work whose aim is to foster a more engaged and empowered society through access and participation in non-formal and informal learning, identification of skills and migrant integration and empowerment.

March The Future of the Participatory and Deliberative Democracy Workshop



This event was co-organised by SOLIDAR, European Environmental Bureau and European Movement International during the EESC's Civil Society Days week, to discuss the importance of **people's participation to complement representative democracy in Europe**.



October Silver Rose Awards Ceremony

At the presence of over 150 people from the EU institutions, civil society and trade union movements, SOLIDAR and its organising partners awarded the Just Transition and Lifetime Achievements Awards respectively to Justiça Ambiental from Mozambique and Margot Wallstrom from Sweden.



May Solidar at Sabir Festival 2023: **Against Walls, For A Welcoming Europe**

A SOLIDAR delegation was present at this year's Sabir Festival, taking place from 11th to 13th May in Trieste, Italy. Sabir, the festival of Mediterranean cultures, is co-organised yearly by SOLIDAR members ARCI and CGIL, along with Italian organisations ACLI, Caritas Italiana, ASGI and Carta di Roma.

June Annual General Assembly

Once a year, SOLIDAR gathers its members in Brussels to make decisions about advocacy, membership and finances. This year, the members came together to approve and vote SOLIDAR Manifesto for the 2024 European Elections.



November Launch of Policy Paper:

WE ALL BELONG: The role of GCE in supporting democratic participation and addressing current global challenges



During a policy roundtable organised in the European Parliament, SOLIDAR Foundation launched its annual policy paper, discussing recent policy developments connected to GCE at European level, including a reflection on the relevance of GCE delivered in informal and non-formal education for supporting democratic participation and addressing the current global challenges.

December European Economic and Social Committee Opinion **"Advancing a Just Transition Policy Frameworks: What measures are necessary?"**

With its more than 70 concrete policy measures, the European Economic and Social Committee Opinion **"Advancing a Just Transition Policy Frameworks: What measures are necessary?"** adopted in December 2023 is currently considered one of the best EU policy documents on just transition. As advisors to the rapporteur, we at **SOLIDAR** drafted the text of this Opinion with significant contributions from our membership and the European Alliance for a Just Transition.

FACTS AND FIGURES 2023



41K
WEBSITE VISITS



36
NEWSLETTERS
with **2.6K** subscribers



14K
FOLLOWERS
on social media



21 Briefings,
Publications
and Reports
including **3** Training
Materials for members



9 FUNDING
APPLICATIONS



28 EVENTS ORGANISED

(including policy roundtables, trainings, members meetings, conferences and workshops)



OUR POLICY AND ADVOCACY WORK



SOCIAL RIGHTS IN EUROPE

In 2023, the main EU policy developments focused on reforming the EU economic governance, advancing social rights following the initiatives under the EPSR Action Plan, and regulating migration.

- The Commission put forward a long-overdue **reform for the EU's economic governance** to strengthen public debt sustainability and promote sustainable and inclusive growth.
- There were significant developments concerning the Directive on improving working conditions for platform workers, leading to a crucial **political agreement** reached between the European Parliament, the European Commission and the EU Member States. This agreement will eventually rejected by MS in 2024, but represented one of the milestones in the process.
- Some of the pending initiatives of the **European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR)** and its **Action Plan**, including **Council Recommendations on Minimum Income** and the **Social Economy Framework conditions** were put forward.

However, the level of ambition of the initiatives introduced by the EU in these areas could have been higher and the involvement of civil society organisations more meaningful and structured, especially in the area of economic governance.

In the current landscape, our overarching principle is clear: people and the planet should be at the centre of all our efforts:

- We have contributed to assessing the level of implementation of the EPSR at the national and the European level and, through the analysis of the **Social Rights Monitor**, we have produced policy recommendations for EU-level decisionmakers.
- We advocated for a review of the EU's economic governance framework that takes a more forward-looking and holistic approach, prioritising a well-being economy over economic growth. This was set out in a **policy paper**.
- We called for a world in which the movement of people, whether across borders or within their country, is treated as a common human feature and fundamental rights are guaranteed. We've drafted a **list of demands and proposed concrete actions** to support this.
- We underlined the key role of Social and Solidarity Economy through exchange of best practices among our members, organised **study visits**, conducted **capacity building** initiatives, shared knowledge, and **engaged in discussions with different stakeholders**, including policymakers at local, regional and European levels.
- We continued pushing, together with our allies, **for better working conditions and the protection of social rights** in platform economy, responding to the aggressive narrative of big digital platforms.





THE NEW SOCIAL RIGHTS MONITOR 2023 A map to monitor social rights and civic space in Europe

In 2023 we launched the first [Social Rights Monitor](#) (SRM) with a new methodology. The SRM was turned into an interactive web map giving an overview of the implementation of the EPSR at the national level to social stakeholders in Europe. Its analysis is drawn by SOLIDAR's members input and results in policy recommendations targeting EU decision makers.

You can read a summary of the main European trends and the recommendations in [this leaflet](#).



INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING



The European Year of Skills and the mid-term review of the European Education Area and the Erasmus+ programme have provided important opportunities to highlight the central role of education and lifelong learning in achieving a just transition in 2023.

Much remains to be done to ensure that public funding for education is prioritised, and to support the EU's ambition to create a European space for learning that is inclusive and that recognises the role of non-formal education in promoting transversal competences.

To achieve this:

- We focused our advocacy work on the promotion of Global Citizenship Education (GCE) through our **policy paper** and the resulting evidence-based recommendations endorsed by over 15 EU stakeholders, and by promoting debates on the topic through a policy roundtable and public conference. This was further supported by the activities organised by our members on the ground, as part of the AKA project.
- We worked extensively on how to make education policies more inclusive with an intersectional approach, thanks to the **SMILE** and **ECO-IN projects**, which helped us lay the foundations for a dedicated position paper that we will focus on in 2024.
- We highlighted the importance of transversal competences, their validation and the role of civil society organisations in this regard, by organising debates at the European level based on the results of the **IMAGES** and **TRANSVAL-EU projects** and in the framework of the **LLLWeek**.
- We kick-started to work more intensively on Digital Citizenship Education through the activities that took place in the framework of the **ECHO Network** project this year.



SOLIDAR FOUNDATION'S POLICY PILLS: A TOOL FOR OUR MEMBERSHIP

We developed 2 Policy Pills in 2023 which are interactive policy briefings that aim to inform our membership on current developments concerning Education and Training in the EU.

- The first Policy Pill takes a closer look at Global Citizenship Education (GCE) which has been a central topic to the work of SOLIDAR Foundation membership across Europe and beyond. **This Policy Pill** presents the main takeaways of the SOLIDAR Foundation's **GCE Policy Paper**, but also includes valuable policy actions on the topic. It gives an overview of the **Joint Declaration of Advocacy for GCE**, based on the evidence-based Policy Recommendations.
- The second Policy Pill looks at the European Year of Skills through a social justice lens. The **Policy Pill** not only presents, in an interactive way, the proposal and its legislative journey, but also builds upon the bigger picture of policy coherence at the EU level, giving insights into key legislative initiatives for education and learning as well as the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR), principles of which the EYS is aligned to.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



The Latin America and the Caribbean region is an important ally to the EU in terms of investment, trade and cooperation in key areas such as biodiversity, the defense of multilateralism and strategic raw materials. Yet, the EU's Trade and Investment Policy cannot replace international cooperation.

In 2023, SOLIDAR mobilized with its Members and Allies to ensure the EU bi-regional relations with the Latin America and Caribbean countries is rooted in a common fight against inequalities and for just transition for both regions.

In 2023, after a relative silence on the bi-regional agenda, the EU and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (CELAC) renewed their strategic partnership with the holding of the **3rd EU-CELAC Summit in July 2023**. The Summit was preceded by the adoption of the **Joint Communication "A New Agenda for EU-LAC relations"**, which sets out the EU priorities towards this bi-regional partnership: *deepening political dialogue; completing the network of trade agreements; working together on transitions (ecological, digital, and social); addressing security; promoting peace, democracy and human rights; and building a people-centred partnership.*

With a large number of members and partners active across Latin America and the Caribbean, SOLIDAR contributed to shape the European CSOs asks to the EU. It did so by

1. Developing its own Narrative and co-drafting the **EU-LAC Working Group joint position paper, calling for:**
 - Prioritising a just transition that puts care societies, accountability, the fight for tax justice and the social impact of investments;
 - Ensuring long-term engagement and commitment with civil society in the renewed EU-CELAC partnership through an official multi-stakeholder monitoring mechanism;
 - Focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 10 and 12 - promoting equality and development - while promoting its own green transition;
 - Continuing to shape the bi-regional agenda with active participation of civil society organisations in order to continue to engage with the EU and the CELAC in the run-up to the next Summit.

2. Participating in the EU LAC CSOs Forum in June 2023 and in a panel on fighting inequalities;
3. Co-organising a public event on the need to move away from an extractivist approach to a one based on a just transition for both Europe and Latin America.

The work done in 2023 will feed SOLIDAR's engagement in preparation of the 2025 EU-CELAC Summit in Colombia.



SCALING UP MEMBERS' AND PARTNERS' VOICE: JOINT ADVOCACY ACTION ON EU DOUBLE STANDARDS

Working together with member organizations and their partners has been a successful advocacy model: national members can get access to the European political arena, partners can amplify their voice and asks, SOLIDAR's representativeness is strengthened vis à vis its institutional targets.

In 2023, together with our Belgian Member FOS and the **Women on Farms Project (WFP)**, a South African feminist organization, we organised an advocacy action in Brussels to call for the eradication of these harmful substances from South African vineyards.

Indeed, while the European Union has banned highly hazardous pesticides from agriculture within its borders, due to their proven, or strongly suspected toxicity to human health, biodiversity, and the environment, such pesticides are still being produced by some EU Member States and exported to third countries, such as South Africa.

Through meetings with EU representatives, Members of the European Parliament and European Trade Unions the action raised awareness on the EU's inconsistent standards in pesticides' trade and the common fight of European and South Africa workers for their fundamental right to safety and health at work.





A SOCIALLY JUST TRANSITION

While the social dimension of the European Green Deal has moved from the margins to the centre of policy debates, EU policies for a just transition have made little progress in 2023. The Social Climate Fund, adopted in May, is a step forward as it aims to mitigate the impact of a new CO2 tax on buildings and road transport (called ETS2), but the amounts are far from adequate. The Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU from July to December 2023 has put the spotlight on the Spanish Just Transition Strategy as a good practice for other European countries.

In 2023, SOLIDAR has doubled down on its policy and advocacy work to accelerate a just transition towards more equitable and sustainable economies and societies.

- In the context of the [European Alliance for a Just Transition](#), we have developed positive just transition messages, outlining how a just transition can improve the quality of life and well-being of people in Europe and beyond.
- We called for a New Social Contract with a just transition at its core, outlined in a [Call to Action](#) endorsed by more than 30 stakeholders and presented to two Ministers for Climate at a [high-level](#) event in Spain in July.
- We defined what an EU policy framework for a just transition would look like and included our key demands in the [European Economic and Social Committee's](#) opinion on just transition, requested by the Belgian EU Presidency and adopted in December.

All these efforts were crucial to raise the profile of just transition and to advance concrete policy recommendations together with our partners.



OUR COLLECTIVE CALL TO ACTION:

An EU policy framework for a just transition as a blueprint for social and economic transformation

In December 2023, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) adopted the Exploratory Opinion “**Advancing the EU’s just transition policy framework: what measures are necessary**” at the request of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU, whose priorities include the promotion of a just transition. SOLIDAR **welcomes** this Opinion and urges policymakers to use it as a **blueprint for the social and economic transformation of our time**. A just transition must be at the centre of the next EU political agenda and the development and implementation of an EU policy framework for a just transition must be a priority for policy-makers. At this crucial time of elections and institutional renewal, SOLIDAR calls on all stakeholders to join forces to make this framework a reality and to use the EESC opinion as a blueprint to ensure that the transition to a sustainable future is not only ambitious, but also just and inclusive.

CIVIC SPACE, CIVIL DIALOGUE AND DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



In 2023 there were many developments in terms of political processes regarding the civic space and the civil dialogue.

- SOLIDAR actively contributed to the **Civil Society State of the Union Report** launched by **Civil Society Europe** (CSE) which assessed the state of the EU in several areas and produced concrete policy recommendations to improve the situation. We have been actively participating in the **campaign launched** and led by CSE and **Social Platform** to ensure that the Civic Space and Civil Dialogue are adequately supported by EU representatives in the run-up to and after the European Elections in 2024.
- We continued our work of monitoring civic space in 7 EU countries through the **CIVICUS Monitor project**, whose **annual report** was published in December.
- We participated in the **Hearings of the EESC on Citizens Panels**, reiterating the message from the **Civil Society Days** that Citizens Panels must be meaningfully organised and must never be a means of bypassing civil dialogue in order to contribute to the participatory dimension of European democracy.



- In early March 2023, in the frame of the EESC Civil Society Days, SOLIDAR together with the European Movement International (EMI), and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) organized **the workshop session on the future of participatory and deliberative democracy**, to discuss the relevance of citizen's participation to complement participatory democracy in Europe. By gathering representatives from different initiatives and organizations, the workshop facilitated discussions on the importance of citizens' engagement in policy-making processes and identified lessons to be learned from the CoFoE.
- As part of the **Real Deal project**, SOLIDAR continued hosting Civil Society Forums for Sustainability bringing together civil society organizations to discuss key topics with EU level policymakers. These topics included the implementation of SDGs in and by the Eu as part of the European Voluntary Review processes, the 2030 Agenda or the future of the European Green Deal (EGD). Some of the following reports were produced as an output from the Forums and presented at EU and UN level events for advocacy purposes, namely **The Civil Society Spotlight report: How far is Europe from achieving the SDGs?** and **the Gap Analysis of the current EGD report**.



MIGRATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

2023 has been a pivotal year for SOLIDAR's Policy and advocacy work on migration and inclusion of migrants. We were able to see the concretisation of some of our advocacy efforts ongoing for years.

- Our joint call for a **meaningful right to change employer for migrant workers** was taken on board in the revision of the Single-Permit Directive.
- The proposal for an EU Talent Pool for non-EU nationals also reflects some of the concerns we raised in ex-ante consultations.
- Regarding the asylum files in the Pact and Migration and Asylum, SOLIDAR has had its heart set on defending the rights of migrants, including refugees, and promoting the idea of a fair distribution of asylum applicants between EU Member States.
- SOLIDAR consolidated its Task Force on Migration and Inclusion in the past year. To make our vision a reality, the Task Force elaborated a list of demands touching on many aspects of the migration cycle: **'Upholding the right to asylum and ensuring unconditional solidarity with all people on the move'**. Eventually, the Task Force had the chance to convene in person in two members-led occasions: the Sabir Festival on Mediterranean cultures in Italy, and a two-day event focusing on the intersection of gender, employability and migration in Portugal. This latter event was also a moment to build our capacity on intersectionality in migrants' rights advocacy.

2023 was marked by intensified cooperation with partners, both institutional and in civil society.

- SOLIDAR notably became a member of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) and actively took part in its thematic and regional working groups. This membership as well as engagement in advocacy networks in Brussels has been instrumental in stepping up the policy and advocacy work regarding mostly the EU Pact on Migration but also the reception of people displaced from Ukraine.
- Besides, we have continued representing EU-level civil society in the European Migration Forum Bureau, organising and opening **the 8th edition of the Forum**. In the double context of erosion of fundamental rights and pre-election period, we stressed that we stand in solidarity with all people on the move. We have contributed to the elaboration of progressive parties' manifestoes, mainstreaming there our vision of a rights- and solidarity- based approach to migration.



SOLIDAR STATEMENT: Upholding the Right to Asylum and Ensuring Unconditional Solidarity with All People on the Move

The SOLIDAR network elaborated in 2023 a call for change in policy and practice regarding migration policies. From sustaining existing human rights commitments to exploring new practices based on solidarity with people on the move, our demands can bring about the structural change we want. Read our position and demands [here!](#)



FLAGSHIP CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS

LAUNCH OF 2024 EUROPEAN ELECTION MANIFESTO



2023 was the year SOLIDAR started its campaigning work for the 2024 European Elections, which will mark the beginning of the new mandate of the European Parliament for 2024-2029.

At the Annual general Assembly on 27 June, SOLIDAR members got together to vote on SOLIDAR Manifesto “We need systemic change - Six progressive asks to deliver a Just Transition” which set the network’s key priorities for the upcoming elections and the aftermath work.

After the launch of the Manifesto, SOLIDAR has engaged in consultations organised by the progressive European political parties such as: European Greens, Party of European Socialists and the European Left to influence the content and commitments taken in their respective Manifestos. Our goal is to make sure that they take our demands on during their mandate. SOLIDAR worked together with its members to plan the campaigning period of 2024, focusing on specific issues such as the calls for a Global Just Transition and for Global Citizenship Education as well as how to mobilise voters at national level, with the slogan “Go Vote for People and the Planet”.

Manifesto available in different languages:



OUR KEY DEMANDS:

1. A socially just transition to carbon neutrality must be at the heart of all policies, with the aim of transforming our societies!

2. End the growing inequalities breaking our social contract – towards a redistributive and wellbeing social and economic system!

3. Migration defines our shared future – we need a rights and solidarity driven European response!

4. The digital revolution defines our lives and our future – we need investments and policies that guarantee freedom, rights and equality!

5. Reactionary, authoritarian, and racist movements are on the rise – we want a Europe for all and with all!

6. Civil society is the foundation of our democracies – protect civic space and guarantee civil dialogue!



SILVER ROSE AWARDS

We are the many; let's never forget that. And Silver Rose is our reward. As Progressives, we recognize and defend both individual and collective struggles. We will succeed if we remain united."

Anne Van Lancker, President of SOLIDAR

On 11th October 2023, SOLIDAR held the **Silver Rose Awards Ceremony**, the annual flagship event organised since the year 2000, together with the progressive family.

This year's ceremony was organised in partnership with the Socialists & Democrats in the European Parliament, the Party of European Socialists (PES), The Foundation of European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC). 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 2023, this ceremony was attended by over 160 participants at the premises of La Tricoterie.

For the second year, the Jury decided to have a special thematic award, in 2023 focusing on Just Transition, a high priority for SOLIDAR as well as for its partners.

Alongside that, we also awarded the lifetime achievement prize, celebrating outstanding figures from the progressive movement worldwide that fight for social rights, social justice, gender equality and decent work.

Discover the winners of the 2023 Silver Rose Awards



Lifetime Achievement Award: Margot Wallström from Sweden

The Lifetime Achievement Award went to **Margot Wallström**, celebrating her outstanding political career and activism in promoting gender equality, social justice, and inclusive policies.

Margot Wallström is a brave, steadfast, principled, and visionary politician and activist. Throughout her political life, she has been fighting for what is right, just, and progressive, be it as part of the Swedish Government, the EU Commission or as a Special Rapporteur for the Secretary General of the United Nations. Often paying a high political price for staying true to her convictions and beliefs.



Just Transition Award Winner: Justiça Ambiental (JA!) from Mozambique

The 2023 Silver Rose Award for a Just Transition went to **Justiça Ambiental (JA!)** for their fight against fossil fuel projects and land grabs in Mozambique. Their struggle to preserve the environment, defend human rights, and protect and mobilise local communities is an inspiration for what a socially Just Transition means for Africa and the world.

Justiça Ambiental is a volunteer-based non-governmental organization founded in 2004, in Mozambique. JA! is part of the Friends of the Earth network.



➔ SOLIDAR DAYS

2023 was the year we kicked off the first edition of the SOLIDAR Days, an initiative jointly organised by the whole SOLIDAR teams that brought together policymakers, experts, trade unionists, civil society organizations, and our members to delve deep into the pressing issues surrounding transversal skills, lifelong learning, civic space and social rights.

SOLIDAR Foundation co-organised a workshop on the validation of transversal skills acquired from civil society organisations, together with Diesis Network and the Socialists and Democrats Group in the European Parliament, as part of the LLLWeek of the Lifelong Learning Platform.

SOLIDAR also organised the Social Europe Conference, hosted by MEP Patrizia Toia, from the Socialists and Democrats Group in the European Parliament.

During this event, we launched and presented our flagship monitoring tool of social rights in Europe, the Social Rights Monitor (SRM) as we explored its potential impact and dove into the crucial role of social and solidarity economy in shaping a more inclusive, fair, and socially just Europe.

Lastly, we held advocacy meetings as part of our campaign calling for a Global Just Transition and hosted our members and their partners from South Africa, Women on Farms Project. This advocacy work lays the foundation to push for better EU legislation, due diligence, and equal standards for workers inside and outside the EU.



ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Every year, SOLIDAR holds its Annual General Assembly and in 2023 we organised at the premises of our Belgian member FGTB, the Belgian Trade Union Federation.

During this important occasion for our members to get together and discuss formal aspects of our network, the upcoming EP elections were also a key point. We invited partners and allies from trade unions, civil society and policymakers to discuss our demands and endorse it. During the 2023 AGA we welcomed Diaspora Sem Fronteiras, Esely Közösség / Community of Chance, Konsorcjum Migracyjne (Migration Consortium) and Arbetarnas Bildningsförbund (ABF) as new members of SOLIDAR and Arbeiterwohlfahrt (AWO) which became a full member.



PROJECTS



ADVOCACY THROUGH EU-FUNDED PROJECTS IN 2023



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.



JUST4ALL - Building Social Innovation Learning Laboratories in Europe through a Just Transition for All and with All: This two-year EU-funded project started in October 2023. The project was officially launched at a **kick-off meeting held in Brussels** in hybrid form on 15/16 November 2023, which brought together 15 participants from the EC and the seven consortium members implementing the project.



IMAGES - I Manage and Empower My Skills: This project came to a close in 2023. In June SOLIDAR Foundation organised the **project's final conference** where member organisations representatives and various stakeholders took part to discuss the results of the project in the framework of the European Year of Skills. At the 2023 LLLWeek, the IMAGES project was featured at **SOLIDAR Foundation's workshop on the validation of competences acquired in the civil society sector** which brought together experts and policymakers to discuss the importance of the recognition of transversal skills.



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.

Smile

SMILE – Social Meaning Impact through Lifelong Learning universities: The project came to a close in 2023. In September, **ESU** and **SOLIDAR Foundation** organised **the SMILE Policy Roundtable:** Policy Recommendations for a more inclusive higher education in Brussels where its **Policy Recommendations and Action Plan** were presented. The project ended with a bang with its **Final Symposium** in Barcelona. SMILE aims to promote inclusive learning by developing, testing and implementing innovative tools that improve the way higher education institutions deal with diversity and social inclusion. You can find all resources on **the project webpage**.



ECO-IN: On 23 May 2023, SOLIDAR Foundation hosted in a hybrid format in Brussels the **High Level Policy Conference** in the frame of the **ECO-IN project** which engaged a wide range of stakeholders in education and training at EU level to discuss the preliminary policy conclusions of the ECO-IN project. In June, the final results of the project such as **the ECO-IN Manifesto on School Inclusion** and **the ECO-IN Policy Recommendations** were presented in Perugia at the project's Final Conference. All project's resources can be found on **the ECO-IN project webpage**.



ECHO network: 2023 was a year filled with exciting Study Visits in the frame of the **ECHO Network** Project. After the Opening Seminar in Paris in January, project partners met in **Berlin** (March), **Brussels** (June), **Rome** (September), and **Zagreb** (December) to discuss matters related to a more ethical and sustainable digital space.

SPRING

SprINg (Sustainable Practices of Integration): the project came to a bright conclusion in February 2023. SOLIDAR organised the final event in Brussels, titled 'A two-year journey into Sustainable Integration Practices'. Over 50 stakeholders in integration practice from all over Europe and the American continent came together to learn about SprINg results and tools, identify and connect with other key integration stakeholders, and get inspired by good practices. It culminated in the publication of two main tools for this objective: the **Handbook for practitioners on Migrant Integration** (a summary of the most current research evidence on integration); and the **SprINg good practices adaptation toolkit** – a step-by-step guide with 20 questions to know when and how to adapt a model practice to a new context.

WHO WE ARE



FULL MEMBERS



1. Asamblea de Cooperación por la Paz (ACPP), Spain



2. Arbetarnas Bildningsförbund (ABF), Sweden



3. ARCI Associazione di Promozione Sociale (ARCI), Italy



4. ARCS Culture Solidali, Italy



5. Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASBÖ), Austria



6. Auser, Italy



7. Arbeiterwohlfahrt (AWO Bundesverband e.V.), Germany



8. Centres d'Entraînement aux Méthodes d'Education Active (CEMEA), France



9. International Cooperation Network (CGIL), Italy



10. Centre for Labour Rights (CLR), Albania



11. Center for Peace Studies (CMS), Croatia



12. Diaspora Sem Fronteiras, Portugal



13. Esely Község / Community of Chance, Hungary



14. Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS), EU



15. Fagligt Internationalt Center (FIC), Denmark



16. Foundation Max van der Stoep (FMS), The Netherlands



17. Fonds voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking - Socialistische Solidariteit (FOS), Belgium



18. Instituto Sindical de Cooperación al Desarrollo (ISCOD), Spain



19. International Solidarity Foundation (ISF - Solidaarisuus), Finland



20. La Liga Española de la Educación y la Cultura Popular (La Liga Española), Spain



21. La Ligue de l'Enseignement (La Ligue), France



22. Movimiento por la Paz, el Desarme y la Libertad (MPDL), Spain



23. Solidarité Syndicale (OGBL), Luxembourg



24. Olof Palme International Center (OPIC), Sweden



25. PRODIVERSA, Spain



26. Solidar Suisse, Switzerland








27. WEA Adult Learning Within Reach, United Kingdom



28. Willi-Eichler-Akademie, Germany

AFFILIATE MEMBERS 2023

1.  Arbeiterwohlfahrt International (AWO INTL), Germany
2.  Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB), Germany
3.  Asociácia odborných pracovníkov sociálnych služieb (AOPSS), Slovakia
4.  Berufsförderungsinstitut Oberösterreich (BFI OÖ), Austria
5.  Community Development Institute (CDI), North Macedonia
6.  IFSI-FGTB, Belgium
7.  Initiative for Development and Cooperation (IDC), Serbia
8.  Institute for Social Integration (ISI), Bulgaria
9.  Institut für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik (ISS), Germany
10.  Istituto Sindacale di Cooperazione allo Sviluppo (ISCOS), Italy
11.  Konsorcjum Migracyjne (Migration Consortium), Poland
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 / Casa do Brasil de Lisboa, Portugal - Brazil

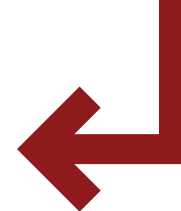
17.  Solidaridad Internacional Andalucia (SIA), Spain
18.  Samaritan International (SAMI)
19.  Solsoc (SolSoc), Belgium
20.  Union Aid Abroad (APHEDA), Australia
21.  Volkshilfe Österreich Bundesverband (VH), Austria



STRATEGIC PARTNERS:

1.  Central and Eastern European Network for Gender Issues (CEE Gender Network), Slovenia/Croatia
2.  International Falcon Movement – Socialist Educational International (IFM-SEI), Belgium
3.  International Federation of Workers' Education Associations (IFWEA), South Africa
4.  International Union of Tenants (IUT)

BOARD AND SECRETARIAT 2023



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PARTNERSHIPS



WE ARE A MEMBER OF:



WE COORDINATE:



WE WORK WITH:

Policy makers:



Civil Society organisations:



Trade Unions:



FINANCE



SOLIDAR & SOLIDAR Foundation continued to pursue its mission of maintaining and improving the financial situation.

In 2023, the turnover increased by 8% mainly due to an increase in the Foundation's grants. The 2023 operating results show a positive net result of 26.515€ which continues to contribute to the recovery plan.

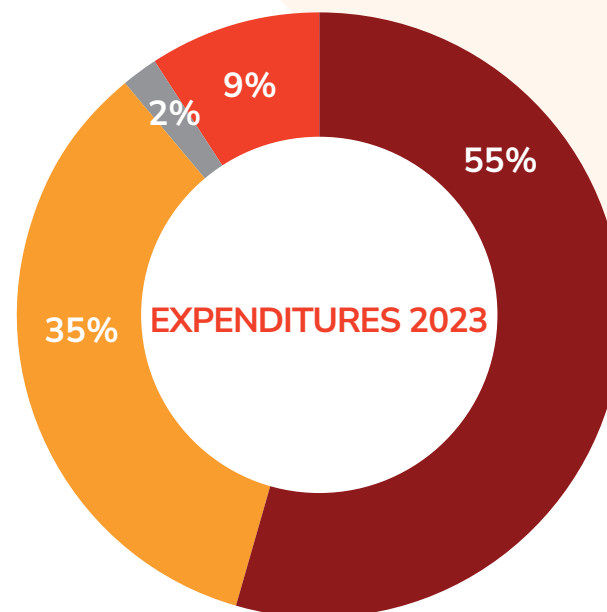
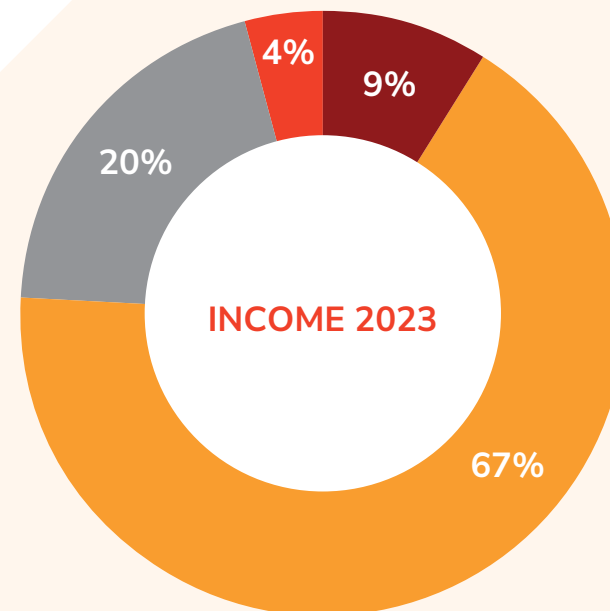
The remaining amount of the past co-financing (38.698€) had to be integrated into the 2023 accounts as extraordinary expenditure, translating into an audited net result of -12.183€.

REVENUES 2023

	2023	%
■ Membership fee	165,408	9%
■ Project funded by European Commission	1,228,604	67%
■ Projects funded by Foundations	368,331	20%
■ Other Income	77,608	4%
Total	1,839,951	100%

EXPENDITURES 2023

	2023	%
■ Salary costs	1,016,227	55%
■ Activities	640,366	35%
■ Co-financing from the past	38,698	2%
■ General costs	156,844	9%
Total	1,852,134	100%





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

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

For more info www.solidar.org / © SOLIDAR 2024



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