



# **ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2024**

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# FOREWORD



2024 has marked a momentous shift in global and European politics. What we have witnessed is **a dangerous surge of right-wing extremism, nationalist rhetoric, and attacks on fundamental democratic freedoms**. The results of the European Parliament elections underscored a grim reality: **the power balance in the European Union has shifted further to the right**. The sanctity of the “cordon sanitaire” has been broken as the EPP, the biggest conservative political force in the European Parliament, has now no qualms about siding with the far-right on a range of topics, such as migration.

This has not only impacted European politics, but has mirrored a global trend, epitomised by the re-election of Donald Trump in the United States. This turn of events is indicative of a continued rise in authoritarian and populist movements across the globe.

As we reflect on the challenges of the past year, we cannot ignore the undercurrent of multiple crises — 2024 being yet again the hottest year on record with fires, floods and failed crops in its wake, the spiralling cost of living and increased inequality, the devastating war in Ukraine and the relentless attacks in Gaza, and the oppressive tactics used by governments in Europe and beyond to silence dissent. Across Europe, we have seen widespread attacks on the most basic democratic freedoms: peaceful protests have been met with repression, and the right to dissent is increasingly curtailed. The very fabric of our civic space is being eroded.

This erosion is most evident in countries like Germany, Italy, Austria and Sweden where far-right parties that have roots in neo-Nazism and fascism - like Alternative for Germany (AfD) and Brothers of Italy - are close to or are already in power. This development is deeply worrying, not only for these countries and our members therein, but for the European Union as a whole, as **it threatens the very values of democracy, equality, and human rights upon which our Union was founded**. The EU is slowly but consistently turning away from its professed values. The adoption in 2024 of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum is an example. It embraces far-right xenophobic narratives and effectively erodes the right to asylum in the EU by further marginalising already vulnerable people in need of international protection.

For organisations like SOLIDAR, 2024 has been a **politically difficult but organisationally positive** year. The political shift to the right poses an existential challenge to our movement and mission. The rise of hateful, dehumanising, and xenophobic rhetoric goes against

everything we stand for. But while the forces of division may appear to be growing, so too do counter movements. We are the many and we have a responsibility to push back. **The need for networks like ours has never been more urgent, and the imperative for us to act collectively has never been more acute.**

In the face of these challenges, SOLIDAR has remained steadfast in its commitment to **a vision of Europe that is inclusive, democratic, and just**. We successfully mobilised during the European elections, striving to counter the growing far-right populist influence and raise awareness about the importance of protecting our democratic institutions. We grew our network, increased our organisational sustainability, reinforced our networks and partnerships, and managed to influence European policy. But our work is far from over.

**Looking ahead, we must continue to mobilise** – not only on the European level but also at the national level, working in even closer collaboration with our member organisations. The politics of hate and fear can only be defeated through collective action. We must strengthen alliances among progressive forces, build coalitions, and counter the divisive rhetoric that seeks to tear us apart. We must work together to ensure that we end this dangerous chapter in the European project and move toward a future grounded in solidarity, sustainability, compassion, and respect for human rights.

The challenges of 2024 have made it clear that the need for organisations like SOLIDAR is more crucial than ever. **We will continue pushing for a Europe that is not just for the privileged few, but for all who call it home.**

Through collective action, we have the power to affect change, to challenge emerging trends, and to turn our vision into a reality. Let us come together now to advance democracy, social justice, just transitions, human dignity, and the values that unite us. **In these uncertain times, solidarity is the most powerful weapon we have.**

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 coming to the end 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 2024



01

## Launch of SOLIDAR's call for a Global Green Deal

In February 2024, SOLIDAR launched a call for a Global Green Deal as part of the 'Global Just Transition: Not just for E(U)' campaign. In collaboration with three partner organisations, we issued a call to make the European Green Deal global, for it to be more social, equitable, just and fair at the international level, and to create a common vision and commitment to its essential goals. The campaign highlighted the lack of coherence between EU's green policies and its development cooperation objectives. 5 case studies were developed together with SOLIDAR members to give visibility to the struggles and demands from Global South organisations.



02

## SOLIDAR supports the European Conference on a Just Transition

SOLIDAR played a key advisory role in supporting the Belgian Presidency's efforts to promote a just transition. We made a significant contribution to the organisation of the European Conference for a Just Transition in Brussels in March 2024. We also provided input on the Council Conclusion on the mid-term review of the 8<sup>th</sup> Environmental Action Programme, and coordinated a joint letter to policymakers calling for an EU policy framework for just transition.



## 06 Study visit to AWO

In September 2024, SOLIDAR was hosted by our German member AWO Bundesverband for a study visit. The visit was important in developing SOLIDAR's position on a social and solidarity economy as we have the chance to hear about our member's projects on social and solidarity economy, the provision of social services and the inclusion of marginalised social groups. It was also an opportunity to see the productive collaboration between our German member, local and regional private actors, the municipality and the federal government.

03

## SOLIDAR's input into recast Single Permit Workers' directive

SOLIDAR contributed to the legislative process around the recast Single Permit Workers' Directive which was adopted in March 2024. In collaboration with other CSOs and trade unions, we succeeded in getting a number of proposals included in the legislation which will have a positive impact on migrant workers' lives and working conditions. Going forward, we will monitor the transposition and implementation of the directive at national level to ensure migrants' rights are respected and upheld.



present the findings of the 2023 edition of the Social Rights Monitor. The event was attended by key stakeholders like the EU representation to Albania and the Albanian Ministry of Economy, and was an important opportunity to raise awareness of the role that the European Pillar of Social Rights should play in guiding the policies of candidate countries.

04

## SOLIDAR's Social Rights Monitor is presented in Tirana

In April 2024, SOLIDAR's Albanian member, the Center for Labour Rights, co-organised an event to



05

## AGA

In June 2024, SOLIDAR held the Annual General Assembly. This is an important opportunity for SOLIDAR's whole membership to come together to discuss key statutory matters as well as exchange on our political context. We were delighted to welcome several new members to our network, and we also reflected on the results of the 2024 European elections and the implications for our network going forward.

## 08 Event on recognising the State of Palestine

SOLIDAR has long been an advocate for the recognition of the State of Palestine, and in November 2024 we held an event focused on this issue in the European Parliament. The event, 'Towards a Sovereign and Viable Palestinian State' was co-organised with partners ETUC and ITUC, and was attended by MEPs from The Left, S&D, and Greens/EFA, as well as key voices in this area like the Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and Annika Söder, the former Swedish State Secretary for Foreign Affairs.



07

## Wrap up of AKA Active Citizens project

In October 2024, SOLIDAR Foundation wrapped up the AKA Active Citizens project. This was a 2-year project coordinated by SOLIDAR Foundation and carried out by 8 MOs to promote Global Citizenship Education and its approaches to foster democratic participation and engagement at EU level among young citizens from underrepresented backgrounds.

As the project drew to a close, we published a guide for educators and practitioners keen on promoting transformative learning experiences.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024

ECHO NETWORK PLEA  
for an ETHICAL  
and SUSTAINABLE  
DIGITAL TRANSITION

ECHO

09

## ECHO Network project on Digital Citizenship Education

In November 2024, SOLIDAR Foundation wrapped up activities on the ECHO Network project. This project aimed to promote digital citizenship and responsible use of digital technology, and was undertaken by a consortium of 7 organisations including SOLIDAR and MOs CEMEA France, CPS and WEA. The project greatly enhanced SOLIDAR's commitment to Digital Citizenship Education by e.g. the ECHO Network Plea for an Ethical and Sustainable Digital Transition, a vital output of the project.



10

## Decent work and just transition for palm oil workers

In December 2024, a delegation of Indonesian and Malaysian trade unionists and Nigerian and Liberian environmental activists came to Brussels. They met with European institutional figures, shared their experiences and presented insights from their important work to develop a just transition approach in the palm oil sector and build bridges for international collaboration on the issue. They also shared their testimonies as part of a digital campaign to shed light on their challenges and ongoing mission.



11

## SOLIDAR Days

In December 2024, we came together with our members and partners to celebrate the SOLIDAR Days, a week dedicated to key pieces of SOLIDAR events and alliance building. The week kicked off with the Social Europe Conference where the 2024 edition of the Social Rights Monitor was presented. This was followed by a roundtable event to present and discuss our policy paper, 'Global Citizenship Education and Democratic Participation'. We also had the chance to exchange with members on the next SOLIDAR strategy and present our vision for a social and solidarity economy.



## 12 Silver Rose

As part of the SOLIDAR Days, we held our annual flagship event, the Silver Rose Awards. These awards are a vital moment for SOLIDAR members, partners and the broader progressive family to come together and take stock of our achievements. In 2024, the Just Transition Award was given to Women Engage for a Common Future and Nicolas Schmidt received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Additionally, Glenys Kinnock was posthumously awarded the Legacy Prize for Social Justice for her lifelong dedication to social justice internationally. We were very grateful for the chance to celebrate and acknowledge the individuals and organisations in our movement who are committed to advancing social justice in Europe and around the world.



# FACTS AND FIGURES 2024



**69K**  
WEBSITE VISITS

**45**  
NEWSLETTERS  
with **3,173** subscribers



**17K**  
FOLLOWERS  
on social media  
+ **2,636**

**18.11%**  
INCREASE  
in followers  
over 2024



**21** Briefings,  
Publications  
and Reports



**11** Training  
materials

# POLICY AND ADVOCACY WORK: PROMOTING SOCIAL PROGRESS



## SOCIAL RIGHTS IN EUROPE

In 2024, SOLIDAR continued to work to advance social justice across Europe and ensure full access to social rights for all and with all. In this vein, we followed and fed into several policy developments at EU level. In April 2024 the new economic governance of the EU was adopted, marking a step back towards a renewed austerity-centred governance and an unconvincing attempt to encourage public and social investment. In response, we called out the risks associated with these measures and strongly advocated for adequate social investment, also in view of the green and digital transitions. With the European elections and the definition of the new EU mandate, SOLIDAR strengthened the call for an ambitious new **EU social agenda**, also including a Social Pillar Action Plan beyond 2025. Finally, the EU **platform work directive** officially entered into force in 2024. This is a process in which SOLIDAR had been engaged from the early stages, and along with partners we issued recommendations which shaped the final text. We took stock of the final text and what it means for social rights.

As well as our engagement with developments at EU level, some of our most significant achievements of 2024 involved collaboration with members, partners and allies:

- We ran a **European elections campaign targeted at EU voters** highlighting priorities for a more social and welcoming Europe and a future just transition. With the support of our members, the campaign reached audiences across Europe.
- The **Social Europe Conference** titled 'Civil Society in the European Semester: Road to a more democratic and social cycle' took place in the European Parliament on 3 December, hosted by the S&D Group. The conference consisted of a lively debate that brought together civil society, academia and policymakers and succeeded in **highlighting the need to involve CSOs structurally in the European Semester**. Additionally, we undertook key advocacy at the conference by presenting the results of the Social Rights Monitor to EU institutional actors.
- We created a **task force on enlargement and the Western Balkans**, gathering SOLIDAR members based in or closely working with the region. The task force aims to better monitor policy developments concerning enlargement and ensure that these are based on the enhancement of social rights.
- We held our **Training Academy** on 5-6 November, focusing on building civil society's perspectives on **Artificial Intelligence (AI) from a social justice angle**. The Training Academy targeted our members and was co-organised by our Social Affairs and Education & Lifelong Learning teams.
- Our German member **AWO** hosted **SOLIDAR's network in Brunswick during a study visit** and presented their projects focused on social and solidarity economy (SSE), the provision of social services and the inclusion of marginalised social groups, including migrants. During this visit, we had the chance to conduct interviews informing our vision on SSE were conducted.
- SOLIDAR, along with its partners, conducted a comprehensive analysis within the **Just4All project**, identifying **49 inspiring examples of just transition** in the field of lifelong learning and adult education in France, Ireland, Sweden, and Cyprus. This work has highlighted effective **strategies to reach young people and adults with low qualifications or literacy, women, people with disabilities, migrants, and disadvantaged communities**. Complementing this analysis, four detailed national reports were published, offering valuable recommendations for action.



In April 2024, the **Social Rights Monitor (SRM)** was presented at **national level** by one of our members for the first time, advancing the report's objective to improve the implementation of the EPSR at national level. **This event** was co-organised with our Albanian member **Centre for Labour Rights** and took place in **Tirana** on 25<sup>th</sup> April. On this occasion, key stakeholders like the EU representation to Albania and the Albanian Ministry of Economy were present and could listen to the results of the SRM relating to Albania and react during a roundtable discussion. This event was particularly impactful because while Albania is currently not part of the EU, it was a way to **raise awareness of the important role that the EPSR should have in guiding policies of candidate countries** and accession talks, just as economic and fiscal standards already do. Members of the newly launched task force on enlargement took part in the event as well.





# INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING



In 2024, key EU policy developments in education such as the conclusion of the **European Year of Skills** and the announcement of the **Union of Skills** underscored the EU's commitment to competitiveness, also in the field education. Additionally, the **Digital Education Action Plan (DEAP)** mid-term review, the evaluation of the **European Education Area's first cycle**, alongside the interim evaluation of Erasmus+ **2021-2027**, provided key opportunities to emphasise the importance of education in building resilient democratic societies and addressing evolving global challenges.

**SOLIDAR Foundation** advocated for a broader perspective on Education & Lifelong Learning – one that truly values transversal competences vital for strengthening democratic societies, including those provided by Global Citizenship Education:

- Along with our members, we ran a **European elections campaign** on **Global Citizenship Education** and the recognition of the transformative potential of education and lifelong learning for democratic societies. This **policy pill** brings together all SOLIDAR & SOLIDAR Foundation's European election campaigns.
- SOLIDAR Foundation published a **position paper on the Digital Education Action Plan calling for a more holistic approach to digital education**, underlining the importance of basic digital skills and a more ethical and democratic online space.
- In the frame of its **policy cycle on GCE (2023-2025)**, **SOLIDAR Foundation published the 2024 policy paper on Global Citizenship Education and Democratic Participation in Europe** which explores the crucial role of **Global Citizenship Education (GCE) in fostering democratic engagement and trust in EU institutions**, especially among young people.
- In its **position paper 'Intersecting Pathways: Inclusive Education for Active Citizenship'** SOLIDAR Foundation explores the topic of inclusive education as a fundamental part of a democratic society supported by case studies from the SOLIDAR network.



## HIGHLIGHTS:

In 2024, SOLIDAR Foundation ran two key projects: the **AKA (Awareness, Knowledge, Action) Active Citizens** and the **ECHO (Ethical, Common, Human and Open) Network** projects which were successfully implemented with our members.

- The AKA project aimed to foster social action and democratic engagement through GCE methodologies particularly for youth with vulnerable backgrounds. A key output of the project was the creation of **the AKA booklet: Methodologies for Fostering Social Action and Democratic Engagement**, practical guide for educators and practitioners in eight languages.
- ECHO Network allowed SOLIDAR Foundation and its members and partners to develop its work on Digital Citizenship Education. A vital output of the project is the **ECHO Network Plea for an Ethical and Sustainable Digital Transition**.



## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



2024 was a challenging year for our work on international cooperation and sustainable development. The EU's relations with the rest of the world are turning into mere economic relations. Since the publication of the [leaked European Commission's International Partnerships briefing by POLITICO](#), it has become clear that **the focus of the EU international cooperation will be on promoting Europe's economic interests** in the world and that the Global Gateway is becoming the main instrument to pursue that goal. In her [Political Guidelines](#), President von der Leyen made clear that the **key future priorities will be European security and defence, European competitiveness and industrial development and a strong geo-economic foreign policy**. In this context, SOLIDAR has engaged with members, sister organisations, partners and progressive groups in the European Parliament to:

- Ensure development cooperation keeps its focus on **reducing poverty, guarantees policy coherence for development through a just transition and is allocated sufficient resources** to achieve its key purpose through negotiations for the next EU budget, kicking off in June 2025.
- Call for **fair trade partnerships** that uphold high social and environmental standards while supporting small scale producers to shift to more sustainable production patterns and for a [Global Green Deal](#) that supports partner countries in their just transitions.
- Push the EU to lead on the **respect of international law and international humanitarian law** with no double standards and to promote a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

In the face of these challenging circumstances, working in alliances with partners around the world is more crucial than ever. In 2024, we tapped into these alliances in order to **hold the EU to account for its commitment to progress sustainable development both in Europe and globally**.

- Along with several partners, we launched a **call to action for a [Global Green Deal](#)** in February 2024, which was discussed in two public events on [Why the European Green Deal Need to Go Global](#) in January, and on [Fair and Just Transition Worldwide](#) in December. The call to action **generated connections between CSOs and EU**



**representatives** working on trade policy as well as with the EU's partner countries representatives from Latin America and Africa. Moreover, it enabled SOLIDAR to **navigate the new European political agenda** which will require a stronger scrutiny of EU's trade and investment policies.

- As the **Global Gateway** becomes the main EU development cooperation instrument, all along 2024, **SOLIDAR has developed a [series of three online trainings](#)** for members and partners to build our common knowledge base on the topic. The trainings resulted in the development of a **SOLIDAR position on the Global Gateway**.
- As part of our **Global Just Transition Campaign**, we co-edited the report [Toxic Double Standards](#), further **stressing the lack of policy coherence for sustainable development** in EU's Trade and Investment policy. Our participation in the campaign





supported stronger connections between environmental and social justice organisations further positioning SOLIDAR as a bridge-builder between these constituencies.

- Through the event on the **recognition of the State of Palestine**, SOLIDAR strengthened its links with human rights CSOs and joined the **call for the suspension of EU trade relations with illegal settlements**. Moreover, the event 'Towards a Sovereign and Viable Palestinian State', co-organised with the ETUC and the ITUC, had a high level of engagement from MEPs from all the progressive political groups (the Left, the S&D and the Greens/EFA), saw the presence of high level international personalities such as the UN Special Rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian Territories and the former Sweden's State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and **positioned SOLIDAR as a defender of the respect of international law and a peace advocate**.
- SOLIDAR was invited to join the **ILO Global Coalition for Social Justice** and, in June 2024, participated in the launch event of the Coalition in Geneva: an acknowledgment of our longstanding **commitment to social justice and decent work**.

## GLOBAL JUST TRANSITION:

All along 2024, with our campaign '**Global Just Transition: Not just for (E)U**', we kept **advocating for the EU to adopt a Global Just Transition approach in its relations with Global South countries**, to ensure policy coherence, and accelerate the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement objectives. At the same time, we advocated for a **Global Green Deal** i.e. **a Green Deal with an external dimension** to guarantee a fair distribution of the cost of the transition between Europe and partner countries in line with the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities.

Jointly with our members **Solidar Suisse**, **Movimiento por la Paz** (MPDL), **Olof Palmes International Center** (OPIC), **FOS**, and their partners based in Africa, Asia and Latin America, **we developed five case studies on South Africa, Guatemala, Colombia, Indonesia, and Bangladesh**, as well as one **Global Just Transition Narrative** and hosted an advocacy tour of Palm Oil Workers representatives in Brussels.

# CROSS CUTTING PRIORITIES



## A SOCIALLY JUST GREEN TRANSITION

The 2019-2024 EU mandate ended with **limited progress** on just transition, as the EU institutions focused primarily on preparing for the 2024-2029 mandate. Thanks to the efforts of various stakeholders, **there are some positive signals regarding the EU's commitment to advancing a just transition** over the next five years, as highlighted by the appointment of Teresa Ribera as Executive Vice-President for Just, Clean and Competitive Transition. However, beyond the rhetoric, the new mandate fails to integrate the social justice and decarbonisation agendas and **lacks concrete measures to effectively implement a just transition**. The EU's commitment to a just transition risks being sidelined by competing interests or failing to produce tangible results. Moreover, the EU's broader **shift towards deregulation and competitiveness threatens to undermine both climate action and social progress**.

In 2024, SOLIDAR intensified its efforts to ensure that the new EU mandate prioritises a just transition:

- In partnership with 20 other civil society organisations and workers' representatives, we **sent a letter** to Ministers of all EU Member States, **urging them to develop and implement a strong EU policy framework** in line with the **EESC's 2023 Opinion**.



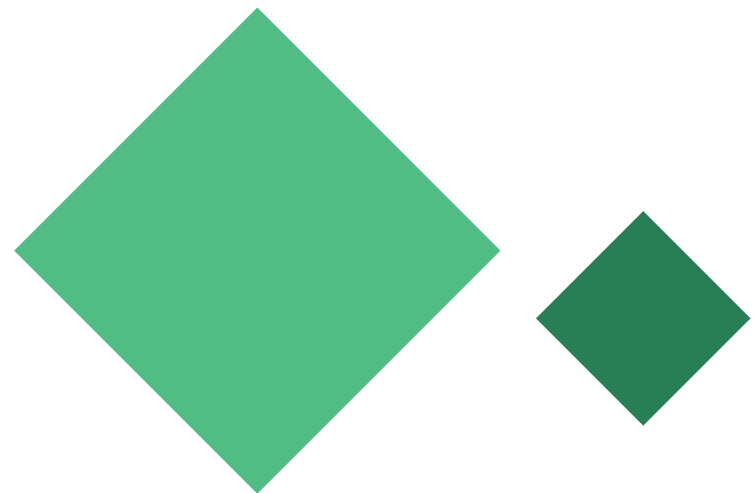
- In the framework of the **European Alliance for a Just Transition**, which now brings together more than 40 European stakeholders, we **developed the group's vision for a European Union that advances a fair and just transition** in the new mandate and beyond.
- We hosted an event on **investing in a just transition** as part of the **Call to Europe event** organised in Budapest during the Hungarian EU Presidency in cooperation with FEPS and S&D.





## → SHAPING THE BELGIAN EU PRESIDENCY'S JUST TRANSITION AGENDA

In the first half of 2024, **Belgium** emerged as a strong advocate for a just transition at the EU level during its Presidency of the Council of the EU. **SOLIDAR** played a key role in the Presidency's efforts, working closely with the team of the Belgian Federal Minister for Climate, Zakia Khattabi. SOLIDAR advised on the Presidency's ambitious plans and proposals, contributed significantly to the preparation and implementation of the **European Conference on Just Transition** in March 2024, and helped draft the section on just transition in the **Council conclusions** on the mid-term review of the 8th Environmental Action Programme, which were adopted in June 2024. Despite resistance from some Member States, the **Council conclusions incorporate several of SOLIDAR's proposals**, including calls for policy coherence, social protection measures and greater integration of just transition principles into EU frameworks.



# CIVIC SPACE, CIVIL DIALOGUE AND DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION



Last year presented challenges; civic space both at the EU level and in the Member States continues to shrink, and the **crucial role of civil society in policy-making is increasingly called into question**. We have seen an uptick in **hostile attitudes towards CSOs**, and the new makeup of the Parliament does not bode well for the future of our advocacy efforts. In the face of these challenges, we stepped up our efforts to ensure an **open and enabling civic space**, a constructive **civil dialogue** and civil society's **participation in policymaking and decision-making** at all levels.

- We continued our work of monitoring civic space in seven EU countries through the **CIVICUS Monitor project**, whose **annual report** was published in December 2024.
- In early March 2024, SOLIDAR joined forces with partners Social Platform, Civil Society Europe and the European Civic Forum to organise a workshop in the framework of the EESC Civil Society Week. The workshop, titled “**Civil dialogue for inclusive democracy**”, was dedicated to **highlighting the potential of civil dialogue for the health of our democracies and to reflect on ways to fully materialise this potential**.
- As part of the Real Deal project, SOLIDAR continued hosting **Civil Society Forums for Sustainability** bringing together civil society organisations 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** and the future of the **European Green Deal**. The forum was successful in leading to the output of several reports used in advocacy at EU and UN level.





## MIGRATION & SOCIAL INCLUSION



2024 was a significant year for migration and social inclusion at EU level, with this policy area undergoing an evolution which presents challenges to SOLIDAR and our network. The EU Pact on Migration and Asylum was adopted. It will institutionalise appalling practices which have been ongoing illegally for years in some Member States: de facto detention, second-rated asylum procedures at the borders and pushbacks. Meanwhile, the unfair rules for state allocation of responsibility for asylum-seekers will remain substantially unchanged, with a compensatory, mandatory but flexible solidarity mechanism between Member States aiming below actual needs. **The generalised crackdown on refugees and other migrants' rights continued in October.** Poland made shocking proposals to suspend the right to asylum, and the equally deplorable lack of reaction from EU leaders was made worse by their even higher bids to **endorse offshore detention centres and rollback on asylum rights in 'exceptional situations'.** On the upside, **the recast Single Permit directive was adopted by the European Parliament.** Migrant workers will be able to change jobs if they need or want to, without having to apply for a new permit and risk losing their residency right, an important step to reduce the job dependency.

**We acted collectively with our members to put forward solutions that strive to ensure that the fundamental rights of people on the move are upheld.**

- **SOLIDAR contributed to the legislative policy making processes on labour migration at the EU level.** The recast Single Permit Directive adopted in March proposes important improvements to migrant workers' lives and working conditions that were pushed by **CSOs (including SOLIDAR) and Trade Unions.** SOLIDAR also engaged in promoting decent work in the EU Talent Pool; by advocating for the removal of the focus on particular skills, access to opportunities for migrants already on EU territory, and a role in governance for civil society organisations.
- SOLIDAR continued its effort to **raise public and decision-makers' awareness** of the **disastrous consequences of the EU Pact** on Migration and Asylum on migrants' lives. We supported a popular mobilisation to gather **in front of the European Parliament on the day of the plenary vote, in April 2024.** While the Pact is mainly composed of regulations, Member States retain some margin of manoeuvre in the way they choose to apply some of the Pact's provisions. **SOLIDAR members did not miss this opportunity to push for protection-oriented national practices.**
- **The Sabir Festival of Mediterranean cultures** - annual event organised by Italian organisations including SOLIDAR members Arci and CGIL - turned 10 in October



2024 in Rome. SOLIDAR was present with a delegation. The main focus of the festival was the winds of racism sweeping Europe. The festival also addressed the growing EU tendency towards externalisation of borders management and responsibility for refugees. Last, but not least, Sabir provided a space to discuss Israel's offensive on Palestine and Lebanon, and its consequence on the civic space in Europe.

- **SOLIDAR has continued to strengthen its structures to work on the theme of migration and inclusion.** The members Task Force on Migration and Inclusion, created in December 2021, met three times online in the year and once in person, on the occasion of a training organised by SOLIDAR for them, on fundraising for migration and inclusion activities. In parallel 2024 saw a consolidation of SOLIDAR's internal coordination on migration, to ensure advancing rights of migrants and refugees is mainstreamed in all areas of the work.

### TRAINING ON FUNDRAISING

In light of the struggle faced by civil society organisations in terms of funding sustainability, SOLIDAR organised a **training on fundraising from grant-making entities**, aimed at CSOs and collectives working to advance the rights of refugees and other migrants, and promoting inclusion. We were happy to host Katarina Bartovičová from **Slovak Fundraising Centre**, a long-time fundraising expert. Key topics covered included: an overview of the European philanthropic landscape; essentials for crafting impactful grant applications; how to get noticed by 'invitation-only' donors; fundraising tips for migrant- and refugee-led organisations; and elements of reflection on how to secure core funding, the best form of funding for non-profits to carry out their alliance-building and advocacy work.

# FLAGSHIP CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS

## EUROPEAN ELECTIONS CAMPAIGN



Having launched our European elections campaign in 2023, in 2024 the work was in full swing. We followed the elections closely, using our elections manifesto and our **six progressive asks** as the basis of our advocacy. On order to bring visibility to our asks related to a just transition, we published an op-ed in the European Correspondent.

We closely monitored the Council Presidencies that steered the elections and institutional renewal process, undertaking **analysis of the priorities outlined by the Belgian and Hungarian Presidencies**. We also attended

the Belgian Presidency's **European Conference for a Just Transition**. At the Conference, we advocated for the **creation of a Global Green Deal** to advance social justice and a just transition around the world.

As we got closer to the elections, we launched our **#GrabtheMic** campaign along with several SOLIDAR members, producing videos for social media which highlighted our election asks and what was at stake in the new mandate.

Once the results were in and the reality of the new European Parliament was clear, we used our **2024 Annual General Assembly as a place of discussion and exchange with our members**. Although the prognosis was bleak, we emphasised that in these times, **our unity, strength and resilience is key**. This discussion set the tone for our cooperation throughout the new institutions' mandate as our close collaboration and alliance will be more important than ever. Finally, when the Commission was formed, we published **our analysis of the College**, outlining what exactly the new shape of the Commission could mean for the advancement of social justice and climate action in Europe and globally.

### 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!





## ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SOLIDAR held its **2024 Annual General Assembly (AGA)** on 27 June in Smart Coop in Brussels. It was an opportunity to bring together our entire membership for a day of exchange on statutory matters as well as reflection and exchange on our political context.

We were delighted to welcome four new members into the SOLIDAR family:

- **Dafni Kek**, a Greek organisation whose aim is to support the vocational training and adult education sector.
- **Internews Kossova** which promotes the growth of civil society and the development of independent, professional media in Kosovo.
- **Comisiones Obreras – CCOO**, the largest Spanish workers' union.
- **POVOD**, a Slovenian NGO focused on international development, SDGs, policy advocacy, lifelong education and enhancing intercultural learning for civil society.

In parallel, **CDI**, **IDC** and **Pour La Solidarité** moved from affiliated to full members and OGBL became an affiliated member.

We also used our AGA to take stock following the European elections. We held a **debate around the way forward for progressive actors and movements in this new political context**. Marcin Duma, President of **IBRIS Foundation**, introduced the discussion and set the scene of the EU elections results. A panel discussion followed on the lessons learned, coalition-building strategies, and long-term vision with:

- **Dr. Ania Skrzypek**, Head of Policy, Foundation for European Progressive Studies, **FEPS**



- **Laurent Standaert**, Director, Green European Foundation, **GEF**
- **Ismael Gonzalez**, Coordinator, **Party of the European Left**

As well as strengthening our network by bringing on board some new members and welcoming some affiliated members as full members and, the AGA provided a much-needed space for SOLIDAR to **reaffirm our commitment to social justice, democracy, climate action, and an economy that benefits all.**



## SOLIDAR DAYS 2024

2024 was our second year running our **SOLIDAR Days**, an annual initiative to coordinate and launch several key pieces of work. The SOLIDAR Days bring together members, partners, and other stakeholders such as policymakers and political allies to exchange on key issues for our network and celebrate our progress.

The SOLIDAR Days kicked off on 3 December with the **Social Europe Conference** entitled 'Civil society in the European Semester: road to a more democratic and social cycle' held in the European Parliament. We presented the main findings and recommendations of the **Social Rights Monitor 2024** and held a panel discussion with experts on the **European Semester** to explore avenues to strengthen the participation of CSOs in the cycle and enhance its social and democratic component. SOLIDAR Foundation also organised a roundtable on Global Citizenship Education entitled '**Democracy in Action: Global Citizenship Education**'.



On 4 December, our members gathered at the offices of the Foundation for Progressive Studies to discuss the **next SOLIDAR strategy**. Later they joined us for the presentation of **SOLIDAR's vision for a social and solidarity economy (SSE)**. Researchers Ifigeneia Douvitsa and Sofia Adam presented the thematic publication '**An Economy Beyond Profit: SOLIDAR Membership's Vision on Social and Solidarity Economy**' which summarises the ideas shared by SOLIDAR members on the current state of the SSE and our vision for the future. During this event, member organisations had the opportunity to provide their feedback and input for the further development of a common standing on the topic.





## SILVER ROSE AWARDS

On 5 December, we held the Silver Rose Awards 2024 in partnership with the Group in the European Parliament, the Party of European Socialists (PES), the Foundation of European Progressive Studies (FEPS), the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), PES Women and the Young European Socialists (YES). The ceremony marks a key moment for the progressive movement to come together to **acknowledge and celebrate the individuals and organisations working to advance social justice and the wellbeing of people and our planet.**

The 2024 Silver Rose Award for a Just Transition went to Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) for their tireless and transformative work at the intersection of gender justice, environmental sustainability, and social equity. The Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Nicolas Schmit, a tireless advocate for the rights of workers, young people, and vulnerable communities, championing policies that promote fairness, dignity, and opportunity for all. This year, extraordinarily, we introduced the **SOLIDAR Legacy Prize for Social Justice** to honour a giant of the progressive family, Glenys Kinnock. Glenys was an exceptional individual who dedicated her life to advancing social justice and human rights while contributing to the success of SOLIDAR by founding the Silver Rose Awards.

We concluded the SOLIDAR Days with an event on the Global Green Deal at the European Economic and Social Committee. The event was organised with the Fair Trade Advocacy Office, Fair Trade International and the World Fair Trade Organisation and gathered different stakeholders, from EU institutions to partner countries such as representatives from Colombia and Ecuador, aiming to discuss **how the EU can address the global dimension of the European Green Deal.**



# PROJECTS



**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 aims to promote a just transition through inclusive and innovative lifelong learning and adult education.

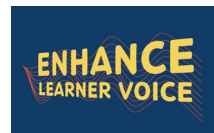


**ECHO network:** ECHO (Ethical, Common, Human and Open) Network is a project that finished in 2024. The project promoted digital citizenship and responsible use of digital technology, providing citizens and organisations with a clear understanding of how to use digital technology ethically, and focuses on how EU institutions address this matter to safeguard citizens.

**Erasmus+**



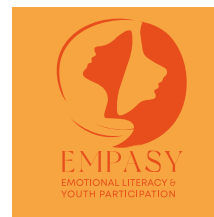
**ERASMUS+ Operating Grant:** SOLIDAR Foundation is supported by this grant to work on Democratic Participation and Inclusion through Global Citizenship Education from 2023 to 2025.



**ENHANCE – Enhancing Adult Learners Voices:** is a project running from December 2023 until May 2026 which intends to enhance adult learners' voices by creating learning spaces where the educational process is based on the voice of the learner. This inherently democratizes the educational process, leading to a deeper connection with both society and the learning topic at hand.



**CLADES – Critical Language awareness, democratic engagement & sustainability:** is an Erasmus+ funded project running from October 2024 to August 2027 which aims to increase civic engagement and sustainability literacy through Critical Language Awareness (CLA). The project's consortium is composed of 5 partner organisations: [SOLIDAR Foundation](#) (Belgium), [The Comenius University](#) (Slovakia), [the University of Ghent](#) (Belgium), [the University of Gloucestershire](#) (UK) & [the University of Groningen](#) (Netherlands; coordinators).



**EMPASY – Emotional Literacy and participatory approaches to support youth mental health:** is a two-year Erasmus+ funded capacity building action in the field of youth implemented by a consortium that spans across the EU (Italy, Belgium) and the MENA region (Lebanon, Morocco, Jordan). The projects runs from November 2024 until end of October 2026. EMPASY aims to promote youth wellbeing by building the capacity of youth workers, youth leaders and other professionals who provide non-formal learning opportunities to foster emotional literacy and participatory approaches as drivers of mental health

# MEMBERS



## FULL MEMBERS



1. [Asamblea de Cooperación por la Paz \(ACPP\)](#), Spain



2. [Arbetarnas Bildningsförbund \(ABF\)](#), Sweden



3. [Asociácia odborných pracovníkov sociálnych služieb \(AOPSS\)](#), Slovakia



4. [ARCI Associazione di Promozione Sociale \(ARCI\)](#), Italy



5. [Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund \(ASBÖ\)](#), Austria



6. [Auser](#), Italy



7. [Arbeiterwohlfahrt \(AWO Bundesverband e.V.\)](#), Germany



8. [Community Development Institute \(CDI\)](#), North Macedonia



9. [Centres d'Entraînement aux Méthodes d'Education Active \(CEMEA\)](#), France



10. [International Cooperation Network \(CGIL\)](#), Italy



11. [Centre for Labour Rights \(CLR\)](#), Albania



12. [Center for Peace Studies \(CMS\)](#), Croatia



13. [DAFNI KEK](#), Greece



14. [Diaspora Sem Fronteiras](#), Portugal



15. [Esély Közösség / Community of Chance](#), Hungary



16. [Foundation for European Progressive Studies \(FEPS\)](#), EU



17. [Foundation Max van der Stoep \(FMS\)](#), The Netherlands



18. [Fonds voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking - Socialistische Solidariteit \(FOS\)](#), Belgium



19. [Initiative for Development and Cooperation \(IDC\)](#), Serbia



20. [Internews Kosova](#), Kosovo



21. [Instituto Sindical de Cooperacion al Desarrollo \(ISCOD\)](#), Spain



22. [International Solidarity Foundation \(ISF - Solidaarisuus\)](#), Finland



23. [La Liga Española de la Educación y la Cultura Popular \(La Liga Española\)](#), Spain



24. [La Ligue de l'Enseignement \(La Ligue\)](#), France



25. [Movimiento por la Paz, el Desarme y la Libertad \(MPDL\)](#), Spain



26. [Olof Palme International Center \(OPIC\)](#), Sweden



27. [Pour la Solidarité \(PLS\)](#), Belgium



28. [POVOD](#), Slovenia



29. [PRODIVERSA](#), Spain



30. [Solidar Suisse](#), Switzerland




31. [WEA Adult Learning Within Reach](#), United Kingdom



32. [Willi-Eichler-Akademie](#), Germany

## AFFILIATED MEMBERS

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
|    | 1. <a href="#">Arbeiterwohlfahrt International</a> (AWO INTL), Germany             |  | 17. <a href="#">SolSOC</a> (SolSoc), Belgium                          |
|    | 2. <a href="#">Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund</a> (ASB), Germany                          |  | 18. <a href="#">Union Aid Abroad</a> (APHEDA), Australia              |
|    | 3. <a href="#">Berufsförderungsinstitut Österreich</a> (BFI OÖ), Austria           |  | 19. <a href="#">Volkshilfe Österreich Bundesverband</a> (VH), Austria |
|    | 4. <a href="#">Comisiones Obreras</a> (CCOO), Spain                                |   |   |
|    | 5. <a href="#">IFSI-FGTB</a> , Belgium   |   |   |
|    | 6. <a href="#">Institute for Social Integration</a> (ISI), Bulgaria                |   |   |
|    | 7. <a href="#">Institut für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik</a> (ISS), Germany    |   |   |
|    | 8. <a href="#">Istituto Sindacale di Cooperazione allo Sviluppo</a> (ISCOS), Italy |   |   |
|    | 9. <a href="#">Konsorcjum Migracyjne</a> , (Migration Consortium), Poland          |   |   |
|    | 10. <a href="#">Multicultural Center Prague</a> (MKC), Czech Republic              |   |   |
|   | 11. <a href="#">NEXUS Emilia Romagna</a> , Italy                                   |   |   |
|  | 12. <a href="#">Solidarité Syndicale</a> (OGBL), Luxembourg                        |   |   |
|  | 13. <a href="#">Progetto Sud</a> , Italy   |   |   |
|  | 14. <a href="#">Rede Sem Fronteiras</a> , Portugal - Brazil                        |   |   |
|  | 15. <a href="#">Solidaridad Internacional Andalucía</a> (SIA), Spain               |   |   |
|  | 16. <a href="#">Samaritan International</a> (SAMI)                                 |   |   |



# BOARD AND SECRETARIAT



## BOARD

### Presidium

**Anne van Lancker** – President, Fonds voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking – Socialistische Solidariteit (FOS), Belgium

**Klaus Thieme** – Vice-President, SOLIDAR Suisse, Switzerland

**Susanne Drake** – Treasurer, Willi-Eichler-Akademie, Germany

### Board members

**Marta Iglesias López** – Movimiento por la Paz, el Desarme y la Libertad (MPDL), Spain

**Simon Parkinson** – WEA, UK

**Andrea Malpassi** – International Cooperation Network (CGIL), Italy

**Rosario Sanchez** – La Liga Española de la Educación y la Cultura Popular (La Liga Española), Spain

**Antje Helbig** – Arbeiterwohlfahrt Bundesverband (AWO), Germany

**Thomas Carlhed** – Olof Palme International Center (OPIC), Sweden

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International Cooperation Policy Officer: **Alba González**

International Cooperation Policy Officer: **Lavinia Mazzei**

International Cooperation Fellow: **Isabela Franco, Janneke Kielman**

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Policy Officer for Migration and Inclusion: **Julie Martinaud**

Social Affairs Policy Fellow: **Catarina Guerra**

Education and Lifelong Learning and SOLIDAR Foundation Coordinator: **Elisa Gambardella**

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Education and Lifelong Learning Policy Fellow: **Lea Becher, Gabriella Sachetti, Belen Duart Marzo**

Civic Space Policy Officer: **Hilmi Tekoglu**

Just Transition Policy Coordinator: **Andrea Casamenti**

Just Transition Policy Officer: **Clara Dassonville, Sarah Bouchetob**

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Communication and Advocacy Fellow: **Ludovico Caminati Engstrom, Annia Klein, Arnault Vercherin**

Administration, Finance and HR Coordinator: **Valerie Garnier**

Administration and Finance Officer: **Ajeng Tita Susanto**

# PARTNERSHIPS



## WE ARE A MEMBER OF:



## WE COORDINATE:



## WE WORK WITH:

### Policy makers:



### Civil society organisations:



### Trade Unions:



# FINANCE



2024 marked a transformative year for SOLIDAR as we achieved a significant positive financial result (169,314€). This is a milestone that has allowed us to fully eliminate our long-standing debt. This accomplishment represents the first time in a decade that SOLIDAR's balance sheet reflects no deficit, signalling a new chapter of financial health and sustainability for our organisation.

## What does this mean for SOLIDAR?

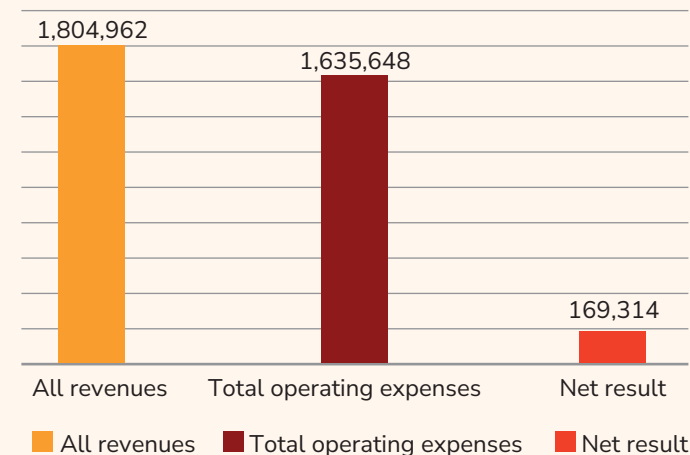
Thanks to careful use of resources and the support of our donors and partners, SOLIDAR is now free from deficit. This strengthens our foundation and allows us to focus more fully on our mission.

While we celebrate this important achievement, we remain dedicated to:

- Maintaining financial resilience: Continuing prudent financial practices to safeguard our future.
- Investing in our mission: Directing resources toward programs that create lasting change.

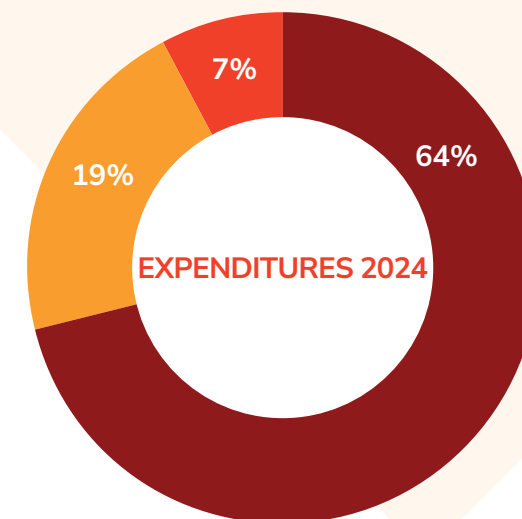
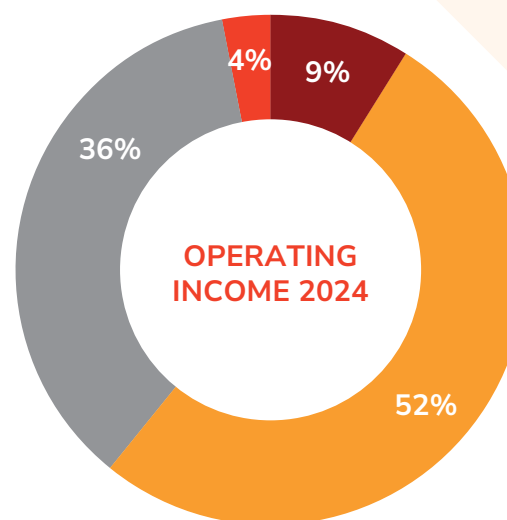
This milestone is a testament to the collective effort of our team, partners, and stakeholders. Together, we are building a stronger SOLIDAR, ready to meet the challenges ahead with confidence and hope.

## 2024 FIGURES



| REVENUES 2024                         | 2024             | %           |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Membership fee                        | 159,485          | 9%          |
| Project funded by European Commission | 939,543          | 52%         |
| Projects funded by Foundations        | 642,967          | 36%         |
| Other Income                          | 62,967           | 3%          |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>1,804,962</b> | <b>100%</b> |

| EXPENDITURES 2024 | 2024             | %           |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Salary costs      | 1,158,059        | 64%         |
| Activities        | 345,540          | 19%         |
| General costs     | 132,048          | 7%          |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>1,635,648</b> | <b>100%</b> |





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

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

For more info [www.solidar.org](http://www.solidar.org) / © SOLIDAR 2025



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