

An introduction to
socialplatform

What is Social Platform?

- The largest civil society alliance fighting for **social justice** and **participatory democracy** in Europe
- A network of 42 pan European networks of NGOs
- Established in 1995
- Campaigns to ensure that EU policies are developed in partnership with the people they affect, respecting fundamental rights, promoting solidarity and improving lives

Our values

Social Platform and its members are committed to the advancement of the principles of

- **equality**
- **solidarity**
- **non discrimination**

and the promotion and respect of **fundamental rights for all** within Europe and in particular the European Union

Our members



Our objectives

1. Shape Social Europe

positively influence the development of the EU's social and economic model by focusing our policy work upon the relationship between economic and social policies, and by promoting our common vision for a social Europe

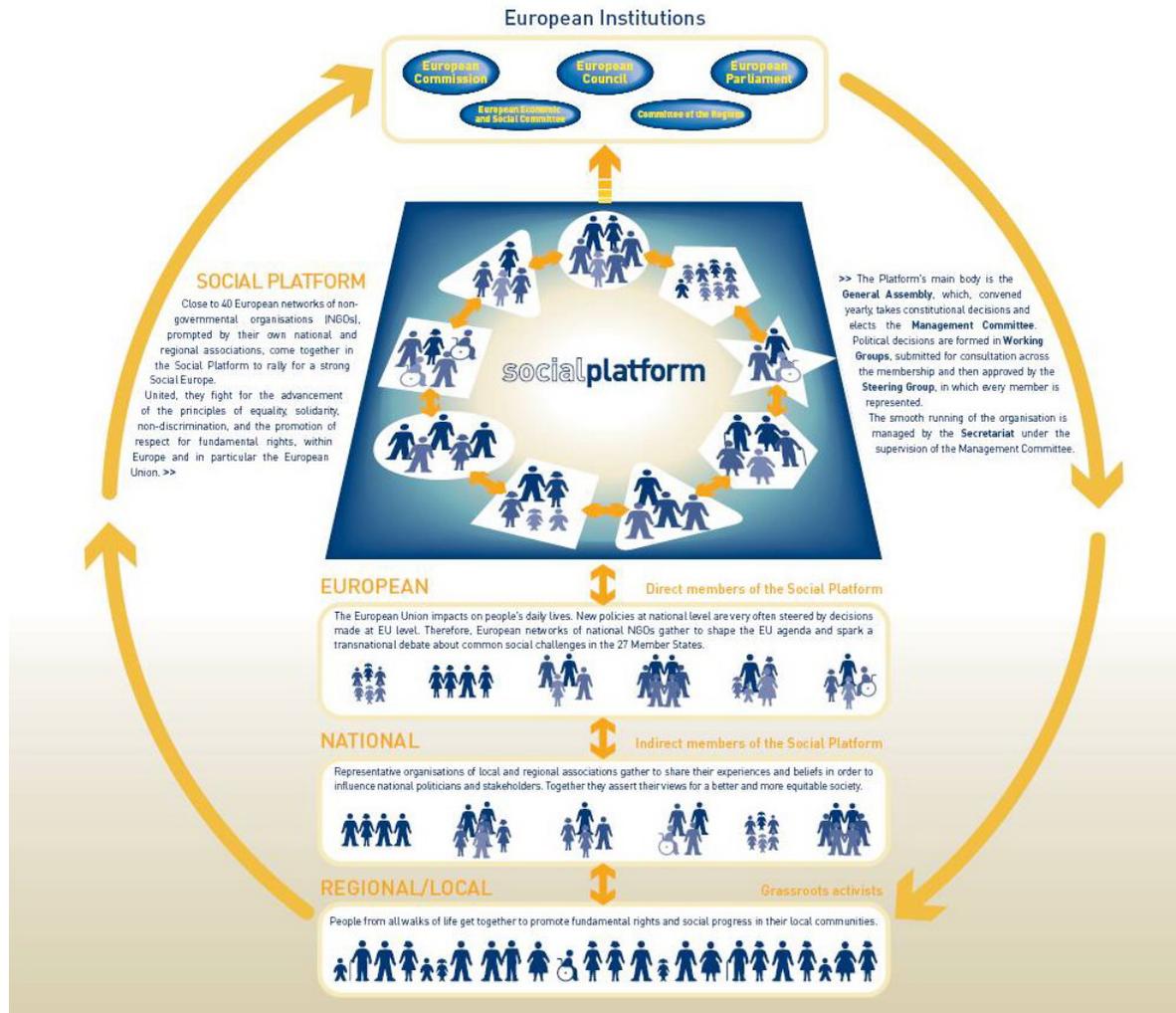
2. Strengthen the NGO sector

support the development of a strong, vibrant social NGO sector

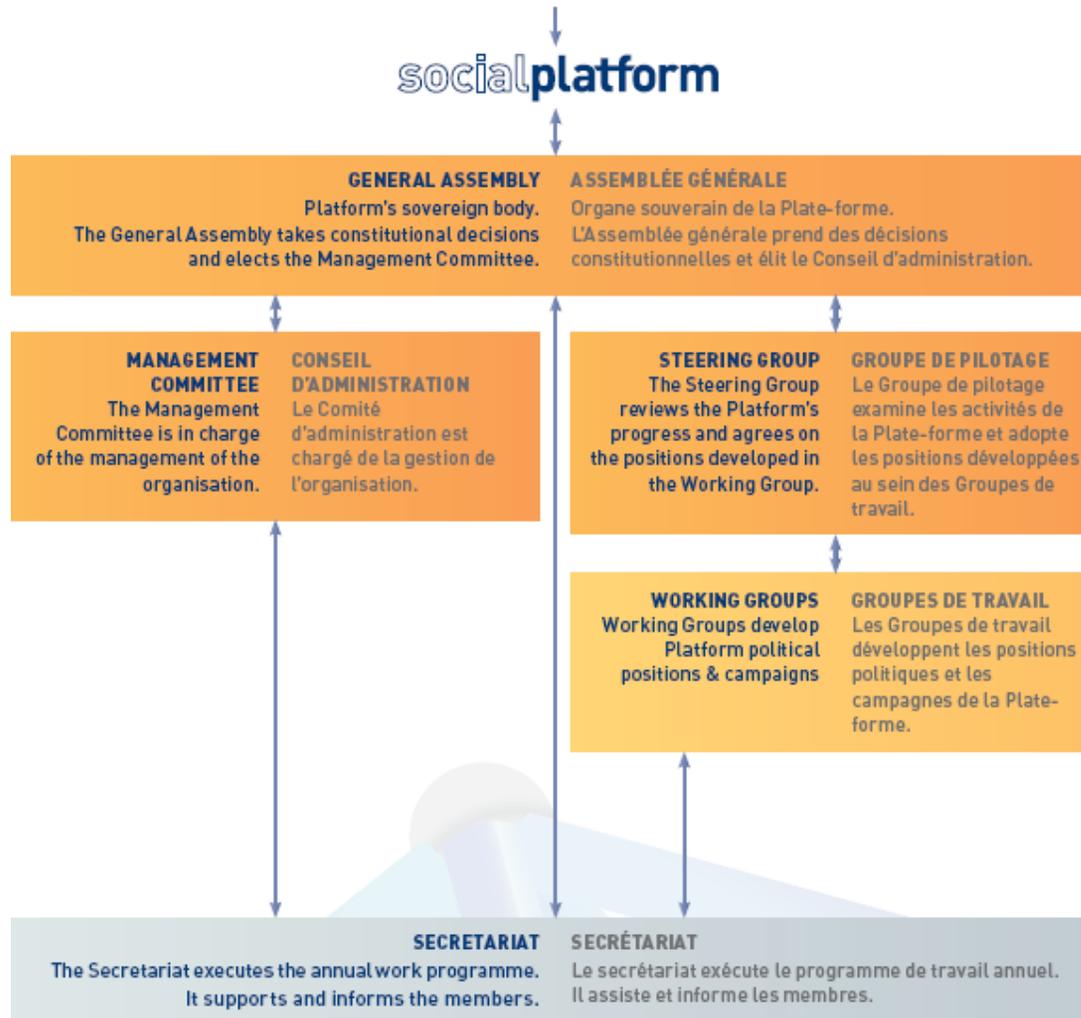
3. Promote participatory democracy

strengthen participatory democracy by supporting a process of dialogue between NGOs and a more transparent European Union

How are we structured? (1/2)



How are we structured? (2/2)



What do we do? (1/2)

- **Information** - overview of EU institutions, tracking policy and political events
- **Networking** - meeting other key actors, Study Visits
- **Visibility** - raising the profile of members, ensuring that their voices are heard
- **Lobbying** - getting members' viewpoints across and providing detailed expertise (amendments for legislation, data and statistics, writing reports)

What do we do? (2/2)

- **Challenge** the policy-makers and other stakeholders to address concerns or provide evidence and arguments for their positions
- **Empower** - provide the tools for NGOs to act, e.g. draft letters, attend meetings with policy-makers
- **Represent** - bringing forward the diversity of voices of civil society, public interest, visibility through the media
- **Follow-up** - follow policies through to implementation, evaluation and review

How do we influence the European Commission?



- DGs and services:
EMPL, SANCO, JLS, EAC, ECFIN, INT,
ELAR, COM, Research, Budget,
Legal service, Secretariat General

- Formal consultation procedures
(Green Papers, Impact
Assessments, Platforms/Forums)
- Informal consultation and
meetings with DGs and
Commissioners
- Bi-annual meetings with Director
Generals and Commissioners
- Open letters to Commissioners
- Speaking at Commission's high
level groups and conferences
- Reaction releases

How do we influence the European Parliament?



- Committees:
LIBE, EMPL, ENV, AFCE, JURI, FEMM

- Meet MEPs individually
- Bi-annual meetings with the coordinators of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee
- Suggest amendments
- Input into reports
- Draft questions
- Organise joint events

How do we influence the Council of Ministers?



- Councils:
EPSCO, JAI, European Council

- Work at national level with open letters and campaigns
- Meet with national civil servants (Permanent Representatives) who prepare ministerial meetings
- Participate in Informal Employment and Social Affairs Council at the beginning of each presidency
- Regular meetings with Social Protection Committee (SPC) and Employment Committee (EMCO)

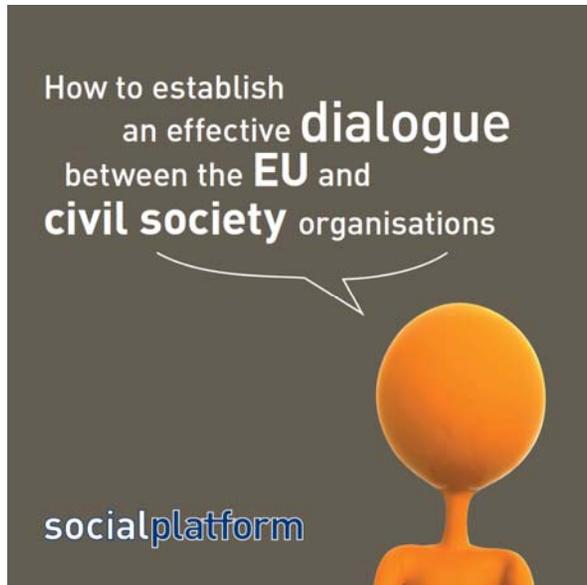
Other actors that we work with

- Other EU institutions, agencies and committees (EESC, CoR, Eurofund, FRA, SPC, EMCO)
- Trade associations (ETUC)
- Think tanks, researchers
- Local and regional authorities
- Chambers of commerce
- Media
- Other families of NGOs — Civil Society Contact Group

Our priorities in 2010

- **Change the growth paradigm of the EU**
EU2020, Spring Alliance, EY2010, Employment Guidelines
- **Establish a solid fundamental rights infrastructure**
SGI, Stockholm programme, FRA
- **Promote the new life-cycle model**
maternity/paternity leave directive
- **Fight discrimination and ensure equality**
Article 13 directive
- **Annual theme: Build a caring society**

Recommendations to improve dialogue



Thank you!

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