

# European Movement International

## Draft Work Plan 2021

### Table of Contents

#### 1 Introduction

#### 2 Statutory Activities and other internal meetings

- 2.1 Federal Assembly
- 2.2 Members' Council
- 2.3 Board Meetings
- 2.4 National Councils meeting and International Associations meeting

#### 3 Networking and Capacity-Building Activities

#### 4 Content-based activities: Communications, Events and Policy

- 4.1 Democracy, citizen participation and fundamental values
- 4.2 A social, sustainable and prosperous Europe
- 4.3 Europe in the World

#### 5 Project-oriented activities

- 5.1 Democracy Alive
- 5.2 Listen to Europe
- 5.3 Europe Day 2021
- 5.4 European Democracy Group
- 5.5 On Our Watch
- 5.6 The Women of Europe Awards 2021
- 5.7 Investing in the Future of Europe

## 1 Introduction

The European Movement International is a non-profit association aiming to contribute to the establishment of a united Europe founded on the principles of peace, democracy, liberty, solidarity, and respect for basic human rights. The European Movement brings together a large spectrum of organisations, including National Councils (34), International Associations (35) and Supporting Members (7).

The members of the European Movement International are united through a network that allows the European Movement to fulfil its role as a promoter of active participation of citizens, organised civil society, trade unions, businesses, sectoral interests, academia, political parties and local authorities in the debates that affect Europe's challenges and the future of the European project.

In 2021 the European Movement International will continue to strengthen and broaden its network through an active strategy of recruiting new members and establishing and rebuilding National Councils in countries where the European Movement currently has no presence or activities. We will also work to reach out to citizens. This plan focuses on increasing the support base of the European Movement International and its ability to reach more citizens across Europe to advocate in favour of European values and European integration.

In order to fulfil its objectives, the European Movement International will seek to find the right balance between promoting the active involvement of civil society organisations, trade unions, businesses, sectoral interests, academia, political parties and local authorities and citizen engagement. We will do this by promoting a dialogue among all stakeholders at the European level, and by encouraging the participation of citizens through activities oriented towards the general public, directly through communications and with the involvement of the European Movement's National Councils. As in past years, a key goal will be to narrow the gap between citizens and the European Institutions through an enhanced communication strategy that involves building a platform where civil society can come together to debate and shape the direction of the European project.

In 2021, the European Movement's activities will be guided by the key debates shaping the future of Europe, the priorities and [annual work programme](#) of the European Commission, the Portuguese and Slovenian presidencies of the Council of the EU and the work areas of the European Parliament. Via our communications, events, policy and advocacy work, we will continue to involve citizens and stakeholders in the decisions that affect them, engage with and influence policy-makers in favour of an open, inclusive, sustainable and transparent Europe. Alongside our work addressing the various opportunities and challenges of European integration and cooperation, we will continue to encourage the participation of all citizens, will work to reinvigorate the democratic governance and legitimacy of the EU through enhanced civil dialogues, increased transparency and better consultation processes.

## 2 Statutory Activities and other internal meetings

In 2021, the European Movement International will convene one meeting of its Federal Assembly, one meeting of its Members' Council and four meetings of its Board. Taking into account the possible COVID-19-related safety measures and travel restrictions in Europe throughout 2021, the activities and meetings will take place in person only when possible and will otherwise be held online.

### 2.1 Federal Assembly

The 2021 meeting of the Federal Assembly is planned to take place in **November 2021**. It will gather around 100 delegates from all over Europe, representing the European Movement International's Members, its Board, staff and external guests. The Federal Assembly will provide an opportunity to take stock of the European Movement's work, to discuss upcoming activities and priorities and to exchange ideas across the network on the key debates shaping the European project at the time.

### 2.2 Members' Council

The 2021 meeting of the Members' Council will take place in **May 2021**. It will gather delegates from all over Europe, representing the European Movement International's Members, its Board, staff and external guests. Similar to the Federal Assembly 2021, the Members' Council will feature debates on key policy priorities of the network and developments at the European level.

### 2.3 Board Meetings

The Board will meet four times in 2021 and the meetings' dates will ideally be agreed by the Board by the end of 2020. The Board meetings are to be attended by the Board members and supported by staff members. Ahead of each Board meeting, the European Movement International will organise meetings of the three Political Committees.

## 2.4 National Councils meeting and International Associations meeting

As initiated in the previous years, the European Movement International Secretariat will organise its annual Heads of Office meeting in two separate gatherings:

- The International Associations meeting will gather representatives of our associative members;
- The National Councils meeting will bring together representatives of our national sections from all over Europe.

## 3 Networking and Capacity-Building Activities

The European Movement International Network is currently composed by **76 Member Organisations**, which includes **34 National Councils**, **35 International Associations** and **7 Supporting Members**. Looking at the network as a whole, we still need to take into consideration important disparities regarding the size and capacities of respective members. While some are at a very advanced stage concerning the structure, resources and capacities, others are still in a developing phase, trying to grow and consolidate their activities, as well as organisational structures. The European Movement International will maintain its efforts to **attract new Members** by developing target group-oriented actions. At the same time, we will continue to work on **strengthening the capacities** of the already existing ones. We shall do so by organising opportunities for exchange among the European associations, regional cooperation projects and other capacity-building opportunities aimed at the National Councils. The European Movement International dedicates its work-power equally to all Members and, likewise, focuses both on political communication and political representation.

In 2021, the European Movement International will keep constant contact with its partners in civil society, trade unions, employer organisations, businesses, sectoral interests, academia, political parties, local authorities and the media, in order to further deepen our exchange and cooperation. Moreover, we will strive to establish new partnerships to strengthen the network. The aim of the European Movement International is to further develop itself as an essential aggregating pole of European-minded civil society and the aforementioned stakeholders, both at national and pan-European level. In order to fulfil this objective, our organisation builds upon its reputation while improving its image and efficiency as a space for dialogue, exchange and co-operation in support of European values and to promote European integration.

With that in mind, we will continue to develop our **communication tools**, which are crucial for both visibility and capacity-building. Members are encouraged to share their news and events to be featured on the European Movement International website. The information posted on the EMI website will also be regularly disseminated via the European Movement International's social media channels and members newsletter to allow for greater sharing of different member organisation's activities from across the network. Additional communication channels will be used to facilitate the effective exchange of information within the network.

In 2021, the European Movement International will continue to use its various newsletter formats and communication platforms to highlight relevant EU policy areas and events, as well as to increase our outreach and engagement with our audiences. Moreover, we will continue to offer members access to communication material, templates and platforms that can facilitate information sharing, notably through policy updates, weekly network updates, weekly institutional calendars, bi-annual semester calendars and social media.

In 2021 the European Movement International plans to organise **briefing events, roundtables, conferences and workshops** on a range of topics in line with the current EU agenda and the European Movement International's policy priorities. These events will be in person, if conditions allow, in Brussels and across Europe, and will otherwise be held online. The events will at times be organised in cooperation with and in support of its National Councils and International Associations as well as external stakeholders and organisations that support our network's values. While bringing together representatives of the European Institutions and civil society organisations, trade unions, businesses, sectoral interests, academia, political parties and local authorities, the briefings allow for debates around new ideas for Europe and discussing the role of the aforementioned

stakeholders in the context of participatory democracy in different areas of policy making. These activities are also a powerful instrument for attracting new members. The visibility they offer to the European Movement International shows the importance of such events in the current European context.

In order to promote an effective and fluid communication between the Members, the European Movement International's Board and International Office, a regular exchange with the European Associations will be facilitated by Board members representing them and/or EMI team members.

## 4 Content-based activities: Communications, Events, Policy and Advocacy

The content-based activities of 2021 will be developed on the basis of the European Movement International's Strategic Priorities for 2021-2023 as well as key events and policy developments in EU. While the European Movement International will continue to organise its work around a triangle composed by **communications**, **events** and **policy**, the International Office will ensure that the network's priorities are echoed throughout our activities in 2021.

Coordinated by the International Office, the three Political Committees, which operate in line with the Policy Priorities, will be closely involved in the development of policy positions, briefing papers, statements and relevant output and activities of the European Movement International. The Political Committees, consisting of one representative per member organisation that is communicated with the EMI secretariat, will meet as regularly as possible, on the fringes of the Statutory Meetings and whenever deemed necessary.

In 2021, the EU's agenda will be guided by the Portuguese and Slovenian presidencies of the Council of the EU, the European Council's [EU Strategic Agenda for 2019-2024](#) and alongside the [longterm priorities](#) and [2021 work programme](#) of the European Commission and the work areas of the European Parliament. Taking into account the key debates and events that will shape Europe in 2021, and the issues that matter most to Europeans, the European Movement International will prioritise a number of different topics headed under each strategic priority group.

Moreover, against the backdrop of the **COVID-19 pandemic**, a large part of our policy work will directly and indirectly address the challenges of the health and economic crises resulting from the pandemic, both in Europe and its neighbourhood, as well as the EU's long-term recovery. Our policy and advocacy work around these issues will particularly focus on promoting coordinated responses underpinned by collective action and solidarity, that involve various actors at the European, national and local level. At the same time, we will highlight the need to protect fundamental rights and uphold European values and democratic freedoms at all times. Finally, we will underline that citizens need to be involved in Europe's response to the pandemic, and that their perspectives and concerns must be heard in debates that shape Europe's recovery. To this end, we aim to offer our network's diverse perspectives and insights to help find ways for Europe's society and economy to recover in a comprehensive and sustainable manner, and to rethink and redesign the EU's competences in the area of health.

### 4.1 Democracy, citizen participation and fundamental values

- **European values, civil liberties and the rule of law**

In response to the developments in Member States and the EU's neighbourhood, the European Movement International will continue protecting the rule of law, democracy, civil liberties and fundamental values through its policy and advocacy work, communications and events. For this, we will bring together stakeholders and experts from different backgrounds and countries, demonstrating ability of the European Movement International to serve as a platform for constructive discussions and action in order to protect European values and citizens' rights.

- **Protecting civic space and free media**

In times that civic space in Europe is under threat, the European Movement International will continue to advocate the protection of civic space, organised civil society and independent media. Europe needs a healthy civil society and diverse media landscape to protect our common values and improve European democracy. Moreover, pro-democracy civil society organisations in Europe, activists and media organisations should be able to operate without fearing that their work or existence are under threat. To this end, we will encourage leaders to acknowledge the importance of a strong civil society and vibrant and free media. As such, we will highlight the need for the EU to translate the crucial role of civil society into effective protection and support mechanisms and programmes. Meanwhile, we will work to assist

the European Movement's National Councils who are under undue pressure and that struggle to receive national support and funding.

- **Citizen participation and transparency**

The European Movement International will update its thinking on citizen participation and the future of European democracy as well as transparency at the institutional level, responding to developments at the European Parliament and European Commission and citizens' outreach. This will be accompanied by communication activities and events where appropriate. With a view towards the European elections in 2024, we will begin to influence the debate around the reforms of the EU electoral system, while advocating for the introduction of transnational lists and the strengthening of the Lead Candidate system for the election of the European Commission President. Moreover, we will dedicate part of our work to enhancing EU legitimacy through increased accountability and transparency in the European Parliament, the Commission, the Council of the European Union and its representations.

- **Conference on the Future of Europe**

We will continue to monitor and influence developments around the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFoE), that is expected to start in 2021. By contributing with our network's expertise and outreach, we aim to help improve and shape the CoFoE to make it a tool for true citizen participation and amplify the voice of citizens and organised civil society in the Conference. Together with its network and in support of the European Parliament's position, we intend to work on building the momentum for the Conference and to help ensure that the Conference is relevant for citizens and that it has an impact. The European Movement will therefore continue the open dialogue on this issue with the EU institutions, in particular the EP, and like-minded civil society organisations.

- **Migration, integration, and freedom of movement**

Following the previous communication- and policy work in the field of migration and integration, the European Movement International will continue to express its viewpoints on migration, integration and the freedom of movement in the EU. The preservation of freedom of movement, the Schengen area and labour mobility will be one of the focus points in policy-, communication- and events work. Moreover, our activities in this area will support our work on the EU's external approach and overall framework managing migration and asylum.

- **Digital democracy**

Online platforms and digital tools have become essential parts of European democracy, facilitating the exchange and participation of citizens across Europe. To ensure that online platforms, social media and digital participation tools are safe, empowering and transparent, we will focus our work on promoting the debate around digital solutions and highlight civil society's perspectives on the regulation, transparency and accountability of digital platforms and online media. Ensuring a diverse and secure online space, strengthening online media, countering disinformation, ensuring safe and fair elections and strengthening civil society's voice online.

## 4.2 A social, sustainable and prosperous Europe

- **European Green Deal and sustainable development**

In 2021, the European Movement International will carry on its work on addressing sustainability from an environmental, economic and social perspective and while embedding the issue in the context of the European Green Deal and the EU's international partnerships and commitments. To this end, our policy work, communications, projects and events will focus on how environmental protection, economic development, and social rights and inclusion can be harmonised, reinforce each other as well as Europe's recovery from the pandemic, and how the role of citizens and civil society can be enhanced. As we continue to push for the full implementation of the European Green Deal, the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, we will connect and amplify the voices of our network, representing citizens from all walks of life, and include the insights and networks of external stakeholders at the local, national and European level, who reflect our goals and values.

- **Single Market**

The Single market is one of the key achievements of the European Union, it brings with it many benefits for citizens that we tend to take for granted, including the freedom of movement as well as the boost it gives to competition and trade in Europe. In order to create greater awareness and understanding for the

EU's internal market and the advantages it brings to citizens, we aim to bring together our network's expertise in 2021 and produce new thinking on this topic, supported by communications, targeted campaigns and events.

- **Europe's digital agenda**

Our work in 2021 will address the economic and social aspects of Europe's digital transformation, by highlighting ways for the EU to empower and include citizens in the process of this transition, that should leave no one behind. While our activities will focus on effective policy solutions that can protect citizens digital rights, we will contribute to the debates on the EU's digital strategy as a way to boost sustainable and competitive businesses. Moreover, we will address the question of how skills, jobs and sectors can be made fit for the digital transition.

- **European Monetary Union (EMU) and Banking Union**

In 2021, the European Movement International will continue its efforts to influence the debate and decision-making on the deepening of the EMU and the completion of the Banking Union, and will engage with key institutions and stakeholders, including the European Central Bank, the European Commission, the European Parliament and Member States on these and related issues.

- **Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and Own Resources**

In this first year of the EU's new MFF, we will call on leaders to follow up on their commitment to let the EU's long-term budget be underpinned by citizens' and civil society's priorities as well as key values and principles, such as fundamental rights, democracy, rule of law, equality, social rights and environmental protection. Moreover, we will highlight the need to further develop the EU's system of own resources.

- **European Pillar of Social Rights**

The European Movement International will continue its activities and communications to advocate for a stronger European social dimension and the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, in close cooperation with its members and other relevant stakeholders.

- **Youth, Education and Skills**

Youth rights, education and skills remaining a priority for the European Movement International and we will continue to address these issues in 2021 policy area, engaging its members and key external partners in this regard and looking at ways to promote inclusive learning, youth empowerment and mobility, enhanced investment in education, digital skills, lifelong learning, quality internships and jobs.

## 4.3 Europe in the World

- **Foreign affairs, security and defence cooperation**

EU foreign and security policy remains a work in progress, but there is a clear momentum to strengthen the EU's global position and allow citizens worldwide to benefit. The European Movement International will continue to engage with these debates on a European scale and implement concerted action in the field of policy, events and communication in the context of these debates.
- **Future EU-UK relations**

The UK's withdrawal from the European Union brings about profound changes for citizens in both the UK and the European Union. In 2021, our work in this area will focus on promoting a close and comprehensive partnership, based on common values. Moreover, our activities will encourage thinking and debates on how the EU and the UK can foster cooperation in the areas of trade, sustainable development, climate action, foreign policy, security and defence, and the protection of citizens' rights and the rule of law. Moreover, our work will highlight the need to respect the integrity of the Single Market and the Customs Union and the indivisibility of the four freedoms.
- **International cooperation**

As Europe faces shifting political and economic leadership on the world stage, the European Movement International aims to increase its presence in the debates on globalisation, international cooperation and trade, by continuing to organise public debates and develop its policies and communication on key issues in this field. With the US being one of the key partners of the EU, we will promote an enhanced dialogue with US organisations and political actors engaged in advancing the transatlantic cooperation based on common values.
- **Enlargement and neighbourhood policy**

The European Movement International will continue to follow the developments around enlargement and produce policy output and activities that advocate in favour of enlargement and that promote peace, stability, investment and cooperation in the EU's neighbourhood. The role of civil society organisations in enlargement and neighbourhood policy will remain a particular focus as well as the emphasis of the enlargement process as a way to strengthen democratic societies, increase regional stability, sustainable development and enhance citizens' rights and freedoms.
- **Migration and Asylum**

Migration and asylum in Europe shall be a focal point of our activities in 2021, as we focus our attention on key policies, including the EU's new Migration and Asylum Pact, the new Integration and Inclusion Action Plan and other international partnerships addressing migration. As such, we will promote the development of truly common European immigration and asylum policy built on the principle of solidarity and the fair sharing of responsibility and that offers protection for those in need, fosters legal migration and supports peace and sustainable developments in migrants' countries of origin.
- **Contributing to a better world**

When working on the above issues, the European Movement International will take the following 'horizontal' issues into account: strengthening Europe's role in conflict prevention and resolution, peace-building and peace-keeping; promoting human rights, the rule of law and democracy all over the world; fostering cross-border civil society cooperation; and supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the European Green Deal globally. Specific policy-, advocacy- and communication activities will be developed in these areas in response to developments throughout 2021.

## 5. Project-oriented Activities

Next to its broader policy, events and communications work, the European Movement International also works on a variety of projects and project-oriented activities together with its members and other relevant stakeholders. In addition to the project activities described below, the European Movement International will continue to support its National Councils and International Associations in establishing transnational cooperation, e.g. by suggesting initiatives, providing support in the application for grants or the implementation of projects, also as co- or leading applicants for calls. Projects that illustrate and emphasise the aspects of pan-European co-operation and best practices' exchange will therefore continue to be developed, whenever possible. While in 2021 we plan to

strengthen the below-mentioned ongoing projects, we will also work towards establishing new projects and partnerships. The implementation of these projects will depend on the funding that can be obtained.

## 5.1 Democracy Alive

Democracy Alive will remain a tool to connect activists from across Europe and support them in their efforts to defend, strengthen and promote European democracy. Our 'Action Centre' will provide a platform for pro-Europeans and pro-democracy activists to take part in campaigns and promote the issues they care passionately about. Moreover, we will work together with the European Movement Denmark to help them with organising the European Democracy Festival in Denmark in 2022, by providing the experience, knowledge and network we acquired from the work we did to organise the Democracy Alive festival in 2019.

## 5.2 Listen to Europe

Building on the polling that the European Movement International commissioned in 2019, looking at the drivers of behaviours and attitudes of citizens in 13 European Union member states towards democracy and authoritarianism, in order to equip CSOs with knowledge that will allow them to better communicate with citizens and on the work conducted in 2020 when we further developed the website ([www.listentoeurope.info](http://www.listentoeurope.info)) and we worked with CSOs to assess the reach of their campaigns, we will use 2021 to expand the project and reach out to more pro-European organisations working to enhance their messaging and communication. We intend to help enhance organisations' capacities and support more effective and targeted European narratives, message framing and audience outreach.

## 5.3 Europe Day 2021

As every year, we will commemorate the anniversary of the Schuman Declaration on 9 May 2021. In close cooperation with our members, and with the support of the European Commission, we will develop a wide range of activities involving citizens across Europe, both online and offline (if possible due to COVID). In order to reach out to even more citizens, the European Movement International will seek the support of many local, national and European partners with the objective of bridging the gap between citizens and the European institutions. We will apply accumulated knowledge and tools in developing visual identity and materials, including videos, in order to expand our respective base audiences and reach a higher number of European citizens and persuadable audiences with pro-European and pro-democratic messages, as well as increase the overall visibility of our network. Moreover, to strengthen the network, several meetings, either in person or online, will be organised prior to the celebrations to build up a common strategy of action and exchange material and good practices, as well as to optimise campaigns and messages for particular national audiences and target groups.

## 5.4 European Democracy Group

Building on its work in the area of European democracy, the European Movement International and Carnegie Europe will continue to regularly convene a selected group of European civil society representatives, EU policymakers and stakeholders from academia, think tanks, foundations and the media, dedicated to improving the quality and future of democracy in the European Union. These discussions will be accompanied by other activities, including joint reports, public events or workshops on ways to reshape and improve European democracy from an academic and civil society perspective. Topics will include citizens engagement in EU decision-making, civic space and activism in Europe, the rule of law, digital democracy, elections, climate and democracy and the media.

## 5.5 On Our Watch

In 2021, the On Our Watch project will be further developed to serve as a platform to strengthen civil society cooperation on specific policy areas and issues, informing citizens about civil society's actions and create awareness for these activities vis-à-vis the European Parliament and the European Commission. The first stage of the On Our Watch project, developed in 2016-2017, was to reflect on what the Parliament had achieved in the past years, and to check up on the progress made against politicians' promises and citizens' demands. Ahead of the European Elections 2019, civil society organisations used the project as a platform to publish and promote their pledges and demands towards candidates for the European Parliament. In 2021 will see the core partners and

an expanding group of contributors further develop the online and offline activities, adapt the content key debates and policies, and create further awareness for civil society's priorities.

## 5.6 The Women of Europe Awards 2021

The 2021 awards will be the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Women of Europe Awards, which was relaunched in 2015 and builds on the original Woman of Europe Award as well as the national awards of several of its National Councils. The Awards, organised in cooperation with the European Women's Lobby, focus on highlighting and enhancing the role of women in European integration. Building on the work and winners of the past years, the possibility for an internal network of former Award winners and other interested members will be explored. As part of the Women of Europe Awards, we aim to organise further activities in 2021, addressing gender equality and diversity. These activities, whether events, communication or policy, will be connected to key events such as International Women's Day in March, and will be developed in cooperation with our network and external stakeholders from various sectors.

## 5.7 Investing in the Future of Europe

In partnership with the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Movement International will continue to organise events, online and when possible offline, in the context of the series 'Investing in the Future of Europe'. Featuring debates in different EU Member States and accession countries and involving members of civil society, EU institutions, national governments, and further stakeholders such as businesses and employer organisations, the events offers a much-needed opportunity to highlight the benefits of European integration and to discuss how to invest in the European Union and the well-being of its citizens. The events are organised with the support of the respective European Movement's national offices and are supported by a communication campaign in line with the project's core messages. Since its launch in 2017, the series has already seen events in numerous European countries, including in Poland, France, Serbia, Ireland, Denmark, Estonia, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, the Netherlands and Finland.