

Annual Report 2022

Social Services Europe

1. Internal meetings

- The SSE General Assembly 2022 was held on 31 May 2022.
- An Extraordinary General Assembly was organised on 14 December 2022, i.a., to approve the SSE Work Programme 2023 and the SSE Budget for 2023.
- In 2022, the SSE Board met 8 times (2 February, 2 March, 27 April, 31 May, 27 June, 5 September, 26 October, and 14 December).
- In 2022, the General Working Group (GWG) came together 7 times (8 February, 8 March, 26 April, 1 July, 4 October, 15 November, and 16 December).
- In 2022, SSE operated two Taskforces, one on the European Care Strategy (TF ECS) and the other on the Social Economy Action Plan (TF SE AP).
- The Work Programme 2022 was elaborated by the Coordinator based on written and oral feedback from the Board and the GWG received prior to, at and after two meetings of the Board and the GWG respectively.
- The Treasurer, supported by the President and the Coordinator, prepared the SSE Budget for 2022 – adopted at the Extraordinary General Assembly on 14 December 2022 – and the SSE Budget Forecast for the years 2022 to 2024.
- The “Strategic Orientation Paper”, approved by the Extraordinary General Assembly on 26 November 2021, served as main reference paper for the conceptual and strategic work of SSE.
- The President and Vice-President elaborated a list of topics for “strategic discussions” by the Board (either as session of regular Board meetings or as separate meetings) which was presented to the Board in the meeting on 26 October and approved by the Board members as basis for these exchanges in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

2. Statutes

- Amendments to the SSE Statutes mainly concerning the articles 6.7 (Observer Members), 7 (Work with Partners), 13.5, 13.6 and 13.7 (President, Vice-President; Permanent Observer to the Executive Board) as well 14.1 and 14.2 (Chairing of the Executive Board) were approved by the General Assembly on 31 May.

3. Membership

- The Federation of European Social Employers (“Social Employers”) became Observer Member of SSE by decision of the General Assembly on 31 May. SSE became observer member of the Social Employers on the same day.
- No change compared to 2021 as to full membership.

4. Networking and (strategic) partnerships

- SSE is a member of the Liaison Group Civil Society Organisations (LG CSO) of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) –since May 2021 represented by the Coordinator. SSE co-organised a workshop with the Social Platform at the European Civil Society Days 2022¹.
- SSE is a member of the European Commission’s Expert Group on Social Economy and Social Entrepreneurship (GECES), with a mandate until 2024 – since October 2021 represented by the Coordinator.
- In 2022, SSE and the Social Platform Secretariat regularly exchanged on a number of policy dossiers. They co-organised Workshop 7 [“The Future of Social Protection and the European Welfare State: minimum income schemes and access to quality social services”](#) in the context of the European Civil Society Days 2022.

5. Policy and advocacy work

- Documents elaborated
 - Members of the Taskforce “European Care Strategy” elaborated and coordinated the [SSE Contribution to EC Consultation on a Roadmap/Evidence Collection on European Care Strategy](#), submitted on 18 February 2022.
 - Members of the Taskforce “Social Economy Action Plan” and the Coordinator elaborated the [SSE Proposals for the Implementation of the Social Economy Action Plan - From Ambition to Implementation](#), finalised on 28 April 2022, and the [SSE Contribution to the EC Call for Evidence for a Commission Proposal for a Council Recommendation on Social Economy Framework Conditions](#), submitted on 30 September 2022.
 - The Coordinator drafted the [Social Services Europe Position and Briefing Note on a Statute for European Cross-Border Associations and Non-Profit Organisations](#) (10 February 2022), the [Social Services Europe Statement for the Informal Ministerial Meeting on Social Economy, 17 February 2022, Paris](#) (14 February 2022), the [SSE Contribution to the EC Consultation on exemptions for small amounts of state aid \(de minimis aid\)](#) (20 July 2022) as well as the [SSE Contribution to the EC call for evidence on an EC proposal for a legislative initiative on cross-border activities of associations](#) (28 October 2022). He coordinated the latter with CEDAG.

¹ See under heading “Interventions at conferences, workshops, seminars, webinars, etc.” for more information.

- Work with the European Parliament
 - SSE worked with the EP and with other partner organisations (Civil Society Europe; Philea) to provide written input into the [legislative own-initiative report \(INL\) on a Statute for European cross-border associations and non-profit organisations](#) (Rapporteur: Sergey Lagodinsky, Greens/EFA, Germany), led by EP's Committee for Legal Affairs. The EP Report "A Statute for European Cross-Border Associations and Non-Profit Organisations" comprising a Draft Regulation on a Statute for a European Association and a Draft Directive on common minimum standards for non-profit organisations in the EU", taking up quite some proposals and requests from SSE and CEDAG was voted on 9 December by a large majority in the EP Committee for Legal Affairs.
 - Members of the Taskforce "Social Economy Action Plan" provided input and drafted amendments to the EP Report on the EU Action Plan for the Social Economy (2021/2179(INI)) [Rapporteur: MEP Jordi Cañas] as well to the Opinion of the Committee on Legal Affairs on this report. In both cases a good share of the input and amendments was taken up in both documents and is reflected in the [EP Resolution on the EU Action Plan for the Social Economy](#) (6 July 2022).
- Meetings with the European Commission
 - On 24 June, a SSE delegation (Mathieu de Poorter, Laura Jones, Lucy Anns, Ronan Mangan, Mathias Maucher) met with representatives of DG EMPL and DG GROW to exchange on ways for SSE to partner up on selected initiatives of the Social Economy Action Plan while continuing to critically monitoring it. The [SSE Proposals for the Implementation of the Social Economy Action Plan - From Ambition to Implementation](#) was used as "reference document". The Coordinator put together a short report on the meeting.
 - On 1 July, SSE (Mathieu de Poorter [also as President of CEDAG]; Mathias Maucher) were part of a delegation together with colleagues from CSE and PHILEA to exchange with representatives of DG GROW about the planned follow-up activities by the EC in reaction to the EP Report on a Statute for Cross-Border Associations and Minimum Requirements for Non-Profit Organisations in the EU.
- Meetings with governments of EU MS or with the European Council
 - On 11 November a SSE delegation (Mathieu de Poorter & Jiří Horecký) [met Marian Jurečka](#), the Czech Minister of Labour and Social Affairs and Czech Deputy Prime Minister, in Prague.

6. Position Papers & Statements

- [Social Services Europe Position and Briefing Note on a Statute for European Cross-Border Associations and Non-Profit Organisations](#) (10 February 2022)
- [Social Services Europe Statement for the Informal Ministerial Meeting on Social Economy, 17 February 2022, Paris](#) (14 February 2022)
- [SSE Proposals for the Implementation of the Social Economy Action Plan - From Ambition to Implementation](#) (28 April 2022)

7. Contributions to EC Public Consultations/Calls for Evidence

- [SSE Contribution to EC Consultation on a Roadmap/Evidence Collection on European Care Strategy](#) (18 February 2022)
- [SSE Contribution to the EC Consultation on exemptions for small amounts of state aid \(de minimis aid\)](#) (20 July 2022)
- [SSE Contribution to the EC Call for Evidence for a Commission Proposal for a Council Recommendation on Social Economy Framework Conditions](#) (30 September 2022)
- [SSE Contribution to the EC call for evidence on an EC proposal for a legislative initiative on cross-border activities of associations](#) (28 October 2022)

8. Letters

- [SSE Open Letter to EU Institutions on Situation in Ukraine](#) (4 March 2022)
- [SSE Letter to the EC on “Actions and investments needed to support social service providers to address the increased energy costs and the cost-of-living crisis”](#) (20 December 2022)

9. Interventions at conferences, workshops, seminars, webinars, etc.

- Contribution SSE (Laura Jones) “Guaranteeing accessible and affordable quality social services: Key elements of the future European Care Strategy” in [Joint Workshop of the Social Platform and SSE “The Future of Social Protection and the European Welfare State: minimum income schemes and access to quality social services”](#) at the [European Civil Society Days 2022](#) organised by the EESC, 17 March 2022, Brussels.
- Joint Eurodiaconia-SSE Workshop “Social Economy Action Plan and Social Services” – with inputs on behalf of SSE by Heather Roy; Mathieu de Poorter; Lucy Anns; Ronan Mangan; Mathias Maucher; Caitlin Raph – at the Conference [“Social Economy - The Future of Europe”](#), 5 May 2022, Strasbourg, France.
- Joint Workshop of PHILEA, CEDAG, Le Mouvement Associatif and SSE “European statute for cross-border associations and foundations: What are the opportunities?” at the Conference [“Social Economy - The Future of Europe”](#), 5 May 2022, Strasbourg, France (moderation: Mathias Maucher on behalf of SSE).

- Presentation SSE (Mathias Maucher) on “Main topics and priorities in social services and to which extent are they relevant for the homelessness sector?” in Seminar “Who is the homeless sector?” at FEANTSA Policy Conference 2022, 3 June 2022, Dublin, Ireland.
- Contribution SSE (Jiří Horecký) at webinar [“Introducing the EU Care Strategy: Initial Stakeholders’ Reactions”](#), 9 September 2022, to present key stakeholders’ initial reactions to the [European Care Strategy](#). SSE’s 4 minute contribution focused on cross-country workforce migration and funding/financing of social services, building on the [SSE Contribution to the EC Consultation on the ECS](#). The [webinar](#) has been recorded (in [English](#) and [French](#)).
- Participation SSE (Mathias Maucher) in Panel II “Social and Care Services as enablers of the European Pillar of Social Rights” at Eurodiaconia Conference “State of Social Union, 28 September 2022, Brussels.
- Presentations SSE (Mathias Maucher) on “Public Procurement and Alternatives” in Workshop 3 “Funding Quality? Identifying promising practices” and on “SSE’s expectations and priorities for a European Social Services Helpdesk” in Workshop 10 “EU funds for Quality? Building capacity and identifying needs” at EASPD Annual Conference, 12 and 13 October 2022, St Paul’s Bay, Malta.
- Contribution SSE (Mathieu de Poorter) to [Debate on European Care Strategy at EPSCO Council Meeting](#) on 8 December 2022, Brussels.

10. Projects

- SSE became one of the 16 partners of a consortium led by EASPD which elaborated (again led by EASPD) and submitted on 13 August the project proposal “Social Services Helpdesk”. All other SSE members except for the Red Cross EU Office are also project partners².

11. Communication and dissemination

- All SSE publications have been uploaded to the [SSE webpage](#), under the heading “Publications”.

² The Social Services Helpdesk is a two-years project which is co-funded by DG EMPL from ESF+ money. It has three main objectives: 1) Raise awareness and understanding about ESF+ and React-EU and other relevant EU funds; 2) Facilitate the use of and access to EU funds for social services; and 3) Facilitate exchange and co-operation between Managing Authorities, social services, and the European Commission. By doing so, it will help Managing Authorities to use ESF+, React EU and other EU funds for quality interventions in the field of social services - in line with European social, employment and health policy objectives and to support the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan – and to support social service providers in accessing and using such funds. End of 2021 the decision of the EC to fund the project was still pending.