



European Movement International

Work Plan 2018

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1 Introduction

The EUROPEAN MOVEMENT INTERNATIONAL (EMI) is a non-profit association whose main objective is 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 (39), International Associations (37) and Supporting Members (5).

The EMI members are united through a network that allows the European Movement to fulfil its role as a promoter of active participation of citizens, civil society organisations, 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.

Following the success of the membership policy in the past few years, in 2018 the EMI will continue to strengthen its network through an active strategy of new members' recruitment. This plan clearly focuses on increasing the support base of the EMI and its ability to reach out to more citizens through further organized civil society organisations, trade unions, businesses, sectoral interests, academia, political parties, and local authorities across Europe.

In order to fulfil its objectives, the EMI will seek to find the correct balance between promoting the active involvement of civil society organisations, trade unions, businesses, sectoral interests, academia, political parties and local authorities through the promotion of dialogue among all stakeholders at the European level, and the active participation of European citizens through activities oriented towards the general public (with the involvement of the EM National Councils). As in past years, the main objective will be to narrow the gap between citizens and the European Institutions through an enhanced communication strategy that involves building a platform upon which civil society, trade unions, businesses, sectoral interests, academia, political parties and local authorities and the different levels of government come together to debate and shape the direction of the European project.

The European Movement's debate will be in lead with the priorities of the European Commission, laid out in their ambitious work plan, the priorities of the European Council, and the priorities of the Bulgarian and Austrian presidencies. At the content level, the implementation of Brexit and the refugee crisis will be at the top of EMI's agenda. Other topics such as the EU enlargement, the competitiveness of the single market and the EU institutional landscape will also retain all our attention. Since 2016, the EMI has started to organise its work around a triangle composed by communications, events and policy. The International Office plans to increase this focus and to further develop its work in these three areas. As usual, the EMI will address the empowerment and participation of all citizens, working to improve the democratic governance and legitimacy of the EU by improved civil dialogue, enhanced transparency and quality of the consultation processes, and raising public awareness of European issues.

2 Statutory Activities and other internal meetings

In 2018, the EMI will convene one meeting of its Federal Assembly, one meeting of its Members' Council and four meetings of its Board.

2.1 Federal Assembly

The 2018 meeting of the Federal Assembly (FA) will take place in **November 2018** in **Vienna, Austria**. It will gather around 100 delegates from all over Europe, representing the EMI Members, its Board, staff and external guests. Apart from the statutory procedures, the FA meeting will also be an occasion for exchanges with the Estonian Government on the achievements of the Presidency.

2.2 Members' Council

The 2018 meeting of the Members' Council (MC) will take place in **May 2018** in **Brussels, Belgium**. It will gather around 75 delegates coming from all over Europe, representing the EMI Members, its Board, staff and external guests.

2.3 Board Meetings

The EMI Board will meet four times in 2018 and the meetings' dates will be later defined. The Board meetings are to be attended by the Board members and supported by few staff members.

2.4 National Councils meeting and International Associations meeting

As initiated in the last two year, the EMI International Office offers to revamp its annual Heads of Office meeting and to separate it into two gatherings:

- The International Associations meeting will gather representatives of our associative members and will take place in June 2018 in Brussels;
- The National Councils meeting will bring together representatives of our national sections from all over Europe and will take place in Brussels in October 2018.

3 Networking and Capacity-Building Activities

The EMI Network is currently composed by 81 Member Organisations, including 39 National Councils, 37 International Associations and 5 Supporting Members. Considering the network as a whole, we still need to take into consideration important disparities regarding the size and capacities of respective Members: some of them are already at a very advanced stage concerning the structure, resources and capacities, whilst others are still in a developing phase, trying to grow and consolidate their activities, as well as organisational structures. The EMI will maintain its efforts to **attract new Members** by developing target group-oriented actions; but in 2018 it will also focus on **strengthening the capacities** of the already existing ones. The EMI shall do so by organising opportunities for exchange among the European associations, trainings, regional cooperation projects and other capacity-building opportunities aimed at the National Councils. The EMI International Office dedicates its work-power equally to all Members and, likewise, focuses both on political communication and political representation.

In 2018, the EMI will work to keep constant contact with its partners in civil society, trade unions, businesses, sectoral interests, academia, political parties and local authorities in order to further develop cooperation as well as strive to develop new partnerships facilitating the network, especially in the regions where the cooperation is still underdeveloped or non-existent. The aim of the EMI is to further develop itself as an essential aggregating pole of European-minded civil society, trade unions, businesses, sectoral interests, academia, political parties and local authorities, both at the national and pan-European levels. 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.

With that in mind, the EMI will continue to develop its **communication tools**, which are crucial for both visibility and capacity-building. The website, introduced in 2014, allows for a greater flow of information, with more items being posted and a greater flexibility in the types of content that can be used – with a lot more focus on visuals. EMI members are encouraged to share their news and events to be featured on the website. The information posted on the website is also regularly disseminated via the EMI social media channels and Members' newsletter, introduced in 2016 to allow for greater sharing of different member organisation's activities from across the network. In 2018, the EMI will continue to develop its newsletters as well as wider communication outreach. In the context of capacity-building and communication, specific services will be also offered to the Members in terms of information sharing, notably through weekly policy updates, weekly institutional calendars, and bi-annual semester calendars.

In 2018 the EMI will continue to organise **briefing events, conferences and seminars** on diverse European topics in line with the current European agenda, not only in Brussels, but also Europe-wide, in cooperation with its National Councils and International Associations. Those events have proven to be very successful, both in terms of content and attendance. While bringing together representatives of the European Institutions and civil society organisations, trade unions, businesses, sectoral interests, academia, political parties and local authorities, the EMI 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. Those

activities are also a powerful instrument for attracting new members. The visibility they offer to the EMI shows the importance of such events in the current European context.

Last but not least, and in order to promote a good and fluid communication between the Members, EMI Board and International Office, regular contacts with the European Associations will be further exercised and visits to the National Councils will be planned and conducted by Board and/or International Office Members.

4 Content-based activities: Communications, Events and Policy

The content-based activities will be developed on the basis of the new EMI Strategic Priorities for 2018-2020 and in line with the key developments in EU. Since 2016, the EMI organises its work around a triangle composed by communications, events and policy and the International Office plans to continue this focus throughout 2018.

Coordinated by the International Office, the three new Political Committees, which operate in line with EMI Strategic Priorities, will be closely involved in the development of policy positions and inform the thinking of the EMI. These Political Committees will meet in the fringes of the Statutory Meetings and whenever deemed necessary, and are open to all Members.

In 2018, the agenda of the European Union will be dominated by the Future of Europe debate, preparations of the 2019 European elections and its Article 50 negotiations with the United Kingdom, as well as the priorities of the Bulgarian and Austrian presidencies, work programme of the Commission and work areas of the European Parliament. The EMI will focus on several key topics headed under each strategic priority:

4.1 Democracy, citizen participation and fundamental values

- **Future of Europe debate**

Building on the elaborate thinking produced in 2017 – a new series of Policy Positions on the Future of Europe in the areas of globalisation, finances, defence, social rights and the Economic and Monetary Union – the work on this topic in 2018 will focus on making the voice of the European Movement International heard in the debate. This will happen through targeted dissemination of the policy work done, communication through social media, website and emails, and events on specific elements of the Future of Europe debate. The focus of these activities is to inform citizens and all involved stakeholders, and to enable them to input into the debate.

- **Citizen participation and transparency**

The European Movement International will update its thinking on citizen participation and transparency, to be able to respond to the latest developments on the side of the European Parliament and European Commission and citizen outreach in the context of the Future of Europe debate. This will be followed by communication activities and events where appropriate. Furthermore, this work will build on the work done in 2017 on e-Democracy and European citizenship education. It will also relate, where possible, to the project activities regarding citizen participation ahead of the 2019 European elections.

- **Fundamental rights and European values**

In the context of developments in Member States, the European Movement International will continue its work around the Rule of Law, democracy and fundamental values based on its new Policy Position and earlier events. In this context, the European Movement International will also continue to bring together stakeholders from different backgrounds, working specifically in these areas, demonstrating the European Movement International

as the platform to discuss European democracy. In addition to the above, in 2018 the work in this area will also focus on protection of the fundamental rights and four freedoms against all forms of discrimination as well as nationalist and populist movements by developing new policy, communication and events work.

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

Following on the previous communication- and policy work in the field of migration and integration, the European Movement International will continue to express its viewpoints on the matter. 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.

4.2 A social, sustainable and prosperous Europe

- **EMU and Own Resources**

2018 will be a key year for reform of the Economic Monetary Union, following the plans of the Commission and German-French discussions on EMU reform. Furthermore, 2018 will also be dominated by discussions on the EU budget in light of the start of negotiations of the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework for the EU27. The European Movement International will continue its efforts to influence the debate and decision-making on the completion of the EMU and introduction of own resources in the EU budget, using its new Policy Positions, advocacy strategies and communication tools, and actively involving all relevant stakeholders.

- **European Pillar of Social Rights**

While 2017 was about shaping the Social Pillar, 2018 will be about its implementation. Building on its new thinking on the Social dimension of the Economic and Monetary Union, the European Movement International will develop activities and communication to advocate for a stronger European social dimension in close cooperation with its members and other relevant stakeholders,

- **Youth and Skills**

Remaining one of the priorities, the work of the European Movement International in 2018 will build on the thinking and campaign material produced in 2017 and previous work of the Political Committees in this regard. Continuing its alliance with the Pact for Youth, the European Movement International will actively support the various initiatives regarding the empowerment of youth through more investment in education, digital skills, lifelong learning, quality internships and jobs.

- **Climate and the environment**

In 2018, the European Movement International will make climate and environment one of its focus points. It will develop new thinking, advocacy and communication activities around these topics, thereby advocating for the full implementation of the Paris Agreement by involving stakeholders at all levels; the continuation of the development of the circular economy; and the consolidation of EU energy policy based on savings, efficiency and renewable sources.

4.3 Europe in the World

- **EU-UK Article 50 negotiations**

Building on the thinking and communication materials produced and events held around the withdrawal of the UK's EU membership, the European Movement International will continue to make its voice heard in the debate and produce new thinking and visuals in line with developments around the negotiations, with the aim of ensuring orderly and transparent Brexit negotiations that respect the rights of EU and UK citizens, and build a strong post-Brexit partnership framework.
- **Foreign affairs, security and defence cooperation**

2017 has seen a revival of discussions on European security cooperation and specifically cooperation of armed forces of the EU27, and these discussions will continue in 2018. The European Movement International will continue to engage with these debates, based on its new positions on security and European defence cooperation, and implement concerted action in the field of policy, events and communication in the context of these debates.
- **Enlargement**

Following the previous work on enlargement, including policy positions, the civil society congresses, and the 2017 joint statement on the situation in the Western Balkans, the European Movement International will continue to follow the developments around enlargement. The European Movement International will actively advocate its position and develop additional activities where appropriate. The role of civil society organisations in enlargement will be a particular focus.
- **Neighbourhood Policy**

Building upon the 2017 policy work, 2018 will see the follow-up to the new policy position on the European Neighbourhood Policy in terms of advocacy, communication, and where appropriate, events.
- **Globalisation and trade**

Building upon its extensive work around TTIP in the past years, and its new position on Globalisation in the context of the Future of Europe debate, the European Movement International will increase its presence in the debates on globalisation and international trade, and organise further public debates or develop its policy and communication on the issue, if new developments occur.
- **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; and supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals globally. Specific policy-, advocacy- and communication activities will be developed in these areas in response to developments throughout 2018.

5. Project-oriented Activities

Next to its 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 emphasize the aspects of pan-European cooperation and best practices' exchange will therefore continue to be developed, whenever possible, in 2018.

5.1 9 May – Europe Day 2018

The European Movement International will, as every year, commemorate the anniversary of the Schuman Declaration on 9 May 2018. In close cooperation with its Members, and with the support of the European Commission, the European Movement International will develop a wide range of activities involving many citizens all over the continent. 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. The use of a common visual identity and materials will also help the EMI to increase the European dimension of the events and to give more visibility to the celebrations. Moreover, in an effort to strengthen the network, several meetings (physical and/or via Skype) will be organised prior to the celebrations to build up a common strategy of action and exchange material and good practices.

5.2 The Women of Europe Awards 2018

The 2018 awards will be the third edition of the new 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 Award, organised in cooperation with the European Women's Lobby, focuses 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.

5.3 The Hague Convention 2018

To celebrate the 70th anniversary of the The Hague Convention of 1948, a grand gathering is foreseen in May 2018, which will bring together civil society, business, trade unions, academia, political parties (and movements), faith groups, sectoral interests, non-government organisations, local authorities and other relevant stakeholders. The purpose will be to gather all those stakeholders that are necessary to renew our Union and deliver

the kind of roadmap that the original Hague Convention produced. Smaller events, ahead of the anniversary, are foreseen to engage the national representatives of the abovementioned stakeholders in discussions on specific policy areas that are central in the effort to address peoples concern, reconnect them with the European process and renew the direction the EU is taking.

5.4 On Our Watch

In 2018, the On Our Watch project will focus on the preparation of the 2019 elections and further develop itself as a platform for civil society cooperation and citizens outreach towards 2019. 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. Building upon the existing partnerships and the website/tools developed, 2018 will see the core partners (European Movement International, European Youth Forum and IHECS School of Journalism) to further develop the online and offline activities.

5.5 ALL for Democracy

The European Movement International has instigated a pro-European alliance for democracy (entitled 'ALL'), launched to campaign in support of European cooperation and democracy. It gathers stakeholders from across society, NGO's, employers, trade unions, local authorities, environmental groups, youth organisations, initiatives and citizens, across party lines and interests, as part of a diverse and inclusive campaign in the run-up to the European Parliament elections in 2019. After the launch in 2017, 2018 will see the development of the campaign towards the 2019 elections. Efforts will be made to organise a 'Democracy Marathon', attended by Europeans from all Member States and sectors of society, to design campaign concepts that could be implemented across Europe. Furthermore, 2018 will see a series of events on the national level that involve the national members of the European partners of ALL.

5.6 European Democracy Group

Building on its work in the area of European democracy, the European Movement International and Carnegie Europe will regularly convene a select group of European civil society representatives and EU policymakers dedicated to deepening democracy in the European Union. This group will debate issues related to the notion of 'EU democracy,' broadly defined, and discuss ideas for a more participative process of EU reform and more effective EU communication, with a view to improving the quality and future of democracy in the European Union. This group will consist of 20-25 key European stakeholders in democracy-related issues, from EU and member state government institutions, non-governmental actors, foundations, think tanks, and the media.