

European Movement International

Work Plan 2019

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1 Introduction

The European Movement International 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 (40) and Supporting Members (6).

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, 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 2019 the European Movement International 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 European Movement International 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 European Movement International 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 European Movement's 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 elections will be at the top of European Movement International's agenda in 2019. As usual, the European Movement's debate will also be in lead by the priorities of the European Commission, laid out in its 2019 Work Programme published in October 2018, the priorities of the European Council and of the Romanian and Finnish presidencies and the work areas of the European Parliament.

Since 2016, the European Movement International 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. The European Movement International will continue to 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 2019, the European Movement International 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 2019 meeting of the Federal Assembly (FA) will take place in **November 2019** in **Helsinki, Finland** (exact date to be confirmed). It will gather around 100 delegates from all over Europe, representing the European Movement International's Members, its Board, staff and external guests.

2.2 Members' Council

The 2019 meeting of the Members' Council (MC) will take place in **May 2019** in **Brussels, Belgium**. It will gather around 75 delegates coming from all over Europe, representing the European Movement International's Members, its Board, staff and external guests.

2.3 Board Meetings

The Board will meet four times in 2019 and the meetings' dates will be agreed by the Board at its final 2018 meeting. 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 four 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 and will take place in Brussels;
- The National Councils meeting will bring together representatives of our national sections from all over Europe and will take place in.

3 Networking and Capacity-Building Activities

The European Movement International Network is currently composed by **85 Member Organisations**, including **39 National Councils**, **40 International Associations** and **6 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 European Movement International will maintain its efforts to **attract new Members** by developing target group-oriented actions; but in 2019 it will also focus on **strengthening the capacities** of the already existing ones. We 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 European Movement International dedicates its work-power equally to all Members and, likewise, focuses both on political communication and political representation.

In 2019, the European Movement International will work to 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 develop cooperation. We will equally 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 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.

With that in mind, we will continue to develop our **communication tools**, which are crucial for both visibility and capacity-building. The website 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 greater focus on visuals. 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 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.

In 2019, the European Movement International will continue to develop its newsletters and communication platforms, some focusing on particular EU policy areas and events, 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 2019 the European Movement International will continue to organise **briefing events, conferences and seminars** on diverse European topics in line with the current European agenda and the European Movement International's policy priorities. Emphasis will be given to the European elections (for details see 'European Elections 2019') These events will not only take place in Brussels, but also Europe-wide, in cooperation with its National Councils and International

Associations. Those events have proven to be 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 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 European Movement International shows the importance of such events in the current European context.

Last but not least, in order to promote a good and fluid communication between the Members, the European Movement International's 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 European Movement International's Strategic Priorities for 2018-2020 and in line with the key developments in EU. Since 2016, the European Movement International organises its work around a triangle composed by communications, events and policy and the International Office plans to continue this focus throughout 2019.

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

In 2019, the European agenda will be dominated by the European elections, the withdrawal of the UK from the EU as well as the priorities of the Romanian and Finnish presidencies, the work programme of the Commission and work areas of the European Parliament. The European Movement International will focus on several key topics headed under each strategic priority:

4.1 European Elections 2019

This Time I'm Voting

The European Movement International is partnering with the European Parliament in support of the EP's campaign 'This Time I'm Voting'.

In the context of the partnership the European Movement has been designated as an official partner and has been given a unique link on the EP campaign website www.ttimv.eu/eurmove. The link will be shared across the EM International network and member organisations (and their members) are invited to sign up to the website and share information, material and on-line campaigns to encourage fellow citizens to vote for the EP elections 2019.

In the context of the partnership, the European Parliament is offering its patronage (and financial support) for the flagship event of the EM International 'Democracy Alive' (more details below), which will also form part of the EP's official campaign.

Democracy Alive – The European Democracy Festival

In the context of the EM International project 'Alliance for Democracy (ALL)', which gathers the biggest stakeholders from across society, we have been working with actors across Europe to develop and promote ways to defend European democracy and make European politics more participatory.

In the context of this project, and in collaboration with the Alliance partner organisation, the European parliament and two Foundations, we will be holding a European Democracy Festival entitled 'Democracy Alive'.

'Democracy Alive' will be held in the tradition of existing democracy festivals (see the Danish one, for example, which is the biggest and longest standing one <https://folkemoedet.dk>). We want to create a big, open space where politicians and political parties will come together with stakeholders as well as citizens to debate the big issues of our time and celebrate our democracy ahead of the EP elections. An event that will be a true European happening in an election that often feels very national.

In response to feedback from the EP and funders we have approached locations outside of Brussels and away from the usual urban centres and political hotspots. Texel, a Dutch island, has been the most responsive one, committing to supporting, promoting and facilitating our event.

April 11-13 has been selected, in consultation with the EP, funders and partners, as the more suitable date for the event.

MEP Debates

We plan to hold MEP debates in different Member States, either between MEPs from different parties or MEPs from constituencies on both sides of a national border.

The events will be held in cooperation with the EP Liaison Offices and our National Councils. They will form part of our Europe day activities, which this year will focus on democracy and participation. We plan to support our members financially to hold the events and create a common theme and visual identity for them.

We also want to involve representatives from stakeholders across society and engage them in different events that will discuss issues that matter to them and their members.

1000 Reasons to Vote

We will be repeating the online campaign run at the last election. The intention is to give a platform to stakeholders at the European and national level to voice their views on why they will vote, raise awareness and mobilise their respective constituencies to vote.

We will work closely with member organisations and beyond to identify the messengers and messages that will feature in the campaign.

1001 Homes

Following the successful project run by EM Denmark we will try to facilitate and/or organise discussions and debates at homes across Europe on a set of issues that dominate the public discourse now.

We will produce short and easily digestible material to allow participants to kick-start the conversation. We will not expect participants to feature EMI personnel in these discussions (unless they ask us to) nor will we require them to report back. We just want to encourage Europeans to talk about the EP elections and the EU at large.

Note: We are in the process of seeking funding and partners for this project. Implementation of the event depends on the availability of funding.

Other activities

The EM International will also continue with its advocacy, communications and events work in Brussels, as per usual, with emphasis put on the EP elections for the months ahead of May 2019.

4.2 Democracy, citizen participation and fundamental values

- **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. This will be accompanied by communication activities and events where appropriate. Furthermore, this work will build on the work done in 2018 on citizens participation. It will also relate, where possible, to the project activities in the context of the 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. 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. With an eye on the European elections, 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.

4.3 A social, sustainable and prosperous Europe

- **EMU and Own Resources**

In 2019, the European Movement International will continue its efforts to influence the debate and decision-making on the deepening 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. As part of the “Eurozone Watchdog Network”, the European Movement International will advocate for a more transparent and democratic governance of our common currency.

- **European Pillar of Social Rights**

Building on its new thinking on the Social dimension of the Economic and Monetary Union, the European Movement International will continue its activities and communication 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 and Skills**

Remaining one of the priorities, the European Movement International will dedicate part of its work in 2019 to youth and skills, 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.

- **Sustainability**

In 2019, the European Movement International will make sustainability, from an environmental, economic and social perspective, one of its key priorities. It will develop new thinking, advocacy and communication activities around these topics, thereby advocating for the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals by involving stakeholders at all levels.

4.4 Europe in the World

- **EU-UK Article 50 negotiations**

Building on the thinking and communication materials produced 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 a deal that respect the rights of EU and UK citizens, and building a strong post-Brexit partnership framework.

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

The European Movement International will continue to engage with these debates, based on its new positions, 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 a 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 remain a particular focus.

- **Globalisation and trade**

In the light of shifting powers on the world stage, 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 2019.

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 co-operation and best practices' exchange will therefore continue to be developed, whenever possible, in 2019.

5.1 ALLiance for Democracy

Democracy Alive

See 4.1

5.2 Europe Day 2019

Considering the European Elections are taking place on May 2019, Europe Day activities will focus on democracy, participation and awareness raising around the EP elections.

As mentioned under 'European Elections 2019', we plan to organise debates with MEPs, in collaboration with our National Offices, the European Parliament Liaison Offices in each country, as well as other member organisations.

The objective is to bring citizens closer with the EP and candidates and involve them in the discussions of our time.

Our intention is to link all the EP debates under a common theme, connected with the overall project of 'Democracy Alive'.

5.3 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 representatives from academia, think tanks and the media, dedicated to improving the quality and future of democracy in the European Union. Leading up to the European elections, the group will debate specific issues related to the notion of 'EU democracy' and will discuss new ideas for a more participative process of EU reform and more effective EU communication.

5.4 On Our Watch

In 2019, the On Our Watch project will focus on the European elections and further develop itself as a platform for civil society cooperation and citizens outreach. 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, 2019 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 The Women of Europe Awards 2019

The 2019 awards will be the 4th 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 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.

5.6 Investing in the Future of Europe

In partnership with the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Movement International will continue to organise events across Europe 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 7 European countries, including Poland, France, Serbia, Ireland, Denmark, Estonia and Austria. 2019 will be an opportunity to bring the debates to even more European countries and to further develop the communications strategy supporting the events and their core messages.