Annual Report 2025
Social Services Europe

1. President, Vice-President and Treasurer

- In 2025, until 30 June 2025 Aad Koster (EAN) was President of Social Services Europe (SSE) and Tom Bignal (EASPD) Vice-President.
- As of 1 July 2025, Tom Bignal (EASPD) took over the position of President for one year, i.e., until 30 June 2026, and Alicia Gomez Campos (EPR) became Vice-President.
- Throughout 2025 Mathieu de Poorter (CEDAG) served as the Treasurer for SSE.

2. Internal meetings

- The SSE General Assembly 2024 was held on 25 June 2025.
- An Extraordinary General Assembly was organised on 18 December 202, i.a., to approve the SSE Work Programme 2026, the SSE Budget for 2026, and to complete formalities relating to Moniteur Belge and compliance with the bank's anti money laundering procedure.
- In 2025, the SSE Board met 7 times (6 February, 26 March, 25 June, 4 July, 30 September, 5 November, and 18 December).
- In 2025, the General Working Group (GWG) came together 9 times (23 January, 13 March, 24 April, 12 June, 16 July, 28 August, 25 September, 23 October, and 8 December).
- In 2025, SSE operated one Taskforce, on the Social Economy Action Plan (TF SE AP). It met 2 times (27 February, 30 April).
- The Work Programme 2026 was elaborated by the Coordinator, based on written and oral feedback from the Board and the GWG. The final version was approved by the SSE Board on 18 December 2025.
- The Treasurer, supported by the Coordinator, prepared the SSE Budget for 2026 – adopted at the Extraordinary General Assembly on 18 December 2025 – and the SSE Budget Forecast for the years 2024 to 2028. At the General Assembly 2025 on 25 June 2025, he had presented an updated version of the SSE Budget for 2025.

3. Statutes and Human Resources

- In 2025, substantial work on amending the SSE Statutes was carried out to correct the previously amended version of 2024. An update to the list of administrators had to be submitted for legal purposes.
- Discrepancies between the declared list of administrators, the UBO register, and the list of administrators having access to the bank account made it necessary to review many SSE legal documents, at the pressing request of the bank which alerted the Secretariat that accounts would be closed by November 2025 failing coherence between the lists. Formalities were successfully completed after negotiations with the bank and with the help of an external consultant only in February 2026. Amendments included a formal change of address from avenue des Nerviens (c/o EASPD) to rue de Trèves (c/o RCEU) which came to being only in January 2026.
- Mathias Maucher was employed with SSE as Coordinator until end of August 2025. Sofia Alexandra Santos Nunes was employed as SSE Project Officer until the summer of 2025. Vasiliki Poulaki started her work as Project Officer on 1 September 2025, and Mila Shamku started as new Coordinator, replacing Mathias Maucher on 1 October 2025.
- On 6 November 2025, the attribution of a subsidy for a part-time position for 2 years by the Fonds Maribel Social 329.03 (based on an application of 4 May 2023) was made permanent following the decision of the Maribel management committee.

4. Membership

- In 2025, CECOP, the European Confederation of Industrial and Service Cooperatives, joined officially SSE after talks that went on in 2024.
- No additional organizations were approached in 2025.
- A decision was made in 2025 to increase membership fees by fourty percent yearly until 2028 pending yearly approval.

5. 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. In 2025, Mathias Maucher and Mila Shamku participated (in-person or online) in all the meetings of the EESC LG CSO.
- SSE is a member of the European Commission's Expert Group on Social Economy and Social Entrepreneurship (GECES). In 2025 Mathias Maucher and then Mila Shamku participated to all plenary meeting of the GECES and the related working groups (access to finance and data collection).

- In 2025, fruitful collaboration went on with Social Economy Europe (SEE). Mathias Maucher and then Mila Shamku met with Director of SEE several times. Cooperation and allyship was observed when SSE was invited to the Murcia Social Economy Summit in September 2025 and in the early stages of the GBER draft amendment. Moreover, SSE participates in the LSP on Social Economy and Proximity coordinated by SEE.
- In 2025, SSE was involved in the EUFunds4Social Coalition together with EASPD, SEE, Social Platform, ENSIE and EPSU, initiated earlier in 2024 following the Helpdesk Project.
- In 2025, SSE actively contributed to the work and advocacy of the Network for Sustainable Development in Public Procurement (NSDPP, later in 2026 renamed ASDPP)

6. Elaboration of SSE Position Papers, Statements, Letters, Reports and Briefings

- In March, July and October 2025, SSE co-signed 3 successive statements on the next MFF together with the partners of the EUFunds4Social Coalition.
- In January and June 2025, SSE sent open letters on the Public Procurement directives Revision co-signed with partners from the Network for Sustainable Development in Public Procurement (NSDPP, later in 2026 renamed ASDPP).
- In 2025, SSE issued a report on "AI in Social Services: Opportunities, Skill Investments, and Regulatory Frameworks, following the webinar by the name title.

7. Contributions to EC Public Consultations/Calls for Evidence

- EC Call for Evidence for the Evaluation of the Public Procurement Directives (March 2025)
- EC Call for Evidence for the Next MFF (May 2025)
- EC Call for Evidence "Apply AI Strategy" (June 2025)
- EC Call for Evidence on the Mid-Term Review of the Social Economy Action Plan (July 2025)
- EC Call for Evidence on the Revision of the state aid rules for SGEI, in particular on housing (July 2025)
- EC Call for Evidence on the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan 2025
- EC Call for Evidence on the General Block Exemption Regulation

8. SSE events (conferences; webinars/seminars; workshops)

SSE (co-)organised 3 events on EU areas of interest:

- SSE co-organised: Care4Skills: Webinar "Building Skills in Long-Term Care – An Introduction to the Large-Scale Partnership on LTC" (28 May 2025)
- SSE co-organised: Webinar/ Open Day: Meet the members and shape the work of the Large-Scale

Partnership for Long-Term Care (where it was launched the Working Groups on "Person-Centrered Care" and "Digital Skills") (11 June 2025)

- SSE co-organised an internal workshop for Care4Skills and Be-well project partners intitled "BeWell & Care4Skills Workshop - Digital skills of Health and Long-term Care Workforce" held online on Thursday, 26 June 2025.

9. Policy and advocacy work with European institutions

- Work with the European Parliament (Political Groups & MEPs)
  - Mathias Maucher had sporadic activities in the context of the EC Proposal for a Directive for European Cross-Border Associations (ECBA).
  - With the new EP in place, SSE was involved in advocacy work of SSE members and advocacy coalitions" – such as the Network for Sustainable Development in Public Procurement (NSDPP) and the EUFUnds4Social Coalition – in relation to the EP Opinion on the ESF+ and the preparatory work for the EP Report on Public Procurement and the MFF 2028-2034.
  - Mila Shamku, together with partners from the EUFunds4Social coalition met the Cabinet of EP President Metsola in October 2025.
- Meetings with the European Commission
  - Mathias Maucher held an online meeting with HoU Cabrera Maqueda at DG JUST in April 2025
  - Mathias Maucher held an online meeting with the Cabinet of Commissioner Dombrovskis in June 2025
  - Mila Shamku, together with colleagues from FEANTSA and Caritas held a meeting with HoU Chovino at DG COMP on the SGEI decision in November 2025
  - Mila Shamku took part in two Strategic Dialogues by DG EMPL, one on algorithmic management and one the Disability Strategy
- Exchange with Member States
  - Both Mila Shamku and Mathias Maucher maintained close contacts and held several meetings with the German Ministry for Employment and Social Affairs

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

- SSE, represented by Sofia Santos Nunes, participated in a panel discussion in the Pact for Skills event - Securing and retaining skilled workers to tackle skills shortages which took place on Thursday, 15 May 2025 from 15:00 to 16:30 CEST (Brussels time). This panel discussion intitle "From policy to practice: what can we expect, and what can we learn from the implementation of EU initiatives on attracting talent from third countries?" counted with Elin Danielsson, Policy officer, Legal Pathways

and Integration Unit, DG HOME; Nicholas Waller, International Coordinator, Working Life Department; Daniela Palermo, Project manager, Network YOU - CIHEAM Bari and Slavica Uzelac, Policy Officer, EFBWW – EFBH – FETBB

- SSE, represented by Sofia Santos Nunes, was a rapporteur of the workshop (labour rights) of the LTC webinar (18/6) 'Towards a More Coherent Framework for Addressing Long-Term Care Workforce Challenges: From Evidence to Policy Responses' organised by DG EMPL-LTC.
- SSE, represented by Sofia Santos Nunes, actively participated in the first experts' workshop organised by Cedefop within the frame of the ongoing study intitled "Ai Foresight Study In The Eu Healthcare Sector: The Case Of Geriatric Nursing" (10/06).
- SSE, represented by Sofia Santos Nunes, was interviewed as a Key Informant (KI) for WELL-CARE, a project integrated by EASPD and several organisations across Europe, and which aims to strengthen support available to long-term care (LTC) workers and informal carers for improving their resilience and mental well-being through care partnerships on the 14 of April.
- SSE, represented by Vasiliki Poulaki, actively participated in the event of "Social economy and cooperatives - the backbone of an inclusive answer to the housing crisis" at the European Parliament on the 14th of October 2025.
- SSE, represented by Vasiliki Poulaki, actively participated in an ECBA coalition meeting concerning the withdrawal of the ECBA proposal.
- SSE, represented by Vasiliki Poulaki, actively participated in the event "Social Investment and Poverty Reduction in the Next MFF", held at the European Parliament on 20th of November 2025.
- SSE, represented by Mila Shamku, intervened in the WHO Europe event to launch a training programme for informal caregivers in October 2025.
- SSE, represented by Mila Shamku, intervened in a panel on the future of social investments in the framework of EUROFOUND's 50th anniversary conference in Dublin in November 2025.
- SSE, represented by Mila Shamku, gave a lecture to the master's students in social work at the University of Ludwigsburg Germany in December 2025
- SSE, represented by Mila Shamku, intervened in an online event on AI and social services organised by EPR in December 2025.

11. Projects

- SSE (Mathias Maucher, Sofia Nunes Santos, Mila Shamku and Vasiliki Poulaki) continued to be strongly involved in the Care4Skills Project (C4S)
- In 2025, the main activities were the external recruitment of members for the "Large Skills Partnership for the Long-Term Care Sector", having more than 20 bilateral meetings with possible members (e.g. Diakonie Germany, EHTEL…), organisation of explanatory webinars for the general public, launch of the working-groups on digital skills and person-centred care skills and elaboration of attractive dissemination materials. In parallel, meetings and workshops were held with related Sector Blueprints (Health Workforce; Health Industry; Proximity and Social Economy) and monitoring meeting with Eccorys and the EC. Sofia Santos Nunes also participated in the 3rd TPM in Athens in May 2025 performed the first transversal evaluation report following the Quality Assurance and Evaluation Frameworks while Vasiliki Poulaki participated in the 4rth TPM in Sofia in November 2025 presenting the reports from the first two meetings of the LSP on the long-term care.
- SSE was involved in the drafting 2 project proposals together with EASPD and SEE that were rejected.
- SSE was involved in the INSPIRE Project that saw the main participation of Sofia Nunes Santos and Mila Shamku's after the staff transition.

12. Communication and dissemination

- All SSE publications have been uploaded to the SSE webpage.
- Under the heading "Publications". The sub-categories "Contributions to EC Consultations", "Position Papers & Statement", "Letters", "Briefings" and "Reports" were kept, but the presentation of the "products" made more consistent across the dedicated pages.
- Events: The section – subdivided into "Past events" and "Upcoming events" – was revised to have a consistent visual style and structure (e.g., for the concept notes, agendas, reports or recordings from the event) for all events (co-)organised by SSE.
- The section "About us" and "projects" were updated.
- SSE LinkedIn presence was divided into two accounts. Not without complications, Vasiliki Poulaki was able to retrieve the natural person holding the admin access to the second page and was able to merge them. SSE reached 900 followers in 2025 (duplicating compared with the previous year).
- SSE website had 2803 visits in 2025, 800 more than the previous year.

The SSE Annual Report 2025 was prepared on 20th of May 2026 by Mila Shamku, Coordinator, Vasiliki Poulaki, Project Officer, with the kind contribution of Mathias Maucher.