

Mission Statement

Social Services Europe brings together eight Europe-wide networks of professional not-for-profit providers of social, health and care services. It represents over 100,000 organisations throughout Europe that deliver services to those most excluded from the labour market, from our education systems and from our communities.



Caritas Europa is the network of 49 Caritas organisations promoting social justice by delivering services to people in need across the European continent. www.caritas.eu



CEDAG is the European Council for Non-Profit Organisations. www.cedag.eu



EASPD represents over 11.000 social service provider organisations for persons with disabilities aiming at full inclusion. www.easpd.eu



EPR is a network of leading European providers of rehabilitation services to people with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups. www.epr.eu



EURODIACONIA is a network of social and health care providers founded in the Christian faith and promoting social justice. www.eurodiaconia.org



FEANTSA

FEANTSA is the only major European network that focuses exclusively on homelessness. www.feantsa.org



The Red Cross EU Office works with people in need across the EU and globally, focusing on health & social services, asylum & migration, emergency response, and development cooperation. www.redcross.eu



SOLIDAR is a European network of civil society organisations who gather several million citizens throughout Europe and the world to achieve social justice. www.solidar.org

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Social Services Europe

not-for-profit
social and
health care
service providers

Why Social Services Europe?

The social and health sector, employing 10% of the EU workforce, has a long-term commitment to vulnerable people and is constantly searching for innovative and cost effective solutions for providing quality services. With the current debates around Europe 2020 – quality in social services of general interest (SSGI), public procurement and social innovation/experimentation – a golden opportunity has arisen for providers of health and social services to promote the not-for-profit agenda and have an impact on the development of EU SSGI strategies.

Social Services Europe aims to strengthen the profile and position of social services, and to promote the role and impact of not-for-profit social service providers in the EU policy arena. All eight member organisations work to ensure the further development of social inclusion, cohesion and well-being in Europe.

How does the network work?

In order to ensure that the specificities of not-for-profit social and health care providers is recognised, and that adequate economic, social and legal considerations exist to ensure quality services, the network engages in:

- ✓ advocacy work including the development of briefings and position papers which highlight our standpoints and views;
- ✓ network and alliance building with EU institutions, civil society organisations and other relevant stakeholders;
- ✓ Projects investigating service organisation and delivery.

Social Services Europe has a 'light' structure based on the expertise and capacity available in its membership. General working groups regularly meet to discuss current issues in relation to social services and identify common proposals and actions. Ad hoc task forces can be established for specific tasks and/or around specific themes. The Board supervises this co-operation and ensures the continuity of the network.

What is our focus?

Social Services Europe principally focuses its attention on European policies that have an impact on the quality of social services, quality employment and human resource development in the sector, capacity building for the sector in accessing EU funding, and the recognition of the specificities and added value of the sector.