

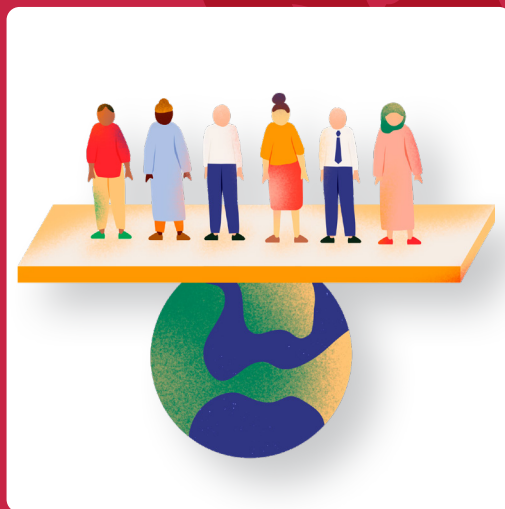
# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

# CONCORD

European Confederation of NGOs working on sustainable development and international cooperation



## Shaping the world we want, starting from the EU



# ABOUT CONCORD

CONCORD is the European Confederation of NGOs working on sustainable development and international cooperation. We are made up of 58 member organisations representing more than 2600 NGOs and are supported by millions of citizens across Europe.

We are the main interlocutor with the EU institutions on sustainable development policy and international cooperation. We are a member-led organisation which means that the members give the strategic direction of the Confederation.

More at: [concordeurope.org](http://concordeurope.org)

## WHAT DO WE DO TO ACHIEVE TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE?



**ENGAGE**



**CHALLENGE**



**INNOVATE**



**EVOLVE**

## WHO WE ARE

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**07**

**ASSOCIATE  
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# FOREWORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

The year 2024 was a stark reminder that geopolitics play a strong role in international cooperation. The ongoing war in Ukraine, the catastrophic situation in Gaza, and numerous other crises around the world - many of which are unfortunately overlooked - have reshaped global dynamics. And as if that were not enough, civic space has been shrinking in Europe over the past year, both in Member States and in Brussels.

CONCORD has therefore risen to the challenge and has, over the course of 2024, put increasing emphasis on the international commitments of the EU and the need for the Union to uphold its values and fight for the democratic, rights-based societies we cherish. It was a busy, challenging, but ultimately very successful year for CONCORD.

The key political event in the EU this year was the EU-wide elections to the European Parliament and the subsequent institutional renewal. CONCORD actively advocated for sustainable development and the fight against inequalities to remain top priorities for the EU. And, as we set out in this Annual Report, we were pleased that several new Commissioners made important commitments on civic space, human rights and gender equality, while the Commission President's Political Guidelines specifically mentioned the need to better address the impacts of EU policies on partner countries.

We worked actively to support the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) to put in place a marker to monitor how it addresses inequalities across its projects and programmes, including in the Global Gateway. And we launched a Platform to collaborate with civil society partners from Africa in monitoring the AU-EU Partnership.

Towards the end of the year, we decided to redouble our energies on topics of particular importance to the Confederation, and in light of the shifting international cooperation paradigm. We also took steps to improve our ways of working by increasing our agility and proactivity. Our ReWire was already taking effect in the three core areas of civil society power, financing and funding for sustainable development and equalities and leaving no one behind and we were pleased to see ever more members engaging in our common endeavours.



I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all our Members, our Secretariat and our partners and stakeholders for the invaluable cooperation over the year. Together, we have amplified the voices of citizens across all EU Member States and globally. By holding decision-makers accountable to the values and principles of human rights, we have made a meaningful impact.

I would also like to thank all our donors, without whose continued support, CONCORD would not have achieved so much. I hope you will enjoy reading our 2024 Annual Report.

Rilli Lappalainen  
CONCORD President

# PRIORITIES




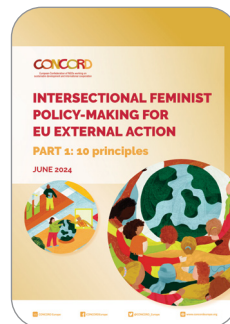
*Keep an eye out for this icon! It will be used throughout the Report to spotlight moments where we have made a real impact!*

## a. REGIONAL ALLIANCES

In 2024, the Regional Alliances group continued to work closely with African and European partners to contribute to the institutional AU-EU Partnership. In preparation of the next AU-EU ministerial meeting and Summit, CONCORD and its members provided input to a joint statement on key issues in the AU-EU Partnership, covering five shared priority areas: Governance, Peace and Multilateralism; Food Systems and Rural Transformation; Climate and Energy; Migration and Mobility; Human Development through Health and Education. The group regularly convened throughout the year and created a space for civil society from both continents to exchange ideas and to speak with a common voice on key partnership issues. In this context, the Regional Alliances group engaged actively with the European Commission, the European External Action Service, and the European Economic and Social Committee, creating opportunities for our partners to participate in dialogues at EU level.

While discussions with institutions on the establishment of the AU-EU Civil Society Engagement Mechanism continued to gain momentum, the joint efforts with our partners culminated in the launch of the independent Africa-Europe Civil Society Platform in October 2024.

 **This platform provides a valuable, structured space for civil society and youth organisations to meet and work collectively and serves as the foundation for a future Civil Society Engagement Mechanism for Africa-EU policy processes.** The online launch event mobilised over 220 participants from 38 countries, which resulted in 138 civil society and people's organisations joining the movement and signing up to the platform.



## b. GENDER EQUALITY

The Gender Equality Group, published the policy paper “Intersectional Feminist Policy-making for EU External Action: 10 Principles” in June 2024, following discussions with feminists and academics

in the majority world and in line with our objective to explore the concept of an EU-wide feminist foreign policy. This publication was timely as it coincided with the build-up of our work following the European Parliament elections and preparations for the appointment of the new College of Commissioners. The Commissioners' commitments to gender equality during the confirmation process were particularly significant as they will shape the EU's direction for the next five years.

As part of our post-election campaign, we therefore delivered strong messages on Intersectional Feminist Foreign Policy and gender equality. This advocacy led to notable commitments:

- **Commissioner for International Partnerships Jozef Síkela pledged to establish an ambitious follow-up to the Gender Action Plan III (GAP III);**
- **High Representative/Vice-President (HRVP) Kaja Kallas acknowledged the importance of funding for women's rights organisations in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), and**
- **Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness, and Crisis Management Hadja Lahbib made explicit links between domestic and external gender equality work.**



Additionally, gender equality messages were strongly iterated in an oral contribution delivered by CONCORD, on 26 September to the Development Committee in the European Parliament.

Through our role in the GAP III Structured Dialogue Steering Committee, we successfully influenced EU Member States' experts on gender equality,

resulting in a commitment to better track funding for women's rights organisations, including within Global Gateway projects. We also provided input to strengthen a Member State paper on gender-transformative approaches, and our advocacy led the European Commission to **publish a list of G2 actions** and their implementation status. In July 2024, CONCORD delivered the opening remarks at the Structured Dialogue event, addressing EC and European External Action Service (EEAS) officials, including 30 gender focal points from EU Delegations.

At our autumn meeting, we engaged in a dialogue with the European Commission on the independent evaluation of GAPIII, successfully influencing its scope to include Global Gateway projects and direct support for women's rights organisations. Furthermore, we systematically mainstreamed gender equality across CONCORD's broader work, integrating strong messages into MFF advocacy and key reports such as AidWatch.



### c. GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

In 2024, CONCORD's aim was to encourage the EU institutions to increase their funding commitment to transformative and quality

GCE and, at the same time, to more fully mainstream GCE in CONCORD's advocacy.

As part of our work on funding, in the early summer, CONCORD provided important contributions to the Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) multi-stakeholder group of the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), including on the challenges in implementing DEAR projects and successful strategies for meaningful youth engagement in these projects. In addition, CONCORD provided new insights into funding for Global Citizenship at EU level through the publication of a study entitled, **'Do we care enough about citizen engagement? - a qualitative look at global citizenship education funding in Europe'**. This study provides a deep dive into the current state of GCE funding across Europe. It examines critical challenges such as the accessibility and sustainability of funding, the impact of global crises like the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, and

the evolving role of EU programmes like DEAR. The report and its recommendations were presented at an international conference on Global Citizenship Education organised in Budapest in November by CONCORD's Hungarian National Platform, HAND, in the context of our joint EU Presidency Project.

CONCORD was disappointed to learn about cuts in DEAR funding as a result of the EU's Mid-Term Review (MTR) of Global Europe/Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) programmes. These cuts prompted CONCORD's President to send a letter to the European Commission on this subject in mid-December.



Learning and Exchange Forum (LEF)

The group also contributed its expertise on working with narratives and citizen engagement to actively shape the work on 'shifting the power in the Learning and Exchange Forum (LEF) and on the EU elections.

### d. CIVIL SOCIETY POWER


In 2024, the Civil Society Power group focused on three priorities to promote a more equal world that puts people at the centre of EU decision-making.

Firstly, our work on civic space fed into CONCORD's election campaign 'EU for Global Justice' and supported its outreach. We endorsed the **Civil Society For EU** campaign and participated on a regular basis in Civil Society Europe coalition meetings. In March, we contributed to the campaign's **online debate**, "Are we taking democracy and civic space for granted?". Following the European elections, we contributed to an analysis of the new Commissioners' portfolios and their focus - or lack thereof - on civil society as partners. Given the prevalent uncertainty, we held discussions with our partners and allies on how best to promote and protect an enabling environment for civil society going forward.

Secondly, we continued our work to improve EU consultations with civil society. We developed a monitoring tool based on our paper **“7 practices for civil society participation in EU decision-making”**, that we piloted within the CONCORD Confederation to start evaluating the quality of consultations and to gather evidence of good practices and areas for improvement.

Finally, building on previous work undertaken by our Regional Alliances group on how to better engage civil society partners from other regions in our policy and advocacy work, we launched a new project on shifting power. In line with CONCORD’s Strategy, the aim is to examine what it means to hold power as a Confederation of predominantly northern NGOs, how we can better share power with civil society organisations (CSOs) in other parts of the world, and to explore how the EU can contribute to systemic change to shape the world we want. To foster this discussion within the Confederation, we organised an (un)Learning and Exchange Forum, called “Paving the way to Shift the Power”, involving a series of panels and peer-learning moments. As an outcome, the participants identified four priorities to act on in 2025-2026.

In 2024, we strengthened our coalition work by engaging directly with 11 CSO partners from other regions and European networks in our events and meetings, advancing our collective reflections for a world where civil society shares and shifts power. We played an active role in two campaigns on civic space in the context of the EU elections.

 **Finally, our work on meaningful, safe and inclusive CSO engagement contributed to DG INTPA’s Report on EU Delegations’ Engagement with Civil Society, in which our 7 practices paper is cited as a key set of recommendations.**

## e. DIGITALISATION

Sadly, 2024 was the last year of our digital community which had to close in March when the funding ended. We used these last few months to develop an internal “knowledge pack” to continue building on the learnings and material created by the community, equip all CONCORD groups with basic knowledge about the EU’s digital for development priorities and how they connect with their thematic areas (gender equality, funding, etc.), and encourage

the mainstreaming of our policy messages in the work of the Confederation. We gathered all the work produced by the community since 2021, its key successes and resources, and we drafted a background brief “all you need to know about digital in EU external action”. **The knowledge pack was launched in March 2024 and reached 315 people by the end of the year.** Our advocacy towards the EU to define its people-centred approach to digitalisation continued to gain traction throughout 2024 and was identified as a priority for the D4D Hub’s civil society advisory group for 2025, with the aim to provide practical guidelines for policymakers, civil society, private sector actors, and development stakeholders to integrate it into their actions.



## f. EU ELECTIONS TASK FORCE

Our EU Elections Task Force focused primarily on how to influence the European Commission’s priorities for the coming five years. The Confederation mobilised at various levels to engage with European Parliament candidates, shape political debates, and collaborate with other NGO networks to highlight our advocacy priorities under the EU Presidency Project, “EU for Global Justice: Shaping the World We Want, Starting from the EU.”

This work involved calling on the new European Parliament and other EU institutions to adopt a transformative agenda centred on equality, inclusion, and sustainability. Our key messages emphasised the need for an intersectional, feminist, and rights-based EU foreign policy and ensuring that EU actions addressing global challenges have a positive impact. We also called for stronger protection and support for civic space and democracy worldwide, alongside sufficient and transparent funding to tackle global inequalities in line with Agenda 2030.



Our efforts included a series of debates<sup>1</sup>, a **candidate pledge**, a **joint open letter**, the **EU Citizen Summit**, meetings with political groups, and training for the European Parliament Secretariat. We also amplified our messages through op-eds, journalist briefings, and providing input into oral and

1 [Are we taking democracy and civic space for granted? Perspectives from MEPs, civil society and media and Putting your money where your mouth is: MEPs and civil society on consistent action and funding for sustainable development.](#)

written questions for the hearings. A significant highlight was the joint reception to welcome MEPs organised with VOICE, EPLO, and key Members of the European Parliament, including the Chair of the Committee on Development (DEVE), Barry Andrews. During this event, we engaged with newly-elected Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), discussing our core priorities with them directly.



**Our campaign resulted in significant successes, including the integration of key questions into the European Parliament's hearings process and the explicit inclusion of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in mission letters. In addition, during the hearings process, the Commissioners committed to action on the inequality marker, gender equality, and civic space.** They acknowledged that the Global Gateway may not always be the appropriate strategy for EU international partnerships and committed to listening to EU partner countries' perspectives. Lastly, they recognised the need for a differentiated approach to fragile and conflict affected areas.

## g. FINANCING AND FUNDING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (FFSD)



In 2024, the FFSD workstream worked to make EU funding for CSOs more accessible and inclusive by advising the EU Institutions on how to improve implementation modalities and increase CSO budget allocations.

The evidence and findings of our report, **'Who holds the lion's share?'**, provided a strong basis for intensive efforts. **A series of three webinars** were held which **engaged over 150 participants from across the world to strengthen their advocacy capacity towards EU Delegations (EUDs)**, while a total of 20 meetings with EU officials were organised and **a letter** sent to HR/VP Borell and Commissioner Urpilainen to advance key CONCORD recommendations and raise concerns on the budget redeployments during the mid-term evaluation (MTE) of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation – Global Europe instrument (NDICI-GE).

Ahead of both Strategic Dialogues, CONCORD participated in two exchanges of views with the DEVE Committee<sup>2</sup> sharing messages on diversifying funding sources and enhancing transparency in the allocation of resources to CSOs with regards to NDICI-GE implementation and the next MFF while expressing concerns on the financialisation, implementation and impact of the Global Gateway strategy. **CONCORD's ongoing exchanges with the European Parliament (EP) provided significant added value by offering critical intelligence and evidence that enhanced the EP's ability to ensure accountability and scrutiny in the implementation of NDICI-GE.** As discussions on the next MFF begin, this collaboration remains essential in fostering informed decision-making and effective oversight.



CONCORD maintained its engagement with the DG INTPA Legal Affairs, urging the adaptation of administrative requirements for CSOs to reflect the realities of implementation in diverse non-EU countries, considering the grant sizes and the specific conditions under which they operate within the e-Grant Management System and the Model Grant Agreement. **Our analysis** for addressing incoherence in and improving the use of restrictions on the rules of eligibility in NDICI-GE Calls for Proposals has been extensively disseminated to EUDs while **in our efforts to shift power and improve accessibility of funding for local CSOs, we obtained a commitment from the European Commission to research and monitor Financing towards third parties (FSTP) with a view to improve accessibility of funding for local CSOs.**



Our collective advocacy efforts successfully influenced the **Council Conclusions on the MTE of NDICI-GE**, adopted on 24 June. Many key recommendations from the 'Who holds the lion's share?' report were reflected in the final text, including improved local CSO access to funding, stronger policy dialogue and country ownership, reinforcement of the geographisation principle, alignment with SDGs, and commitments to NDICI targets.

### ***AidWatch 2024 - Whose Interests does Official Development Assistance truly serve?***

To what extent do EU Institutions and EU MS respect the primary objective of Official Development Assistance (ODA)? To what extent does ODA

<sup>2</sup> EP Development Committee meetings on [13.02.2024](#) and [26.09.2024](#).

address equality between partner countries? These questions were among many explored in the AidWatch 2024 report published by CONCORD in October 2024.<sup>3</sup> Over 60 people attended the report's **launch event** organised in cooperation with the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) think tank in Brussels.



AidWatch 2024 launch event.

Using our renewed methodology for the second time to align still further with the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria for what constitutes ODA, the 2024 edition also went a step further: it identified areas where

EU MS ODA allocations might be at risk of not respecting ODA's primary objective. The report found that in 2022, 7.2% of total bilateral ODA from EU Member States was at risk of not targeting partner countries' economic development and welfare. The 2024 edition also reflected on how EU MS are undermining their own international cooperation efforts, through illicit financial flows and debt servicing, making Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) lose an estimated EUR 45 billion per year because of cross-border tax abuse. For the first time, we also calculated what would be the debt owed by EU MS to partner countries due to the decades-long under-delivery on the 0.7% target? Fifty years after the deadline, we estimated that partner countries have lost over EUR 1.2 trillion of ODA because of the failure of EU MS to meet the commitment. That is, over 19 times the total ODA provided by EU MS in 2023.

CONCORD used AidWatch recommendations and findings to deliver a training session in May 2024 on controversial aspects of EU ODA and how to improve its quality. The training was attended by staff from DEVE and European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) in May 2024. AidWatch 2024 report findings are now used as background

evidence to help CONCORD members work on the next MFF negotiations, especially to decide future ODA targets. **MEPs engaged in the defence of ODA quantity and quality have also shown interest in the findings, taking note of the latest data to support amendments for the upcoming DEVE INI report on Financing for Sustainable Development.** Finally, the research from the report was also used to support advocacy messages to improve ODA quality during the OECD DAC pre-High Level Meeting consultation with CSOs held in February 2025.



## h. POLICY COHERENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The PCSD workstream used the EU election campaign to promote messages on PCSD mechanisms and the importance of assessing and dealing with the EU's impact on partner countries' sustainable development. The group drafted a one-pager with key messages, held meetings with key figures in the outgoing and incoming Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) networks and organised a training on PCSD for the European Parliament with the participation of the OECD and the Fair Trade Advocacy Office. The training was organised by the DEVE Secretariat and delivered to over 30 EP staff across political groups during the parliamentary recess. CONCORD also suggested questions that the MEPs could pose to the incoming Commissioners-designate through the EP's written and oral hearings process. **An important outcome of this work was the confirmation by MEPs of their ongoing commitment to PCD and the SDGs, as evidenced by the re-appointment of a standing rapporteur on PCD and the reestablishment of the cross-committee PCD network.** This is a key step towards maintaining and strengthening PCSD responsibilities across the EU institutions.



CONCORD members worked particularly closely with some EU Member States on follow-up to the EU's voluntary review on the SDGs in 2023, to ensure that the Council continues to request the Commission to pay more attention to PCSD, contributing to the work of the Council on **operational recommendations to improve PCSD at EU level.**

In addition, during the European elections period, the PCSD group revisited and refreshed CONCORD's work on EU impact assessments. The group raised

<sup>3</sup> [Whose Interests does Official Development Assistance truly serve?](#)

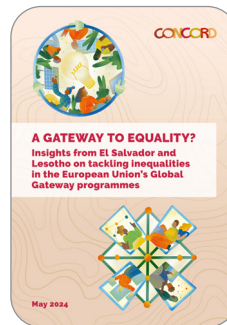
awareness of the EU's impacts on partner countries from civil society perspectives through two public online discussions. The first brought together 57 participants, including a feminist activist from South Africa who shared insights on the impacts of EU cooperation through EUDs with two European Parliamentary candidates, one of whom now holds a key role in the EP Foreign Affairs Committee. The second was a webinar with 45 participants on the EU Critical Raw Materials Act's impact assessment. It included a conversation with civil society representatives from Central Africa and Latin America, who spoke about the economic, environmental and social impacts of the regulation on their local communities. The key messages of these online discussions were included in the joint, open letter<sup>4</sup> drafted with six other NGO networks and addressed to President Von Der Leyen ahead of the Commission's 2024-2029 political guidelines and consistently raised in bilateral meetings around the European elections and political manifestos. Although the Commission has not explicitly committed to strengthening PCSD work, **CONCORD welcomes President Von der Leyen's recognition in the Political Guidelines that, 'We also need to listen and respond better to the concerns of our partners impacted by European legislation... We need a more systematic approach to assessing the impact of our laws on non-EU countries, and we need to provide more targeted support to help them adjust to and benefit from those laws.'** The mission letter to HR/VP Kallas has specifically tasked her to work more on the impacts of the EU on partner countries.



Discussions were also held with the Inequalities and Sustainable Economy workstream to explore the linkages between tackling inequalities and PCSD and on whether Impact Assessments (IA) are a key EU obligation that could potentially make a difference for equality. Experts from ECDPM, the European Environmental Bureau and the participants in the above-mentioned webinar provided input, which CONCORD used in its **analysis of the EU's impact assessment on the Critical Raw Materials Act** to give the EU fresh insights and recommendations on its approach to impact assessments to strengthen PCSD.



## i. INEQUALITIES AND A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY



Do EU programmes actually reach those who could benefit most from them? And could Global Gateway become a gateway to equality? These are the counterintuitive and thought-provoking questions CONCORD asked in our 2023 Equality Day, and to which we tried to find responses in

our 2024 report: **A Gateway to Equality? Insights from El Salvador and Lesotho on tackling inequalities in the European Union's Global Gateway programmes.** In order to ensure the solidity of our results and their relevance for policy-making, we discussed our initial findings with the Research Facility on Inequalities of the EU and the French cooperation agency. We launched our report in May, both through a webinar for our members and allies as well as in the framework of an **INTPA InfoPoint**. The Commission organised this session to bring greater visibility to our report, with a discussion focused on inequalities which gathered around one hundred EU officials from Headquarters and Delegations. Our message was loud and clear: Global Gateway, with its focus on infrastructure and without sufficient consideration of local community realities, risks widening inequalities.

Our qualitative research was based on the views of communities in both El Salvador and Lesotho and included local interviews with our civil society partners. We found that, while infrastructure projects can improve people's lives, they will only tackle inequalities if that is an initial objective in the programme design. Our **Roadmap**, which we have disseminated widely, serves as a guide for policymakers to successfully target and tackle inequalities throughout the programme cycle. We called for the EU to go beyond numbers and understand people's lived experiences in the thematic meeting of EU Delegations' focal points on health and social protection in October. **Our recommendation was well-received by the approximately 50 EUD and DG INTPA officials who participated, several of whom requested additional information about our methodology for potential integration into their tools to tackle inequalities.**



<sup>4</sup> Open letter: Seven EU-level organisations call on the new European Commission to prioritise development cooperation.

As key partners of the European Commission on inequalities, we were invited to take the floor at the launch of the first benchmark on the implementation of the I-Marker in an **event** chaired by Commissioner Urpilainen at the Commission Headquarters in July and attended by around 30 EU officials, CSO representatives and academics. CONCORD President, Rilli Lappalainen, emphasised that, whereas the marker is a promising tool, the Commission should be consistent and ensure it devotes enough resources to its implementation. We also reminded participants of other actions that are indispensable for the EU to tackle inequalities: policy coherence, use of other available tools such as the gender and disability markers, and supporting sustainable and inclusive businesses.

Such businesses must be at the core of an economy that is deeply rethought and reoriented towards serving social and environmental objectives. In 2024 we joined the Wellbeing Economy Coalition to consolidate our allyship with other EU-based NGOs, and took stock of our recent work on a just economy that shifts away from economic growth as the main focus. We prepared a reference note for CONCORD members to align their messaging on the economy and become more impactful in challenging

assumptions about partner countries and economic growth, which we will share with the Confederation in 2025.

## OVERARCHING EU PROCESSES

CONCORD remained fully involved in the work of DG INTPA through its Policy Forum on Development (PFD) and the new Global Gateway CSO Advisory Platform. CONCORD acts as a co-chair in both formations, working with colleagues from civil society and local authorities to support the EU's international cooperation at a more macro level. We collaborated in organising and attended the Africa Regional PFD meeting and worked with colleagues to start drafting the agenda for the Global PFD to be held in 2025, leading on a number of the sessions.

We worked closely with DG INTPA on the Terms of Reference for the Global Gateway CSO Advisory Platform to ensure it had a clear mandate. We used the opportunity of the Steering Group meetings, and later an all-Platform meeting, to try to render the Global Gateway more transparent, facilitate local CSO involvement via the EUDs and ensure that the Global Gateway initiative works in favour of people and the planet.



## A ROADMAP TO EQUALITY: CONCORD'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON TACKLING INEQUALITIES IN GLOBAL GATEWAY PROGRAMMES

To find out more, read CONCORD's report, 'A gateway to equality?'



### 1. AN ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT GLOBAL GATEWAY WITH EQUALITY AT THE CORE

Inequality reduction must be a principal objective in Global Gateway actions, with dedicated targets and tools, coordination mechanisms and clarity on roles and responsibilities. Those actions should be embedded in the regional and country-specific NDICI action plans. The orientations of Global Gateway should be based on a wide-ranging consultative process. There must be regular reports on achievements and Global Gateway must be transparent, with detailed information easily accessible to all stakeholders.



### 2. FULLY IMPLEMENT THE INEQUALITY MARKER AND EFFECTIVELY REACH THE BOTTOM 40%

The I-Marker must be applied to all Global Gateway actions, with a target percentage of projects or funds or alternatively a percentage of projects for which the Distributional Impact Assessment (DIA) must be conducted to ensure that the most marginalised are targeted. Adequate funding is needed for the Commission and implementing agencies to conduct DIAs. A qualitative DIA tool should be integrated into the set of I-Marker instruments in order to complement quantitative analyses, enhance the quality of information, and therefore improve targeting.



### 3. BEYOND NUMBERS: UNDERSTANDING INEQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY NEEDS THROUGH QUALITATIVE ANALYSES

The DIA qualitative tool is a new instrument that analyses the distributional impacts of policies or programmes. It assesses the effective targeting of the most socio-economically disadvantaged groups in international cooperation programmes. DIA assessments allow for a self-reported understanding of programmes affecting the poorest and most marginalised people and provide insights into drivers of inequalities. The tool should be used to support the design of inequality-reducing solutions and assessment of results, and its implementation must be supported by CSOs and local organisations.



### 4. ENSURING THAT PROGRAMMES PRIORITISE ACCESS FOR THE MOST MARGINALISED OVER PROFITABILITY

Grants must be increased over loans. The EU should identify successful approaches and innovative solutions to effectively target the poorest 40% and mainstream these solutions. Extend the parameters of disadvantage to reach as many disadvantaged individuals and groups as possible, while ensuring the poorest 40% is adequately reached.

### 5. ENGAGING WITH LOCAL, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE BUSINESSES

Local companies in partner countries must be identified and prioritised in project implementation, with an emphasis on sustainable and inclusive businesses in line with the EU's commitment to promote them as part of Global Gateway. This would also be in line with the EU's Social Economy Action Plan and the 2023 resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on promoting the social and solidarity economy for sustainable development, which highlight the strong potential of the social economy to tackle inequalities.



### 6. COMMUNITIES AND CSOS AS CO-DESIGNERS OF PROJECTS

CSOs should be actively involved during all phases of the project as co-designers of Global Gateway programmes. Small grants could support NGOs working with the most marginalised groups and individuals to conduct qualitative analyses that reflect their realities. These analyses should inform the design, implementation and evaluation of Global Gateway projects.



# COMMUNICATIONS

In 2024, CONCORD's election campaign was the number one communications priority, firmly positioning CONCORD as a key interlocutor in EU international cooperation. The Communication Community contributed to keeping our demands and issues on the EU agenda throughout the institutional renewal process.



Our agile and dynamic social media campaign effectively adapted to every stage of this process - from election day to the Commissioners' hearings - broadcasting our messages and enhancing our visibility among decision-makers. We produced key communication materials, including a 'Welcome to Brussels' leaflet, to introduce ourselves to newly elected MEPs and confirm our role as a key contact for international cooperation and sustainable development. As a result, we enhanced our engagement with policymakers, drawing attention to our messages, which were reflected in the questions MEPs raised during the hearings.

We continued to strengthen our internal communications in 2024 and strengthened the Communication Community as a place of exchange for our members. At various stages, we met with them to develop our plans and to hear about their priorities and concerns. As the communication landscape evolves and new challenges emerge, places of exchange are crucial. With this in mind, we discussed the challenges in the social media landscape in particular and, along with many of our members, we decided to launch a Bluesky social media profile in December.

Lastly, we finalised and implemented our first Communications Strategy in 2024. The overarching goal is to support CONCORD in strengthening its engagement with decision-makers and the media through communications. With the new institutions in place, this objective is intended to guide us through the next three years and ensure that CONCORD can continue to shape EU international partnerships focusing on the wellbeing of people and the planet.

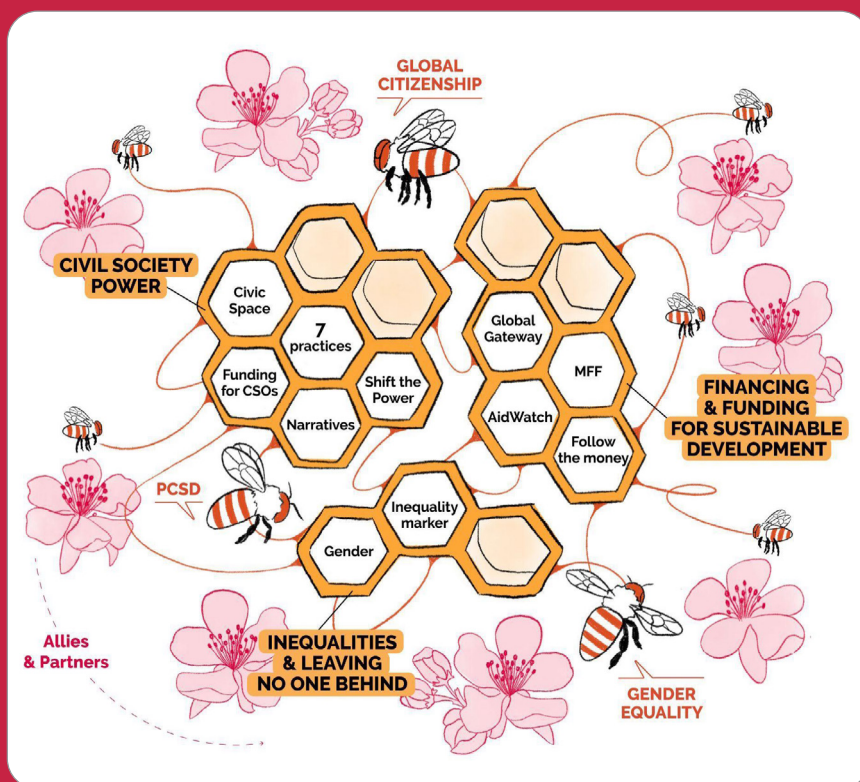
Our impact was further amplified by significantly expanding our media presence. In 2024, we engaged with 10 new media outlets, strengthened our media relations, and took a proactive approach to press briefings and press releases, ensuring our messages resonated with wider and more diverse audiences. This work has enabled CONCORD to enhance its position as a leading voice in EU international cooperation.



# SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS

2024 posed significant challenges for CONCORD members, including financial difficulties, shrinking civic space and political pressure. The European Elections also added urgency to engaging with members, making it a top priority for the CONCORD Secretariat and Board.

In the first half of 2024, the Secretariat organised bilateral calls to inform members about engagement opportunities, EU developments, and strategies for navigating the challenging context. The Director and Membership Adviser organised 21 such meetings, fostering member input on CONCORD's direction and strengthening ties. Similarly, the Board held its April meeting in Spain to strengthen CONCORD's relationship with the Spanish National Platform and exchange information on the Spanish Presidency of the EU. These efforts helped to improve understanding of the political climate, informed the **CONCORD Rewire process**, and strengthened community and cohesion within the Confederation.



To further support CONCORD members, the Secretariat visited National Platforms in Austria, the Netherlands, Cyprus, France and Slovakia, meeting with local officials and civil society organisations to foster coalitions and advocate for civic space. In preparations for the upcoming EU Presidency trio of Poland, Denmark and Cyprus, CONCORD helped to set up a preliminary coalition of CSOs to play an active role during the upcoming Cypriot EU Presidency. Similarly, the visit to Slovakia for the annual Ambrella Development Forum was key in supporting National Platforms, particularly amid the growing challenges to civic space. Additionally, the Director was interviewed for several members' communication outlets and contributed articles to raise the visibility of CONCORD members and highlight the Confederation's work.

From September onwards, the Confederation underwent a 'rewiring' process to respond to recent political developments in our European context. The Board and most CONCORD members engaged in a number of brainstorming sessions to determine the new direction and ways of working in the Confederation. In total, 114 participants attended the four focus groups and two membership-wide webinars during the autumn. As a result, the Confederation will now work in matrix style (with staff and member working on multiple projects simultaneously), which will not only improve our operational effectiveness, but also our ability to respond to new developments and key issues affecting the Confederation's members (such as shrinking civic space and a lack of funding for CSOs as a result of the cuts made by many European governments). Towards the end of the year, CONCORD consolidated our strategic priorities in three main projects: Civil Society Power, Financing and Funding for Sustainable Development, and Inequalities & Leaving No One Behind. These projects will be implemented from 2025 onwards.

# GOVERNANCE SECTION

Building on the extensive governance work undertaken in 2023, CONCORD further strengthened its strategic framework and adapted to the evolving political landscape in 2024. Following the revision of CONCORD's Statutes last year, the Board refined key governance elements to align with the Confederation's priorities and enhance integrity and transparency.

In early 2024, the Board developed CONCORD's first Finance Strategy to underpin our financial sustainability. The Board also played an important role in guiding the Confederation through the Rewire process (see Membership section), with a particular focus on ensuring that all members remain engaged and supported throughout the restructuring.

The 2024 General Assembly focused on safeguarding the integrity of EU international cooperation in times of geopolitical tension. It provided a platform for members to reflect on the future of international partnerships and sustainable development. The Assembly welcomed three new Board Members: Antonia Potter Prentice (Alliance2015), appointed as Treasurer, replacing Marta Iglesias López (La Coordinadora); Agne Kuimet (AKU); and Daniel Kaba (Ambrela).

In October, a new Governance Adviser was appointed after an 8-month vacancy. This allowed the Secretariat to step up implementation of the CONCORD's governance framework and planning for 2025. Additional governance efforts included supporting the Director's work on fundraising to enhance financial sustainability.

A key milestone was the revision of the Annexes to the Internal Regulations, a process initiated in 2023 to ensure alignment with evolving needs while strengthening principles of integrity, transparency, and governance. In 2024, the Board approved the text of Annex 3 (Terms of Reference of the Board) and discussed the content of Annexes 2 and 6 on the Confederation's membership fees system. This work will be continued throughout 2025 and finalised with the presentation of all updated annexes to the members.

CONCORD continued to develop its adaptive and robust governance model, ensuring the Confederation remains a strong and unified voice for international cooperation and sustainable development.



# BOARD MEMBERS



**JAVIER GARCÍA DE LA OLIVA**

ActionAid



**AGNE KUIMET**

AKU  
Estonian National Platform



**IDA RAGNARSSON**

CONCORD Sweden  
Swedish National Platform



**RILLI LAPPALAINEN**

FINGO  
Finnish National Platform,  
then Save the Children EU



**CATHERINE GIBOIN**

Coordination SUD  
French National Platform



**ANTONIA POTTER PRENTICE**

Alliance2015



**MARTA IGLESIAS LÓPEZ**

La Coordinadora  
Spanish National Platform



**JEROEN UYTTERSCHAUT**

World Vision



**DANIEL KABA**

Ambrela  
Slovak National Platform

## BOARD MEMBERS WHOSE MANDATE ENDED IN JUNE 2024



**PAOLA BERBEGLIA**

CONCORD Italia  
Italian National Platform



**CÉLINE MIAS**

CARE international



**BLANDINE BOUNIOL**

Humanity & Inclusion



**JOÃO MARTINS**

ADRA

## BOARD MEMBERS CO-OPTED IN 2024



**JOÃO MARTINS**

ADRA, in July 2024

# SECRETARIAT

**TANYA COX**

Director



**CARLA MIRANDA**

Senior Governance & Fundraising Adviser



**PAT**

## **POLICY & ADVOCACY TEAM**



**BORJA ARRUE ASTRAIN**

Senior Policy & Advocacy Adviser  
- Inequalities and Sustainable Economy



**LAIA AYCART**

Policy and Advocacy Adviser -  
Multiannual Financial Framework



**CELIA CRANFIELD**

Head of Advocacy



**LUR FERNÁNDEZ SALINAS**

Policy & Advocacy Adviser  
Aidwatch



**SALOMÉ GUIBRETEAU**

Senior Policy & Advocacy  
Adviser - Civil Society Power



**LAURA MASCHIO**

Policy and Advocacy Adviser  
- EP Elections & Policy Coherence  
for Sustainable Development



**JAIMIE JUST**

Senior Policy & Advocacy  
Adviser - Regional Alliances



**GEORGIA PAPOUTSI**

Senior Policy & Advocacy  
Adviser FFSD



**ALEXANDRA ROSÉN**

Senior Policy & Advocacy Adviser  
- Gender Equality



**MICHAŁ RYBACKI**

European Parliament Elections  
Coordinator

**MOCT**

## **MEMBERSHIP, OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**



**SOLEDAD BRIONES**

Head of Membership and  
Communications



**MARION COAT**

Senior Knowledge  
Management Adviser



**AOIFE COYNE**

Communications Adviser



**CAMILLA FALSETTI**

Communications & Media  
Adviser



**BÁRA RODRIGUEZ**

Membership Adviser



**FINANCE**

## **FINANCE TEAM**



**FLORENCE DE CANNIERE**

Senior Financial Analyst



**STÉPHANIE RENKIN**

Head of Finance



**ADRIEN SERAFIN**

Accountant



**HR**

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**



**KATE CARPENTER**

Head of Human Resources

## **TRAINEES**

### **MICHELLE BARRIENTOS ALZATES**

Communication Assistant – From March 2024 until September 2024

### **ANNA GIULLA**

Policy & Advocacy Assistant – until June 2024

### **SOREN LUBRANI**

Policy & Advocacy Assistant – until September 2024

### **VALERIA LINARES BARRON**

Policy & Advocacy Assistant – from September 2024

### **VICTOIRE OLCZAK**

Policy & Advocacy Assistant – from October 2024

### **FERNANDO SANZ OCANA**

Communication Assistant – Until February 2024

## **FORMER AND INTERIM COLLEAGUES**

### **ANNE MALAUD**

Governance Adviser – until February 2024

# PUBLICATIONS

PUBLICATIONS	TYPE	DATE
<a href="#"><u>A gateway to equality? Insights from El Salvador and Lesotho on tackling inequalities in the European Union's Global Gateway programmes</u></a>	Report	May 23, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Annual Report 2023</u></a>	Report	June 11, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Intersectional Feminist Policy-Making for EU External Action: 10 principles</u></a>	Report	June 28, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Open letter: Seven EU-level organisations call on the new European Commission to prioritise development cooperation</u></a>	Letter	July 4, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Model mission letters: CONCORD's vision for the future of EU international cooperation and external action</u></a>	Letter	July 18, 2024
<a href="#"><u>AidWatch 2024 – Whose Interests Does Official Development Assistance Truly Serve?</u></a>	Report	October 30, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Do we care enough about citizen engagement? A qualitative look at global citizenship education funding in Europe</u></a>	Report	November 27, 2024

YOUTUBE VIDEOS	DATE
<a href="#"><u>EU For Global Justice - Shaping the world we want starting from the EU</u></a>	Jan 29, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Webinar - Trends of EU funding to CSOs</u></a>	Mar 15, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Webinaire - Financement de l'UE pour les OSC selon le rapport Lion's Share de CONCORD</u></a>	March 22, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Webinar - Financiación de la UE para las OSC según el informe Lion's Share de CONCORD</u></a>	Apr 10, 2024

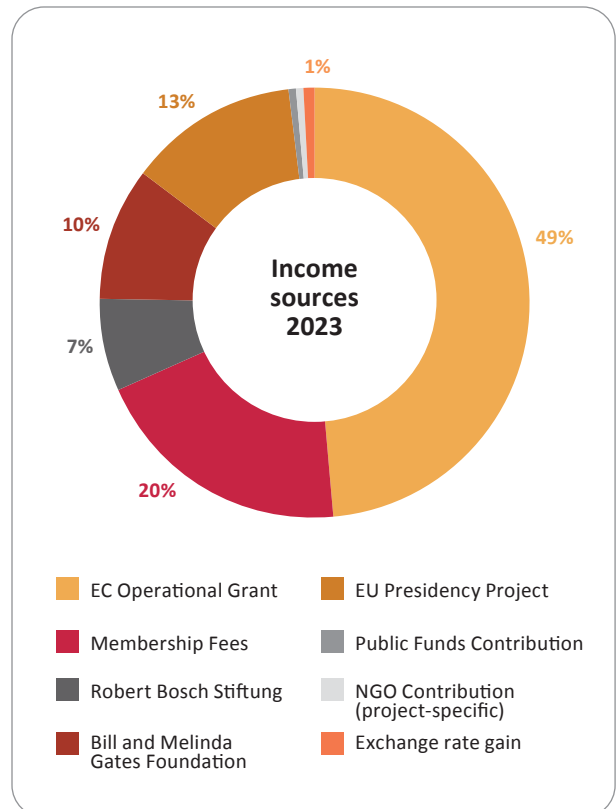
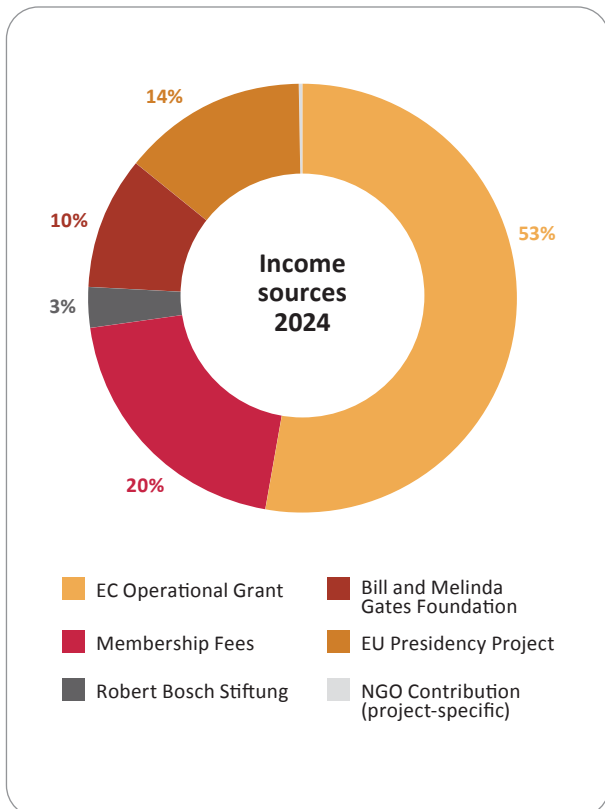
NEWS	DATE
<a href="#"><u>AidWatch 2022   1 euro in every 6 not going towards those left furthest behind</u></a>	Feb 19, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Towards transparency and diversity? Raising awareness of challenges of NDICI-Global Europe for CSOs</u></a>	Feb 27, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Statement: African and European CSOs on key issues in the AU-EU Partnership</u></a>	Mar 28, 2024
<a href="#"><u>ODA ... missing the mark (again): Preliminary 2023 figures show EU aid keeps failing human development and equality</u></a>	Apr 12, 2024
<a href="#"><u>'A sell-out of international cooperation': DG INTPA turns its back on commitments to put human development at the centre of its international cooperation in leaked briefing</u></a>	Apr 22, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Nicolas Van Nuffel: Civil society's Brussels Declaration asserts a vision of a fair and sustainable Europe – in contrast to the Council's draft Strategic Agenda</u></a>	May 8, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Nele Meyer: EU decision-making processes are being challenged and the rules of the game are changing. What does this mean for civil society?</u></a>	May 8, 2024
<a href="#"><u>'You cannot reach the poorest if you don't know who they are': New research finds Global Gateway projects currently lacking ambition regarding inequality reduction in partner countries</u></a>	May 24, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Claiming meaningful civil society space: CONCORD's General Assembly 2024</u></a>	Jun 14, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Tanya Cox interview: EU Development Policy Under Pressure from Right-Wing European Parliament</u></a>	Jun 18, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Op.ed. by Tanya Cox on EUObserver "The case for a feminist EU Commission: von der Leyen's test"</u></a>	15 July 2024
<a href="#"><u>CONCORD expresses its deepest sorrow on the death of former President Justin Kilcullen</u></a>	Jul 17, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Launch of the Africa-EU Civil Society Platform for engagement in the AU-EU Partnership</u></a>	Oct 1, 2024
<a href="#"><u>AidWatch 2024: Whose Interests Does Official Development Assistance Truly Serve?</u></a>	Oct 22, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Whose Interests does ODA Truly Serve? AidWatch 2024 Launch Event</u></a>	Oct 23, 2024
<a href="#"><u>Director's blog: Do partner country interests matter to the EU anymore?</u></a>	Oct 29, 2024

# FINANCE & ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

## ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

- CONCORD’s financial records are expressed in euros and are maintained on a historical cost basis in compliance with international accounting standards and legislation applicable to non-profit associations in Belgium.
- CONCORD’s EC Operational Grant covers a considerable proportion of the running costs of the Secretariat and of the activity costs of the member-led working structures (workstreams, Committees, Board, General Assembly). Activities include reports and briefing notes, position papers, meetings (online and in person), advocacy tools, studies, capacity-building and internal and external communication.
- As a general rule, and in line with CONCORD’s travel reimbursement rules, the budget seeks to enable at least one representative per member to participate per meeting, reimbursing travel and accommodation on request if the member organisation cannot cover these costs.

- CONCORD has currently five funding streams:
  - Operational Grant from the European Commission (DG INPTA)
  - EC DEAR-funded Presidency Project (in partnership with three of our National Platforms, corresponding to the Member States holding the rotating 6-month Presidency of the European Council). The purpose of this project is to promote European values and raise awareness of sustainable development objectives throughout the EU.
  - Membership fees to co-fund the EC and Presidency Project grants.
  - Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in the context of its More and Better Aid Project.
  - Robert Bosch Stiftung to deepen its work on inequalities.



## SUMMARY OF RESULTS

In 2024, CONCORD's total income amounted to €2.188.228 (2023: €2.186.719) and our expenditure amounted to €2.111.386 (2023: €2.168.612) resulting in a surplus of € 76.843.

CONCORD's income was 5% higher than forecasted and the expenditure was 2% above forecast for reasons explained below.

### INCOME

Overall income was €113.228 higher than projected in the Strategic Budget approved during CONCORD's 2023 General Assembly.

This is primarily due to the additional income of €75.000 from the European Commission to cover CONCORD's operating costs and activities, especially increasing staff costs in 2024. This rise was negotiated after the Strategic Budget was drawn up in April 2023.

In addition, there was €17.189 income carried over from the previous year's Robert Bosch Stiftung grant, €6.068 carried over income from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and €15.551 income from the Presidency Project transferred from 2023 to 2024.

There was also €2.303 NGO contribution from HAND (our Hungarian National Platform) for the welcome reception for new Members of the European Parliament, in the context of the Presidency Project.

Unfortunately, membership fees dropped by €2.882 due to the departure of some members.

### EXPENDITURE

In 2024, CONCORD's total expenditure amounted to €2.111.386 (2023: €2.168.612) which was €36.386 higher than forecast in the Strategic Budget.

As a result of the increased resources from the EU Presidency Project, Robert Bosch Stiftung and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, expenditure increased substantially for external experts and overheads compared to the Strategic Budget.

The key variances in expenditure are:

- Expenditure on travel and meetings (€ 79.804) fell by €64.196 compared to the Strategic

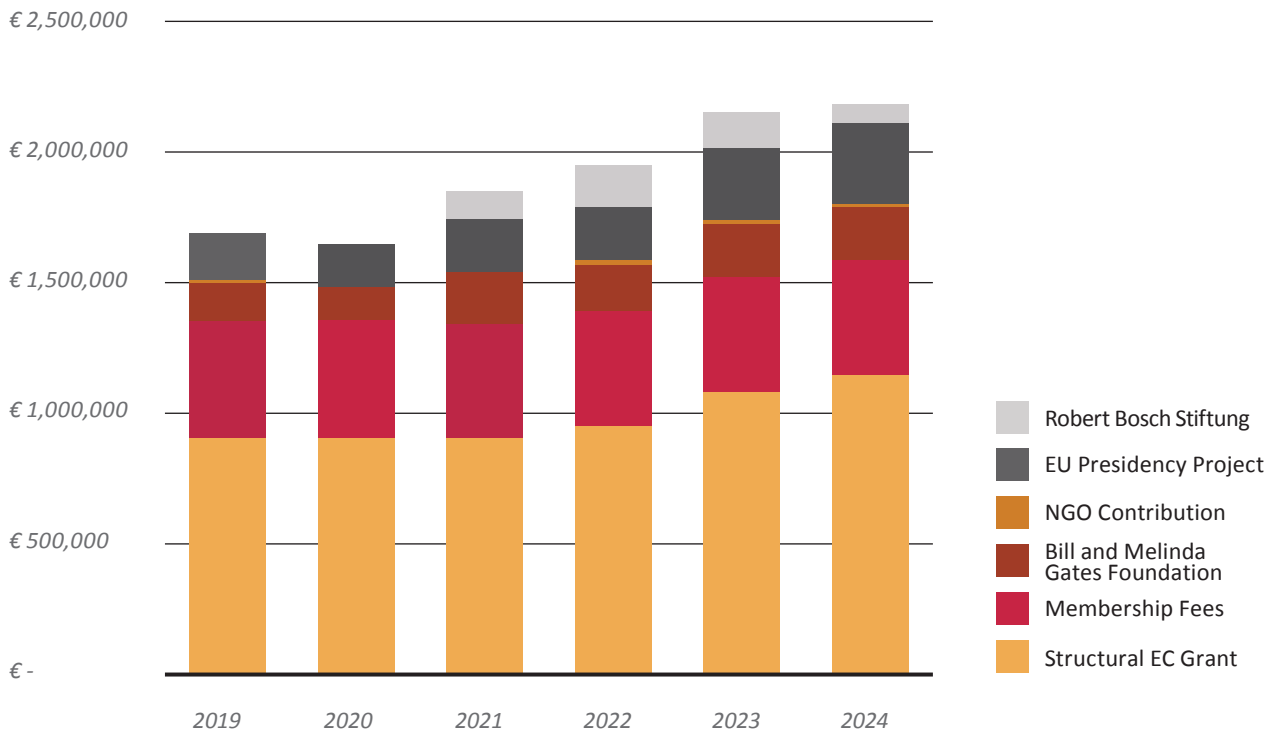
Budget. This was mainly due to fewer members being willing to travel to attend workstream meetings than foreseen under the different grants, especially if a hybrid option was offered.

- Communication costs (€61.458) were higher than foreseen by €6.458. This is mainly due to slightly higher venue costs than expected for the General Assembly and an extraordinary Board meeting in September.
- An additional amount of €95.418 was spent on external services. This led to a total spending of €216.918. This was due to an increase in spending on external consultants (and most particularly by the fact that the interim Head of Finance was hired via a recruitment agency and therefore this position was considered as a consultancy rather than staff costs - covered by the EC Operational Grant – as well as the higher research costs for the AidWatch report under the Bill and Melinda Gates grant). There was also an increase in use of recruitment services under the EC Operational Grant.
- Staff costs were €18.114 lower than foreseen in the Strategic Budget despite adding a second communication position. This is due to sick leaves, positions not immediately replaced and having our head of finance position in external services instead of staff costs. This was also despite enlarging the communications team.
- Overhead costs were €21.380 higher than foreseen in the Strategic Budget.
- Office costs were €4.842 lower than in the Strategic Budget.
- EC non-eligible costs were €281 above budget.

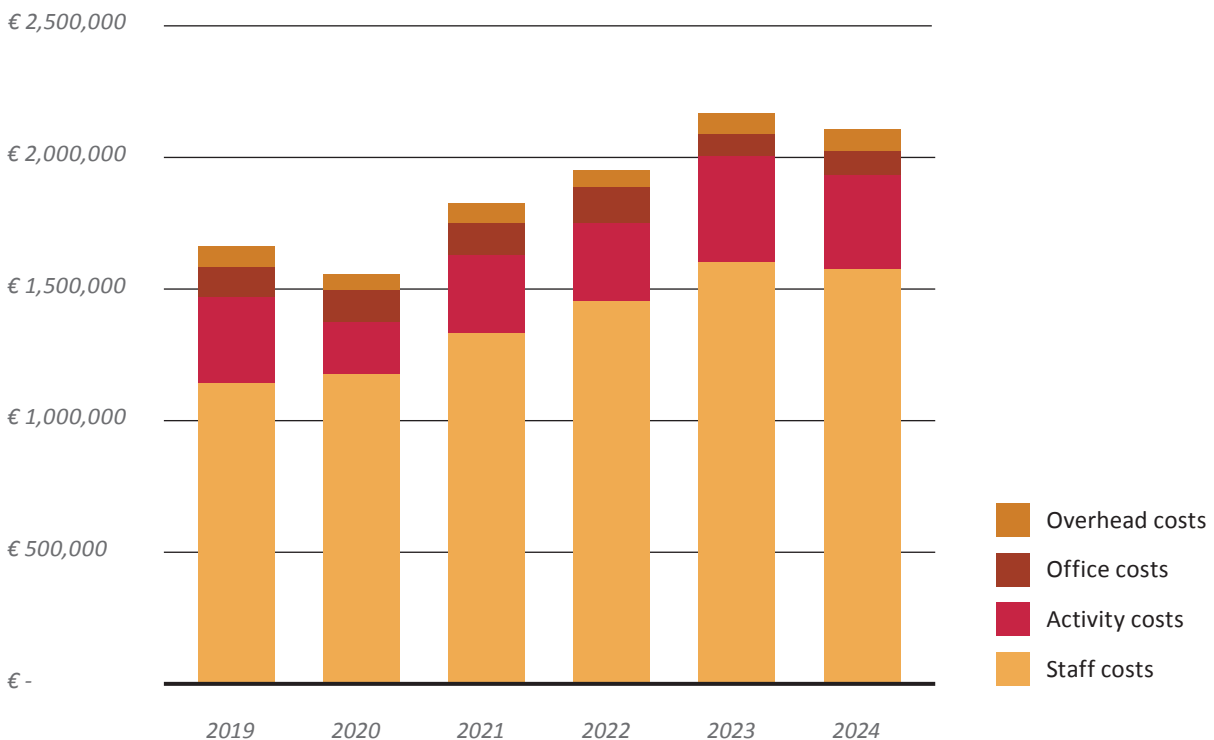
## INCOME & EXPENDITURE

	2024 Budget	2024 Actuals	2023 Actuals	2022 Actuals	2021 Actuals	2020 Actuals	Variance from budget
<b>Income</b>							
Membership Fees	€ 435 000	€ 432 118	€ 438 688	€ 437 478	€ 436 118	€ 454 218	€ (2 882)
NGO Contributions		€ 2 303	€ 6 500	€ 10 935	€ -	€ -	€ 2 303
Other contributions		€ -	€ 8 345				€ -
	<b>€ 435 000</b>	<b>€ 434 421</b>	<b>€ 453 533</b>	<b>€ 448 413</b>	<b>€ 436 118</b>	<b>€ 454 218</b>	<b>€ (579)</b>
Structural EC Grant	€ 1 075 000	€ 1 150 000	€ 1 075 000	€ 950 000	€ 900 000	€ 900 000	€ 75 000
EU Presidency Project	€ 300 000	€ 315 551	€ 284 444	€ 208 866	€ 205 995	€ 150 982	€ 15 551
	<b>€ 1 375 000</b>	<b>€ 1 465 551</b>	<b>€ 1 359 444</b>	<b>€ 1 158 866</b>	<b>€ 1 105 995</b>	<b>€ 1 050 982</b>	<b>€ 90 551</b>
Gates Foundation	€ 205 000	€ 211 068	€ 208 783	€ 181 267	€ 201 838	€ 133 882	€ 6 068
Other Projects (Robert Bosch Foundation since 2021)	€ 60 000	€ 77 189	€ 142 459	€ 156 798	€ 98 554		€ 17 189
Exceptional Income			€ 22 500	€ 41 738			€ -
	<b>€ 265 000</b>	<b>€ 288 257</b>	<b>€ 373 742</b>	<b>€ 379 803</b>	<b>€ 300 392</b>	<b>€ 133 882</b>	<b>€ 23 257</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>€ 2 075 000</b>	<b>€ 2 188 228</b>	<b>€ 2 186 719</b>	<b>€ 1 987 082</b>	<b>€ 1 842 505</b>	<b>€ 1 639 082</b>	<b>€ 113 228</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>							
Travel and meeting costs	€ 144 000	€ 79 804	€ 125 182	€ 57 798	€ 4 297	€ 24 068	€ (64 196)
Communication & logistics	€ 55 000	€ 61 458	€ 68 485	€ 41 383	€ 34 093	€ 48 248	€ 6 458
External services	€ 121 500	€ 216 918	€ 204 930	€ 198 536	€ 258 138	€ 129 368	€ 95 418
	<b>€ 320 500</b>	<b>€ 358 180</b>	<b>€ 398 597</b>	<b>€ 297 718</b>	<b>€ 296 528</b>	<b>€ 201 684</b>	<b>€ 37 680</b>
Staff	€ 1 600 000	€ 1 581 886	€ 1 606 743	€ 1 456 344	€ 1 331 889	€ 1 175 910	€ (18 114)
Overheads	€ 60 000	€ 81 380	€ 70 006	€ 58 920	€ 77 386	€ 57 069	€ 21 380
Offices	€ 93 000	€ 88 158	€ 89 348	€ 145 462	€ 122 380	€ 122 061	€ (4 842)
Others	€ 1 500	€ 1 781	€ 3 918	€ 8 343	€ 11 223	€ 8 592	€ 281
	<b>€ 1 754 500</b>	<b>€ 1 753 205</b>	<b>€ 1 770 015</b>	<b>€ 1 669 070</b>	<b>€ 1 542 878</b>	<b>€ 1 363 631</b>	<b>€ (1 295)</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>€ 2 075 000</b>	<b>€ 2 111 386</b>	<b>€ 2 168 612</b>	<b>€ 1 966 787</b>	<b>€ 1 839 406</b>	<b>€ 1 565 315</b>	<b>€ 36 386</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>€ -</b>	<b>€ 76 843</b>	<b>€ 18 107</b>	<b>€ 20 295</b>	<b>€ 3 099</b>	<b>€ 73 767</b>	<b>€ 76 843</b>

## INCOME SOURCES FROM 2019 TO 2024



## BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES FROM 2019 TO 2024



## BALANCE SHEET ON 31 DECEMBER 2024

The balance sheet shows CONCORD's financial situation on 31 December 2024.

The tangible assets (mainly the purchase of IT equipment) have been further depreciated, amounting to 0 at the end of 2024, with no new investment. This explains the decrease in the value of net assets.

The financial assets are composed of the rental guarantee for the offices.

The cash level decreased substantially in 2024 compared to 2023. This is owing to the fact that the first payment tranche (€960.000) of our 2025 EC Operational Grant had not yet been received in December 2024. However, for 2023, this first tranche relating to the 2024 EC Operational Grant had already been received at year-end. The second payment tranche (€230.000) related to the 2024 EC Operational Grant will be received in Q2 2025.

The debtor account is €230.000 in the positive and corresponds to the amount of the last tranche to be received from the 2024 EC Operational Grant.

Deferred expenses are costs that CONCORD paid in 2024 but that will also cover part of 2025. It includes our contract with Atlance for our Client Relationship Management tool, AG Insurance, Axa Insurance, STIB (public transport allowance), the Zoom license and other small contracts for IT tools/software. At the end of 2024, accrued income was €43.489, which includes the last payment tranche to be received for the EU Presidency Project (€27.433).

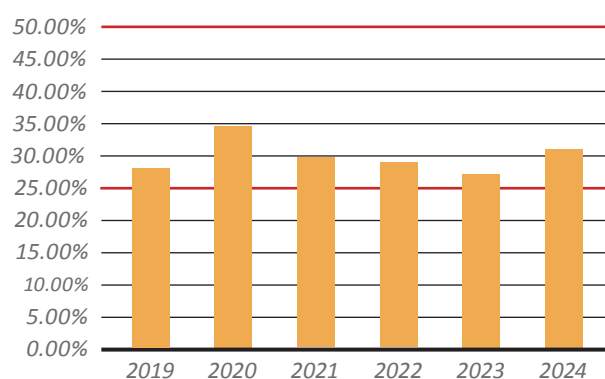
The short-term creditors position reflects the grants' money that has been received but not yet been spent. In 2024, this position decreased substantially with regard to 2023, mainly because the 1st payment of the 2025 EC Grant was not booked on December 31<sup>st</sup> (€960.000), while it had been received by year-end in the year before.

The deferred revenue position includes the remaining amount (€24.344) from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation that will be used on grant-related activities in the beginning of 2025. This amount is much less compared to 2023 because all

other ongoing grants were fully used by the end of December 2024.

Adding the 2024 surplus of €76,843 to our Fonds Social (reserves, previously amounting €582,850) brings the total Fonds Social to €659.693. This represents 31.24% of annual expenditure end of 2024. The ratio of fonds social compared to our total expenditure has increased by 4.37% in comparison with 2023 thanks to a positive net result and lower expenditure. This shows a healthy picture of the reserves which went up and have grown within the recommended percentage bracket (25% - 50%, see red lines in the chart below).

### FONDS SOCIAL / EXPENDITURE



	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Intangible assets	€ -	€ -	€ 3 200	€ 6 401	€ 9 601	€ 12 802
Tangible assets	€ -	€ 5 409	€ 13 173	€ 13 866	€ 16 547	€ 22 392
Financial assets	€ 10 838	€ 10 838	€ 10 838	€ 10 838	€ 10 838	€ 10 838
<b>Long term assets</b>	<b>€ 10 838</b>	<b>€ 16 247</b>	<b>€ 27 212</b>	<b>€ 31 105</b>	<b>€ 36 986</b>	<b>€ 46 032</b>
Debtors	€ 230 000	€ 257 100	€ 381 847	€ 180 912	€ 183 912	€ 207 835
Cash	€ 566 411	€ 1 738 455	€ 636 564	€ 1 474 889	€ 736 330	€ 449 848
Accrued income / deferred expenses	€ 43 489	€ 16 917	€ 22 463	€ 50 160	€ 33 021	€ 14 098
<b>Short term assets</b>	<b>€ 839 900</b>	<b>€ 2 012 472</b>	<b>€ 1 040 873</b>	<b>€ 1 705 961</b>	<b>€ 953 264</b>	<b>€ 671 780</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>€ 850 738</b>	<b>€ 2 028 719</b>	<b>€ 1 068 085</b>	<b>€ 1 737 066</b>	<b>€ 990 249</b>	<b>€ 717 812</b>
Short term creditors	€ 166 701	€ 1 169 127	€ 242 790	€ 271 677	€ 270 515	€ 220 011
Accrued expenses / deferred revenues	€ 24 344	€ 271 333	€ 246 470	€ 903 158	€ 155 968	€ 3
Short term liabilities	€ 191 045	€ 1 440 460	€ 489 260	€ 1 174 836	€ 426 483	€ 220 014
Provision for liabilities and charges	€ -	€ 5 409	€ 14 082	€ 17 782	€ 22 416	€ 30 216
Capital Grants	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
Fonds Social (Reserves)	€ 582 850	€ 564 743	€ 544 448	€ 541 350	€ 467 582	€ 446 192
Surplus/Deficit	€ 76 843	€ 18 107	€ 20 295	€ 3 099	€ 73 767	€ 21 390
<b>Total Fonds social</b>	<b>€ 659 693</b>	<b>€ 582 850</b>	<b>€ 564 743</b>	<b>€ 544 448</b>	<b>€ 541 350</b>	<b>€ 467 582</b>
<b>Total financing</b>	<b>€ 850 738</b>	<b>€ 2 028 719</b>	<b>€ 1 068 085</b>	<b>€ 1 737 066</b>	<b>€ 990 249</b>	<b>€ 717 812</b>

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Fonds Social	€ 659 693	€ 582 850	€ 564 743	€ 544 448	€ 541 350	€ 467 582
Fonds social / expenditure	31,24%	26.88%	28.71%	29.60%	34.58%	28,13%

# PARTICIPATION INSIGHTS 2024

CONCORD Participation Insights for 2024 show that membership engagement remains on similarly high levels as in previous years. While the total participation numbers have not changed much over the last three years, the number of meetings has continually risen, which reflects our aim to become increasingly agile in our ways of working and offer more targeted opportunities for our members to engage. This has meant that an individual meeting may have a somewhat lower level of participation but is far more focused. This shift is best demonstrated by the increased number of short-term groups and smaller taskforces (e.g. EU Election Taskforce, or the multiple taskforces in the Financing and Funding for Sustainable Development focusing on Global Gateway and Multiannual Financial Framework).

Besides the change in the average size of CONCORD's internal meetings, there were also some notable

differences in the number of subscribers to the individual groups in 2024. The biggest increase has been recorded by Civil Society Power (CSP), which more than doubled (the group grew by more than 162% over the course of the year). Many other groups recorded an increase as well - Global Citizenship Education and the Gender group grew by approximately 20%, and Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development and Inequalities and Sustainable Economy by 7,5% and 10% respectively. (For more information on participation in internal and external meetings see below).

On average, CONCORD members subscribed to eight out of twelve available mailing lists, which is a slight increase since last year, and they continued to actively participate in five of the eight groups they subscribed to. As in previous years, the structure with the greatest attendance was the FFSD workstream, whose meetings and events were

TYPE	NAME	# SUBSCRIBERS	# CONCORD MEMBERS
<b>Thematic Working Groups</b>	Financing and Funding for Sustainable Development	229	55
	Inequalities and Sustainable Economy	65	39
	Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development	55	31
	Gender Equality	89	41
	Global Citizenship Education	75	34
	Regional Alliances	50	34
	Civil Society Power	84	43
	Digital Community	31	18
	Shift the Power	52	32
<b>Transversal Groups and Communities of Practice</b>	EU Elections Taskforce	60	29
	Financial Advisory Committee	1	1
	Communication Community	93	45
	Eastern Neighbourhood	25	19
<b>Governance bodies</b>	Disability Inclusion	12	8
	General Assembly (Delegates)	118	58
	Board	10	10

attended by 70% of CONCORD members. With the exception of PCSD and ISE, all CONCORD groups were attended by at least a third of CONCORD members. The CONCORD General Assembly was attended by 88% of CONCORD members.

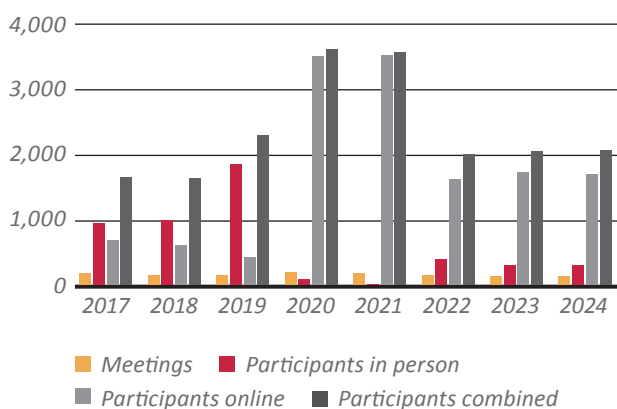
Besides the two new taskforces (on Global Gateway and MFF), CONCORD also launched a new working group, in the beginning of 2024. This new group focused on shifting the power, and organised its meetings together with the Civil Society Power working structure. After three years the Digital Community working group was disbanded in April 2024.

## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### INTERNAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Internal meetings and events form the basis of CONCORD activities. As already mentioned, the number of internal meetings rose compared to the previous year, albeit not dramatically. In 2023, CONCORD organised 150 meetings and internal events, compared to 173 in 2024. This was both owing to the activities of the extra taskforces and to the consultation process around the CONCORD Rewire. A total of 2087 participants attended CONCORD internal meetings and events in 2024, which is similar to the number of participants in 2023.

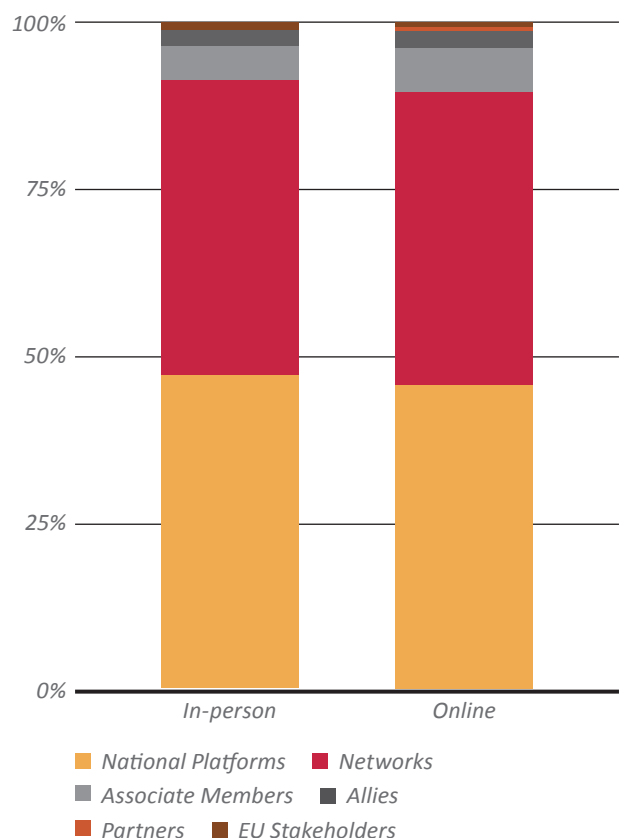
**Figure 1: Internal Meetings & Events – Comparison by Year**



The ratio of in-person versus online meetings and events remained approximately the same as in 2023 and 2022, with the vast majority of our activities taking place online. Of the 173 meetings organised in 2024, 150 were purely online meetings, 14 were hybrid and 9 took place in person.

The Secretariat continues to monitor the composition of participants in the various types of internal meetings (online, hybrid, in-person) to ensure no category of member is disadvantaged by the various formats. The Secretariat plans all meetings taking into account the character of the target audience (e.g. meetings intended for National Platforms only take almost entirely place online), to ensure that CONCORD meetings and events remain as accessible to all members of the Confederation as possible. While the data does not show any major differences in terms of attendance to in-person events by any of the categories of CONCORD members, it is clear from the feedback received from some CONCORD members that the availability of travel reimbursements and appropriate scheduling increases willingness among colleagues from National Platforms to participate in person. (See Figure 2: Internal Meetings & Events - Composition of Participants).

**Figure 2: Internal Meetings & Events – Composition of Participants**

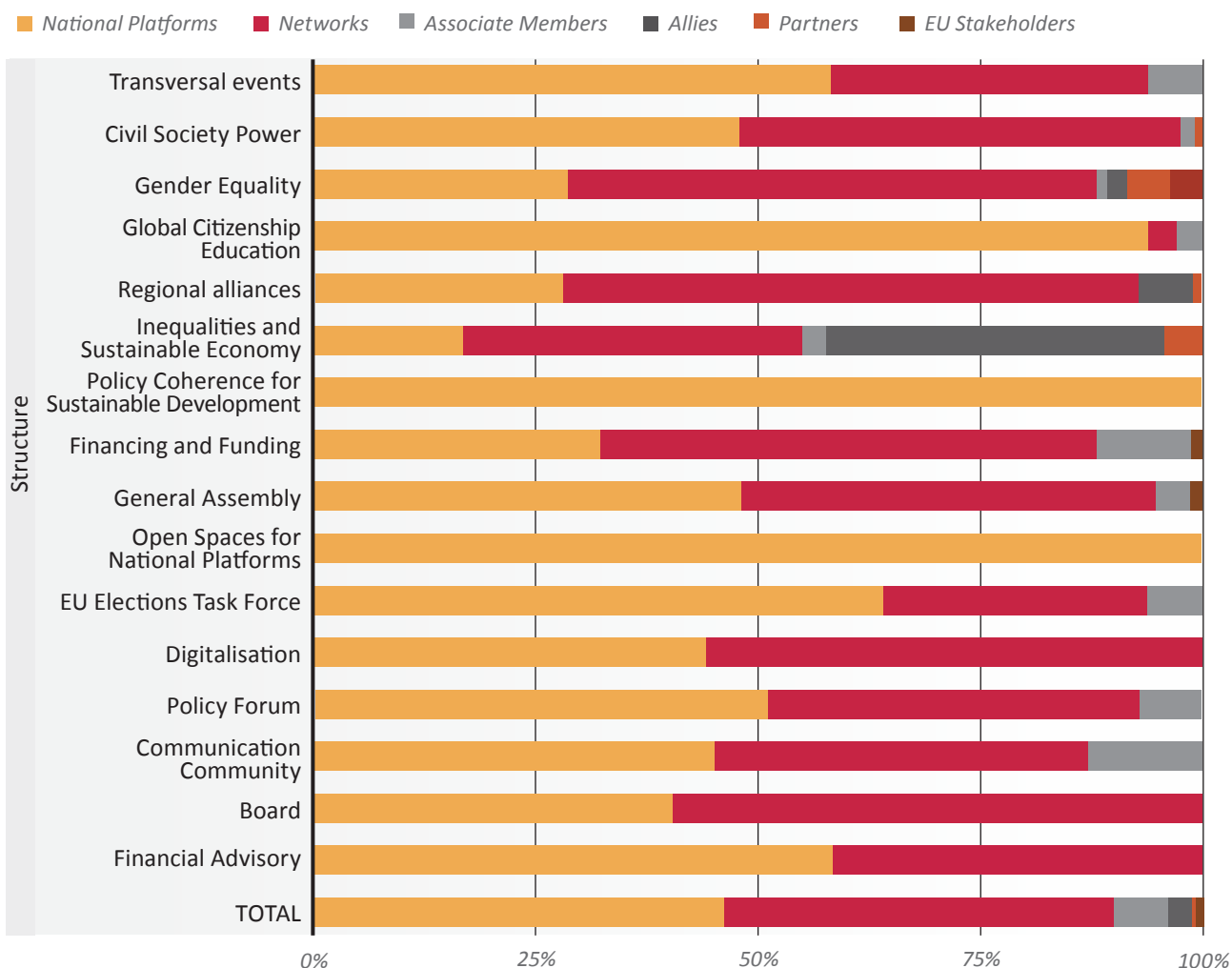


In terms of attendance by the different categories of participants, we see the continuation of trends of the last couple of years. National Platforms continue to have to have a stronger presence compared to Networks, indicating that the increased focus on

their participation in CONCORD is proving effective. However, the decrease in participation of National Platforms within the FFSD group is an exception and worth noting; National Platforms made up 40% of participants in 2023, compared to only 32% in 2024. This change is also reflected in the absolute numbers. Another significant trend is the continued increase in the participation of Associate Members in FFSD, with their involvement in some of the FFSD sub-groups remaining particularly key. Finally, there has been a decrease in the representation of Partners in our internal meetings, with just 0.5% in 2024 compared to 2% previously. This decline is most notable in the composition of participants in internal meetings organised by the Regional Alliances group (see Figure 3: Internal Meetings & Events - Composition of Participants per Working Group). However, this reduction in Partners' attendance at internal events has been offset by an increase in the number of external events involving them, as well as their greater participation in those events (see below).

While FFSD continues to be the most diverse of CONCORD working groups, with a broad mix of participants from both Networks and National Platforms, PCSD and GCE clearly remain the domain of National Platforms. This is likely due to National Platforms' direct connection to national advocacy, which aligns more closely with the nature of these topics - both being more closely linked to EU Member States than to EU level advocacy. On the contrary, the Gender group and the CSP group continue to attract mostly Networks, likely reflecting Networks' ability to focus and shape their advocacy around specific topics and programmes. However, the Shift the Power group, originally part of the CSP, is now attracting more National Platforms. This shift can be attributed to National Platforms' growing interest in the topic, most likely because their role in international cooperation has for a long time been less directly associated with power dynamics, and conversations around their role in this context are less developed. However, as National Platforms represent a diverse range of CSOs, they increasingly

**Figure 3: Internal Meetings & Events – Composition of Participants per Working Group**



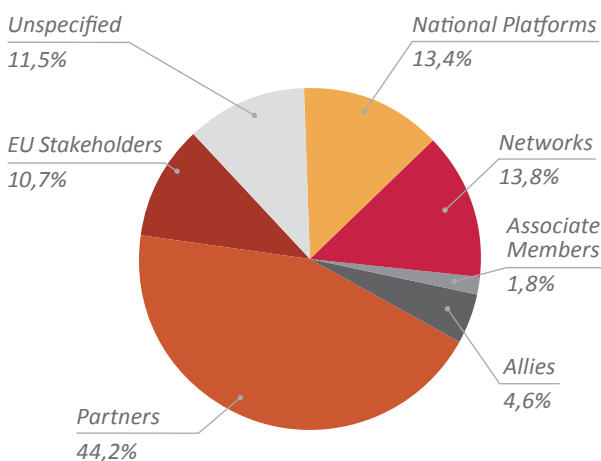
recognise the need to engage with this issue and seem to find CONCORD an approachable partner for these discussions. Meanwhile, the work of ISE continues to be driven by Allies, alongside Networks, indicating that although many Networks work on various aspects of inequalities, they struggle to make direct links to the files that CONCORD is addressing on their behalf.

### EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

In 2024, four workstreams organised events specifically intended for external participants: Regional Alliances continued to co-organise the Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (CSEM) meetings; the European Elections Taskforce first organised two online debates in the lead-up to the EU elections and then in the autumn organised an in-person welcome event for the new MEPs; the FFSD group launched CONCORD’s annual AidWatch report; and finally the PCSD group held two online events in 2024 - the first one entitled “A Test of the EU’s Integrity Towards the 2030 Agenda: PCSD Progress Two Years On” and the second one titled “Rights over Resources: Local Perspectives on the EU Critical Raw Materials Act”.

In total, these events attracted nearly 700 participants, which is more than double the number of participants in our external events in 2023. (see Figure 4: External Events - Comparison by Year).

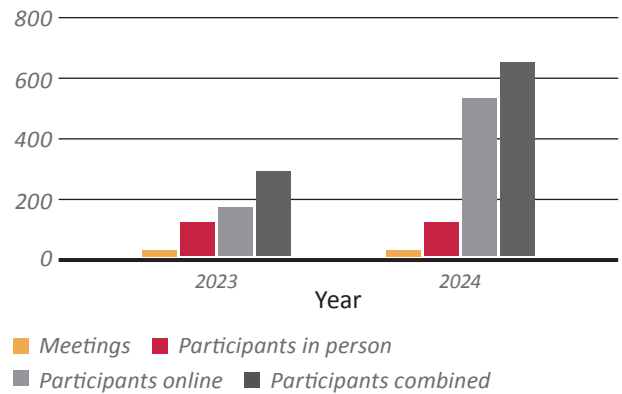
**Figure 4: External Events – Composition of Participants**



Almost half the participants came from our non-European partners (44%), which is a result of the very successful work within the Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (CSEM). In absolute numbers we have also increased the number of EU stakeholders that attended our events, mainly thanks to the MEP Welcome event organised by our EU Election Taskforce, but also thanks to a well-

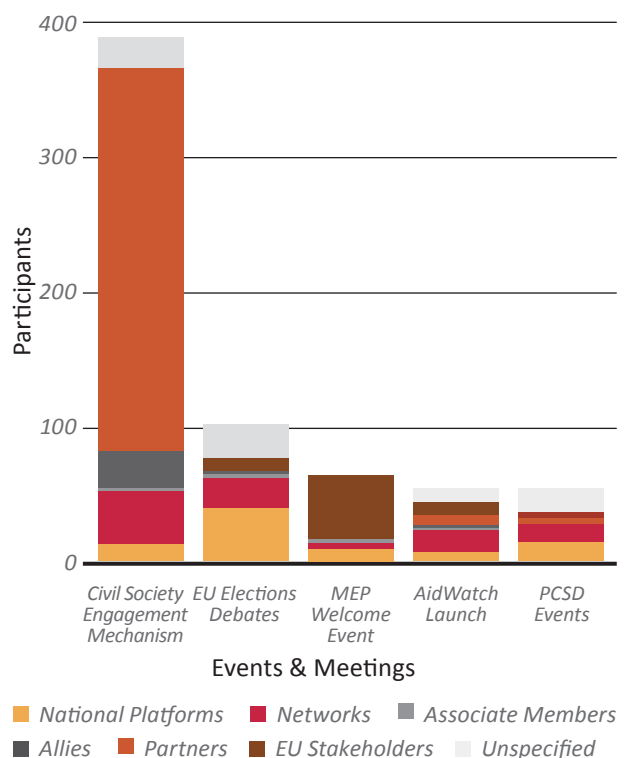
attended AidWatch launch. (see Figure 5: External Events - Composition of Participants).

**Figure 5: External Events – Comparison by Year**



As in previous years, our external events focused on mobilising different audiences. While the CSEM aimed to mobilise and gather various partners and therefore had a higher proportion of such participants, the EU Elections Debates were particularly well-attended by our members and by a broader range of CSOs. The MEP Welcome event, on the other hand, focused mainly on attracting (new) MEPs. The PCSD events as well as our AidWatch launch attracted a diverse audience. (see Figure 6: External Events - Composition of Participants per Event).

**Figure 6: External Events – Composition of Participants per Event**



## CONCLUSION

One of the greatest achievements of CONCORD in 2024 is the successful expansion of the Civil Society Power (CSP) group, which more than doubled in size. This growth highlights both our continued success in engaging a wider and more diverse audience and the growing need to amplify our efforts to counter the continually shrinking civil society space and increasing attacks on CSOs across Europe and worldwide.

The shift toward more focused, smaller groups, such as those formed around Global Gateway and MFF, is also a testament to our successful efforts to foster more agile ways of working.

Finally, CONCORD's ability to remain relevant and inclusive while adapting to new needs and challenges, as demonstrated by stable and diverse participation, represents a major success in our efforts to promote inclusive and strong civil society engagement in the EU's development and policy-making processes.

# ANNEXES

## – MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

MEMBER	Fees 2023	Paid 2023	Fees 2024	Paid 2024
ACT Alliance EU	€16,000.00	€16,000.00	€15,000.00	€15,000.00
ActionAid	€16,000.00	€16,000.00	€16,000.00	€16,000.00
ADRA	€8,800.00	€8,800.00	€8,800.00	€8,800.00
AKU (Estonia)	€1,200.00	€1,200.00	€1,200.00	€1,200.00
ALDA	€2,800.00	€2,800.00	€2,800.00	€2,800.00
Alliance 2015	€3,000.00	€3,000.00	€5,000.00	€5,000.00
Ambrela (Slovakia)	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00
Bond (UK)	€6,000.00	€6,000.00	€6,000.00	€6,000.00
BPID (Bulgaria)	€550.00	€550.00	€550.00	€550.00
Cardet	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00
CARE International	€14,000.00	€14,000.00	€14,000.00	€14,000.00
Caritas Europa	€8,000.00	€8,000.00	€8,000.00	€8,000.00
Cercle de Cooperation (Luxembourg)	€14,000.00	€14,000.00	€14,000.00	€14,000.00
Childfund Alliance	€4,500.00	€4,500.00	€4,500.00	€4,500.00
CIDSE	€18,000.00	€18,000.00	€18,000.00	€16,000.00
CONCORD Belgium (Belgium)	€16,500.00	€16,500.00	€16,500.00	€16,500.00
CONCORD Italia (Italy)	€9,200.00	€9,200.00	€9,200.00	€9,200.00
CONCORD Sweden (Sweden)	€18,000.00	€18,000.00	€18,200.00	€18,200.00
Coordinadora ONGD (Spain)	€9,000.00	€9,000.00	€9,000.00	€9,000.00
Coordination SUD (France)	€16,000.00	€16,000.00	€16,000.00	€16,000.00
CROSOL (Croatia)	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00
Dochas (Ireland)	€8,000.00	€8,000.00	€8,000.00	€8,000.00
European Association for the Education of Adults	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00
European Disability Forum	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00
EU-CORD	€7,500.00	€7,500.00	€7,500.00	€7,500.00
European Partnership for Democracy	€2,500.00	€2,500.00	€2,500.00	€2,500.00
Fingo (Finland)	€16,000.00	€16,000.00	€16,000.00	€16,000.00
FOND (Romania)	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00

FoRS (Czech Republic)	€2,500.00	€2,500.00	€2,500.00	€2,500.00
Globale Verantwortung (Austria)	€8,000.00	€8,000.00	€8,000.00	€8,000.00
Globalt Fokus (Denmark)	€12,000.00	€12,000.00	€12,000.00	€12,000.00
Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction	€2,500.00	€2,500.00	€2,500.00	€2,500.00
Grupa Zagranica (Poland)	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	€1,500.00	€1,500.00
Hellenic Platform for Development (Greece)	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
Habitat for Humanity	€5,000.00	€5,000.00	€5,000.00	€5,000.00
HAND (Hungary)	€500.00	€500.00	€750.00	€750.00
Humanity & Inclusion	€5,000.00	€5,000.00	€5,000.00	€5,000.00
International Planned Parenthood Federation - European Network	€12,720.00	€12,720.00	€12,720.00	€12,720.00
International Rescue Committee	€10,000.00	€10,000.00	€10,000.00	€10,000.00
LAPAS (Latvia)	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00
Light for the World	€5,000.00	€5,000.00	€5,000.00	€5,000.00
Lithuanian NGDO Platform			€500.00	€500.00
Norwegian Refugee Council	€5,000.00	€5,000.00	€5,000.00	€5,000.00
Oxfam International	€14,000.00	€12,000.00	€14,000.00	€14,000.00
Partos (Netherlands)	€17,000.00	€17,000.00	€17,000.00	€17,000.00
Plan International	€12,700.00	€12,700.00	€12,700.00	€12,700.00
Plataforma ONGD (Portugal)	€4,000.00	€4,000.00	€4,000.00	€4,000.00
Save the Children EU	€16,000.00	€16,000.00	€16,000.00	€16,000.00
Sightsavers	€9,000.00	€9,000.00		
SLOGA (Slovenia)	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00
SKOP (Malta)	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00
Solidar	€3,000.00	€3,000.00	€3,000.00	€3,000.00
SOS Children's Villages	€14,000.00	€14,000.00	€14,000.00	€14,000.00
Terre des Hommes International	€11,000.00	€11,000.00	€11,000.00	€9,000.00
VENRO (Germany)	€22,000.00	€22,000.00	€22,000.00	€22,000.00
Wetlands International	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00
Women Engage for a Common Future	€3,000.00	€2,000.00	€3,000.00	€3,000.00
World Vision International	€12,000.00	€12,000.00	€12,000.00	€12,000.00
World Wide Fund for Nature	€9,198.00	€9,198.00	€9,198.00	€9,198.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€441,668.00</b>	<b>€438,668.00</b>	<b>€435,118.00</b>	<b>€431,118.00</b>

# OUR MEMBERS

<p><b>NATIONAL PLATFORMS</b></p>	 <p><b>Global Responsibility</b> Austrian Platform for Development and Humanitarian Aid</p>	 <p>BELGISCH PLATFORM PLATE-FORME BELGE <b>CONCORD BELGE</b> CNCD-11.11.11 ACODEV 11.11.11 ngocederatie</p>	 <p><b>BPID</b> Bulgarian Platform for International Development</p>	 <p>Platforma za međunarodnu građansku solidarnost Hrvatske Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity <b>CROSOL</b></p>	 <p><b>FORS</b></p>	 <p><b>GLOBAL FOCUS</b></p>
	 <p><b>fingo</b></p>	 <p><b>COORDINATION SUD</b></p>	 <p><b>VENRO</b> ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AID NGOs</p>	 <p>Hellenic Platform for Development</p>	 <p><b>HAND</b></p>	 <p><b>dóchas</b> The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations</p>
 <p>Network della ONG in Europa per lo sviluppo e l'emergenza <b>CONCORD ITALIA</b></p>	 <p><b>LAPAS</b> Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation</p>	 <p><b>vbp</b> Významné dobrodružství platforma</p>	 <p><b>Cercle de coopération</b> des ONG DU LUXEMBOURG</p>	 <p><b>SKOP</b> Solidarjëtà u Koperazzjoni</p>	 <p><b>PARTOS</b></p>	 <p><b>ZAGRANICA</b></p>
 <p><b>ONGD</b> PLATAFORMA PORTUGUESA</p>	 <p><b>FOND</b> Federalna Organizacija Neprofitnih organizacija Desetine do Rodno</p>	 <p><b>Ambrella</b> Platform for Development Organisations</p>	 <p><b>SLOGA</b> Slovenian Global Action</p>	 <p><b>LA COORDINADORA</b> DE ORGANIZACIONES PARA EL DESARROLLO</p>	 <p><b>CONCORD SWEDEN</b></p>	 <p><b>bond</b></p>
<p><b>NETWORKS</b></p>	 <p><b>actalliance eu</b> Formerly APRODEV</p>	 <p><b>act:onaid</b></p>	 <p><b>ADRA</b></p>	 <p><b>Alliance 2015</b> towards the eradication of poverty</p>	 <p><b>CARE</b></p>	 <p><b>caritas europa</b></p>
 <p><b>ChildFund Alliance</b></p>	 <p><b>CIDSE</b> Together for global justice</p>	 <p><b>eucord</b> European Council of Organisations for Relief and Development</p>	 <p><b>GNDR</b></p>	 <p><b>Habitat for Humanity</b></p>	 <p><b>handicap international</b> humanity &amp; inclusion</p>	 <p><b>IPPF</b> International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network</p>
 <p><b>LIGHT FOR THE WORLD</b></p>	 <p><b>OXFAM International</b></p>	 <p><b>PLAN INTERNATIONAL</b></p>	 <p><b>Save the Children</b></p>	 <p><b>solidar</b></p>	 <p><b>SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES INTERNATIONAL</b></p>	 <p><b>Terre des Hommes International Federation</b></p>
 <p><b>wecf</b></p>	 <p><b>Wetlands International</b></p>	 <p><b>World Vision EU REPRESENTATION</b></p>	 <p><b>WWF</b></p>	<p><b>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</b></p>	 <p><b>alda</b> European Association for Local Democracy</p>	 <p><b>CARDET</b></p>
 <p><b>ea ea</b> EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS</p>	 <p><b>European Partnership for Democracy</b></p>	 <p><b>EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM</b></p>	 <p><b>INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE</b></p>	 <p><b>NRC</b> NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL</p>	 <p><b>Co-funded by the European Union</b></p>	



# CONCORD

European Confederation of NGOs working on  
sustainable development and international cooperation



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