



IFM • SEI

SWP

2025-2027

Dear members,

Our umbrella organisation is unique — it draws strength from its history to shape its future, constantly adapting to realities while working towards a more participatory, accessible, and inclusive world.

Throughout this past mandate, we have gone from a period of insecurity to stability, defending our values of solidarity and friendship with determination and commitment. Staying true to the legacy of our founding comrades, we carry forward the dream of a stronger IFM-SEI, built on the solidarity and engagement of its members.

Our vision is clear: to create an equal society for children, young people, and the most vulnerable in society. We will continue to strengthen socialist education, democratic participation, and the empowerment of young people as agents of change and decision-makers in their own lives.

This Strategy and Work Plan reflects our collective ambition to build a just, balanced, and inclusive society. It is the result of extensive consultation and co-creation, supported by initiatives such as the Future Workshop and the Structure Review Group — concrete expressions of our capacity to evolve and adapt.

Over the next two years, our strategic priorities will guide our work. We will focus on strengthening our values and deepening democratic life within and beyond our structures. Our members will be empowered through capacity-building in leadership, funding, and organisational development, reinforcing the idea that a strong IFM-SEI relies on strong member organisations.

We will also put the needs and challenges of young people at the heart of our work. From addressing mental health and post-pandemic realities to promoting the rights of women and queer people, our movement will continue to be a space for empowerment, solidarity, and education. We will support ethical and critical engagement in digital spaces, enhance our communication strategies, and ensure that our actions reflect our values of equality, justice, and collective transformation.

By 2027, we are confident that the outcomes of this Strategy and Work Plan will be tangible, bringing lasting and positive impact to the future of our movement.

Our missions are ambitious but the challenges the next generations face must be met with equal force from our member organisations!

The **MISSION** of IFM-SEI is to contribute to the education of young people, through socialist values and non-formal education, enabling children and young people to become critical thinkers and active decision-makers in their lives and communities. We believe that through empowering our members to bring about smaller, local changes we can bring about a bigger, further-reaching change in society. We call this education for social change.

By 2027, our **VISION** is to create more spaces within the movement where children and young people from different socio-economic backgrounds feel empowered to raise their voice and are able to actively and meaningfully impact and participate in decision-making process that affect their lives.



Overview of the Strategy and Work Plan 2025–2027

The Strategy and Work Plan 2025-2027 is divided into **six strategic priorities**. These correspond to IFM-SEI's mission and vision and support the aims and principles outlined in the IFM-SEI constitution.

As an outcome of a collective process and multiple consultations, this Strategy and Work Plan includes **three overarching strategic focuses**: inclusion and diversity, child and youth participation, and accessibility. We believe that these topics should be constant features in all our work, and they should be present and reflected within each of our priorities. The order of the six strategic priorities follows a value-based approach. Each of the strategic focuses for the years 2025-2027 is enriched by a general overview and aim, alongside a short analysis on the topic and a set of objectives and performance indicators for the strategic priority at hand, upon which our work and progress will be measured. The objectives are a set of steps that we should take to satisfy or achieve a strategic priority, in line with our mission and vision. The performance indicators are measurable goals that are used to determine our success in relation to the outlined objectives. Each area consists also of the impact on our work, and the work of our member organisations, over the two-year period.

At the moment, project funding provides the foundations for the majority of IFM-SEI's work; it is not often reliable or regular, which means that we have to be flexible with timings for projects and activities. This approach is the reason why the timing of the implementation of our aims and objectives has not been set.

Throughout this document, we use the abbreviation MO(s), which stands for Member Organisation(s).

Six strategic priorities

1

Strengthening our values & engaging in democratic life: IFM-SEI should remain a key stakeholder in the evolving democratic landscape worldwide, while actively working to strengthen our values. Reflecting on and debating democratic concepts and values should be the cornerstone of our priorities. Each member should engage in critical analysis, uphold democratic principles, and address negative impacts on democratic life.

2

A strong IFM-SEI has strong members: IFM-SEI should empower and sustain its member organisations to build a strong and impactful global movement. Strengthening capacities in funding, leadership, and organisational management is essential. Each member should have access to tools and resources to grow, actively participate, and create meaningful impact in their communities.

3

Mental health in a post-pandemic world: IFM-SEI should support youth in overcoming post-Covid-19 challenges by promoting empowerment and fostering mental health awareness. Workshops and resources tailored to young people's needs will be central to this effort. By fostering youth participation in decision-making, we aim to address their mental health challenges and advocate for their rights.

4

Women* and queer people's rights: IFM-SEI should promote gender equality and empower girls, women and queer people within our structure and in society. By addressing gender-based violence and inequalities, we seek to shape perceptions and spark conversations on patriarchy. Our efforts include education, campaigns, and active participation in decision-making processes to ensure equal representation and rights for all.

* In line with the governing documents of IFM-SEI, the term "woman"/"women" here also indicates people of other genders who experience discrimination or oppression based on their gender.

5

Empowering youth in digital spaces and educating on misinformation:

IFM-SEI should empower youth in digital spaces and educate them on misinformation. By promoting responsible use and raising awareness of digital risks, we aim to combat misinformation and foster healthy online exchanges. This strategic priority will prepare young people to manage digital spaces ethically and safely.

6

Strengthening communication - Visibility and outreach: IFM-SEI should strengthen internal and external communication by increasing visibility and engagement through diverse media channels and structured strategies. Effective communication is essential for amplifying youth voices. By leveraging multiple media platforms and revitalizing internal channels, we aim to enhance collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Three overarching focuses

The following overarching focuses represent key features of the work that IFM-SEI does to pursue the six strategic priorities. These focuses are cornerstones of our modus operandi, and they allow us to ensure a thorough, impactful participation all across our activities.

- **Child and youth participation:** IFM-SEI should be promoting greater engagement of children and young people on the regional and the international level within IFM-SEI and among its MOs. We are committed to creating and adapting spaces for engagement and leadership that are child- and youth-friendly, and that do not pose any systemic barriers for participation and engagement in dialogue and decision-making processes. With this focus, IFM-SEI aims to promote the active and meaningful participation of our beneficiaries within our structures, our activities and our programmes, ensuring that our movement and member organisations are led by children and young people, not simply for or with them.
- **Diversity and inclusion:** IFM-SEI and its membership should be inclusive of everyone regardless of their background, beliefs or social class. Our movements and organisational cultures should reflect the diversity of local communities, including young Roma, young migrants and refugees, young people with disabilities and young

1. Strengthening our values & engaging in democratic life

2. A strong IFM-SEI has strong members

3. Mental health in a post-pandemic world



**STRATEGIC
PRIORITIES**

4. Women* and queer people's rights

5. Empowering youth in digital spaces and educate on misinformation

6. Strengthening communication -
Visibility and outreach



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1. Strengthening our values & engaging in democratic life

Aim: IFM-SEI and its members share a democratic life that is undergoing profound changes and debates around the world, which is also generating negativity and leading to a decline in democratic freedom. Therefore, it is necessary to reflect on these events that affect society, politics, and public policies.

This strategic priority seeks to open a concrete space for IFM-SEI organisations to reflect, debate, and analyse different concepts or themes of democratic life and internal values and principles. This allows us to strengthen critical analysis, commit to democratic life, speak out against negative events affecting democratic life, re-appropriate civic spaces, and promote contra-culture.

Analysis: Democratic life around the world is constantly evolving in terms of concepts and themes, which positively and negatively impact life in society, politics, and public policies. Therefore, IFM-SEI requires connecting with the political and democratic changes in society by analyzing and reflecting, in addition to reinforcing knowledge of its values and principles.

Objectives:

- Facilitate discussions among young people on IFM-SEI's core values such as socialist education, democracy and youth participation through international events and training.
- Critically assess the current state of democracy across the world and create solutions to engage young people in democratic processes.
- Identify areas of interest and concern for young people within the topic of democracy and create tailored activities addressing these specific subjects.
- Design and create regional and global spaces for MOs to discuss challenges and best practices about youth participation within organisations.
- Equip youth organisations and youth workers with educational resources to engage children and youth in civic society and democracy.

Performance indicators:

- Organise (1) international activity involving MOs and partner organisations to discuss the fundamental values of socialist educations and its links with democracy and youth participation.
- Hold at least (1) workshop on global democracy and the threats of the rise of the far rights extremism to European and democratic values.
- Conducting (1) youth-led research and/or youth consultation to analyse their main concerns regarding the state of democracy in their regions an the main barriers they encounter to participation.
- Include a space to discuss youth participation in youth work at regional meetings, creating a space for MOs to share challenges and best practices.
- Creation of (1) toolkit for youth organisations and youth workers on how to involve young people and children more in democracy and participation.

Impact: To increase the capacity of knowledge and critical analysis of our volunteers, to establish a constant space for theoretical debate on social and political changes, to analyse early the impacts on public policies of the countries that build IFM-SEI, to raise our voices regarding negative behaviours or signals in democratic life in the world, and to make children and young people more engaged and committed to democratic life.

2. A strong IFM-SEI has strong members

Aim: For IFM-SEI to be a strong and impactful global movement, its Member Organisations must be empowered, well-resourced, and sustainable. We aim to strengthen our member organisations by building their capacities in key areas such as funding, leadership development, organisational management and networking. Our goal is to ensure that all members have access to the tools and resources they need to grow, actively participate in the international network, and create meaningful impact in their communities. We also intend to encourage and increase the involvement of youth, and to foster a more thorough awareness of our governing documents throughout the movement.

Analysis: Many of our Member Organisations face challenges in securing funding, developing leadership, and engaging fully in the movement. Resource and knowledge gaps can limit their ability to participate effectively within IFM-SEI and in their local contexts. Currently, a significant portion of our projects and funding opportunities are concentrated in Europe, which can limit equal participation from all regions; additionally, some members lack the internal structures necessary to manage long-term projects or establish international connections.

Objectives:

- Design and deliver capacity-building training on funding strategies and organisational development to strengthen the capacity of our Member Organisations.
- Foster cooperation and knowledge exchange among Member Organisations in different regions by creating structured opportunities for collaboration and peer learning.
- Reinforce our commitment to internationalism by ensuring that all regions have equitable access to IFM-SEI activities.
- Increase access to funding opportunities by providing targeted training on fundraising strategies and identifying new sources of financial support in different regions.

Performance indicators:

- Share the best practices and resources of the project “Shaping The Future” among the 46 MOs and implement (1) training course based on best practices and lessons learned in the project.
- Ensure that at least 60% of member organisations actively engage in training sessions and networking initiatives.
- Identify and submit applications for (1) new funding opportunity every year specifically designed to support Member Organisations outside Europe.
- All regions will have representation in IFM-SEI’s decision-making structures by appointing (1) Regional Coordinator and (1) Presidium Member per region.
- Develop (1) “Project Management Handbook” directed at MOs including “Dos and Don’ts” when implementing a project, basic financial and administrative guidelines, and outlining different programmes to obtain funding.

Impact: A strong movement depends on the strength of its members. By empowering and equipping our Member Organisations, we will foster a more sustainable and resilient IFM-SEI. Providing increased access to funding, capacity-building training and resources will allow our members to implement impactful projects, advocate for their communities, and participate more fully in IFM-SEI’s global initiatives.

As our members grow stronger, IFM-SEI will become a more adaptable and proactive movement. The improved collaboration and exchange of knowledge will strengthen the effectiveness of our collective efforts, ensuring that we can address key social and political issues in a way that reflects the diverse needs and aspirations of our global network.

3. Mental health in a post-pandemic world

Aim: The main objective is to promote youth empowerment and improve youth mental health, especially in the post-Covid19 era, through workshops and activities allowing young people to voice their needs.

Analysis: In the post-Covid19 era, children and young people are facing new mental health challenges, exacerbated by social isolation, economic uncertainty, and educational disruption. The pandemic has also impacted their social and emotional development, leaving many feeling disconnected or anxious. Youth empowerment is presented as a key tool to enable them to take an active role in their mental health and well-being. In this framework, Children's Rights must be a basis for ensuring that their emotional and psychological needs are comprehensively addressed.

Objectives:

- Develop the capacity of youth workers to work in the field of mental health and well-being and assess the needs of young people and children in relation to this issue, especially after Covid-19.
- Create educational resources that address the mental health challenges faced by young people in different world regions after Covid-19.
- Establish support networks to facilitate peer learning and the exchange of best practices among young people.
- Promote awareness of children's emotional and psychological rights to ensure their mental health needs are comprehensively addressed.
- Involve young people in the planning and decision-making processes of the mental health initiatives and activities, ensuring the youth perspective and relevance.

Performance indicators:

- Conduct at least (1) international activity focused on young people and children's mental health and wellbeing, ensuring representation of participants from at least (3) different regions.
- Establish and maintain at least (1) support network for peer learning and exchange of best practices related to mental health and wellbeing among young people.
- Promote awareness of children's emotional and psychological rights by conducting at least (1) advocacy campaign highlighting their main challenges and how to address them.
- Involving young people from at least 3 different regions in (1) consultation during the planning of initiatives tackling mental health issues.

Impact: By empowering and supporting young people, we will create a more resilient and proactive IFM-SEI. Through workshops, resources, and support networks, young people will be better equipped to tackle mental health challenges, advocate for their rights, and actively participate in decision-making processes. As youth engagement and empowerment increase, IFM-SEI will evolve into a more dynamic and effective movement. Enhanced collaboration and knowledge exchange will strengthen our collective efforts, ensuring we address key social and political issues in ways that reflect the diverse needs and aspirations of young people worldwide.

4. Women* and queer people's rights

Aim: IFM-SEI strongly believes in gender equality and wants to contribute to girls and women's* empowerment inside our own structure but also as an impact on the societies we are living in. Girls and women* should play an active role inside our member organisations (representing organisations as leaders, presidents or board members, and play an active role in decision making and implementations of activities), but also on an international scale when it comes to IFM-SEI statutory meetings and activities.

Analysis: Even if the world is populated by around 50% females, girls and women still face inequalities in education, rights and access to information. Gender-based violence is an issue for girls and women. Femicides are happening across the world every 10 minutes, and this is more than alarming. IFM-SEI wants to give an impact on women's wellbeing and contribute to changing the perception of women and girls as weak and 'easy targets' globally, as well as sparking conversations on the nature and the effects of patriarchy. The patriarchal system also oppresses the queer community by enforcing rigid gender roles and heterosexual norms, marginalising those who don't conform. This denies LGBTQ+ people equal rights, reinforces discrimination, and fosters stigma. Queer identities are often invalidated or erased, leading to social, legal, and economic disadvantages, as well as higher rates of violence and mental health struggles. We need to educate on gender-related topics and raise awareness about gender-based inequalities, as well as the power and the intrinsic harm embedded in patriarchy. We need to criticise patriarchy as a specific ideology inside capitalist societies, and see how they intersect and work together as a powerful instrument of oppression on women*.

* In line with the governing documents of IFM-SEI, the term "woman*" / "women*" here also indicates people of other genders who experience discrimination or oppression based on their gender.

Objectives:

- Train young people and children about antisexism, feminism, and queer rights, focusing specially on teenagers (age 13-18) and youth workers, and educating them about the coexistence of capitalism and patriarchy.
- Raise awareness about how gender-based violence operate in different world regions through advocacy campaigns.
- Give more visibility to the efforts and work of girls and women within youth organisations and Civil Society Organisations.
- Create more spaces for girls and women within IFM-SEI activities.
- Increase the knowledge about the representation of girls and women in MOs, empowering girls and women to take more active and leading roles within their organisations.

Performance indicators:

- At least 50% of participants in IFM-SEI international activities are women* and at least 50% of the facilitators are women*.
- Develop an advocacy campaign including at least (5) publications to raise awareness on gender-based violence and its effects around the world.
- Create and publish a social media campaign with at least (3) publications to raise awareness of women activists within NGOs, international organisations and CSOs.
- Conduct (1) survey and (1) consultation within member organisations to determine the internal participation of women and girls in leadership positions.
- Establish a gender watch during the IC and Congress to measure the participation of women* in comparison with men.

Impact: IFM-SEI makes an effort in promoting and reaching gender equality on a practical level. Our umbrella organisation will give a best practice example not only to our Member Organisations, but also to other NGOs and political stakeholders. Girls and women* feel equal to their male comrades when it comes to decision-making processes and representation, both in their own organisations and in IFM-SEI as an umbrella organisation.

5. Empowering youth in digital spaces & educate on misinformation

Aim: As an umbrella organisation, IFM-SEI stands out for its commitment to children and young people, actively involving them in their learning process. In the digital age, where young people are the main users and inhabitants of the digital space, it is essential to empower and train them in its responsible use, and to raise their awareness on the dangers of misinformations/disinformation, which fuels tensions and manipulates opinions for harmful purposes. This strategic priority aims to combat misinformation/disinformation, promote healthy exchanges in the digital space, and prepare young people to manage artificial intelligence while making them aware of its risks.

Analysis: IFM-SEI prioritises the protection of human rights and compliance with data management standards. While the digital space represents a powerful tool for inclusion and education, it entails a number of risks. IFM-SEI continues to train its members to make the most of it while minimising the drawbacks.

Objectives:

- Train young people on the safe and ethical use of digital tools for educational and social purposes.
- Raise awareness of digital threats among young people and actively combat misinformation and disinformation and its harmful effects.
- Develop the capacity of youth workers to educate about disinformation and misinformation using best practices and resources developed in “Our Voices”.
- Create and disseminate existing tools and resources for young people on how to use digital tools safely.
- Explore opportunities in the digital space and contribute to our e-learning platform to include inclusive and online non-formal education activities.

Performance indicators:

- Implementation of (1) long-term project exploring the safe use of digital tools in non-formal education and empowering young people to counteract misinformation and disinformation.
- Organisation of (1) training-the.trainers workshop to build the capacity of youth workers to work on digital threads using the best practices from “Our Voices”.
- Development of (1) digital suitcase including resources and support materials for young people and youth workers to understand and combat digital threats.
- Inclusion of at least (3) new online resources and activities on our e-learning platform.

Impact: The constantly evolving digital space offers valuable opportunities for work and daily interactions. It is crucial for IFM-SEI to continue training its members to use it responsibly, in order to avoid its negative effects and ensure constructive and appropriate communication. This strategic point will reinforce IFM-SEI's exemplary role in digital education and inclusion.

6. Strengthening communication - Visibility and outreach

Aim: Strengthen internal and external communication by increasing visibility, outreach, and engagement through diverse media channels and structured communication strategies.

Analysis: Effective communication is essential for the voice of youth participating in child- and youth-led organisations to be heard. Currently, there is a need to improve internal communication among members and external visibility to a wider audience. By leveraging multiple media platforms, including social media, podcasts, and short videos, we can establish a stronger presence and create meaningful engagement. Furthermore, revitalising internal communication channels will enhance collaboration and knowledge sharing between members and organisations.

Objectives:

- Strengthen the organisation's role as a voice for youth initiatives by increasing the production of content such as podcasts, video interviews and educational modules.
- Reinforce the organisation's presence on social media by implementing a cooperation system, in which different regions can write and choose part of the content to be published on social media.
- Establish more accessible internal communication channels to improve coordination and engagement within the organisation, such as a WhatsApp or Telegram group.

Performance indicators:

- Participation in at least (2) external events, conferences, or roundtables to disseminate project results and best practices with relevant stakeholders, institutions and CSO.
- Publish at least (3) audio-visual resources targeting young people and children (such as podcasts, educational modules, and videos)
- Establishment of (1) WhatsApp group or Telegram group per region, including the regional presidium member and the MOs of the region and a global IFM-SEI channel to disseminate information and opportunities.

Impact: By enhancing communication, the organization will amplify the voices of youth initiatives, ensuring increased awareness of their interests and activities. Enhanced visibility will foster advocacy, support, and engagement from stakeholders. Internally, improved communication will lead to more cohesive collaboration, knowledge sharing, and operational efficiency. Ultimately, these efforts will contribute to build a more connected and empowered network of youth leaders who drive meaningful change.

Implementation Techniques



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IFM-SEI's structures and bodies

Congress and International Committee: The highest decision-making bodies in IFM-SEI, with participation from all our member representative bodies. They take place once a year usually in May-June.

Presidium: The foremost elected body, elected by the membership to work for a two-year period to deliver and monitor the Strategy and Work Plan and to define the annual implementation plans.

Control Commission: The Control Commission consists of three elected people and is responsible for the financial control of the organisation – including checking the bookkeeping and finances of IFM-SEI – and ensuring compliance with the IFM-SEI Constitution and Rules of Procedure.

Secretariat: The Secretariat stands as the operational epicenter of IFM-SEI and has its base in Brussels. The Secretariat is entrusted with overseeing the daily operations and coordination of the office, implementing the strategic work plan, and drafting project proposals to carry out IFM-SEI's mission.

Working Groups: These ad-hoc groups can be established by the Congress, International Committee or Presidium to work on a specific area that responds to a need of the organisation or membership over a continuous or medium- to long-term period. An example of this is the Child and Youth Participation Working Group , supporting one of the strategic priorities.

Possible types of activities

International camps	Study sessions
Seminars	Campaigns
Capacity building trainings	Educational resources
Consultations	Global projects

Monitoring

The International Committee is the highest body in IFM-SEI responsible for monitoring the Strategy and Work Plan 2025-2027. The Presidium reports to the International Committee about the objectives and performance indicators in the Strategy and Work Plan.

The Presidium approves an annual implementation of the work for the following year in their meeting in September-November. The implementation will be shared and open for consultation with MOs after it is agreed.

The responsible team for activities, programmes, and campaigns, as well as coordinators of different structures above - will produce reports according to the objectives and performance indicators in the Strategy and Work Plan 2025-2027.

There will be a feedback system created and implemented by the IFM-SEI Presidium to gain inputs and information from MOs and their work in relation to the Strategy and Work Plan 2025-2027. Aside from gathering data to measure progress against the performance indicators, this will also facilitate sharing of activities and good practice with the rest of the membership and external stakeholders.



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