

Thematic Networks

The Thematic Networks used to play a vital role in IFM-SEI's work. These networks comprise volunteers, youth workers, and representatives from our member organisations who meet online to discuss topics and create advocacy materials around specific priorities within our SWP. However, in recent years, the Thematic Networks ceased to function, resulting in the loss of valuable work carried out by our volunteers to advance the mission and strategy of IFM-SEI.

IFM-SEI is therefore pleased to announce the establishment of four new thematic networks and its implementation plan for 2026-2027. According to our constitution, thematic networks:

XII. THEMATIC NETWORKS

12.1 Members of IFM-SEI member organisation working on a specific topic that complies with the aims and principles of IFM-SEI can establish a thematic network.

12.2 The International Committee preceding the Congress needs to agree on the establishment of a thematic network.

12.3 The organisation democratically elects a Thematic Network Coordinator or co-coordinators every two years. The election takes place at the IFM-SEI Congress. Should the Thematic Network Coordinator(s) resign, the International Committee should elect a new Thematic Network Coordinator(s) until the next Congress.

12.4 The tasks of the thematic network are to be decided by the members themselves, but they must ensure they work within the constitution of IFM-SEI.

12.5 The thematic networks have the right to make proposals to the Presidium, International Committee and Congress.

Therefore, each network can hold online activities such as debates, discussions and workshops, or any other activity they choose, several times a year. The current thematic networks will continue their activities until the 2027 Congress, at which point they will present a brief report on their activities.

Thematic networks can develop resolutions to be voted on at IC and Congress, as well as reports and resources to be published in IFM-SEI networks. These resources could include proposals for advocacy campaigns, statements (to be reviewed and approved by the Presidium), toolkits, online modules, and other educational resources in line with the current SWP.

The support that the Secretariat will provide to volunteers includes:

- Setting up Zoom Premium meetings with automatic transcription, longer meetings and simultaneous translations.
- Gmail accounts, chat and Slack for distributing and managing tasks, and for dissemination purposes.
- Access to the Facebook group to manage conversations and communications.
- A section in the newsletter and on the Instagram account to share updates and/or campaigns.
- Final design of outcomes, editing, proofreading and translation of outcomes, and publication on our website and e-learning platform.

Each thematic network will have a designated contact within the secretariat and the presidium to provide support during the implementation of activities.

The 2026-2027 Thematic Networks will be:

1. Women and Queer's right Network

The objective of this thematic network is for volunteers to discuss topics related to LGBTIAQ+ and women's rights. The network will focus on promoting gender equality and empowering girls, women, and queer people within our organisation and wider society.

Topics that can be discussed in the thematic network include:

- The backlash against gender equality and LGTBQI+ rights that we have experienced in recent years.
- Women's and queer rights in digital spaces, and how to counteract online hate speech.
- Addressing gender-based violence and structural inequalities
- Any other topic related to women's and queer rights, aligned with the IFM-SEI values and the current SWP, that the volunteers decide on.

2. Democracy and socialist values Network

This thematic network will provide a platform for volunteers to discuss topics related to democracy, youth participation, and socialist education. The network will focus on reflection, debate and analysis of themes related to democratic life, socialist values and principles, and speaking out against negative events affecting democratic life and the reappropriation of civic spaces.

Topics that can be discussed in the thematic network include:

- How to counteract far-right extremism and boost youth participation.

- Disinformation and misinformation as tools used by the far right to influence young people's decision-making processes.
- How to be a socialist trainer and what “socialist education” means.
- Any other topic that the volunteers decide on, provided it is related to democracy and socialist values, and is aligned with the IFM-SEI values and the current SWP.

3. Anti-racism Network

The objective of this thematic network is to encourage volunteers to discuss how to actively combat racism within our organisations, communities and lives. This network's work will focus on reflecting on, discussing and analysing the different types of racism we may encounter within our structures and in society, and on how we can advance as an actively anti-racist organisation.

Topics that can be discussed in the thematic network include:

- Creation of proposals for the Presidium, IC and Congress regarding the anti-racism policy.
- Building the capacity of volunteers using the materials developed in 'Choosing Anti-Racism' to facilitate anti-racism training for IFM-SEI.
- Any other topic decided upon by the volunteers that is related to anti-racism and aligned with the IFM-SEI values, the current SWP and the anti-racism policy.

4. Children's rights Network

The objective of this thematic network is to encourage discussion among volunteers on how we can promote greater engagement among children at regional and international levels within IFM-SEI and among its MOs, as well as on IFM-SEI's advocacy work to advance and protect children's rights. This network's work will focus on reflecting on, discussing and analysing how to create child-friendly spaces for engagement and leadership, our role as a socialist children's rights organisation in advancing and protecting children's rights, and how we can improve our advocacy actions on this matter.

Topics that can be discussed in the thematic network include:

- Children's rights in digital spaces, and digital threats to their wellbeing.
- Children's emotional and psychological rights, to ensure that their mental health needs are comprehensively addressed.

- Children's empowerment in decision-making processes
- Any other topic that the volunteers decide on, related to children's rights and aligned with the IFM-SEI values and the current SWP.

Thematic Networks implementation process

1. Kick-off webinar. **New!**

In September 2026, IFM-SEI will hold a 2-3-hour webinar for each of the created thematic networks. The aim of the webinars will be to introduce the topics and available materials, and to build the capacity of future volunteers on basic topics around each network. This will establish a solid common ground before the first thematic network meeting. The webinars will be led by the Presidium and the Secretariat and will include translated captions and live translation where possible.

Furthermore, each webinar will always be scheduled for the afternoon (CEST), ensuring that participants from all regions of the world can connect. To prevent the knowledge and lessons learnt from these webinars from being lost, they will be recorded with the attendees' prior agreement and added to the IFM-SEI e-learning platform.

2. Volunteer recruitment

After the webinar, IFM-SEI will share a call for volunteers and a Google Form to recruit those who will form each of the thematic networks. Once the thematic network is complete, the volunteers will have access to the IFM-SEI tools and will be ready to start working on the network's projects.

3. Appointment of the thematic network coordinator

At the first meeting of each thematic network, volunteers will elect a provisional coordinator, subject to formal election at the next IFM-SEI Congress, in accordance with the Constitution. The coordinator will be granted access to relevant IFM-SEI tools and an official email account to facilitate communication, coordination, and the organisation of meetings.