

# STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONING OF



## Street Workers Network

The international network of social street workers takes the unique denomination of “**Dynamo International - Street Workers Network**”. The organization Dynamo International **coordinates** the international network and integrates the pilot group - with the 4 regional coordinators as representative - in its administrative board. The functioning of the network is based on the following principles: cooperation, integrity, coherence, and respect for diversity, equality, fraternity, and solidarity.

Foremost, it is a network of **social street workers**. They can become a member of this network only through their membership to a national platform.

The Network is organized through different structures:

### I. NATIONAL PLATFORMS

To become a member of **the network** and constitute a **national platform of social streets workers**, the charter must be signed and respected and the following criteria have to be met:

- ✓ Each platform must imperatively gather **at least 8 social streets workers** with a field practice. There **is no maximum limit**. A membership card will be issued to each member recognized as such.
- ✓ The platform is either carried by an existing structure or has its own identity (organization, federation, or collective). To encourage **national networking**, it is desirable that within platforms street workers come from various organizations.
- ✓ If several grouping exists in a same country, **only one platform** can be represented in the pilot group. However, if necessary, special situations can be assessed by the pilot group.

Once established, each platform **operates autonomously and acts according to its own priorities**.

All platforms pledge to meet **the agreed deadlines**.

The platforms commit themselves to providing the technical team with **all relevant information** useful for **new members**.

Platforms may **organize and/or co-organize** projects such as seminars, pilot groups, trainings, workshops, etc.

Regarding training, each platform will systematically involve the **International Street Work Training Institute**.

Each platform is allowed to **represent the network** in its **own country**.

**Each platform officially appoints a representative and his substitute for a renewable four years mandate**. After which a formal confirmation will be handed over to Dynamo International’s Director.

## II. FRIENDS OF THE NETWORK

All people, institutions, organizations, authorities ... interested in the network and who share its values, can become supporting members called **"Friends of the Network"**.

## III. NATIONAL PLATFORMS' REPRESENTATIVES

**The representative drives** the platform in order to create a dynamic process of continuous reflection and mobilization around various national and international activities. He ensures best practices exchanges between the streets workers in his country and facilitates networking with streets workers of other nations. He organizes or assists in facilitating communication and speaking towards political stakes linked to field's reality.

The platform's representative commits himself to **regularly relaying information** to the members of the platform, the pilot group, the regional coordinator and the technical team. The representative also commits to giving through an annual report **of the platform's activities**. This annual report includes **a list of the members of the platform**.

Each platform's representative commits himself to **answering all mail from** the technical team, the regional coordinator, or the general director of Dynamo International **within the requested window of time**.

Representatives ensure the regular and public visibility of the international network by means of the denomination « **Dynamo International - Street Workers Network** » and its **logo**.

They must inform the technical team about all **newspaper articles** or other media coverage related to the activities of the network.

## IV. REGIONAL COORDINATORS

For the sake of proximity, decentralization, and overall effectiveness, platforms from the same geographical region are encouraged to work together more closely in **regional groupings**. These groupings may also be organized in **sub-regions**.

Four regions are identified: Africa, America, Asia and Europe.

To the extent of available resources, all the **members of each region get together** and/or consult each other **once a year**.

Each regional group **is free to develop its own projects** that meet their own particular needs.

Each national platform in every region **appoints a regional coordinator** among its members for a four years renewable mandate.

The regional coordinator leads and coordinates the regional grouping. He promotes the **visibility of the international network**, public speaking and **advocacy** and fulfills all the other tasks linked to the functions assigned to the national representative.

The regional coordinator undertakes to **report in written and systematically** on his achievements through an annual report that includes a **list of the members of his region**.

He ensures the follow-up of the events of each platform of his region. He is **the relay** and manages communication within the network.

The regional coordinator commits to creating new synergies and partnerships with international organizations and authorities involved in the fight against poverty and discrimination and defending human rights.

He may propose to Dynamo International's the administrative board the creation of an « **Dynamo international - Street Workers Network** » regional office.

He commits to **examining new membership's applications and to proposing them to** the pilot group, which retains the right of final decision. The examination consists in verifying if all **membership criteria** are met.

Each regional coordinator is proposed by the pilot group as a member of **Dynamo International's administrative board**.

## V. THE TECHNICAL TEAM

**The technical team** pursues the guidelines decided by the pilot group. It ensures the secretariat, the facilitation and the general coordination of the network.

The team **relays all information** to the platform's representatives, the regional coordinators, and the street workers, as well as **answering their questions**.

It ensures the **follow up** on projects and manages the **website**.

The **director of Dynamo International** is part of the technical team. He is responsible for the management and the implementation of the international network's activities. He is the network's spokesman and validly represents it.

The technical team ensures the network's **promotion and visibility**.

The team **organizes or/and co-organizes** the **pilot group** gatherings, the international **meetings**, the network's **projects**, in addition to projects related to the **topics chosen** and decided by the pilot group.

The technical team undertakes to seek the necessary funds for the **global functioning** of the network, including costs for **administration** and general **coordination**, communication expenses, and **website** management costs.

**Together with** the network's **partners and members**, the technical team undertakes to seek the **additional funds needed** for the network's various projects, **such as** pilot group related costs, travel expenses, the organization of specific project regarding the networking (publication, conference, seminar, training course, ...)

It manages, among other tasks, some **projects for the south**, which are proposed by the pilot group.

The team commits to build new synergies with partners, international bodies and organizations fighting against poverty and discrimination as well as those defending human rights.

The technical team communicates, **to the extent of available resources**, in the **4 official languages** of the network: English, Spanish, French and Portuguese.

## VI. DYNAMO INTERNATIONAL'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dynamo International's **board of directors** welcome as part the 4 regional coordinators as network's representatives. These ones commit themselves to inform the members of the board of the activities led by the international network.

The board of directors decides on **major financial and administrative decisions** as well as on the possible creation of **decentralized offices**.

It decides on the **recruitments of the technical team** and ensures the **follow-up of the general management** of the activities led by Dynamo International.

## VII. DYNAMO INTERNATIONAL'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**The General Assembly** of Dynamo International elects among its members, the members of the board of directors including the 4 regional coordinators.

The Assembly validates the **accounts** and the **annual activity reports**.

Any person can become a member of the General Assembly through a **membership fee** and by the **sponsorship** of two existing members.

## VIII. THE INTERNATIONAL STREET WORK TRAINING INSTITUTE

**The International Street Work Training Institute** is responsible for the **training and research policy** of the international network for social street workers. Its team is an integral part of the **technical team**.

The **"steering group"** of the Institute is **composed of** the 4 regional coordinators, two members of Dynamo International's administrative board, the director of Dynamo International, a training expert, and two local representatives of the country where the Institute located.

Any street worker may request to become a **member** of the Institute.

## IX. THE PILOT GROUP

The **pilot group** is composed of the national platform's **representatives** or his **substitute**, the regional **coordinators**, the technical team and the director of Dynamo International.

**Experts** from various regions are invited.

The pilot group decides the **admission** and **exclusion** of the platform or/and the coordinators. These decisions will be **recorded through an official document** signed by the director of Dynamo International.

They gather once **every two years** encouraging a regional rotation. A **report** of the meeting is written by the technical team and is communicated to the members of the pilot group.

The pilot group decides about **important recommendations**, transversal themes to approach and the network's action plan.

The **regional coordinators** feed the contents of the pilot group and participate to its preparation.

**Working groups** may be set up regarding specific themes or projects (e.g.: an editorial board).

Members do not have to participate in all projects of the network, but, once **voluntarily involved**, every platform commits to completing the project, honouring its requirements and specifications.

The members of the pilot group commit to **relaying all useful information** to all parties, on both the international and regional level, as well as to the platforms.

A. THE BASIC PRINCIPLES

The basic principle is based on **the self-financing** of the members.

Nevertheless, financing remains an important issue, making it necessary to provide clarity and transparency creating **the fundraising pedagogy**.

The network itself needs financial means to function correctly; yet, we must be aware that in addition to that, street workers in all countries need resources to carry out their actions. It's necessary to be aware of the important work which represents the fundraising.

This work can't be sustained by a single structure. Dynamo International's technical team **doesn't always have to be** the principal project proponent/promoter. The team can also be "only" **a partner**. The platforms must be aware that **funding is not automatically coming from the technical team**.

It's suggested to develop **more projects on platforms' and member' initiative**, and to encourage them to organize fundraising events (concerts, etc.).

The cost reduction should be done through a bigger vigilance of the participants (do not leave unpaid notes; take the most economic ticket flight...).

Globally, the platforms and street workers must be responsible and autonomous in their fundraising at the national, regional, or even at the international level.

A **document certifying their membership** at Dynamo International - Street Workers Network is given to them to start this process.

Beside, **tools** will be given **to strengthen the capacities** of the workers and platforms in their financial searches (trainings, a toolkit, guides, etc.).

The value of **solidarity** is related to sharing resources.

On no account the fundraising can pursue any **private interest**, or any specific or individual interest. It should also avoid any sources of competition among the members of the Network.

It's suggested to the platforms to **join their forces** in their search of financing. Some countries maintain friendship and **cooperation agreements** to facilitate these joint efforts. Furthermore, certain themes (e.g. peace, laws, etc.) and projects may appropriately correspond to this mobilization.

In a transparency concern, the Dynamo international's board of directors presents annually its **financial statement** to the General Assembly. A **financial report** is also presented at each meeting of the **pilot group**.

The fundraising **can't turn us away from our identity**, from our objectives and from our values. The obtained funds can't create dependence or a loss of autonomy. It can't affect, under any circumstances our freedom of speech and of questioning.

In case of being financed **by private companies**, it must be verified that this fund has **a certain ethics** and is consistent with the respect to the human rights, the social fight against social exclusion and the discrimination, the values and the missions written in Network's Charter.

## B. RESPONSIBILITIES AND COMMITMENTS

**The regional coordinators** are responsible and autonomous in the fundraising which allows the establishment of **regional offices** of Dynamo International - Street Workers Network.

**The technical team** is responsible and autonomous in the fundraising which concerns its own functioning. The team also support the members, including the regional coordinators, in their search of financing by providing for example to everybody a **presentation file of the Network**.

**The technical team** is searching for means which allow financing various activities of the Network and commits, for that purpose, to surround itself with one or several experts.

**If a platform organizes** an international meeting, for example a **pilot group meeting**, it is responsible to the extent of its resources to providing **food and accommodation** for the participating members. However, the **members themselves** are responsible for their own **transport**. If, in the event, they can't be physically present, members are expected to use new communication technologies.

Regarding they training policy, each platform is encouraged to actively contact the **International Street Work Training Institute**, located in Lisbon. This collaboration itself is an aid to the Institute's financing.

The Team of the Institute also undertake **funding researches** for its own functioning.

## C. THE « NETWORK'S SOLIDARITY FUND »

It's suggested to establishing a "**Network's Solidarity fund**". This Fund can be exceptionally used in case of extreme difficulties (conflicts, natural disaster ...) or in any other situation requiring an act of solidarity.

This Fund is supplied, among other things, by an "**Annual Day of Network's Solidarity**» which can take various shapes such as a meal or other event, organized by the street workers at the local or national level.

The date of this day is fixed on **April 12th** or any date around this one.

## D. SUPPORT ON EXCEPTIONAL BASIS

Despite the basic principle of self-financing, the pilot group may choose to decide exceptionally to sponsor street workers and their platform in one country or the other.

This decision is based on a number of criteria such as :

- Being a member of the network
- Being confronted with a particularly difficult or complex situation;
- Taking into account the reality of the field and applying the "bottom up" method;
- Encouraging social participation of the concerned public on all levels of the project;
- The importance of social innovation's degree;
- The link between the project and the network's recommendations;
- Offering an answer to an uncovered need. More specifically, targeting the most fragile demographic;

- Developing the largest and most relevant partnership as possible with the local and/or national representatives, as well as with the representatives of other networks;
- Integrating the network's international depth, while encouraging other members of the network to participate either directly or indirectly;
- Guaranteeing the project's relevance, coherence, and longevity;
- Maintaining a strategy to diffuse both the project and its results;
- Promote the defense of human rights, social fight against social exclusion and discrimination.

For the duration of and by the end of such a project, **some type of media** (i.e. DVD, website, publication, application, etc.) and an accompanying **report** should be created with clear and precise **justifications** about both the **activities and the financial details** of the project. It is important that the project title is clearly visible as well as the "Dynamo International Street Workers Network" logo. The sponsor should also be mentioned.

It is **imperative** that those responsible for the sponsored project **provide** the other members of the network with **detailed information** about what has been done. To do so also require answering the questions: "Was **solidarity the underlying approach for this project**? Did we aim to **benefit the general interest**, or did we give in to the personal interests of one of the members? »

