



THE
**Voluntary
Solidarity
Fund**
INTERNATIONAL

www.thevsfinternational.org
thevsfuk@gmail.com



A Community of Helping Hands

“So there may not exist that tragic inequality between those who have too much and those who have nothing.”

- Pope Francis



INTRODUCTION

The Voluntary Solidarity Fund International (VSF) is a social organisation. Our goal is to help deprived people stand on their own two feet, thus reducing poverty and upholding human dignity.

It is a well-known fact that we are experiencing accelerating inequality in developed economies. The issue of socio-economic decay is accelerating. There is a growing number of people who are homeless, unemployed, addicts, ex-convicts, refugees and people who don't fit the normal system.

WHAT WE DO & OUR ETHOS

The VSF's mission is to promote social inclusion by supporting existing, highly skilled, and successful organisations that are acting in local communities, running programmes that assist individuals to uphold themselves.

The VSF International is a lay led organisation, open to everyone, providing assistance to all, irrespective from their race, religion and beliefs.

Our vision is a world in which people have equal access to education, health-care, job opportunities, and the chance to become contributors to society.

How we aim to achieve this can be summarised by the well-known old proverb: “Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”

HISTORY AND NEW LEADERSHIP

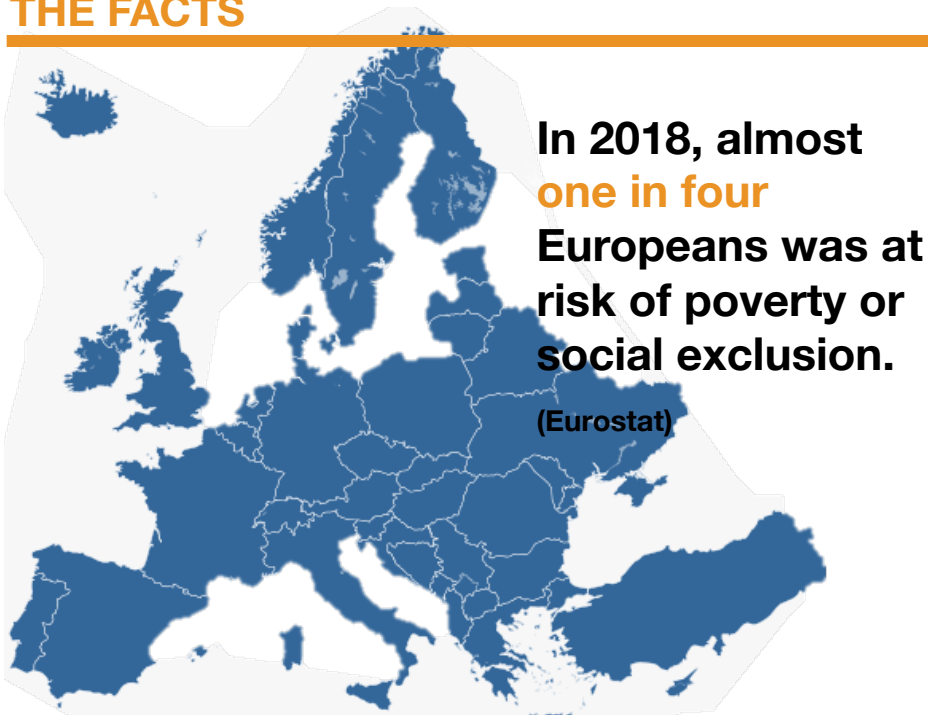
Launched in 2017, The VSF International was born from the debates among business professionals and academics from within the CAPP foundation, (www.centessimusannus.org) as one of the ways to put into practice the principle of solidarity.

The VSF International comes at a crucial time, when Pope Francis has called for a new leadership based on solidarity and the common good. There is a moral obligation to act, where the more fortunate in society help those falling behind.



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THE FACTS



- > Almost half (45.8%) of the EU population living in single person households with dependent children was at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2018.
- > The risk of poverty or social exclusion was greater among **women, young adults, people with a low level of education attainment, and people with long-standing health limitations.**
- > Income inequality in OECD countries is at its highest level for the past half-century. The average income of the richest 10% of the population is about **nine times** that of the poorest 10% across the OECD, up 7x from 25 years ago.

THE VSF INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

The VSF International operates as a network of locally registered charities, primarily based in developed countries. Each local organisation has to adhere to the same ethos, governance standards, and core operating rules as the VSF International itself. Within these parameters, they remain autonomous.

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PILOT PROJECTS

The VSF has selected five pilot projects in Spain, Italy, the UK and Malta. The programmes fall into these three categories:

- Integration and support for marginalised communities
- Education through volunteers, grants & scholarships
- Interest-free loans and mentorship for micro-entrepreneurs

One of our pilot projects is The Community of Sant'Egidio, Madrid. For the past 25 years, Sant'Egidio Madrid has been very active in helping the most deprived people: the homeless, vulnerable children, the elderly, and refugees. **The VSF International** supports their new project that provides housing and focused training to marginalised individuals committed to attaining social independence.

For information on other projects we support, please visit our website: www.thevsfinternational.org or contact info@vsfinternational.org.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donate & Participate

The VSF relies on donations from people like you. If you would like to get involved beyond your donation, join us. Make the difference. Contribute your time and business knowledge through mentoring and volunteering programmes.

Donate to the VSF International

Thank you for choosing to donate to the VSF International. Below you can find the details required to make an IBAN bank transfer.

Account name: The Voluntary Solidarity Fund International

Sort Code: 40-52-40

IBAN: GB12CAFB40524000031365

Charity's registered address:

Voluntary Solidarity Fund, Farrer & Co, 65-66 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3LH

Bank's registered address:

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

The VSF International is a private limited company, incorporated on the 28th April 2017, with the Companies House of England and Wales, under number: 10747109.

Trustees: Domingo Sugranyes Bickel, Josef Bonnici, Lorenzo Rossi di Montelera, Pascal Duval, Lord Daniel Brennan, Francesco Vanni d'Archirafi. Board Secretary: Micheal Bray. Executive Trustee: Jean Pierre Casey