

MONIHELI



Action Plan

2026

Moniheli ry



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Opening Words

Julie Breton
Executive Director

The year 2026 begins at a time when the civil society field is searching for new ways to operate and adapt. Funding cuts and administrative changes affecting social and health associations challenge the entire structure of civic activity in Finland. At Moniheli, we recognize these challenges, but we also see in them an opportunity to strengthen our community and renew our ways of working.

Moniheli has always been more than a network – it is a community where people from diverse backgrounds work together to build a more just society. In 2026, we will focus even more strongly on supporting our member associations: helping them adapt to change, strengthening their capacities, and ensuring that the voices of immigrant communities are heard in both local and national decision-making.

Our work is guided by the values we updated through our recent strategy process: equality, democracy, diversity, and empowerment. These values shape everything we do – within our network, in our advocacy efforts, and in collaboration with our partners.

We believe that true equality is achieved only when everyone has the opportunity to take part and influence decisions. Democracy is not self-evident; it demands constant effort to ensure inclusion and participation.

In 2026, we will begin implementing our new strategy. It provides long-term direction for our work and emphasizes the importance of safeguarding the continuity of civil society and the diversity of Finnish society. We will continue close cooperation with municipalities, wellbeing services counties, and other partners, while also strengthening our international networks – ensuring that the inclusion and wellbeing of people with immigrant backgrounds remain shared goals.

I want to thank everyone who is part of Moniheli's story – our members, board, staff, and partners. While the coming year will bring new challenges, it also offers an opportunity to strengthen hope and community. Together, we can build a future where everyone has a place and a voice.

Core Activities



Administration and governance

In 2026, Moniheli's governance will focus, in line with the new strategy, on ensuring the continuity of operations. To achieve this goal, efforts will be made to diversify funding sources and establish new partnerships, for example by developing an attractive supporting membership model for organisations. The Board coordinates the implementation of the strategy, advances and develops fundraising, and ensures that the activities respond to the needs of member associations and stakeholders. During the year, statutory meetings as well as development and planning sessions will be organized to evaluate the progress of the strategy and agree on next steps.

In human resources management, the focus will be on promoting wellbeing at work and strengthening staff competence. Interns and work trial trainees will continue to be supported as part of the team's activities. Financial management will emphasize transparency and sustainability. In 2025, Moniheli applied for several new funding opportunities from diverse sources, and if these projects are realized, sustainable and systematic financial planning will require dedicated administrative effort.

In 2026, Moniheli will develop a member association panel for evaluating activities, as well as a volunteer model suitable for the organisation. The goal of administration is to ensure staff wellbeing and to maintain structures that support effective work. The new strategy will begin to be integrated into Moniheli's daily operations, and its progress will be actively monitored and measured.

Core Activities



Communications

Moniheli's communications support the goals of the organisation and its projects by strengthening internal and external communication, promoting multilingual visibility, and enhancing member participation. All communications are carried out in at least Finnish and English.

At Moniheli, communication and advocacy go hand in hand. In Finnish society, the language of advocacy – particularly at the legislative level – is still more complex and formulaic than other forms of written communication. Adhering to these linguistic norms is often a prerequisite for being heard. For advocates with a foreign-language background, this can pose a challenge. Therefore, Moniheli strives to highlight themes important to the multilingual community in all its legislative statements. Through advocacy work, we also aim to lower the threshold for building connections with decision-makers, ensuring that information flows from the grassroots level to policymakers and is taken seriously.

Effective member communication is a cornerstone of Moniheli's operations. Our member communication reaches our members through digital newsletters and WhatsApp groups in both Finnish and English. These groups share information about trainings, funding opportunities, and changes in the operating environment. It is essential for us that our member associations always receive reliable, useful and up-to-date information through our communication.

Core Activities



Advocacy

Moniheli's advocacy work is undergoing a transformation as the organisation's first advocacy plan will be completed at the end of 2025. The plan will enable Moniheli to engage in more proactive and participatory advocacy, while clarifying its key themes and methods. In 2026, the goal of Moniheli's advocacy efforts is to increase policymakers' understanding of the factors influencing the wellbeing of people with immigrant backgrounds, as well as the impacts of planned policies on them. Moniheli acts as a bridge between public authorities, political actors, and multicultural associations, bringing the voices and lived experiences of migrants to different levels of decision-making.

Moniheli's staff and board members actively participate in committees, networks, and advisory bodies, where they highlight discriminatory structures, share good practices from the multicultural field, and raise awareness of how decisions may affect non-native Finnish speakers. One of the priorities set by Moniheli's board for 2025 has been to make the organisation's work more directly and purposefully anti-racist. In 2026, Moniheli will strengthen the capacity of associations to engage in effective anti-racist advocacy, with funding from the Prime Minister's Office. Moniheli monitors the government's Lausuntopalvelu.fi platform and provides statements on proposed legislation related to migration and integration, and also contributes as an expert in parliamentary hearings and events organised by state authorities.

Amid decreasing resources, Moniheli brings together key actors working on integration and multiculturalism to strengthen cooperation and reduce overlap. The organisation coordinates this group's activities and facilitates meetings between multicultural associations and decision-makers in Parliament, municipalities, and wellbeing services counties. In 2026, Moniheli will also prepare joint electoral goals for the upcoming parliamentary elections. 4



Core Activities

Capacity Building

The Moniheli network consists of associations at very different stages of development, with needs that continue to evolve. Moniheli is expanding its learning channels and support mechanisms to ensure that each member association receives the assistance it needs to grow and strengthen its activities.

Strategic cooperation with Opintokeskus Sivis and Kansalaisfoorumi will further enhance Moniheli's training offering in association management and association skills. In 2026, Moniheli's trainings, workshops, and information sessions will focus on themes such as improving the quality of encounter-based activities, coordinating volunteer work, and supervising interns.

The Skill Hub, established in 2025, will continue to be developed in 2026 to enable members to share their expertise. While Moniheli cannot meet all learning needs alone, the network grows stronger when associations learn from each other and serve as examples to others. In addition, Moniheli maintains networking platforms such as its WhatsApp community and member directory, which support information sharing and help tailor trainings and materials to the needs of member associations.

Core Activities



Network

Moniheli strengthens collaboration among its member associations, staff, and the broader network community. The goal is to promote a sense of community, openness, and interaction in everyday activities and projects. Strengthening cooperation directly supports Moniheli's core mission: building a diverse and participatory civil society.

Feedback collected from member associations in 2025 has highlighted a clear need to reinforce connections between Moniheli and its members, as well as to increase interaction within the network. Therefore, in the coming year, Moniheli will place even greater emphasis on communication, collaboration, and mutual engagement. Staff members will actively participate in the events of member associations and maintain direct contact with various actors to keep cooperation vibrant and relevant. In addition, new member associations will be welcomed through an introductory meeting that provides an overview of Moniheli's activities and the opportunities available within the network.

In 2026, Moniheli will assess the network's needs regarding its services. Based on this assessment, new support structures will be developed to strengthen collaboration and facilitate the achievement of shared goals. The Member Directory, created in 2025, will continue to be developed: information on new members will be added, and existing profiles updated. The directory helps make member associations' expertise and strengths visible on Moniheli's website and supports building new partnerships.

Core Activities



Moniheli Grant

Moniheli annually allocates grants to its member associations to support various small-scale activities. In 2025, the total amount of membership grants distributed by Moniheli was 120 000 euros, making it the second-largest membership grant scheme funded by STEA. However, changes in the size of membership grants are expected in 2026. These adjustments will also affect the scope and nature of the grants awarded through Moniheli.

Going forward, membership grants will be primarily directed toward small, volunteer-based associations engaged in encounter-based work, which refers to activities supporting everyday life, wellbeing and participation within local communities. This approach is aligned with STEA's funding plan and strategic priorities.

Based on feedback from member associations, we have developed a new, administratively lighter micro-grant that can be used, for example, to organise events. We believe this new form of funding is particularly well suited for small, volunteer-based projects carried out by associations, as the application process is simpler than before.

In addition, Moniheli is strengthening its cooperation with Diaconia University of Applied Sciences (Diak). In addition to Diak's Project Planning and Management course, we now also co-deliver the Diversity and Multiculturality in Social Work course. In the future, the grants awarded by Moniheli will also be more closely linked to cooperation through Diak and to making use of its course offerings.

Katto Programme

enkaari Koto
täynnä pieniä ihmeitä -

intaa sekä hankkeita
an perheitä, kestäväää
ä ja kotoutumista.

Mikä Katto on?

- Estämme vieraskielisten ihmisten asunnottomuutta ja asumisen ongelmia
- Autamme asunnon etsimisessä
- Annamme tietoa asumisesta
- Koulutamme ammattilaisia
- Edistämme asumisen yhdenvertaisuutta

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kattotoiminta

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Moninaisuuden voima

Strength in diversity



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PERHEIDEN TUKI

Main Objectives for 2026

- Strengthen the agency and capacity of foreign-language speakers for independent and successful living.
- Reduce homelessness and social exclusion, prevent housing-related problems, and eliminate the risk of homelessness.
- Increase professionals' and decision-makers' ability to promote equality in housing.

Katto's mission is to prevent homelessness among foreign-language speakers in Finland. Katto has long-standing experience in the specific challenges related to housing and integration of this target group, as well as the ability to respond to and resolve complex client situations. The work is carried out by providing the target group with individualized, language-specific, and practical advice and support, as well as by sharing housing-related information through both individual counselling and group sessions.

Homelessness is again on the rise. The proportion of foreign-language speakers among the homeless is disproportionately high compared to the rest of the population. Increasing evictions, financial difficulties, unemployment, and declining wellbeing all heighten the risk of homelessness. As these phenomena become more common, the need for counselling related to housing and especially financial management grows. In 2026, Katto will further expand its activities to include themes related to everyday financial management and digital literacy, sharing information about these topics with its target group.



The Katto team in October 2025: Päivi, Bisher ja Veera.

Katto is nationally recognized as an expert in structural advocacy and has been invited to participate in significant national development projects. We work closely with public authorities on promoting digital and financial literacy and preventing evictions. In addition, we advance equality competence among housing-sector actors by increasing professionals' understanding of equality issues and through extensive network cooperation.

In 2026, Katto will explore various funding opportunities to establish new partnerships and strengthen its own resources, for instance by directing part of its activities to Vantaa. We will also deepen cooperation with existing partners, such as municipal housing advisors and rental housing companies.

Katto is currently part of the Housing First Network's Development Network, the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA), and other key networks of housing-sector actors.

DigiUp Programme

A photograph of three people (two women and one man) standing in a room, each holding a blue cat puppet. The man in the center has a red cat puppet on his head, the woman on the left has an orange cat puppet, and the woman on the right has a green cat puppet. They are all smiling and gesturing with their hands. A semi-transparent blue box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

Main Objectives for 2026

- Strengthen the digital skills and digital support capacities of NGOs.
- Ensure that migrants and multicultural, migrant-led organisations are better considered in the development of digital support and digitalisation.

DigiUp strengthens the digital inclusion of multicultural organisations and migrants. In 2026, our focus will be on a comprehensive approach to developing NGOs' digital competence.

We provide digital support through both individual and group guidance and organise digital skills trainings for volunteers and NGO actors. The Digital Transformation Journey programme, funded by Microsoft, will continue in 2026. Three organisations have been selected for the programme, whose development work we will support in the long term.

We also train public and civil society actors on linguistically and culturally aware digitalisation to ensure that migrants and linguistic and cultural minorities are better taken into account in the development of digitalisation. In addition, we will introduce our renewed Multicultural Guidance Skills digital badge to stakeholders. The badge has been developed in collaboration with member organisations and public authorities.



The two-day Digital Supporter Training by DigiUp, held at Kalliolan settlementitalo in October 2025.

We represent migrants and linguistic and cultural minorities in various working groups, advisory boards, and policy forums, such as the Ministry of Finance's advisory board focusing on digital public services. The goal is to ensure that migrants are better considered in decision-making and in the development of digital support.

We involve associations in all our activities. Each year, we assess the digital skills level of multicultural organisations and provide both tailored and open-access digital skills trainings in cooperation with various partners. We also encourage Moniheli's member organisations to engage in advocacy and take part in initiatives such as the Multicultural Digitalisation Day, which serves as a joint platform for development and knowledge exchange.

AI-related trainings will continue and expand in 2026, focusing especially on the practical application of AI in associations' communications and everyday activities. Our aim for 2026 is that at least 80 representatives from multicultural associations will strengthen their digital skills through trainings or digital support, and that 70 percent of participants plan to apply what they have learned in their own work.

DigiUp Toolbox Project



Main Objectives for 2026

- The DigiUp Toolbox will be launched.
- The Toolbox will strengthen migrant women's basic and workplace digital skills while promoting digital inclusion and gender equality.

The DigiUp Toolbox is a development project creating a digital tool for trainers to support the development of migrant women's digital skills. The project is part of the broader DigiUp Project funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers. Its aim is to enhance migrant women's digital competence and to strengthen educators' capacities across the Nordic and Baltic countries, thereby supporting employment and integration.

In 2026, the focus will be on finalising, publishing, and disseminating the Toolbox. It will compile practical training materials for teachers and experts to use in strengthening migrant women's basic and workplace digital skills. The goal is for the Toolbox to be adopted in various countries, supporting digital inclusion and equality.

From December 2025 to March 2026, the work will concentrate on final improvements based on feedback and the launch event in Helsinki. Alongside the launch, the project will expand collaboration with partners, and the results will be shared within regional and international networks. The follow-up activities in 2026 will aim to ensure the Toolbox's sustainable and scalable use in advancing digital equality.

Agency Project

Services that Promote Equity, Antidiscrimination and Participation

Main Objectivities for 2026

- Identify good practices in the co-creation of social services for migrants.
- Interview social service professionals and migrant service users about their experiences with co-creation.
- Produce a report or guide based on the survey and interviews.

Agency – Services that Promote Equity, Antidiscrimination and Participation is a group project coordinated by the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) and funded by the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+). The project addresses reforms in the legislation and service structures in Finland since 2023, such as the establishment of well-being services counties and related changes in organisation of social, health, and integration services.

These reforms have broad societal impacts, particularly on certain groups such as immigrants and non-governmental organisations that support integration. The Agency project aims to mitigate negative impacts by establishing cooperation, mapping the needs of target groups, developing services, and promoting co-creation practices.





Representatives of the Agency project at THL's in-person day in April 2025.

In 2026, the main objectives focus on co-creating services. We will send questionnaires to social services units within the wellbeing services counties to map their experiences in involving migrants in service development. If relevant examples are found, we will also conduct interviews with professionals. Our target is to collect at least 30 questionnaire responses and interview five employees.

Through our network, we also aim to reach at least ten migrants who will be interviewed about their experiences in social services from the perspective of participation and co-creation.

We are applying to do changes in the project to organize a co-creation event where migrants can participate in the development of integration and social services. If the application is approved, we will also produce a guide on using social hackathons to develop social and integration services.

In addition, we plan to present the project and disseminate its results with our partners at the Integration event in Vantaa in autumn 2026.



New Initiatives

In addition to its ongoing STEA-funded activities, Moniheli has applied for several new grants for 2026 to broaden and strengthen the organisation's funding base. All listed applications have been submitted unless marked as granted.

Antirasismi2 (2026) – Project grant, Prime Minister's Office (granted)

The funding will be used to strengthen associations' capacity to carry out purposeful and effective anti-racist advocacy. The activities focus on training, peer learning, and producing materials.

DigiPower (2026–2028) – Consortium membership, AMIF

The project aims to strengthen the digital inclusion and skills of people with migrant backgrounds by developing multilingual learning solutions and support networks. Moniheli contributes the perspective of the target groups and is responsible for the Finnish pilot and communications.

MigHealthAccess (2026–2028) – Consortium membership, AMIF

The project seeks to improve migrants' access to healthcare services by creating a user-oriented digital platform and operational model. Moniheli participates in mapping and engaging target groups in Finland and provides insights into service experiences and barriers to access.

ManuInManum (2026–2028) – Consortium membership, AMIF

The project develops a model that supports access to higher education in the EU for students in need of international protection. Moniheli takes part in the Finnish pilot and brings community perspectives to the development of learning pathways.

AEL Foundation – Taloussäätö (2026–2027)

The foundation grant has been applied for to enable further development and practical implementation of the model created in the Toolbox project. The aim is to strengthen migrant women's basic digital skills and promote their employment.

Adult Education Accreditation (2025–2027) – Finnish National Agency for Education / Erasmus+

Through the accreditation, Moniheli coordinates adult education mobility for staff and learners from seven member associations. The activities support the development of organisational competences and international cooperation.

Operational Grant for Organisations Doing Significant Social Work (2026) – City of Vantaa

The grant will be used to expand and adapt Katto activities to Vantaa. The aim is to improve the wellbeing and access to information of the city's residents with foreign backgrounds, particularly regarding housing issues.

Social and Health Services Grant (2026) – City of Helsinki

With the support of this grant, Moniheli will organise information sessions for migrant families about the City of Helsinki's services. The activities will increase families' awareness of wellbeing services and strengthen dialogue between the city and local communities.