

# Candidates for the board 2026-2027



International

## Meet Samuel Effiong



My name is Samuel Effiong, and I am writing to express my interest in joining the board of SDP International. I would like to be considered for a board member position. I am passionate about contributing to the community and supporting the goals and values of the SDP Helsinki District. I bring with me experience in as social media influencer, in community work, planning, and leadership roles and a strong interest in promoting social democratic principles.

**I am applying for: Membership engagement  
Helsinki**

## Meet Refka Elech



I would particularly like to take responsibility for strengthening the international community in Finland within the SDP International network. As a candidate for both the position of Event Coordinator and Board Member, I want to help create a welcoming, active, and united network where people from different cultural and international backgrounds feel represented, heard, and included. I am especially interested in developing events and activities that bring together members of the international community in Finland, encourage dialogue, and promote participation in society and politics.

**I am applying for: Event planning  
Vantaa**

## Meet Refka Elech

I would like to support better communication between international members and local SDP organizations, while also creating opportunities for networking, cooperation, and community-building.

With my background in multicultural organizations, community work, communication, and integration services, I believe I can contribute positively to organizing meaningful events and strengthening the visibility and voice of international residents within the Social Democratic Party of Finland. My goal is to help build a stronger bridge between cultures and encourage more people from diverse backgrounds to become active participants in Finnish society and democratic decision-making.

I am currently serving my second mandate as an active representative in local politics and advisory work in Finland. I am a full member of the Multicultural Affairs Advisory Board and its representative in the Local Democracy and Inclusion Committee. In addition, I serve as a deputy member of the Education and Training Committee.

Through these positions, I work to promote multiculturalism, inclusion, equal opportunities, and stronger participation for residents from diverse backgrounds. My work focuses especially on strengthening dialogue between communities and decision-makers, improving integration and educational support, and ensuring that international and multicultural residents have a stronger voice in society.

Through my work in NGOs, media, public relations, and immigration consultancy, I have always aimed to build bridges between people from different cultural backgrounds and encourage active participation in society and democratic decision-making. I am passionate about supporting immigrants and international residents in Finland and strengthening their sense of belonging and representation.

## Meet Shahriar Hossain



I am from Bangladesh. I want to work on the root level of SDP to increase its engagement with the people. I also work on SDP's policy making so that I can attract more people to support SDP.

I am a student, I want to increase party's reach among my classmates and friends.

**I am applying for: Communications, Secretarial duties, Membership engagement  
Helsinki**

## Meet Mohammed Hussein



I would like to be part of the communication team, I have deeply background of communication, Social media platforms, presentation preparation, video editing and all aspects related to media.

I'm someone who enjoys learning quickly and taking initiative. I work well independently, but I also value collaboration and clear communication. I'm always looking for ways to improve both my skills and the work I contribute to.

**I am applying for: Communications  
Helsinki**

## Meet Madan Kafle



I would like to be responsible for and grow in the areas of communication and event planning in particular.

I am a research scientist who work in the agriculture sector of Finland. I want to contribute to SDP with all my experience of working in a team and I want to influence policy making in SDP by bringing the knowledge of science and research.

**I am applying for: Communications, Event planning,  
Secretarial duties  
Helsinki**

## Meet Muzaffardjon Khudoikulov



I would particularly like to take responsibility for Event Planning within the SDP International Network, especially focusing on increasing participation and visibility of immigrant-background communities in the Uusimaa region.

My goal is to create more inclusive, accessible, and meaningful events that encourage immigrants and international residents to become actively involved in social and political discussions, networking, and local community activities.

**I am applying for: Event planning  
Espoo**

## Meet Muzaffardjon Khudoikulov

As Event Planning Head, I would like to develop:

- \* More multicultural and community-based events in Uusimaa,
- \* Networking opportunities between immigrant communities and local decision-makers,
- \* Workshops, discussions, and social gatherings that promote integration, equality, and participation,
- \* Collaborations with local organizations, student groups, and community leaders.

I am an entrepreneur living in Espoo and a committed member of the SDP, which I joined in 2008. I have lived and worked in Espoo since 2007 and have been actively involved in both business and community activities.

## Meet **Lilja Muukkonen**



Hello! I don't have concrete skills to work for SDP international board, since I do not hold a degree (yet) in any of its fields. I do still think that my participation in SDP youth's programme for Labor movement and organizational activities acquires me with proper skills to learn international work. I am a coffee shop manager at one of largest coffee chains in Europe, and this position has taught me vastly about communications, relations, task management and many more! I find my work to be similar in some aspects to a secretarys, so I really think im ready to leave restaurant business and to fully engage in more political careers.

**I am applying for: Secretarial duties  
Helsinki**



## Meet **Lilja Muukkonen**

As said, I work as a coffee shop manager with almost 4 years of experience. I also started to study at Open University at Helsingin Yliopisto, to fully start my academic era. I joined SDP at the start of 2026, but I have always (since 18years old) voted for SDP and followed their political journey on Instagram. I hold a degree in Business Administration(merkonomi) which further fed my interest to start looking into economy and politics. As a person I am very social and open minded. I lead a vast team at work, and this has equipped me strong skills at leaderskills, organization and responsibility!

## Meet Yasin Omer



I would especially like to contribute to membership engagement, communication, and event planning within the SDP International network. I am passionate about creating inclusive spaces where immigrants, young people, and people from different cultural backgrounds feel welcomed and encouraged to participate in society and politics.

I would like to help strengthen communication between immigrant communities and the SDP by improving outreach, increasing participation, and organizing meaningful events that promote dialogue, equality, and cooperation.

**I am applying for: Communications, Event planning,  
Membership engagement  
Helsinki**

## Meet Yasin Omer

I also want to support initiatives that lower language barriers and help newcomers better understand opportunities for civic participation in Finland.

Through my experience in youth work, community organizing, and integration support, I hope to contribute practical ideas and strong teamwork to help develop the SDP International network further.

I am a community-oriented and active professional with experience in youth work, education, customer service, and immigrant integration. I am the Founder of Link Akatemia Club and Co-Founder of Link Integration Company Oy, where I work to support immigrants and young people in education, employment, and social inclusion.

I have also volunteered with organizations such as Samha ry, Skynuoret ry, and Suomi-Somalia Seura, where I have organized events, provided peer support, and worked to prevent social exclusion among youth.

I believe strongly in equality, participation, and cooperation between communities. My multicultural background, communication skills, and practical experience working with diverse groups would help me contribute positively to the SDP International Board.

## Meet Mohammad Rashid



I would particularly like to contribute to strengthening communication, member engagement, and community-building within the SDP International network. I am interested in developing activities that help lower language barriers and make it easier for immigrants and international members to participate actively in the party and society.

I would also like to support cooperation between local branches, promote cultural diversity, and help organize inclusive events and discussions that bring people together.

**I am applying for: Communications, Event planning, Secretarial duties, Membership engagement Helsinki**

## Meet **Mohammad Rashid**

In addition, I am motivated to develop practical ways to improve outreach, visibility, and information-sharing so that more international members feel welcomed, informed, and represented within SDP.

I am motivated to contribute to a more inclusive and internationally minded SDP community where everyone feels welcome to participate regardless of language or background. I value cooperation, respectful dialogue, and practical problem-solving, and I believe diversity is a strength that can help build a stronger society and party organization.

I am eager to learn, collaborate with people from different backgrounds, and actively support the development of SDP International through constructive teamwork and community engagement.

## Meet Aytan Samadova



**I am applying for: Communications, Event planning  
Vantaa**

I would particularly like to take responsibility for strengthening cooperation, inclusion, and community engagement within the SDP International network. I want to work closely with other departments and teams to develop more effective ways to attract and involve not only members with immigrant backgrounds, but also Finns, so that integration and participation within the system can happen naturally and effectively.

I am especially interested in improving our activities in a way that promotes equality, fairness, and equal opportunities for everyone. I would also like to help create more open communication channels where local communities and members can share their ideas and experiences, so that the network can better respond to real needs and strengthen cooperation across different groups.

## Meet Aytan Samadova

Since the beginning of my membership in SDP in Turku, I have been very active in party activities and community engagement. I have participated in two municipal elections and one regional election, which have given me practical experience in campaigning, public dialogue, teamwork, and representing diverse communities.

I am also a member of one of SDP's working groups, where I have had the opportunity to cooperate with parliamentarians and leading party members and contribute to discussions on important political and social issues. In the latest municipal elections, I was elected as Chairperson of the Multicultural Council in Turku and as a Deputy Member of the Children and Youth Services Board of the City of Turku. These positions have strengthened my understanding of local decision-making, inclusion, youth and family services, and multicultural cooperation.

In addition, I am actively involved with Demarinaiset, which works to promote women's equality and strengthen women's participation in society and politics. Through this work, I have had the opportunity to meet active SDP women members, exchange ideas and experiences, and contribute to discussions on how we can further improve equality and opportunities for women both within the party and in society more broadly. This involvement has further strengthened my commitment to fairness, inclusion, and equal representation.

Recently, I moved to the capital area, Vantaa, which I believe offers even greater opportunities to reach people from diverse backgrounds and strengthen relationships with different communities. I see this as an important opportunity to further develop cooperation and community engagement while also helping to strengthen SDP's position ahead of the upcoming parliamentary elections.

## Meet Aytan Samadova

I believe these experiences would allow me to contribute actively and responsibly to the board of the SDP International network. I am especially interested in strengthening cooperation between different branches of the party and supporting the network's role in increasing participation among international members and multicultural communities. I would like to help develop activities that encourage stronger engagement, better communication, and closer cooperation between local members, international members, and Finnish society more broadly.

In the board, I would also like to support initiatives related to equality, fairness, equal opportunities, and democratic participation. I believe it is important that SDP International continues to build bridges between communities and creates an environment where everyone feels welcome, heard, and encouraged to participate in political and social activities regardless of their background."

## Meet Alexandra Sanda



**I am applying for: Communications,  
Secretarial duties  
Helsinki**

I would be interested in serving as Secretary, or in a communications role if the Secretary position is not available.

I am currently elected as Secretary on the SDP International Helsinki Board, which has given me a strong understanding of the responsibilities and skills required for the role.

In terms of communications, I am highly proficient across major social media platforms and have experience in copywriting and content creation, including social media posts, newsletters, and membership materials.

Additionally, I am fluent in English, Finnish, and Romanian.

## Meet **Alexandra Sanda**

I have been a member of the SDP for approximately two years and a member of SDP International for one year. During this time, I have gained valuable experience and insight.

I am applying for this Board because I am motivated to contribute to the growth and visibility of SDP International. I believe it is important to strengthen the SDP International Network, as international residents in Finland need a united voice to advocate for their rights, share their challenges, and provide a platform where everyone can express their views.

I am an active participant in the SDP International Helsinki Board, where I contribute fresh ideas and take a hands-on approach to my work. I believe these qualities would allow me to make a strong contribution to this Board as well.

## Meet Olga Vatka



I would like to fortify connections with international organizations and make the best of current reputation of SDP as well as develop it further to make it more appealing to foreigners and international audience.

I am a dance and sports enthusiast who has incredible will and power of will to improve societal circumstances for those are in a less privileged position in our current society.

**I am applying for: Communications,  
Secretarial duties  
Helsinki**