

Detailed Summary of the SPD's Future Program

1. Vision for the Future

The SPD envisions a Germany and Europe grounded in social justice, sustainability, and digital innovation. The COVID-19 pandemic emphasized the importance of solidarity, equality, and resilience in tackling global challenges like inequality, climate change, and digital transformation.

2. Key Objectives

2.1 Climate Neutrality by 2050

- Transition to 100% renewable energy by 2040, including solar, wind, and hydrogen technologies.
- Phase out coal by 2038 and nuclear power earlier.
- Promote energy-efficient public and private infrastructure (schools, homes, factories).
- Introduce incentives for green innovations and create a circular economy to reduce waste.
- Support hydrogen technologies for transport and industrial sectors.
- Ensure a socially fair transition, providing financial support for affected communities and workers.

2.2 Social Justice and Equality

- Strengthen labor rights and collective bargaining, aiming for equal pay across sectors.
- Increase the minimum wage to €12/hour.
- Expand protections for gig workers, caregivers, and self-employed individuals.
- Provide affordable housing and modernize energy systems in rental properties to be carbon-neutral.
- Support women's equality in wages and opportunities, especially in STEM and leadership roles.
- Combat discrimination in all forms, promoting respect for diverse identities and backgrounds.

2.3 Digital Sovereignty

- Build a "gigabit society" with fast, affordable internet across all regions by 2030.
- Establish a fully digitalized public administration with easy, secure access to citizen services.
- Promote digital education, providing all students with devices and free online resources.
- Regulate monopolistic digital platforms (like Amazon and Facebook) to promote competition.
- Encourage open-source solutions and create a European cloud infrastructure.

2.4 Economic Transformation

- Invest €50 billion annually in public projects to modernize infrastructure and foster green innovation.
- Support start-ups, SMEs, and sustainable industries with funding and favorable policies.
- Reform corporate taxation to ensure fair contributions from large companies, including digital giants.
- Introduce a 1% wealth tax on high-net-worth individuals and reform inheritance taxes to fund social services.
- Support fair global trade practices while promoting domestic sustainability.

2.5 Healthcare Reform

- Ensure universal healthcare access through a "citizens' insurance" system.
- Increase funding for public health infrastructure, focusing on digital tools and personalized medicine.
- Improve working conditions for medical and care professionals, emphasizing fair wages and adequate staff.
- Reintroduce local pharmaceutical production to reduce dependency on imports.
- Expand children's hospitals and rural health centers to address regional inequalities.

2.6 Education and Career Development

- Guarantee access to vocational training and apprenticeships, especially for youth.
- Support lifelong learning by offering subsidized educational leave and funding for career changes at any
- Increase funding for universities and vocational schools, particularly in rural and underdeveloped areas.
- Promote dual academic-vocational pathways to link theory with practical skills.

2.7 European Integration

- Strengthen European unity to tackle global challenges like climate change, digital monopolies, and migration.
- Promote a unified European digital economy based on shared democratic values.
- Advocate for a humane refugee policy and counter nationalist populism within Europe.
- Position Europe as a global leader in green energy and digital technologies.

3. Governance and Public Participation

- Advocate transparent and participatory governance, including citizen councils and open data initiatives.
- Promote collaboration across federal, state, and local levels to avoid bureaucratic inefficiencies.
- Make lobbying influences on policy transparent with a “legislative footprint” system.
- Support a federal transparency law to ensure access to government data.

4. Financial Policy

- Reject austerity measures post-COVID-19 and instead advocate increased public investment to stimulate
- Reform taxation to shift the burden from low- and middle-income earners to wealthier individuals and corporations.
- Introduce a financial transaction tax and further crack down on tax evasion and avoidance.
- Leverage public procurement to drive social and ecological innovation.