At least 78% of the population aged 20 to 64 should be in employment by 2030. Current level: 73.1% (2019).

At least 60% of all adults should participate in training every year by 2030. Current level: 37.4% (2016).

At least 15 million fewer people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 2030. Current level: 91 million persons (2019).
## Initiatives put forward in 2021

### 1st Quarter
- Green Paper on Ageing
- Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan
- First-stage consultation of EU social partners on platform work
- European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan
- Proposal for a Revision of the Social Scoreboard
- Effective Active Support to Employment
- Binding Pay Transparency measures
- New Disability Rights Strategy
- Europe’s Digital Decade
- Strategy on the Rights of the Child and European Child Guarantee

### 2nd Quarter
- Follow-up to the White Paper on Artificial Intelligence
- A Trusted and Secured European E-ID
- Updating the new Industrial Strategy for Europe
- Initiative on Sustainable Corporate Governance
- Revision of the non-financial reporting Directive
- New Occupational Safety and Health Strategy
- European Platform on Combating Homelessness
- Communication on Decent Work Worldwide
- Guidance Notices on Public Procurement of Innovative and on Socially Responsible Public Procurement
- Affordable Housing Initiative

### 3rd Quarter
- Renewed Sustainable Finance Strategy

### 4th Quarter
- Action Plan for the Social Economy
- Individual Learning Accounts and Micro-Credentials Framework
- Council Recommendation on education for environmental sustainability
- Skills and Talent Package
- Expanded and deepened Joint Employment Report
- European Health Data Space
- Initiative on Collective Bargaining for the Self-employed
- Transformation Agenda for Higher Education
- Method for social expenditure reporting under RRF
- Report on EU Taxonomy Regulation
Initiatives in 2022+

2022

- Initiative on Pathways to School Success
- Initiative on Long-Term Care
- High-Level Group on Access to Adequate and Sustainable Social Protection
- New Tools and Indicators on Access to Healthcare
- First EU Report on Access to Essential Services

2023

- Legal proposals to reduce workers’ exposure to hazardous chemicals, including asbestos
- Council Recommendation on Minimum Income
- Initiative on Social Dialogue
- Guidance on Ex-Ante Distributional Impact Assessments
- Revision of Barcelona targets
- Review of Quality Framework for Traineeships
- European Social Security Pass

2024

- First evaluation of the European Labour Authority

2025

- Review of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan
Strengthening coordination and monitoring

- Coordination via country-specific recommendations under the European Semester, with an expanded and deepened Joint Employment Report

- Updated **Social Scoreboard**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equal opportunities</th>
<th>Adult participation in learning during the last 12 months**</th>
<th>Share of early leavers from education and training</th>
<th>Individuals’ level of digital skills</th>
<th>Youth NEET rate (15-29)</th>
<th>Gender employment gap</th>
<th>Income quintile ratio (S80/S20)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fair working conditions</td>
<td>Employment rate</td>
<td>Unemployment rate</td>
<td>Long-term unemployment rate</td>
<td>GDHI per capita growth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social protection and inclusion</td>
<td>At risk of poverty or social exclusion rate (AROPE)</td>
<td>At-risk-of-poverty rate or exclusion for children (0-17)**</td>
<td>Impact of social transfers on poverty reduction</td>
<td>Disability employment gap**</td>
<td>Housing cost overburden **</td>
<td>Children aged less than 3 years in formal childcare</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** New indicator compared to 2017 Scoreboard
The Action Plan is the Commission’s contribution to the Social Summit

On 7 May 2021, a high-level conference will take place, focused on the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan. This will be followed by an informal European Council on 8 May.

The Social Summit will be an occasion to rally forces to renew, at the highest political level, the commitment to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights.

The Commission calls on all participating parties to endorse the Action Plan and invites notably the European Council to endorse the three new headline targets in the areas of employment, skills and social inclusion.
European Child Guarantee

#EUChildGuarantee
European Child Guarantee

Aims to prevent and combat social exclusion by guaranteeing access of children in need to a set of key services.

Social exclusion
Affects school performance and health
Drop out of school
Poverty
Long-term unemployed
Compass: the European Pillar of Social Rights

• Deliverable of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, part of a broader framework for combatting poverty or social exclusion;

• Contributes to achieving poverty reduction targets – lift 15 million people out of risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE), of this at least 5 million should be children;

• Monitored via the Social Scoreboard, which includes headline indicators on AROPE (overall population) and children aged less than 3 in formal childcare. The scoreboard is being revised, with the aim to include an indicator on AROPE for children.
Monitoring within the European Semester

• Since 2018, Pillar principles are mainstreamed across the European Semester;

• The condition of children investigated particularly under principles 1 (education), 3 (equal opportunities), 9 (work-life balance) and 11 (childcare and support to children);

• Analysis relies on several indicators, notably on the headline Social Scoreboard indicator on early childhood education and care;

• For example in 2019, 7 MS received CSRs on ECEC (AT, CY, CZ, IE, IT, PL, SK); in 2020, recommendation recitals referred to children in 12 MS (ECEC: AT, CZ, HU, IT, RO, SK; child poverty BG, EL, ES, HU, IE, RO).
Relation to other initiatives

- Complements the **2013 Commission Recommendation “Investing in Children. Breaking the cycle of disadvantage”**, a framework for developing policies to promote social inclusion and well-being of children, especially in vulnerable situations;

- It develops its second strand related to access to affordable, quality services, including ECEC, education, healthcare, and adequate housing;

- Complements the **EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child** adopted on the same day, which pools initiatives on children’s rights under one coherent policy framework.
• Initiated by the European Parliament:

  • Phase I: a study to examine the feasibility of a child guarantee concluded that children’s access to relevant services should be improved;

  • Phase II: a study explored “The economic implementing framework of a possible EU Child Guarantee scheme including its financial foundation”;

  • Phase III: pilot projects in selected EU Member States to test in practice the results of the previous two phases.
Children at risk of poverty or social exclusion

- In 2019, 22.2% (17.9 million) of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU
- Highest proportion (above 30%) in Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Spain
- Lowest proportion (less than 15%) in Slovenia, Czechia, Denmark, Finland

Legend
- > 11.7 to 15.17
- > 15.17 to 20.03
- > 20.03 to 22.3
- > 22.3 to 23.13
- > 23.13 to 27.37
- > 27.37

Source: Eurostat database, dataset ilc_peps01, data as of 30/03/2021
In 2019, 18.5% (14.9 million) of children at risk of **income poverty** in the EU

- 4.6 million children (5.7%) in households experiencing severe **material deprivation**

- 5.2 million children (6.5%) in very low **work intensity** households, out of which 4 million faced income poverty and/or severe material deprivation

Source: Eurostat database, dataset ilc_peps01, data as of 30/03/2021
COVID-19 crisis likely to exacerbate inequalities and poverty risks

- Low-income and middle-income groups at higher risk of income loss, due to fewer telework possibilities and increasing unemployment;

- Impacts of COVID-19 likely to be severe for children from disadvantaged backgrounds or low-income households, for example:
  - Home-schooling highlighted the educational and digital divides, e.g. where children lack equipment and internet access to engage in distant learning;
  - For children living in poverty, school closures resulted in lack of access to school meals.
Low income groups at higher risk of income loss due to COVID-19 crisis

Target group: children in need

Children under the age 18 years who are at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

Member States to identify children in need and take into account, wherever appropriate in designing their national integrated measures, specific disadvantages experienced by:

a) homeless children or those experiencing severe material deprivation;

b) children with a disability;

c) children with a migrant background;

d) children with a minority racial or ethnic background (particularly Roma);

e) children being in alternative (especially institutional) care;

f) children in precarious family situations (e.g. single-parent household, imprisoned parent or parent with a disability, mental or long-term illness, or addiction; teenage mother; exposure to violence; left-behind children of EU citizens).
Member State should guarantee access to key services

Free and effective access for children in need to:
- early childhood education and care
- education and school-based activities
- at least one healthy meal each school day
- healthcare

Effective access for children in need to:
- healthy nutrition
- adequate housing
Type of access to services

- **Effective access** - services are readily available, affordable, accessible, of good quality, provided in a timely manner and where the potential users are aware of their existence, as well as of entitlements to use them;

- **Effective and free access** - services are free of charge, readily available, accessible, of good quality, provided in a timely manner, where the potential users are aware of their existence, as well as of entitlements to use them.
Children at risk of poverty participate less in early childhood education and care

ECEC participation of children at risk of poverty compared to all children (0-2 years, 2019, %)

Source: Study on the economic implementing framework of a possible EU Child Guarantee Scheme including its financial foundation. Final Report, using EU-SILC 2019, no data for IT and IE.
Recommendations

a) address financial and non-financial barriers to participation;
b) provide educational materials, text books, school uniforms, digital services and IT equipment for distance learning;
c) provide school transport;
d) ensure at least one healthy meal each school day;
e) ensure access to school-based activities, including school trips;
f) prevent and reduce early school leaving;
g) provide learning support for pupils with learning difficulties;
h) adapt facilities and educational materials to children with disabilities;
i) support inclusive education and avoiding segregated classes; give priority or early access for children in need;
j) develop a cooperation framework for schools, local communities, social services and social economy actors to support inclusive education, provide after school care and opportunities to participate in sport, leisure and cultural activities, and to invest in schools as centers of inclusion.
Children at risk of poverty have more unmet healthcare needs

Children with unmet needs for medical examination or treatment by poverty risk (2017, %)

Source: Eurostat dataset ilc_hch14, data extracted on 15/04/2021. Data for Denmark, Netherlands, Slovenia, Finland and Sweden are of low reliability.
Recommendations

a) ensure access to medical examinations, screening programmes and vaccinations, to medicines and treatments and to timely follow-up;

b) provide rehabilitation and habilitation services for children with disabilities;

c) implement health promotion and disease prevention programmes targeting children in need, their families and professional working with children.
Some children still lack healthy nutrition

- Around 4% of children in the EU live in households lacking fruits, vegetables and proteins (ranging from 1% to 40% across Member States);
- More than on in five children do not take breakfast before going to school according to data from the OECD (ranging from 7% to 36% across countries).
Recommendations

a) support access to healthy meals also outside of school days;

b) ensure that nutrition standards in ECEC and schools address dietary needs;

c) limit advertising and restrict the availability of unhealthy foods;

d) educate on healthy nutrition.
Children at risk of poverty often experience severe housing deprivation

Children experiencing severe housing deprivation by poverty risk (2019, %)

Source: Eurostat dataset ilc_mdho06a, data extracted on 19/04/2021. Severe housing deprivation is defined as living in a dwelling which is considered as overcrowded, while also exhibiting at least one of the housing deprivation measures. Housing deprivation is a measure of poor amenities and is calculated by referring to those households with a leaking roof, no bath/shower and no indoor toilet, or a dwelling considered too dark.
Recommendations

a) ensure that homeless children and their families receive accommodation in emergency shelters or in permanent housing;

b) assess and revise (social) housing policies and benefits;

c) provide priority access to social housing;

d) while taking into account the best interests of the child, prevent children from being placed into institutional care; ensure transition of children from institutional care to quality community-based or family-based care and support their independent living and social integration.
Enabling policy framework – Recommendations

a) ensure consistency of social, education, health, nutrition and housing policies at various levels and improve their relevance for supporting children;
b) step up investments in education, health and social protection systems;
c) provide labour market integration measures to parents/guardians and adequate income support to households;
d) address the territorial dimension of social exclusion;
e) strengthen cooperation of authorities and relevant stakeholders in the design, delivery and monitoring of policies and quality services for children;
f) promote inclusion and tackle discrimination and stigmatisation of children in need;
g) support strategic investments in quality services for children, including in enabling infrastructure and qualified workforce;
h) dedicate adequate funding.
Governance – Member States

- nominate a national **Child Guarantee Coordinator**;
- identify children in need and barriers they face in accessing the services;
- draft **national action plans**, incl. targets, corresponding measures and monitoring and evaluation arrangements; action plans should cover the period until 2030;
- involve relevant stakeholders at all levels of administration in drafting, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the national action plans;
- reinforce outreach measures;
- **report to the Commission every 2 years.**
Follow-up by the Commission

- monitor the implementation of the Child Guarantee in the European Semester, issue country-specific recommendations;
- work closely with Member States, the national Child Guarantee Coordinators and the SPC;
- report regularly to the SPC on the progress on the basis of national reports;
- work with SPC to develop a common monitoring framework and to enhance the availability and comparability of EU-level data;
- review the progress in 2026 (5 years after the adoption of the Recommendation) and report to the Council;
- strengthen awareness raising, dissemination and communication activities.
Funding from European Social Fund Plus

• Under the 2021-2027 MFF, Member states to allocate at least 25% of their ESF+ resources to social inclusion;

• At least 5% of the ESF+ allocation earmarked for measures tackling child poverty in MS where child poverty or social exclusion above EU average (BG, CY, EL, HU, IE, IT, LT, RO, ES, HR and LU); remaining MS should allocate an appropriate amount;

• MS can also invest in: (i) actions to tackle food or material deprivation; and (ii) accompanying measures for children under the relevant specific objective of ESF+;
Funding from other sources

- **ERDF** - investments in social infrastructure, equipment, access to quality and mainstream services, and cooperation projects in border regions.

- **InvestEU** - investments in education and ECEC, healthcare and affordable housing;

- **RRF** - reforms, investments and policies for the next generation, children and the youth, such as education and skills (Pillar 6);

- **Technical Support Instrument** – structural reforms in education, social services, justice and health, including those tackling child poverty and exclusion;
Thank you

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