

Employment & Poverty: Promoting Opportunities for vulnerable groups

Joint Extreme Destitution & Employment Network
Meeting

Santander, 24th & 25th of September 2024

Eurodiaconia 

*Connecting faith
and social justice
through action*

Social Europe Academy

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PART 3 Way forward – what to expect from the new Commission and Parliament?



PART 1

Data & context





Latest data I

People at risk of poverty and social exclusion (AROPE)

- EU average: **21,4%** with the lowest numbers in Czechia (12%) and peaks in Romania (32%)
- Children AROPE: **24,8%** with the lowest number in Slovenia (10,1%) and peaks in Romania (39,0%)
- Young people (15-24) AROPE: **26,1%** with the lowest numbers in Slovenia (10,7%) and peaks in Finland (37,6%)

People experiencing homelessness

- EU: **1.287.000** people sleeping rough, staying in night shelters, or in temporary accommodation
- **400.000** amongst them are children

Persons unable to keep their homes warm

- EU average: **10,6%** with lowest numbers in Luxembourg (2,1%) and peaks in Spain & Portugal (20,8%)
- EU average AROPE: **22,2%** with the lowest numbers in Finland (3,8%) and peaks in Cyprus (43,6%)





Latest data II

Unemployment rates

- EU average: **6%** with lowest numbers in Czechia (2,7%) and peaks in Spain (11,5%)
- Youth unemployment (18-24): **14,5%** with the lowest numbers in Germany (6,6%) and peaks in Sweden (25,8%)

In-work poverty rates

- EU average: **8,3%** with the lowest numbers in Finland (2,8%) and peaks in Romania (15%)
- Youth in-work poverty (18-24): **11,6%** with the lowest numbers in Czechia (2,9%) and peaks in Romania (21,6%)



**Action Plan on
Labour and Skills
Shortages**

**Directive on
Adequate
Minimum Wages**

**Policy context &
developments**

**La Hulpe
Declaration**

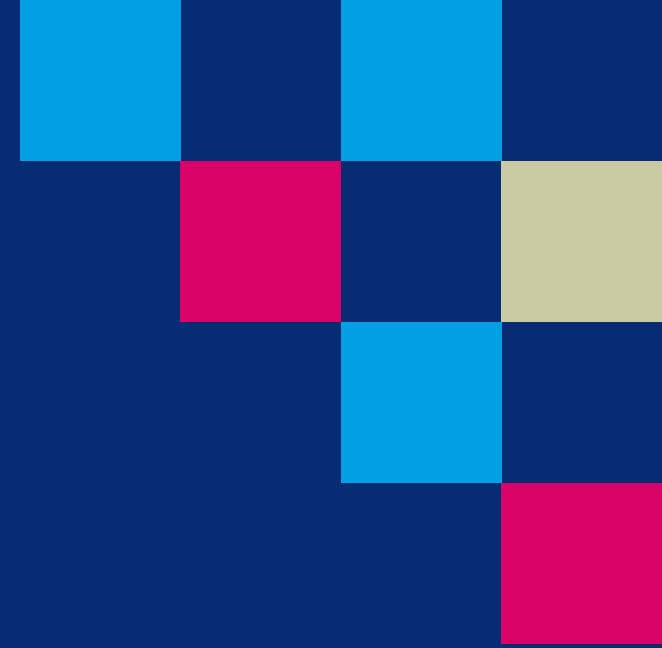
**Recommendation
on Minimum
Income**



PART 2

The Commission's Action Plan on Labour and Skills Shortages





Action Plan to tackle Labour and Skills Shortages

State of play:

- Shortages have increased in all member states for a decade
- 42 professions are considered “EU-wide shortage occupations”, such as nursing professionals or health care assistants
- Shortages are a challenge for the economy but “in some instances lead to an improvement in working conditions and a better inclusion of people from underrepresented groups” (p. 1)

Key drivers of labour and skills shortages

- Demographic change
- Job growth expected from the green and digital transitions
- Poor working conditions in some sectors make it difficult to attract and retain workers

Key policy areas for action

**Activation of
underrepresented
people in the
labour market**

**Improving
working
conditions**

**Attracting talent
from outside the
EU**

**Providing
support for skills,
training, and
education**

**Improving fair
intra-EU mobility
for workers and
learners**



SUPPORTING UNDERREPRESENTED PEOPLE IN THE LABOUR MARKET

Who is considered “underrepresented”?

- Women
 - low-skilled workers
 - older workers
 - young people
 - people with a migrant or minority racial or ethnic background
 - people with disabilities
- ... many of them living in rural and coastal regions

Improving labour market participation requires diverse and specifically targeted policies for each group

Commission initiatives

By 2030, “at least 78% of people aged 20 to 64 should be in employment”

FUNDING

ESF+: Zero long-term unemployment

Assessing the strengths and weaknesses of those projects and sharing best-practices across the EU

ESF+: Activating and upskilling young people

Focus on young people not in education, employment, or training (NEETs)

AMIF: Multi-stakeholder initiatives

Foster migrant integration into the labour market

ANALYSIS

Causes of involuntary part-time employment

Understand obstacles that prevent workers, especially women, from working full-time and explore EU action

National sick leave policies

Study their impact on worker’s health and productivity to find best practices

Impact of pension reforms and flexible retirement

Find opportunities for combining pension income with salary, fostering a more active and healthy aging

Member States

Social Partners

Implement EU initiatives

Youth Guarantee, Recommendation on ECEC, Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, etc.

Better coordination

Coordination between ministries and public employment services, preventative measures

Pursue tax and benefit reforms

Reduce tax wedge for low-income, shift taxes from labour towards other revenue

Tolerant workplaces

Ensure that workplaces are tolerant, welcoming, and accessible to all people

Activate underrepresented groups

Support diversity, equality, inclusion, non-discrimination

Comprehensive
approach

Focus on innovative
ways to tackle long-
term unemployment

Focus on
vulnerable groups

Key takeaways

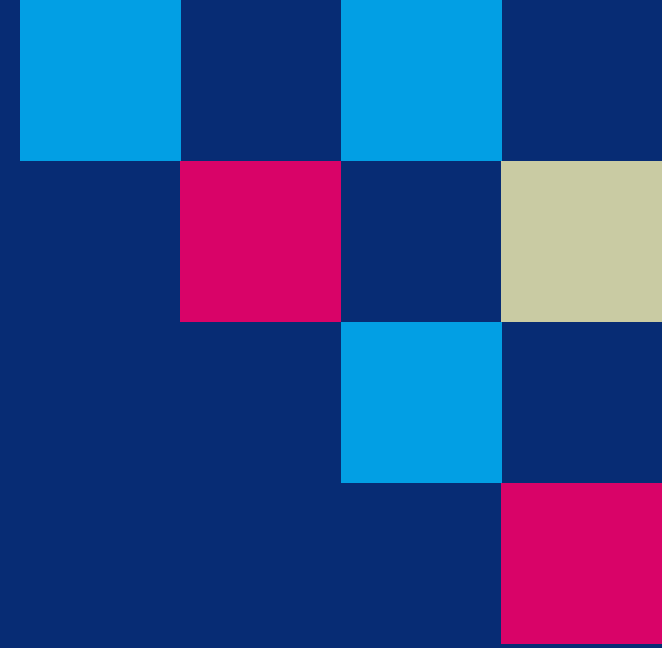
Social service providers
are not considered as
“social partners”

Little focus on jobs and
skills in social sector
and health care

Funding is targeted
towards big
consortiums, little
space for smaller
organisations

Non for-profit social
service providers and
social economy are not
a priority

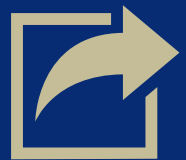




What can you do?



Get involved in national policy drafting processes, such as drafting the National Skills Strategies 2025



Share your challenges and best practices with us



Be aware of European and national funding opportunities to implement your projects and work



Inform policy makers about your perspectives

PART 3

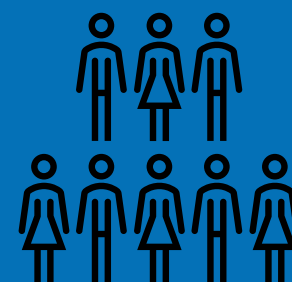
Way forward – what to expect from the new Commission and Parliament?





What we know
so far:

Actors



Roxana Mînzatu

Executive Vice-President for People, Skills,
and Preparedness



Dan Jørgensen

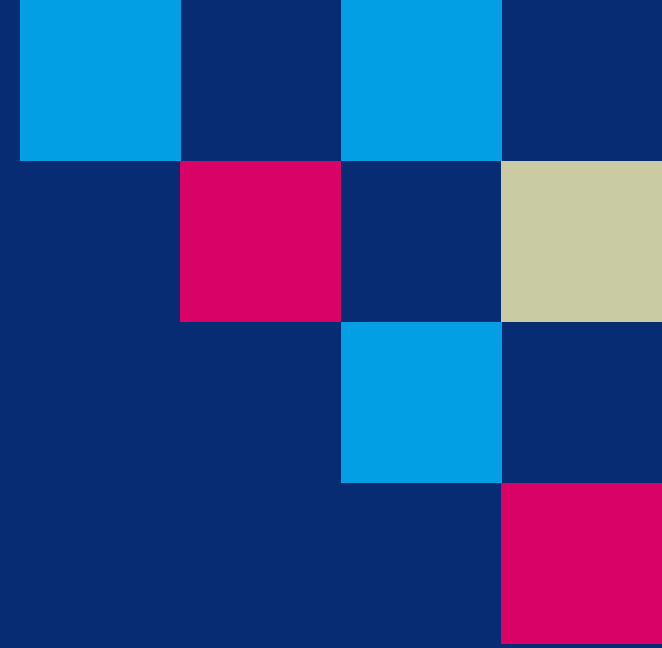
Commissioner for Energy and
Housing



Glenn Micallef

Commissioner for Intergenerational
Fairness, Youth, Culture, and Sport

*all Commissioners still need to be approved by the European Parliament



What we know so far: Initiatives & Proposals I

Anti-Poverty Strategy

“Bouquet” of initiatives, including funding and legislation

European Affordable Housing Plan

“The plan should offer technical assistance to cities and Member States and focus on investment and skills needed”

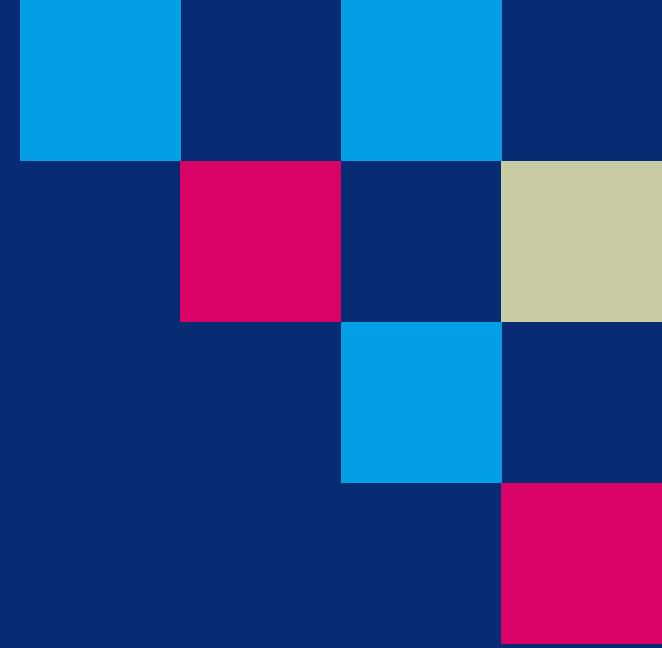
Youth Policy Dialogue

“You should organize a first edition of the annual Youth Policy Dialogues within the first 100 days so that young people can be heard and can help shape your work”

Strengthening the European Child Guarantee

“Prevent and fight social exclusion through education, healthcare and other essential public services”

Continuation of the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness (EPOCH)



What we know so far: Initiatives & Proposals II

Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness

“Map out how we can strengthen communication between generations and ensure that interests of present and future generations are respected throughout our policy and lawmaking”

Youth check

“Take forward initiatives that ensure that young people can use their voice to help shape Europe’s future”

Revision of state aid rules to enable housing support measures

“Notably for energy efficiency and social housing”

Just and social transition

“Boosting our economy and industry and ensuring that no one is left behind”



Resources

People at risk of poverty and social exclusion (AROPE)

Eurostat (2024), Persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion by age and sex, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/ilc_peps01n_custom_12919578/default/table?lang=en (accessed 18.09.24)

Unemployment rates

Eurostat (2024), Unemployment by sex and age, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/une_rt_m/default/table?lang=en (accessed 18.09.24)

In-work poverty rates

Eurostat (2024), In-work at-risk-of-poverty rate by age and sex – EU-SILC survey, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/ilc_iw01_custom_12919708/default/table?lang=en (accessed 18.09.24)

Homelessness

FEANTSA (2024), 9th Overview of Housing Exclusion in Europe 2024, <https://www.feantsa.org/en/report/2024/09/19/report-9th-overview-of-housing-exclusion-in-europe-2024?bcParent=27>

Persons unable to keep their house warm

Eurostat (2024), Population unable to keep home adequately warm by poverty status, https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/sdg_07_60_custom_12964534/default/table?lang=en

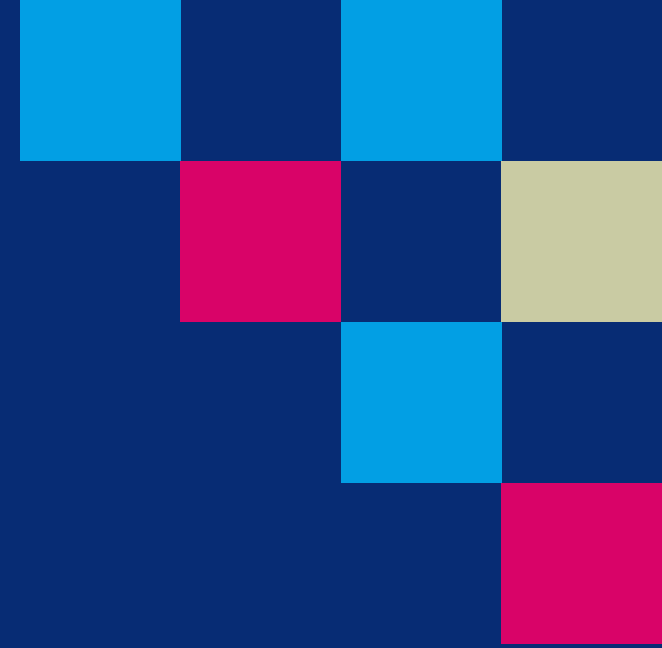


Policy workshop

Employment & social inclusion in the EU

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Questions

Brief overview of the situation in your country

- What challenges face vulnerable groups when accessing the labour market?
- Who is most affected by in-work poverty and how are they supported?

Advocacy

- What do you think needs to be done to tackle the challenges on **national** and **European** levels to
 - ensure access to the labour market for vulnerable groups?
 - reduce in-work poverty?

Your work

- How do you support the working poor?
- How can vulnerable groups be supported to access the labour market?

THANK YOU!

If you have any questions or
remarks, please reach out to

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