

Online seminar of NGOs experts on social rights

The European Pillar of Social Rights

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The European Pillar of Social Rights: turning principles into actions

On 4 March 2021 the Commission set out its ambition for a **strong Social Europe that focuses on jobs and skills for the future and paves the way for a fair, inclusive and resilient socio-economic recovery.**

The **European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan** outlines concrete actions to further implement the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights as a joint effort by the Member States and the EU, with an active involvement of social partners and civil society. It also proposes employment, skills and social protection headline targets for the EU to be achieved by 2030.



Focus on how to strengthen Europe's social dimension to meet the challenges of a fair, inclusive and resilient recovery, and the green and digital transition

This is an opportunity for Europe to update its social rulebook, while successfully navigating the transformations brought about by new societal, technological and economic developments and by the socio-economic consequences of the pandemic.

The Commission has already started to put the Pillar's principles into action, proposing initiatives such as Youth Employment Support and Adequate Minimum Wages in 2020. Today the Commission is also presenting a Commission Recommendation on Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis (EASE), to support a job-rich recovery.

The Pillar Action Plan builds on a broad public consultation with more than 1000 written contributions from Member States, EU institutions and bodies, regions, cities, social partners, civil society organisations, international organisations, think tanks and citizens. In addition, the Commission held dedicated webinars with over 1500 individual stakeholders.

History and background

The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission proclaimed the **European Pillar of Social Rights** in 2017 at the Gothenburg Summit.

The Pillar sets out 20 key principles and rights essential for fair and well-functioning labour markets and welfare systems in the 21st century.

- The Pillar is structured around three chapters:
- (1) Equal opportunities and access to the labour market;
- (2) Fair working conditions;
- (3) Social protection and inclusion.

The new impetus on social rights will use and reinforce the momentum created by the ambitious €1.8 trillion EU long-term budget and NextGenerationEU recovery instrument.

They will provide EU funding opportunities to Member States to support a strong Social Europe. This includes support from the Recovery and Resilience Facility to fund coherent packages of reforms and investments that respond to the labour market, skills and social challenges identified in the country-specific recommendations of the European Semester.

EU targets for a common ambition by 2030

The Action Plan sets **three headline targets** for the EU to be achieved by 2030:

1. At least 78% of people aged 20 to 64 should be in employment.

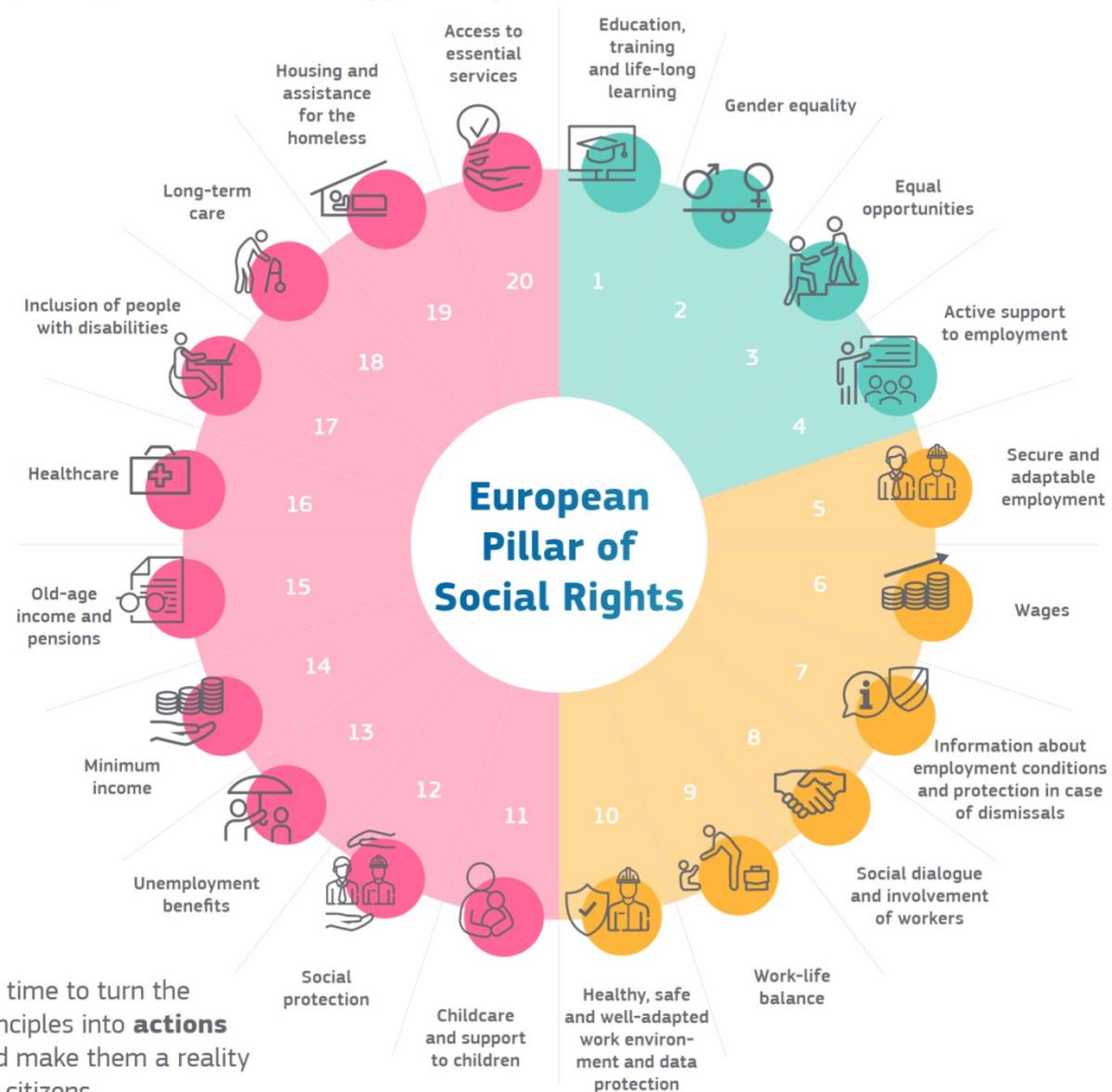
2. At least 60% of all adults should participate in training every year.

1. The number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion should be reduced by at least 15 million.

The new 2030 headline targets are consistent with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and set the common ambition for a strong Social Europe. Together with a revised Social Scoreboard, they will allow the Commission to monitor Member States' progress under the European Semester.

The Commission invites the European Council to endorse these three targets and calls on Member States to define their own national targets to contribute to this effort.

The 20 principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights guide us towards a **strong social Europe** that is **fair, inclusive** and full of **opportunity**.



It's time to turn the principles into **actions** and make them a reality for citizens.



Providing Effective Active Support to Employment (EASE)

As a concrete action under Principle 4 of the Pillar, the Commission today presents a Recommendation on Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis (EASE). With this Recommendation, the Commission provides concrete guidance to Member States on policy measures, backed by EU funding possibilities, to gradually transition between emergency measures taken to preserve jobs in the current crisis and new measures needed for a job-rich recovery.

The Recommendation promotes job creation and job-to-job transitions from declining sectors towards expanding sectors, notably the digital and green ones. These new measures should contain three elements:

- hiring incentives and entrepreneurial support;
- upskilling and reskilling opportunities;
- enhanced support by employment services.

EU funds, including from the Recovery and Resilience Facility and the European Social Fund Plus, are available to help Member States finance their EASE measures.

Thank you!

Ask questions:

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