

A RENEWED COMMITMENT TO A FUTURE-READY SOCIAL EUROPE

July 2026
#SocialRights



Since 2017, the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) has helped people across Europe access quality jobs and training, better working conditions and social protection. Ahead of its 10th anniversary, the Pillar remains the EU's social shield and compass for fairness in an age of rapid transformations and challenges. It supports a Europe that protects and empowers citizens.

EU social targets for 2030

78%

Today: 76.3%

Employment
rate

60%

Today: 39.5%

Adults participating in
training every year

-15M

Today: -3.5M

Fewer people at risk of poverty
or social exclusion than in 2019

Upcoming actions: 3 priority areas

The Communication confirms our commitment to implementing the Pillar, takes stock of its progress, and outlines targeted measures to respond to emerging challenges.

Addressing affordability

- Launch a consultation of social partners on **activating persons facing barriers to employment**, including on equality between women and men in labour market opportunities
- Consult Member States and stakeholders on a **possible post-2030 target on job quality**
- Propose a **Quality Jobs Act** to update EU rules protecting workers while supporting competitiveness
- Develop **new indicators on affordability and poverty**
- Present a **European Care Deal** addressing long-term care workforce challenges

Reducing inequalities

- Provide specific support, especially for SMEs, to **implement the Pay Transparency Directive**
- Present a **Right to Stay Strategy** so people can thrive where they choose to live
- Adopt a **vocational education and training (VET) Strategy**
- Present a **new EU Youth Strategy** for fair and inclusive opportunities for all young people

Harnessing AI for the future of work

- Set up a **High Level Experts Group** on the impact of AI on the labour market
- Help workplaces **adopt algorithmic management tools responsibly**

Strong social rights are part of Europe's DNA. They have helped Europe weather the socio-economic impact of recent crises, from COVID to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine to the current global energy crisis. Our social rights have made Europe resilient, strengthening our economy and society in times of crisis.

- **10 million people** trained through the Pact for Skills
- **185,000 workers** across 20 EU countries supported in returning to employment through the **European Globalisation Adjustment Fund**
- **EU funding** for skills and education in 2021-2027



- The **Quality Jobs Roadmap** outlined the policy actions to support quality jobs in a competitive economy
- **In-work poverty down** from 9.6% in 2016 to 8.3% in 2025 thanks to the implementation of the EU Directive on **minimum wages**
- **New rights for platform workers**, including access to employee rights and social protection



- Better protection of workers and preparedness for future health crises through the **EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work**
- Higher **protection against hazardous substances at work**:
 - 10x lower exposure limit for asbestos
 - 5x lower exposure limit for lead



- **63 million young people** found a job, started an apprenticeship or traineeship, or continued their education through the Youth Guarantee since 2013
- **2.5 million apprenticeships** completed under the European Alliance for Apprenticeships
- **80% of VET graduates in employment**
- **900+ organisations in EU-funded Centres of Vocational Excellence**, promoting skills in sectors like renewable energy and AI



- Access to school-based activities for **850,000 more children** thanks to the **European Child Guarantee**
- EU funding expanding **access to early childhood education and care**



- The **Union of Equality** is the EU's framework for gender equality, LGBTIQ+ rights, persons with disabilities, anti-racism, and Roma inclusion
- New **pay transparency rules** will help to close the gender pay gap
- **Gender balance rules** in place for company boards

- The first ever **EU Anti-Poverty Strategy**, aiming to help eradicate poverty by 2050
- **Progress towards ending homelessness by 2030**, through a dedicated Europe-wide platform
- Measures to ensure that **minimum income** is adequate

- **Communication on decent work worldwide** provides a blueprint for the EU's role as a responsible global leader
- **EU Forced Labour Regulation** to ban all products from forced labour in the EU internal market
- Part of the **Doha Political Declaration**, a global call for action to fight poverty, promote quality jobs and strengthen social justice