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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	2025 SPC Annual Report Executive Summary

Delegations will find attached the Executive Summary of the 2025 SPC Annual Report.

The full report can be found in doc. 13348/25 ADD 1.

2025 SPC Annual Report

Executive Summary

The Social Protection Committee's (SPC) annual report reviews the social situation and the policy developments in the Member States and in the EU in accordance with the SPC Treaty mandate and provides input in the context of the preparation of the 2026 cycle of the European Semester.¹ The report i) monitors the social situation, including the progress towards the EU and national 2030 targets on reducing poverty and social exclusion and highlighting the most recent trends to watch, ii) identifies key structural social challenges facing individual Member States, as well as good social outcomes, and iii) reviews recent social policy developments.

The 2025 edition focuses on access to social protection, based on this year's Thematic Social Reporting that focuses on the implementation of the Council Recommendation on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed. Ensuring access to adequate social protection for all forms of employment is key for a well-functioning social market economy, especially in the context of a changing world of work². It is also an integral component of job quality, as underlined in the related recent EMCO opinion³.

A. Latest developments in the social situation in the EU and progress on the 2030 target on reducing poverty and social exclusion

Economic growth, employment and progress towards the EU 2030 poverty reduction target

While recent crises including the COVID pandemic, the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, and the substantial rise in inflation over 2022-2023 have hindered achieving a significant improvement in the social situation in recent years, the EU has nevertheless been quite resilient, even with some improvement now showing in certain areas.

Following on to the weak economic progress of the previous year, growth in the EU picked up over the course of 2024, total employment continued to expand and the unemployment rate in the EU remained stable at a historically low level of around 6%. Showing a marked improvement compared to 2023, year-on-year growth in gross disposable household income was relatively strong over 2024, mainly reflecting a strong increase in the contribution from real compensation of employees and to a much lesser extent of the self-employed, in line with the improvements in the labour market and rising real wages.

(¹) The figures quoted in the report are generally based on data available around early July 2025.

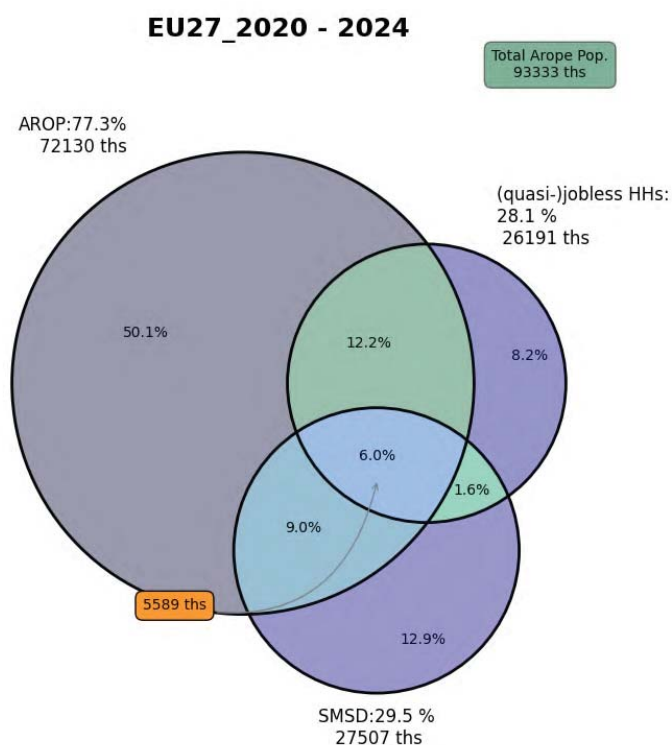
(²) See also the Report of the High-Level Group on [The future of social protection and of the welfare state in the EU - Publications Office of the EU](#), February 2023.

(³) Employment Committee, Opinion of the Employment Committee on the dimensions of job quality (June 2025).

Inflation was more subdued than in previous years, with signs of a partial recovery in household purchasing power and a decline in the overall share of people in the EU reporting financial distress over 2024 and into early 2025. Despite falling recently, financial distress remains historically relatively high, particularly for those on low incomes where it affects more than one in four of those in the lowest income quartile. The cumulative impact of the sharp rises in prices over 2022 and 2023 continues to be felt by all income groups, but especially so by those in the lower part of the income distribution.

Figures for the EU27 aggregate suggest an overall decline (around 1.1 million) in the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion compared to the previous year. In 2024, 93.3 million people in the EU (21.0% of the population) were at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE), with underlying decreases of around 1.8 million in the population experiencing severe material and social deprivation (SMSD) and of 0.4 million in the number of people living in (quasi-)jobless households (i.e. living in very low work intensity households), but a rise of around 0.4 million in the population at risk of poverty (AROP). The child population in the EU at risk of poverty or social exclusion fell by around 0.5 million between 2023 and 2024. As a result, in 2024 there were 72.1 million people in the EU at risk of poverty, 27.5 million experiencing severe material or social deprivation, and 26.2 million living in quasi-jobless households (Figure ES1). Around 29% of those at risk of poverty or social exclusion fall under at least two components of AROPE, while 6% experience all three aspects simultaneously.

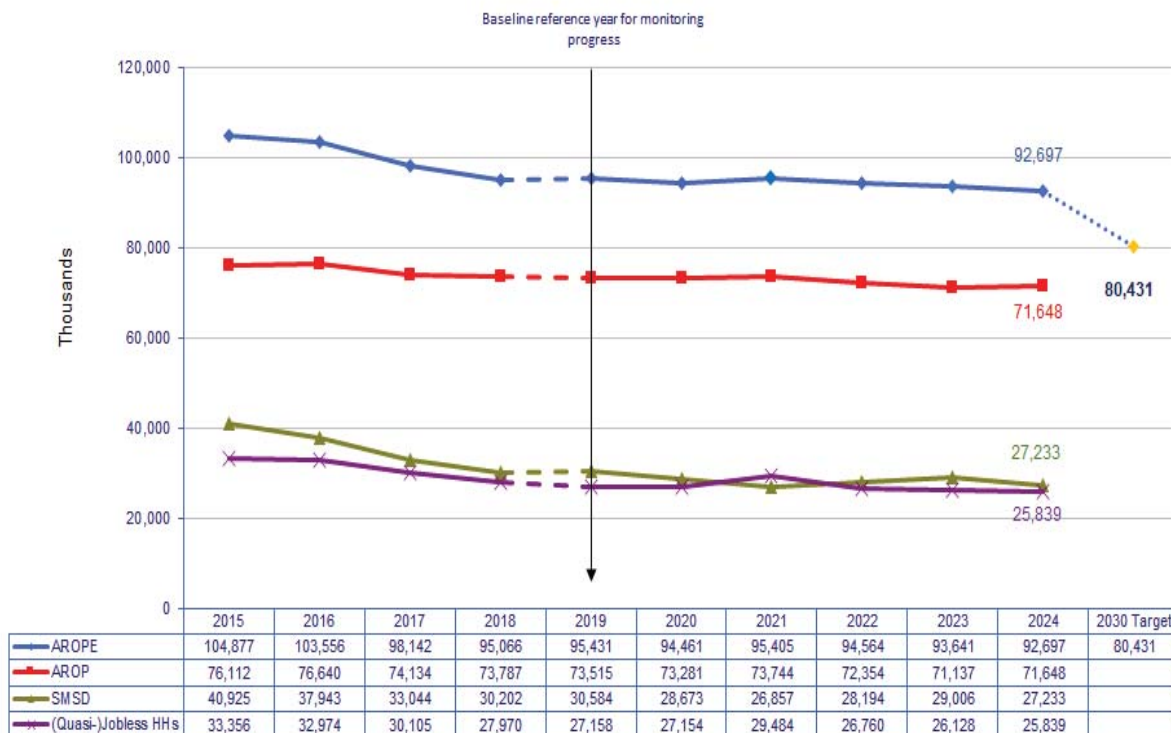
Figure ES1. Composition of EU AROPE population with regard to the three components, 2024



Source: Eurostat EU-SILC, DG EMPL calculations

With regard to progress on the 2030 target on poverty reduction, figures for the EU27 aggregate adjusted for breaks in series in France and Germany (Figure ES2) indicate that the EU population at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2024 has decreased by around 2.7 million compared to 2019. Underlying this was a fall of around 1.9 million in the population at risk of poverty, of 1.3 million in the number of people living in (quasi-)jobless households and of close to 3.4 million in the number of people experiencing severe material or social deprivation. The gap to achieving the target is now around 12.3 million, implying that the AROPE population would need to decrease on average by at least 2 million per year until 2030 to reach the target.

Figure ES2: Evolution of the population at risk of poverty or social exclusion and its components in the EU27 (1000s), 2015–2024, adjusted for major breaks in DE (in 2020) and in FR (in 2022)



Source: Eurostat (EU-SILC, table ilc_pecs01) and DG EMPL calculations. Note: Figures adjusted for major breaks in DE (in 2020) and in FR (in 2022)

With regard to the poverty and social exclusion reduction target for children, the EU child population at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2024 was up by 0.25 million compared to 2019, with the gap to achieving the target now at around 5.25 million. Moreover, apart from children, certain other groups still face heightened risk of poverty or social exclusion, including people with low education, people with disabilities, migrants, households consisting of a single adult, large households with three or more dependent children and above all single parent households.

In terms of individual Member States, figures for 2024 show mixed trends in the population at risk of poverty or social exclusion compared to the year before and in progress towards national targets and contributing to the overall EU target (Table ESA1). Around a third of countries saw a noticeable rise in this population in 2024, thus moving away from the poverty target, and just under half a noticeable reduction.

Relative to the year 2019, there have been substantial absolute reductions in the population at risk of poverty or social exclusion in several Member States, but in contrast, substantial rises have occurred in a few others, as explained more in detail below. Based on the 2024 figures, two countries have already achieved their national targets for poverty reduction.

Recent common trends identified by the Social Protection Performance Monitor (SPPM)

Compared to 2023, signs of improvement were observed in the situation for many Member States in several areas, even if in some areas the developments are mixed, as highlighted by the Social Protection Performance Monitor (SPPM) dashboard (Figure ESA2). Based on the latest annual 2024 EU-SILC data and 2024 LFS data, the following positive trends were highlighted:

- reductions in the share of the **population living at risk of poverty or social exclusion** in a third of Member States (MS), with underlying falls in the **at-risk-of-poverty rate** in 8 MS, in the share of the **population living in (quasi-)jobless households** in 8 MS and in the share of **people experiencing severe material or social deprivation** in 11 MS;
- the **housing cost overburden** rate fell in a third of MS, while the **material and social deprivation rate** fell in 11 MS;
- these positive developments reflect significant increases in **real gross household disposable income** in 10 MS along with a notable **reduction in income inequalities** in 11 MS, resulting in an improvement of household financial conditions;
- the social situation for children also improved in many MS, with reductions in the share of **children at risk of poverty or social exclusion** in 10 MS and in the **material and social deprivation rate for children** in 8 MS;
- there were continued rises in the **employment rate of older workers** in 11 MS, while the **income situation of older people** also improved in almost half of EU countries, as reflected in the median relative income ratio and aggregate replacement ratio (up in 13 MS for both indicators).

There were rather more mixed developments in some areas, most notably those concerning **in-work poverty**, the **risk of poverty or social exclusion among older people**, and the **effectiveness of social protection systems**, with a reduction in the impact of social transfers on poverty reduction in 7 MS and an increase in 9 MS and falls and rises in 7 MS respectively in the at-risk-of-poverty rate for (quasi-)jobless households.

The **area with most signs of a deterioration in the social situation** concerned the risk of poverty or social exclusion for **persons with disabilities** (16+), where the rate worsened in 10 MS. Also of note was the very limited improvement in the situation for **young people** and in addressing the **depth and persistence of income poverty**.

In a **longer-term perspective**, **compared to 2019**, the reference year for the 2030 poverty and social exclusion target, the overall picture in the latest SPPM update indicates a general picture of **quite limited change** for many Member States except in a few areas.

The following **positive developments** were observed:

- significant reductions in the at-risk-of-poverty rate in around a third of Member States, and improvements in the at-risk-of-poverty threshold in half, the latter also reflecting widespread improvements in real gross household disposable incomes in 16 MS and deterioration in no MS compared to 2019;
- significant reductions in income inequality in almost half of the EU countries;
- widespread success in raising the employment rates for older workers compared to 2019 across a large majority of Member States;
- improvements in reducing the share of young people not in employment, education or training and in early school leaving in several countries.

In contrast, there have been rather mixed developments in the following areas:

- in the situation of older people aged 65 and over, with a third of countries registering improvements in the at-risk-of-poverty-or-social-exclusion rate, the median relative income ratio and the aggregate replacement ratio for this age group but a broadly similar number of countries showing a deterioration;
- in the healthy life years at 65 indicators and in the at-risk-of-poverty-or-social-exclusion rate for persons with disabilities;
- a significant number of countries have witnessed a weakening of the effectiveness of social protection systems, as highlighted by declines in the impact of social transfers in reducing poverty and rises in the poverty risk for persons living in (quasi-)jobless households, even if an almost similar number showed an improvement.

Near-term outlook

Looking ahead, a marginal decrease of the risk of poverty is expected for 2024 income data, according to the latest indications from Eurostat flash estimates of income developments, with the at-risk-of poverty rate expected to remain stable in most countries. EU income in 2024 is expected to have continued to increase in both nominal and real terms, signalling an overall improvement in living standards and purchasing power. In-work poverty is also expected to have declined slightly. A rather stable trend is expected in income inequalities.

GDP growth in the EU is expected to be 1.1% for 2025 as a whole and to improve to 1.5% in 2026, according to the European Commission's Spring 2025 Economic Forecast⁴. Further expansion in employment is expected, while the unemployment rate is projected to decline to a new historic low. Tight labour markets and improving productivity are set to drive further wage growth, supporting a further increase in household gross disposable income in 2025 and in 2026. Looking ahead, risks to the outlook are tilted to the downside, potentially due to an escalation of trade tensions between the EU and the US which could

⁴ [Spring 2025 Economic Forecast: Moderate growth amid global economic uncertainty - European Commission](#)

rekindle inflationary pressures and have ripple effects on the EU economy. In addition, the increasing frequency of climate-related disasters underscores a persistent downside risk.

B. Key structural social challenges facing individual Member States

The analysis of Member States' Key Social Challenges (KSCs) and Good Social Outcomes (GSOs) continues to point to a heterogeneous performance of social protection and social inclusion systems across the EU, along with broad stability overall in the social situation that has been ensured during recent years. Differences in level and intensity of the outcomes point to persistent challenges and emerging ones, as summarised below:

- All Member States (MS), except one, have at least one KSC in the area of **poverty and social exclusion**, considering the total population, children and the working age population groups, while 15 MS show GSOs. **Income inequality** appears as a challenge in more than a third of the MS (10), and the **housing** situation, notably issues related to housing deprivation and housing cost overburden is a challenge in more than half (16), while **energy poverty** was identified as a challenge in 12. Regarding non-JAF analyses, challenges were identified for the social situation of **persons with disabilities** (13), **Roma** inclusion (6) and **migrants and refugees** (7). The territorial dimension of poverty and social exclusion, or the divide between **urban and rural areas** are a challenge in 11 MS;
- Regarding the **effectiveness of social protection**, a large majority (22) of MS registered challenges indicated by the capacity of social transfers to reduce the risk of poverty for the general population, for people in working age and children, the depth of poverty for children and the working age population, as well as the incidence of in-work poverty and the rate of long-term unemployment. The **social inclusion of children** is identified challenging in 9 MS, namely as regards equal opportunities for children, especially for those from a disadvantaged socio-economic background, and also in line with the monitoring framework of the Child Guarantee Recommendation. The **adequacy or coverage of minimum income schemes** were found to remain limited in 8 MS. From the perspective of gaps in access to social protection for some categories of non-standard workers or self-employed, challenges were observed in 9 MS too, regarding formal coverage and effective access or linked to adequacy;
- Regarding **Pensions**, issues related to old age poverty and pensions adequacy, as well as gender gaps in pensions were identified, as reflected in poverty or social exclusion in people aged 65 years old or more. In terms of income replacement, more than half (14) of the MS registered challenges. Key challenges were observed in 6 MS concerning gender pension gaps;
- **Insufficient access to long-term care** services, their **lack of affordability, quality**, or the **sub-optimal design** of long-term care systems, have been identified as a challenge in almost half of the MS (12);
- The **health status** analysed by life expectancy of the population either at birth or at 65 (or both in many instances), proves to be a challenge in more than half of the MS (14). As concerns **access to health care**, challenges have been identified in unmet needs for medical care in few MS.

C. Monitoring policy developments

The activities of the [Social Protection Committee](#) focus mainly on three main interlinked areas of policy work, which also support the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and its Action Plan: thematic work, the European Semester, and mutual learning. Furthermore, the Committee carried out several joint activities with the [Employment Committee](#) (EMCO), providing numerous deliverables to the Council, partially related to the European Semester. The section covers activities since September 2024 ⁽⁵⁾.

Thematic work

The SPC held thematic discussions in line with the priorities of the Hungarian and Polish presidencies and to follow up certain initiatives.

A thematic discussion was held on improving access to enabling services and employment services in order to address territorial inequalities and promote social inclusion for combatting poverty, providing input to the preparation of a set of Council Conclusions on [Improving access to enabling services and employment services in order to promote the social inclusion of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including Roma, by reducing territorial inequalities](#). The exercise gathered reflections from the Member States on their challenges in this regard and, related to that, facilitated an exchange of good practices to reduce inequalities in access to services through digitalisation and monitoring tools based on social indicators to assess the accessibility and development of enabling, essential and employment services, from a territorial perspective.

A thematic discussion on integration of policies supporting older persons' economic activity aimed at gathering reflections from the Member States on their challenges concerning demographic trends and their implications on labour market and social protection systems, in the context of labour shortages. By exploring the challenges faced by older workers regarding their economic participation in the labour market, this also facilitated an exchange of practices on targeted policy interventions to facilitate longer working lives and support prolonged economic activity, including through flexible retirement pathways. The discussion provided inputs to the Presidency's corresponding [Council conclusions on supporting older people in reaching their full potential in the labour market and in society](#).

As a follow up of the Council [Conclusions of 2 December 2024 on labour and skills shortages in the EU: Mobilising untapped labour potential in the European Union](#), the SPC held a tripartite horizontal debate to support progress in the implementation of the European Commission's [Action Plan on labour and skills shortages](#), with the involvement of relevant EU social partners and civil society organisations. The discussion focused on challenges related to activating underrepresented people in the labour market in line with the Council Recommendation on adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion, and on challenges and policy responses related to labour and skills shortages in the long-term care and healthcare sectors, with a view of delivering key messages to EPSCO.

⁽⁵⁾ The closing date of the Annual Report 2024, the number of meetings covers the period of September 2024 to September 2025.

Following up on the 2023 review exercise and the adopted key messages, the SPC organised a second review in 2025 on the implementation of the [2022 Council Recommendation on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality](#). The review followed the format of a thematic discussion, focusing on relevant policy measures within the Committee's competence, notably adequate social protection and related aspects in the context of the green transition, with a view of delivering integrated key messages from EMCO and SPC to EPSCO.

Box 1: 2025 SPC Thematic Social Reporting – Access to social protection

The thematic social reporting of this year focused on the implementation of the **Council Recommendation of 2019 on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed**, in the context of a changing world of work, setting access to adequate social protection for all forms of employment as a key element for a well-functioning social market economy.

This exercise aims at presenting an overview of policy responses and remaining challenges in implementing the Recommendation, focusing on reforms and measures taken since mid-2021.

The report **concludes** that the changing world of work, digital transformation and population ageing require continuous adaptation in the rules and organisation of social protection schemes, to ensure that they remain transparent, accessible and adequate for all. Over the last couple of years, Member States have been actively adjusting their social protection systems in response to these challenges.

Member States' replies indicate that many of the measures taken since mid-2021 (i.e. when Member States had submitted their national plans to implement the Council Recommendation) aim to enhance the transparency of social protection schemes, particularly through digitalisation, to ensure that all users are fully aware of their rights and obligations and well equipped to navigate through the system. Simplification has also emerged as a significant trend in the reform agenda. Moreover, several countries reported on measures to improve formal and effective access mainly for specific groups, such as those in non-standard forms of work including artists and domestic workers. In contrast, measures related to enhancing adequacy are mostly often focused on improving the situation of the self-employed or all those who are economically active.

As reported by Member States, the COVID-19 and cost-of-living crises have significantly contributed to boosting already on-going digitalisation trends and to enhancing access to social protection for the self-employed and vulnerable groups of workers.

Despite encouraging developments, ensuring equitable and adequate social protection for all, especially for those in non-standard or intermittent employment, remains challenging. Practical implementation hurdles and financing issues make it often challenging to adapt social protection schemes, initially conceived for employees, to the self-employed. The complexity and fragmentation of social protection systems can, to some degree, explain the lack of awareness of rights and obligations. This also applies to those with fragmented careers, those combining several statuses or transitioning from one status to another, as rules and systems might be more complex for them. In their efforts to enhance transparency through digitalisation, Member States report encountering challenges with ensuring data security,

achieving interoperability between different systems, and addressing the issue of non-take-up. Member States highlight that the digital divide remains a barrier to access, especially for vulnerable groups, due to limited internet access, low digital literacy, and other factors affecting their ability to engage with digital services.

Finally, balancing the sustainability of social protection with effective access and benefit adequacy has emerged as a key concern. While Member States aim to adjust rules on access and benefit levels to better protect individuals, they also strive to ensure the fiscal sustainability of their social protection systems.

In 2025, the **Social Protection Committee** and the European Commission continued working together to assess the implementation of the **Council Recommendation on adequate minimum income, ensuring active inclusion**. In accordance with the recommendation, a **joint report of the SPC and the EC** has been prepared with a view of adopting it in September 2025 and having the key messages endorsed by the EPSCO, also providing a contribution to the broader joint anti-poverty efforts. The stand-alone report highlights that the efforts to improve minimum income schemes remain varied across Member States. While some countries have made significant strides, others need to intensify efforts to make their schemes more effective. Increasing adequacy, ensuring broader coverage including by addressing non-take-up, facilitating the integration in the labour market of minimum income recipients and improving access to quality services are critical to achieving results. The focus on individualised support further underscores the need to develop an inclusive model that works for everyone.

[The European Semester](#)

During the 2025 Semester cycle, the Committee contributed jointly with the **Employment Committee (EMCO)** to the elaboration of the Joint Employment Report and the corresponding Council conclusions. The Committee also conducted 11 **Multilateral Implementation Reviews (MIRs)** of country-specific recommendations (CSRs) in policy areas under its competence, reviewing Member States' reform implementation efforts. Additionally, based on the Social Convergence Framework (SCF) as laid out in the Joint Employment Report (JER) 2025 Key Messages, the 10 countries falling into the second stage analysis were reviewed in **joint SCF reviews** of the **Employment Committee (EMCO)** and the SPC, also covering for the 2024 CSRs as relevant. The conclusions of the reviews fed into the joint Opinion of the EMCO and SPC on the 2025 cycle of the European Semester, endorsed by the Council. The reviews concerned **pension, long-term care and healthcare policies, and social protection and social inclusion systems, including measures tackling energy poverty and housing challenges**. Many of the reviews assessed the implementation of CSRs carried over in past cycles of the European Semester, which indicates the long-term and structural nature of the observed challenges.

The reviews concluded that some Member States face challenges related to persistently high risks of poverty or social exclusion, especially for some groups, difficulties in setting up efficient social protection systems that effectively address poverty risks, and high income inequalities, particularly in light of the high inflation experienced in recent years, which inevitably had a greater impact on low-income and jobless households. Other Member States continue to face challenges in improving access to affordable healthcare

and long-term care services, which is particularly critical in light of population ageing. High participation in the labour market, in particular of older people, and efficiency in health care and long-term care provision, are key to reconciling adequate benefits and affordable high-quality services with sustainability of spending in an ageing society, as emphasised by the need for an overarching reform of pension, health care and long-term care systems. Ensuring access to high-quality active inclusion measures - integrated with access to essential and social services - should remain a priority in many Member States, including with a view to reducing inequalities among population groups and across regions, and to strengthening social cohesion.

[Joint EMCO-SPC deliverables to the Council.](#)

In accordance with the [Work Programmes](#) for 2024 and 2025, the Committee provided numerous documents jointly with the [Employment Committee](#) to support the Council.

- [Assessment of the Social Convergence Framework as implemented on a pilot basis in the 2024 European Semester cycle](#), prepared by the [Employment Committee](#) and the [Social Protection Committee](#) (2 December 2024);
- [Employment and social aspects of the 2025 Council Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area](#) (10 March 2025);
- [Council Conclusions on the 2025 Joint Employment Report](#), approved by the Council (EPSCO) on 10 March 2025;
- [2025 Joint Employment Report](#);
- The employment and social aspects of the Medium-Term Fiscal-Structural Plans: [Letter from the Chairs of the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee](#);
- [Assessment of the country-specific recommendations for 2025 and implementation of the country-specific recommendations for 2024: Opinion of the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee](#);
- [Horizontal note on country-specific recommendations 2025](#), prepared by the Polish Presidency;
- [Opinion of the Employment Committee on the dimensions of job quality](#), with the input of SPC.

The joint EMCO and SPC horizontal opinion on the 2025 **European Semester recalled an integrated approach to economic, fiscal, employment and social policies** for the retention of the coordinating and monitoring role of the EPSCO filière on all matters related to labour market, skills and social policies. The committees emphasized the need for establishing an adequate and predictable timeline for the Spring Package onwards 2026 ensuring **effective cooperation and joint reflections between the EPSCO and the ECOFIN filières**.

[Mutual learning activities](#)

The **Minimum Income Network (MINET)** focused in 2025 on the topics of practices linked to activating groups furthest from the labour market, jointly with the Advisors to the European PES Affairs (AFEPA). Additionally, the meetings served to present the first draft of the joint SPC - Commission report on the

implementation of the Council recommendation on minimum income ensuring active inclusion and on the upcoming Eurostat work on data collection for minimum income benefits (ESSPROS).

In order to further support the implementation of the 2019 Council recommendation on **access to social protection for workers and self-employed**, three **mutual learning** events were organised on monitoring, including data and indicators, social protection coverage for vulnerable groups of workers (precarious temporary workers and solo self-employed) with a focus on unemployment benefits, and social protection for artists.

The **meetings of the national Child Guarantee** Coordinators contributed to the exchange of good practices and monitoring of the implementation of the related Council Recommendation. The exchanges focused on early childhood education and care, provision of free healthy school meals, and progress with expansion of childcare and provision of after-school activities. In addition, dedicated meetings discussed the update of the common monitoring framework to assess implementation of the European Child Guarantee, and the progress on relevant projects under the Technical Support Instrument.

Concerning the **Council Recommendation on access to affordable high-quality long-term care**, mutual learning activities built on the measures reported by the Member States in their national implementation plans and subsequent policy dialogues. A high-level conference "[Affordable high-quality long-term care: Catalysing dialogue and action under the European Care Strategy](#)" (November 2024) took stock of implementation actions and discussed common long-term care challenges and ways to address them through joint actions and commitments at European and national levels. The webinar "[Towards a more coherent framework for addressing long-term care workforce challenges: from evidence to policy responses](#)" (June 2025) fostered a collaborative dialogue among key stakeholders on how to improve the long-term care workforce situation and address shortages and low attractiveness of the sector through better working conditions and enforcement of labour rights, as well as reinforced support for professionalisation of the sector.

To follow up on the Communication on better assessing the **distributional impact of Member States' policies**, stressing the importance of **Distributional Impact Assessment** (DIA) analyses, three mutual learning events were organised since mid-2024. The meetings provided opportunities for exploring country practices with a thematic focus on access to data, health in-kind benefits, and in-depth discussions between experts from employment, social and economy and finance ministries on best practices and the added value of DIA to support evidence-based policy making. The last event placed emphasis on the impact of employment and social policies (including for instance non take-up of benefits or considering data and modelling issues) and beyond on a broader range of policies (such as in-kind benefits, wealth, housing) as well as governance or dissemination issues or more broadly social impact assessment relating to the "do no significant social harm" approach.

The **European Platform on Combatting Homelessness**, bringing together Member States, the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions, the Economic and Social Committee, social partners and relevant civil society stakeholders, carried out mutual learning activities supporting Member States to develop and improve their national homelessness strategies. The two-year project EPOCH Practice aims at supporting the Platform through knowledge and capacity building. Furthermore, four transnational social innovation

projects under the ESF+ aim to pilot evidence-based innovation practices to further enhance mutual learning. Key actions related to the analytical strand of the Platform include a pilot project on a European Homelessness Count (with two city counts in the Autumn of 2024 and of 2025 in 15 and 35 cities respectively), a policy toolkit, monitoring framework and data mapping and a new project on a blueprint for integrated action plans and on homelessness policy evaluation, delivered with OECD. The working group of the Platform on access to finance is to map available funding options, build capacity and expertise of project promoters and support the development of projects to combat homelessness.

The [‘Disability Platform’](#) held three meetings since mid-2024, focusing on several topics, including an exchange with civil society organisations on the thematic priorities, exchange on the input to the dialogue with the UN CRPD, as well as a presentation and a discussion on setting up national targets for employment of persons with disabilities.

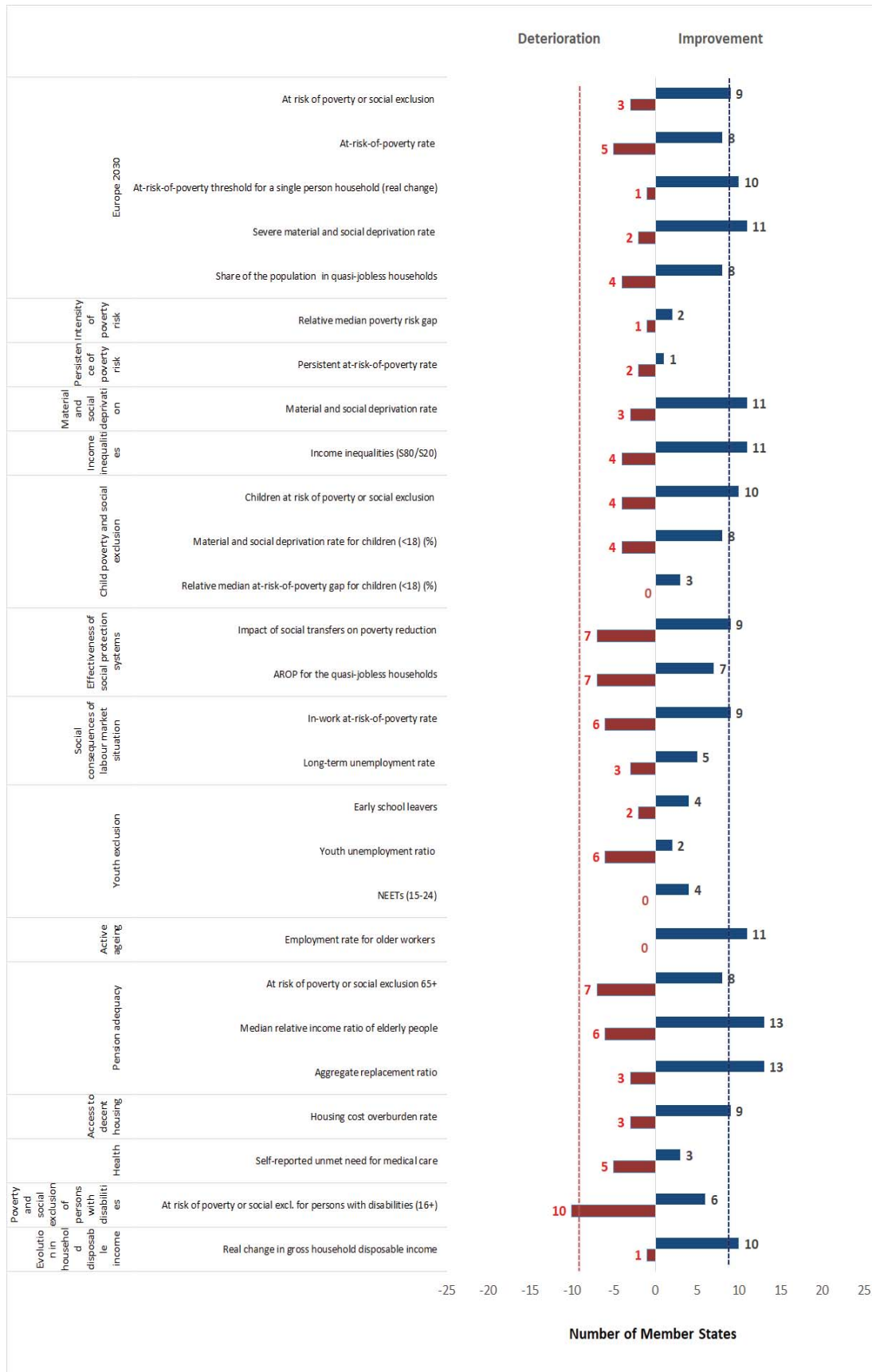
Under the **peer review program** of the SPC, three **reviews** were organised and an additional three are planned in 2025. The aim of the peer reviews was to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of given approaches and explore their potential transferability to other Member States. Topics of the peer reviews covered [‘Participation of persons with disabilities in the development of social services at local level’](#), hosted by Austria, [‘The Implementation of Housing First approach to tackle long-term homelessness of people with complex needs’](#), initiated by Ireland and [‘Social protection and inclusion of older persons’](#) was held in Norway.

Table ESA1: Developments across Member States in the population at risk of poverty or social exclusion, and comparison to national poverty reduction targets or equivalent in terms of AROPE

	National target (reduction of AROPE in 1000s vs 2019 figures). Non-AROE based targets shown in parentheses)	AROE population 2019 (1000s)	AROE population 2020 (1000s)	AROE population 2021 (1000s)	AROE population 2022 (1000s)	AROE population 2023 (1000s)	AROE population 2024 (1000s)	Mini charts of trends to latest available year	Change 2019-2020 (1000s)	Change 2020-2021 (1000s)	Change 2021-2022 (1000s)	Change 2022-2023 (1000s)	Change 2023-2024 (1000s)	Overall change 2019-2024 (1000s)
BE	-279	2,260	2,307	2,142	2,144	2,150	2,121		47	-165	2	6	-29	-139
BG	-787	2,324	2,332	2,193	2,206	1,933	1,953		8	-139	13	-273	20	-371
CZ	-120	1,264	1,205	1,132	1,209	1,247	1,183		-59	-73	77	38	-64	-81
DK*	(-30 VLWI)	994	970	1,000	997	1,056	1,065		-24	30	-3	59	9	71
DE**	(-1200 VLWI)	17,401	16,735	17,255	17,543	17,886	17,687		-666	520	288	343	-199	286
EE	-39	311	300	293	332	327	302		-11	-7	39	-5	-25	-9
IE	-90	988	932	985	1,003	988	880		-56	53	18	-15	-108	-108
EL	-860	3,059	2,880	2,971	2,722	2,658	2,744		-179	91	-249	-64	86	-315
ES	-2,815	12,169	12,642	13,040	12,189	12,552	12,458		473	398	-851	363	-94	289
FR*	-1,100	11,716	12,006	12,115	12,970	12,740	12,950		290	109	855	-230	210	1,234
HR	-298	841	806	817	752	772	810		-35	11	-65	20	38	-31
IT	-3,200	14,803	14,821	14,834	14,305	13,392	13,525		18	13	-529	-913	133	-1,278
CY	-10	162	156	154	150	153	164		-6	-2	-4	3	11	2
LV	-95	506	473	488	482	476	449		-33	15	-6	-6	-27	-57
LT	-223	712	685	661	690	695	744		-27	-24	29	5	49	32
LU	-4	119	119	126	121	139	132		0	7	-5	18	-7	13
HU*	Reduce MSD rate of families with children to 13% (AROE by 292,000)	1,923	1,854	1,865	1,750	1,872	1,914		-69	11	-115	122	42	-9
MT*	(-3.1 AROE p.p.)	100	100	103	103	105	108		0	3	0	2	3	8
NL	-163	2,809	2,739	2,862	2,863	2,770	2,723		-70	123	1	-93	-47	-86
AT	-204	1,434	1,460	1,519	1,555	1,592	1,529		26	59	36	37	-63	95
PL	-1,500	6,575	6,305	6,296	5,873	5,972	5,815		-270	-9	-423	99	-157	-760
PT	-765	2,173	2,056	2,312	2,084	2,104	2,095		-117	256	-228	20	-9	-78
RO	-2,532	7,032	6,897	6,572	6,525	6,033	5,294		-135	-325	-47	-492	-739	-1,738
SI	-9	279	295	275	276	287	302		16	-20	1	11	15	23
SK	-70	795	744	841	888	943	980		-51	97	47	55	37	185
FI	-100	788	810	773	891	866	927		22	-37	118	-25	61	139
SE	-15	1,879	1,832	1,790	1,941	1,932	1,843		-47	-42	151	-9	-89	-36

Source: Eurostat (EU-SILC). Note: * Countries that have expressed their national target in relation to an indicator different from the EU headline target indicator (AROE), or in a format other than absolute population reductions.

Figure ESA1: Areas of deterioration (social trends to watch) and improvement for the period 2023-2024



Source: Social Protection Performance Monitor

