

Brussels, 7 May 2026
(OR. en)

9061/26

SOC 244
EMPL 109
COH 79
COMPET 551
EDUC 151
ANTIDISCRIM 43
ENER 238

COVER NOTE

From: Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director

date of receipt: 6 May 2026

To: Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

No. Cion doc.: COM(2026) 538 final

Subject: COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS on the European Union's Anti-Poverty Strategy: addressing and preventing poverty from childhood to old age

Delegations will find attached document COM(2026) 538 final.

Encl.: COM(2026) 538 final



Brussels, 6.5.2026
COM(2026) 538 final

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

**on the European Union's Anti-Poverty Strategy: addressing and preventing poverty
from childhood to old age**

{SWD(2026) 770 final} - {SWD(2026) 771 final}

Living in dignity is a fundamental right and the EU has committed to respect it and protect it ⁽¹⁾. The **cost of non-action** to combat poverty is significant and multifaceted. Poverty **undermines social cohesion, weakens democracy and holds back Europe's economic potential**. A strongly competitive and innovative economy enhancing growth and creating quality jobs contributes to reducing poverty. Soaring inflation resulting from the impact of geopolitical turmoil and dependency on fossil fuels has impacted and will continue to impact energy bills and the price of basic goods, including food, and leads to increased hardship and financial insecurity across Europe. While the most vulnerable are hit hardest, middle-income households are also at risk of slipping into precariousness, making both prevention and protection more urgent than ever.

Today, around one in five Europeans is at risk of poverty or social exclusion ⁽²⁾. This means 93 million people cannot afford a decent living. It means 19 million children start life already at a disadvantage. Some territories are particularly at risk, with 93 out of the 243 EU regions recording poverty and social exclusion rates higher than the EU average.

The EU has already committed to a 2030 target of reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by at least 15 million, including at least 5 million children ⁽³⁾. Member States support this ambition through national poverty reduction targets. Progress has been made despite the series of crises the EU weathered in recent years: by 2025, the EU had recorded a decrease of 3.5 million compared to 2019, while the figure for children remained broadly stable. Stronger, sustained and more coordinated efforts are needed to come closer to the 2030 target.

The Commission is setting out the ambition to help eradicate poverty in the EU by 2050. This first-ever EU Anti-Poverty Strategy sets out a comprehensive approach to prevent and protect against poverty, contributing to the fulfilment of the European Pillar of Social Rights. Building on what is already being done and policies set, it sets the pathway for further progress in reducing poverty.

The Strategy proposes measures taken at EU level to tackle poverty, specific to each age category, acknowledging the impact of poverty along the whole life cycle. Central to the Strategy is the active inclusion approach, emphasising the importance of the support to labour market activation for those who can work (including the transition to quality jobs, as the first and best tool to prevent poverty), access to key goods and services essential to people's well-being and integration in society and adequate income support. Given the size of the challenge, delivering results in reducing poverty requires immediate and sustainable investments.

Combating poverty is a collective responsibility and requires coordinated efforts at all levels. At EU level, we set the first EU Anti-Poverty Strategy with this Communication. Its success will depend on the active engagement of authorities at all levels of governance, EU, national, regional and local, social partners, civil society, the private sector as well as on the involvement of people experiencing poverty themselves. The Strategy also provides

⁽¹⁾ See Article 1, [Charter of Fundamental Rights](#) 2012/C 326/02 of 26 October 2012 "Human dignity is inviolable. It must be respected and protected"; Article 3, Treaty of the European Union "[The EU] shall combat social exclusion and discrimination, and shall promote social justice and protection".

⁽²⁾ 20.9% of the EU population was AROPE (at risk of poverty or social exclusion) in 2025.

⁽³⁾ The target was welcomed by the European Council on 25 June 2021.

a framework for enhanced cooperation with other EU institutions and relevant organisations.

The Strategy is built on extensive consultations ⁽⁴⁾ and an analytical foundation, detailed in the accompanying Staff Working Document ⁽⁵⁾, including an analysis of previous EU efforts to combat poverty ⁽⁶⁾. **Chapter 1** looks into measures to tackle poverty along the life cycle. **Chapter 2** assesses horizontal challenges and dimensions that can aggravate poverty. **Chapter 3** provides opportunities to improve governance, funding and monitoring at all levels.

1. MEASURES TO TACKLE POVERTY IN EVERY AGE GROUP

All generations require targeted attention to prevent and address poverty. While each generation has specific needs and requires targeted action to prevent and combat poverty, an integrated approach, combining adequate resources with effective access to quality services is key for all ages. Tackling child poverty addresses children’s wellbeing today and helps prevent poverty later in life; supporting the working-age population, including with targeted measures for activation, is also essential to prevent both child and old-age poverty; and demographic ageing intensifies the need to support older people.

Measures to help break the cycle of disadvantage and enhance opportunities in life

On average in the EU, families with children, in particular single-parent families, are especially exposed to poverty or social exclusion. Child poverty reflects the economic situation of the household where the child lives. Low parental income is a primary determinant of child poverty, stemming from barriers hindering parents’ labour market integration and in-work poverty ⁽⁷⁾, while the costs of raising children are felt more acutely in the context of rising housing, energy and food prices. Single parents, and in particular single mothers, are more than twice as likely at risk of poverty or social exclusion ⁽⁸⁾. Consequently, today in the EU, one in four children is at risk of poverty or social exclusion ⁽⁹⁾.

Addressing child poverty requires improving access to adequate resources for parents. First, it is essential to support parents’ access to quality jobs and to provide vulnerable families with adequate income support. Second, well-designed child and family benefit systems play a central role in helping families meet the costs of raising children. However, the impact of benefits on poverty and exclusion varies widely across Member States. This points to the need to **improve their design, coverage, adequacy and take-up. Coordination** among social protection systems, services and benefits needs to be improved as well. To address this, the Commission will adopt in 2027 a Commission Recommendation on enhancing the efficiency and integration of child-related benefit

⁽⁴⁾ The Strategy builds on a call for evidence and a public consultation, which ran from 25 July 2025 to 24 October 2025 and numerous targeted consultations.

⁽⁵⁾ Commission Staff Working Document, Poverty in the EU – key trends and policies, SWD (2026) 770

⁽⁶⁾ This benefited from [the implementation dialogue on “Measures to combat poverty: the Council Recommendation on adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion, and the Council Recommendation on the European Child Guarantee”](#) held on 24 February 2026.

⁽⁷⁾ [European Employment and Social Outlook](#). Quarterly review from January 2026.

⁽⁸⁾ In 2024, the AROPE rate of single mothers was 46.3% in the EU.

⁽⁹⁾ One in ten children has no access to a meal with meat, chicken, fish or a vegetarian equivalent daily.

systems in addressing child poverty, to improve coordination and enhance their positive impact, in children's best interest. Considering and, where necessary, improving the distribution of social and other public expenditure across age groups appears important to reducing child poverty and fostering inter-generational fairness, in a context of limited public resources.

Children at risk should be protected from poverty and have access to the services they need, as a matter of urgency. High-quality early childhood education and care, schooling, extracurricular activities, including sport and culture, school meals and healthy nutrition, healthcare and housing are among the key services that can help offset disadvantage and foster equal opportunities for vulnerable children to support their exit from poverty. Building on the assessment of the ongoing implementation of the European Child Guarantee as well as emerging challenges faced by children in need, the Communication on “Breaking the cycle of child poverty – Strengthening the European Child Guarantee” announces measures to improve comprehensive access to all the services children need to realise their full potential in life.

Supporting young people to thrive

Today, young people in the EU face a significantly higher risk of poverty or social exclusion. In 2025, 24% of young people under 29 years old were at risk of poverty and social exclusion, 3 percentage points higher than the total population. This is driven largely by youth unemployment, early school leaving and disengagement from education or the labour market.

Key challenges facing vulnerable young people concern mostly their transition between education or training and employment and access to key services. Young people face increasingly complex challenges in a rapidly evolving labour market, including a higher exposure to short-term contracts and unpaid traineeships, among others. The Youth Guarantee ⁽¹⁰⁾ aims to ensure that all young people under 29 years receive a good quality offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education. Since its creation in 2013, it has helped more than 63 million young Europeans.

Looking ahead, the Commission will work with Member States to reinforce the implementation of the Youth Guarantee, particularly by intensifying outreach to young people in need, namely in areas with high unemployment rates. In this regard, it is important to establish and support **adequate, safe and inclusive out-of-school spaces at the local level,** which may serve as hubs providing comprehensive, coordinated advice and mentoring to young people, as well as ensuring an integrated approach and stronger links with other services.

Moreover, to break the transmission of poverty and disadvantage, it is essential **to support the transition of children in need to empowered young persons.** The Communication on “Breaking the cycle of child poverty – strengthening the European Child Guarantee” is supporting this by proposing measures to bridge the European Child Guarantee and the Youth Guarantee. By 2027, the Commission will develop a **toolkit to link and strengthen the coordination between the Child and Youth Guarantee,** including an emphasis on

⁽¹⁰⁾ Council Recommendation 2020/C 372/01 of 30 October 2020 on [A Bridge to Jobs – Reinforcing the Youth Guarantee and replacing the Council Recommendation of 22 April 2013 on establishing a Youth Guarantee.](#)

individualised approach and ensuring stronger links with other services, in particular those covered in the European Child Guarantee.

Addressing poverty affecting people of working age

Evidence shows that for those who can work a quality job is the best protection against poverty. More than just a source of income, it provides people with a sense of dignity and purpose, as well as a social network and the sense of belonging to a wider community. Today, many people face poverty or risk falling into poverty because of their exclusion from the labour market: in 2025, 66% of the unemployed and 44% of the people outside of the labour market were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Women face specific barriers, and there are 6.7 million more women than men at risk of poverty in the EU ⁽¹¹⁾. Parents with caring responsibilities often do not have access to, or cannot afford, quality early childhood education and care. This translates into lower employment rates for women, evidenced in a 10-percentage point gap on average in relation to men.

Supporting the labour market integration of those who have the capacity to work requires targeted and effective activation measures, particularly for the long-term unemployed, the inactive and those facing specific barriers. It is key that support measures promote individual self-sufficiency, and put forward the right balance between income support, active labour market measures, work incentives and mutual obligations. Helping those most vulnerable to gain skills, improve their employability and therefore increase their chances of finding sustained, quality employment requires an individualised approach, including on job-search assistance, counselling and guidance, training and work experience ⁽¹²⁾. At the same time, supporting activation is key to fostering potential untapped talent in Europe, and contributes to economic growth, competitiveness and community development.

This is why, in line with Article 154 (2) TFEU, in the second half of 2026, the Commission will launch the **first-stage consultation of European social partners to obtain their views on the possible direction of EU action to support the activation of persons excluded from the labour market and equality between women and men with regard to labour market opportunities.** The initiative would aim at supporting the identification and outreach to those excluded from the labour market and the establishment of individualised pathways towards labour market integration, involving all relevant authorities and strengthening their cooperation. In doing so, it would help address barriers to the transition into the labour market and help improve the take-up of support services.

The Commission will continue to support the social economy and micro-finance, which have a specific role to play in providing work and self-employment opportunities for persons experiencing poverty. This will include assessing the role of public financial support in enabling the start-up and development of social economy actors ⁽¹³⁾.

⁽¹¹⁾ In 2025, there are 43 million men and almost 50 million women at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU, according to [Eurostat data](#).

⁽¹²⁾ Council Recommendation 2016/C 67/01 of 15 February 2016 [on the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market](#).

⁽¹³⁾ Mid-term review of the Social Economy Action Plan, Council Recommendation on developing social economy framework conditions. Looking forward, the Commission will revise the European Code of Good Conduct for Microcredit Provision so that microfinance continues to meet the needs of under-represented entrepreneurs and people in vulnerable situations and will launch in Spring 2026 under the EaSI strand of ESF+ a call for proposals aiming at supporting under-represented groups in entrepreneurship, including the most vulnerable, to set up their business.

Furthermore, specific groups require dedicated efforts, as they face particular barriers to enter the labour market. This is for instance the case for third-country nationals ⁽¹⁴⁾, and persons with disabilities, who will be supported by a strengthened Disability Employment Package, in line with the Communication on Enhancing the Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities up to 2030.

However, a job can protect from poverty only if it ensures adequate income, sufficient to cover living costs. Despite slight improvements over the last decade, around 8.3% of people in work in the EU are still at risk of poverty. Those on part-time or temporary contracts are twice as likely to be at risk of poverty (12.9% and 13.4% respectively) as compared to those on full-time or permanent jobs (6.9% and 5.2% respectively).

Addressing in-work poverty requires promoting quality jobs, combating involuntary low-work intensity including by removing barriers such as the lack of affordable care and ensuring access to services and income support where relevant. It also requires tackling undeclared work through the formalisation of incentives alongside enforcement. A strongly competitive and innovative economy with adequate and transparent wages supported by collective bargaining, non-precarious work contracts, training opportunities, adequate social protection ⁽¹⁵⁾, as well as policies that help reconcile work and family life enable quality jobs ⁽¹⁶⁾. The Member States' design of social benefits and in-work benefits also has an impact on in-work poverty, in particular for those transitioning towards full-time and stable jobs. Adequate minimum wages should be set at a level sufficient to protect full-time working persons from poverty, in line with the Directive on adequate minimum wages.

In 2027, the Commission will put forward a **Commission Recommendation providing evidence-based policy guidance and best practices to prevent and combat in-work poverty**. The guidance will be developed in close cooperation with the Member States and the social partners. It will outline the main drivers of in-work poverty and will elaborate best practices to support shifts towards higher work intensity (and therefore higher incomes) and ensuring that tax-benefit systems are consistently aligned so that more hours worked translate into higher incomes. It will be followed by dedicated structured discussions with all relevant actors, including social partners and national authorities. In parallel, the Commission will step up enforcement to ensure full transposition of the Directive on adequate minimum wages ⁽¹⁷⁾. The forthcoming 2026 report on the Directive will provide an overview of the current state of play. The Commission will step up its efforts through the mutual learning exchanges and pursuing close monitoring within the Employment Committee (EMCO) and the Social Protection Committee (SPC).

⁽¹⁴⁾ Commission Communication COM(2020) 758 final of 24 November 2020 [on the action plan on integration and inclusion 2021-2027 EU Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027](#) and Commission Communication COM(2026) 45 final of 29 January 2026 [on the European asylum and migration management strategy](#).

⁽¹⁵⁾ Council Recommendation 2019/C 387/01 of 8 November 2019 [on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed](#).

⁽¹⁶⁾ Commission Communication COM(2025) 944 final of 4 December 2025 [on the Quality Jobs Roadmap](#).

⁽¹⁷⁾ Directive (EU) 2022/2041 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 [on adequate minimum wages in the European Union](#).

It is essential to ensure the necessary support to live in dignity to those who cannot work, either structurally or because they are currently facing specific barriers ⁽¹⁸⁾. While all Member States have minimum income schemes in place, which also support access to services and inclusion in the labour market, the adequacy and coverage of the support vary significantly. A prominent challenge in this regard are also the low levels of take-up of support, which vary from 20% to 50% across Member States, strongly undermining the effectiveness of public policy. In early 2027, the Commission will publish a **Compendium of best practices to help address non-take-up of income support**. This will cover the different drivers of non-take-up, including lack of information and administrative complexity, and serve as a basis for more structured cooperation on this topic in the Social Protection Committee ⁽¹⁹⁾ and its working group on Minimum Income (MINET) ⁽²⁰⁾.

Combating and preventing poverty in old age

In 2025, almost one in five people aged 65 or over was at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU (18.8%). The rate is much higher for women (21.2%), compared to men (15.8%). This gender gap is often linked to lower pensions for women, on average, resulting from gaps in employment and pay as well as career gaps for care reasons accumulated during working life. Increased incidence of disability and long-term care needs in old age also translate into additional impact on poverty at old age. Furthermore, old age may also bring along challenges linked to increased health care and long-term care needs, increased risk of social isolation and loneliness, which may be further compounded by digital exclusion.

Tackling and preventing old-age poverty and social exclusion requires coordinated action across pension adequacy, labour market participation and social protection as well as effective access to high-quality care services and targeted social inclusion interventions. Targeted incentives and enablers to allow longer working lives where suitable, adequate pensions, old-age benefits ⁽²¹⁾ and supplementary pension savings, which support the capacity of pension systems, prevent that persons fall into poverty in old age. In this sense, improving pension literacy and pension transparency also have a role to play to enhance retirement income ⁽²²⁾. The Commission calls to build a multi-pillar pension system overtime, which aims at ensuring an adequate old-age income.

In 2027, the Commission and the Social Protection Committee will publish a **Joint Report on Adequate Social Protection in Old Age**, which identifies gaps in pension adequacy and long-term care coverage across Member States, and an **Expert Report mapping and reviewing national mechanisms to protect older people from poverty**. Both will

⁽¹⁸⁾ Council Recommendation 2023/C 41/01 of 30 January 2023 [on adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion](#).

⁽¹⁹⁾ [Social Protection Committee - Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion](#).

⁽²⁰⁾ [Minimum Income Network \(MINET\) working group - Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion](#).

⁽²¹⁾ Mechanisms such as minimum pensions and old-age benefits, survivors' pensions, disability allowances, pension splitting schemes and pension credits for care periods.

⁽²²⁾ Commission Communication 124 final of 19 March 2025 on [the savings and investments union strategy](#), Commission Communication 839 final of 20 November 2025 on [enhancing the capacity of the EU supplementary pension sector to improve retirement income and supply long-term capital to the EU economy](#), and the Commission Recommendation 2025/2384 of 27 November 2025 [on pension tracking systems, pension dashboards and auto-enrolment](#).

support policy makers to undertake reforms to strengthen pension systems, ensure their long-term adequacy and address old-age poverty. Building on these, the Commission will hold a **High-level exchange on integrated policies for a dignified old age** with Member States, social partners, stakeholders and experts.

Avoiding the transmission of poverty in life across age groups

Every year, around one third of people ‘at-risk-of-poverty’ move out of poverty and are replaced by new cohorts ⁽²³⁾. These transitions in and out of poverty are usually triggered by changes in employment and income (such as quitting or starting a new job, or increasing or reducing working hours), but also by changes in the household composition (such as having a child or separating) and the broader impact of crises.

Transitions between life stages, from childhood to youth, youth to working age and working age to retirement, are critical moments when the risk of falling into precarious situations can materialise. For instance, young people leaving the family home often face important life milestones such as entering the labour market, frequently through precarious jobs or starting a family while struggling to access affordable housing. This is particularly acute for those leaving alternative (institutional or residential) care, who are at higher risk of falling into poverty or even homelessness ⁽²⁴⁾. Similarly, the transition from working age to retirement can be accompanied by an increased risk of poverty, if not well prepared. Promoting longer working lives for those who can and wish to continue working and supporting active and healthy ageing are essential to prevent old-age poverty. This should be accompanied by policies that promote positive incentives and greater flexibility in retirement pathways, also reflecting the diversity of working careers and stimulating early inclusion in supplementary pensions.

More broadly, all policies need to be designed to prevent the accumulation of disadvantages over the life course. This is the rationale behind the Intergenerational Fairness Strategy ⁽²⁵⁾ and the upcoming Longevity Roadmap, which will map age-specific policy issues for all age groups to identify strategic opportunities for actively shaping longer and healthier lives and financial security.

2. MEASURES TO ADDRESS HORIZONTAL CHALLENGES THAT AGGRAVATE POVERTY

With a view to further prevent and address poverty, it is essential to tackle horizontal challenges, which might impact all generations at the same time. This includes discrimination and stigma, difficulties to afford basic needs, such as food, energy, a home and other basic goods and the lack of access to quality services.

Combating discrimination and stigma

Prejudice and stigma can put specific population groups at a disadvantage from the outset, while women and some population groups are more exposed to poverty and social exclusion. Women are more likely to face poverty, including due to exposure to less

⁽²³⁾ Commission Staff Working Document, Poverty in the EU – key trends and policies, SWD (2026) 770.

⁽²⁴⁾ According to [UNICEF](#), across the EU, hundreds of thousands of children live in residential institutions, with an overrepresentation of children with disabilities. The impact of institutionalisation is severe and can last a lifetime.

⁽²⁵⁾ Commission Communication COM(2026) 110 final of 5 March 2026 [on the strategy on intergenerational fairness](#).

job opportunities and lower employment rates, breaks during the career and unpaid care work⁽²⁶⁾. Prejudice and stigma also affect persons with disabilities (29% at risk of poverty and social exclusion), people born outside the EU (39%), persons with a minority racial or ethnic background, in particular Roma (70% are at risk of poverty) and LGBTIQ+ persons (38% make ends meet with great difficulty).

All these factors can limit access to employment, education, housing, care-related and other services, while also undermining social trust, personal safety and participation in society. The Commission has drawn up strategies aimed at promoting gender equality and combating discrimination of persons with disabilities, persons affected by racism, Roma and LGBTIQ+ persons, in the context of the Union of Equality⁽²⁷⁾. The Commission will continue to work with Member States and other stakeholders to develop anti-poverty measures targeted at specific groups. In particular, the EU Roma Strategic Framework calls to reduce the poverty gap between Roma and the general population by at least half by 2030.

Besides the groups listed above, persons experiencing poverty are also often stigmatised or discriminated against due to their socio-economic background⁽²⁸⁾. To inform further work, the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) will produce comparative legal analysis about the socio-economic status as a ground of discrimination in the legal and regulatory frameworks of the EU Member States and provide data about the significant impact of poverty and socio-economic disadvantage on discrimination.

Facilitating coverage of basic needs in a context of rising cost of living

Across the EU, the increasing cost-of-living pressures are pushing more people into poverty, deepening hardship for those already struggling and increasing financial precariousness for middle-income households. The cost of living is one of the main concerns of people in the EU, with 88% worried about the daily cost of living and its impact for the future of their household⁽²⁹⁾. This is a grave concern for people already experiencing poverty today, while pushing those from the middle class to the risk of experiencing precariousness and hardship. The affordability of healthy and sustainable food is one important concern, which should be monitored and tackled⁽³⁰⁾. With rising

⁽²⁶⁾ The [Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030](#) underlines that the Commission will explore ways to address labour market outcomes and relevant pension system features that drive the gender pension gap, and map and support exchange of best practices in addressing the gap.

⁽²⁷⁾ Commission Communication COM(2026) 113 final of 5 March 2026 [on the gender equality strategy 2026-2030](#), Commission Communication COM(2021) 101 final of 3 March 2021 [on the strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030](#), and Communication on “Enhancing the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities up to 2030”, [EU Roma Strategic Framework for Equality, Inclusion and Participation 2020-2030](#), Commission Communication COM(2026) 12 final of 20 January 2026 [on the anti-racism strategy 2026-2030](#), Commission Communication COM(2025) 725 final of 8 October 2025 [on the LGBTIQ+ equality strategy 2026-2030](#), Commission Communication COM(2021) 142 final of 24 March 2021 [on the EU strategy on the rights of the child](#).

⁽²⁸⁾ An analysis of the introduction of socio-economic status as a discrimination ground, Tomas Kadar, Equality and Rights Alliance.

⁽²⁹⁾ [2025 Eurobarometer “Investing in Fairness”](#).

⁽³⁰⁾ The Commission monitors the availability and affordability of food in the EU with the Agri Food Chain Observatory and will promote the exchange of good practices regarding food poverty and access to a healthy diet in Member States. The Common Agricultural Policy plays a central role in safeguarding food availability in the EU, contributing to healthy and sustainable food.

food prices, an ever-growing group of people depends on the support from authorities or organisations in accessing food or relying on the support of food banks ⁽³¹⁾.

Fighting energy and transport poverty should remain a priority in the context of current geopolitical turmoil, as increases in energy and transport prices impact even more significantly vulnerable households who spend a higher share of income on energy. As announced in the AccelerateEU Communication adopted in April 2026, the Commission will coordinate efforts to protect citizens, and especially vulnerable consumers, from energy prices shocks including through emergency measures, protection from disconnections, social leasing schemes and other measures to accelerate energy savings and clean energy. The Commission will also step up its efforts against energy poverty by updating the 2023 Commission Recommendation on energy poverty later in 2026 ⁽³²⁾. For lower-income households, a more circular economy can reduce cost-of-living pressures by extending the lifespan and repairability of products and expanding access to affordable second-hand markets and repair services ⁽³³⁾.

In the context of rising cost of living, it is key to accelerate efforts to improve consumer protection, financial literacy and access to financial services. Consumers, and in particular vulnerable consumers, should also be protected in the digital world. The forthcoming Digital Fairness Act will substantially contribute to ensuring this protection. Financial literacy has an important role to play, already from an early age, as it can support people's ability to understand basic concepts enabling them to consume, save and invest in a more informed manner throughout their lives ⁽³⁴⁾. Financial literacy can also help avoid over-indebtedness, which can deteriorate due to rising debt costs, falling incomes, higher cost of living and increased reliance on credit ⁽³⁵⁾. It is also essential to facilitate access to financial services by making sure that all consumers have the right to open and use a payment account with basic features anywhere in the EU ⁽³⁶⁾ as well as improving access to cash ⁽³⁷⁾.

⁽³¹⁾ The EU supports access to basic material assistance, and to food in particular (ESF+).

⁽³²⁾ The Commission will also continue implementing the Citizens' Energy package adopted in March 2026, which includes future efforts to strengthen protection from disconnection and to manage the European Energy Poverty Advisory Hub. With the [2025 Commission Recommendation on Transport Poverty](#) and the Transport Poverty Hub, the Commission supports Member States in addressing transport poverty. This is also an objective of the Social Climate Fund.

⁽³³⁾ The Circular Economy Act to be adopted by the Commission in 2026 will address bottlenecks that inhibit circular transition in several key value chains, such as textiles, construction and plastics.

⁽³⁴⁾ Commission Communication COM(2025) 681 final of 30 September 2025 [on a financial literacy strategy for the EU](#).

⁽³⁵⁾ EU Directive 2023/2225 of 18 October 2023 [on credit agreements for consumers and repealing Directive 2008/48/EC](#) and EU Directive 2014/17/EU of 4 February 2014 [on credit agreements for consumers relating to residential immovable property and amending Directives 2008/48/EC and 2013/36/EU and Regulation \(EU\) No 1093/2010](#).

⁽³⁶⁾ EU Directive 2023/2225 of 30 October 2023 [on credit agreements for consumers and repealing Directive 2008/48/EC](#) and EU Directive 2014/92 of 23 July 2014 [on the comparability of fees related to payment accounts, payment account switching and access to payment accounts with basic features](#).

⁽³⁷⁾ Commission proposal COM(2023) 366 final of 28 June 2023 [on payment services and electronic money services in the internal market amending Directive 98/26/EC and repealing Directives 2015/2366/EU and 2009/110/EC](#), Commission proposal COM(2023) 366 final [on payment services and electronic money services in the Internal Market amending Directive 98/26/EC and repealing Directives](#)

Housing prices are a particular challenge for those experiencing or at risk of poverty. Access to affordable, sustainable and quality housing is a vital prerequisite for integration in society and into the labour market ⁽³⁸⁾. While people facing housing difficulties are more likely to fall into poverty, 31.1% of low-income households are overburdened by housing costs, and approximately 5% of people aged 16 or older report having experienced housing difficulties at some stage in their lives ⁽³⁹⁾. Around 1 million persons in the EU experience homelessness, the most extreme form of poverty and social exclusion ⁽⁴⁰⁾. **Together with this Strategy, the Commission puts forward a proposal for a Council Recommendation on fighting housing exclusion**, which aims to facilitate the design and implementation of national strategic frameworks based on person-centred, housing-led and integrated policies to support people in precarious housing situations and to prevent and address homelessness.

Ensuring access to services for those in need

Social services have an important role to play in providing the necessary basic welfare and support to those already experiencing poverty and preventing others from falling into poverty. Social inclusion services, such as social work, counselling, psychological support and rehabilitation, are particularly important. Social inclusion services are also instrumental in guiding users towards the services they need (such as education and training, care, health services) and facilitating their access to so-called essential services (energy, transport, digital communications, water and sanitation and financial services) by informing them of the relevant schemes in places (e.g. energy benefits). For their efforts to be effective, this requires strengthening cooperation between administrations, including in terms of digital infrastructure. Furthermore, a particular challenge is to ensure the availability of services across the territory, including in rural and outermost regions. National averages hide significant territorial disparities with pockets of poverty affecting both urban and rural areas. One of the objectives of the upcoming Strategy on a ‘right to stay’, aimed to support the attractiveness of territories, will be to facilitate access to services all across the EU.

Improving access to services means better quality, availability, accessibility and affordability. The Commission will work with the Social Protection Committee to **update the 2010 Voluntary European Quality Framework for Social Services**, which focuses on improving service delivery (providing guidelines on how to set, monitor and evaluate

[2015/2366/EU and 2009/110/EC](#) and Commission proposal COM(2023) 364 final for a Regulation [on the legal tender of euro banknotes and coins](#).

- ⁽³⁸⁾ The [2025 European Affordable Housing Plan](#) supports Member States, regions and cities in tackling the housing crisis. It calls for a specific focus to support the most affected, notably young and homeless people. In this perspective, the Pan-European Investment Platform for affordable and sustainable housing and the European Housing Alliance aim to provide a cross-sectoral and multigovernmental framework for developing cooperation and leveraging additional financing for social and affordable housing, including for the benefit of the most vulnerable. The New European Bauhaus supports affordable, sustainable and quality housing by scaling up funding and developing and replicating new solutions for more inclusive, fair and accessible neighbourhoods as well as community-led solutions for affordable housing.
- ⁽³⁹⁾ Housing difficulties are defined as situations where a person had no place of their own (either owned or rented) and was forced to stay with friends or family, use emergency or temporary accommodation, live in a place not intended as a permanent home, or sleep in a public space.
- ⁽⁴⁰⁾ The [2021 Lisbon Declaration on the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness](#) sets out collective actions to work towards the ambitions to end homelessness by 2030.

quality standards for social services). This will also address administrative complexity, stigma, digital exclusion and procedural barriers. The Commission will also **update the 2023 Commission Report on Access to Essential Services**.

Barriers to accessing services can compound and entrench poverty, particularly when those in acute need cannot obtain quick and effective support in times of need. There is a need for improved coverage, better integration and cooperation among services, and stronger alignment between the support available and the actual needs of those they are intended to reach. **In 2027, the Commission will put forward a proposal for a Council Recommendation, to support easier and integrated access to services.** It will stress the role of social inclusion services, supporting a single access point throughout the territory, facilitating the provision of integrated support. It will aim to strengthen their outreach and proximity to recipients and the reliance on a rapid assessment of the needs of the user followed by an integrated support plan. It will also support practices of peer-support among persons experiencing poverty, recognising their firsthand experience and knowledge in facilitating access to services.

Education and training, throughout the life cycle, have a key role in combating and preventing poverty. Access to quality education and training can help lift persons out of poverty or social exclusion, by giving them the skills required to find a quality job and to participate actively in society. Education can break the cycle of disadvantage at all stages of life – from early childhood through to adult learning and vocational retraining. However, the socio-economic background of students remains the most persistent driver of educational inequality in Europe. Systemic underfunding in deprived areas leads to teacher shortages, higher staff turnover and fewer experienced educators, resulting in less individualised support – precisely the conditions least suited for disadvantaged children who cannot draw on compensatory resources at home. Later in 2026, the Commission will adopt an **Education Package, which will include a Basic Skills Support Scheme**, supporting effective interventions at school level to help all children and young people, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds, attain an adequate level of basic skills by the end of compulsory schooling and to reduce early learning inequalities. Digital competences and skills have become essential to participate in society, take advantage of digital public services, and access the labour market. **The Commission will continue its efforts that by 2030, 80% of European citizens will possess at least a basic level of digital skills**, an essential condition for both current and future jobs.

In the context of demographic trends, special attention should be given to access to long-term care services by the most vulnerable. This is particularly the case in rural areas, which face greater challenges with population ageing. Improving access to inclusive, affordable and quality long-term care can have a positive impact on recipients of care, but its poverty dimension extends also on informal carers – predominantly women. Caregiving responsibilities frequently curtail labour market participation, reduce pension accrual and limit income security. The EU has put in place dedicated instruments to support access to affordable high-quality long-term care ⁽⁴¹⁾. In 2027, the Commission will put forward a **European Care Deal**, which will guide reforms and investments for affordable and high-quality care services across the life course, with specific attention to those at risk of

⁽⁴¹⁾ Commission Communication COM(2022) 440 final of 7 September 2022 [on the European Care Strategy](#) and Council Recommendation 2022/C 476/01 of 8 December 2022 [on access to affordable high-quality long-term care](#).

poverty, while addressing the structural causes of workforce shortages – the attractiveness and quality of jobs in the care sector.

Extreme weather events due to climate change disrupt essential services, damage infrastructure and can push vulnerable social groups further into poverty and social exclusion. It is key to strengthen societal resilience in the face of climate impacts, which have a disproportionate impact on vulnerable households. The **upcoming European integrated framework for climate resilience** will be an opportunity to address these. More generally in relation to **preparedness**, experiences from recent crises demonstrate the need to reach out and target particularly disadvantaged populations and those experiencing discrimination, poverty and social exclusion, with a view to improving communication and preventing disinformation.

3. STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE AND FUNDING AND IMPROVING MONITORING TO REDUCE AND PREVENT POVERTY

Governance

Addressing and preventing poverty is a significant collective responsibility. Acting together and at all levels is the only way to succeed in bringing the EU on the path towards the eradication of poverty by 2050. Public authorities and private actors, as well as social partners and civil society organisations are all called to play their part.

The Commission calls on Member States to ensure anti-poverty policy frameworks are in place, at national, regional or local levels, as relevant. Increasing poverty is a challenge in all Member States. Currently, only 22 Member States have national anti-poverty strategies or similar strategic frameworks, with regional and local authorities playing a central role in their governance and implementation. The Commission calls on all Member States to put forward coherent and more efficient strategies to combat poverty, and it is ready to support the Member States to deliver on reducing and preventing poverty. **New investments and reforms need to be poverty proof.** The Commission supports the use of distributional impact assessments ⁽⁴²⁾ in the Member States and will provide additional directions on the use of such assessments in their national budgetary frameworks, where feasible.

Together with this Strategy, the Commission puts forward a **guidance document to help national, regional and local authorities plan and improve their anti-poverty strategies and frameworks** ⁽⁴³⁾. The **Principles for effective anti-poverty policies** reflect the multidimensional nature of poverty in the design of strategies to combat and prevent it, associating all necessary stakeholders and levels of governance. They can be used as a structured self-assessment and planning tool at all stages of the policy cycle: from the preparation or update of anti-poverty frameworks to the design of reforms and investments, and the review of the implementation. The Commission services will support their use through policy dialogue and mutual learning among Member States.

Reflecting on poverty as an increasing, complex challenge that requires coordinated responses involving investments and legislative measures, the Commission calls on **Member States to appoint an Anti-Poverty Coordinator**, at the highest political level,

⁽⁴²⁾ Commission Communication COM(2022) 494 final of 28 September 2022 on better assessing the distributional impact of Member States' policies.

⁽⁴³⁾ Commission Staff Working Document, Principles for effective anti-poverty policies, supporting national, regional and local authorities in their fights against poverty, SWD(2026) 771.

to coordinate the development of anti-poverty policy frameworks and ensure their multidimensional nature. Their mission would be to oversee the design, implementation and monitoring of the frameworks, involving all relevant ministries and authorities. They will also support the implementation of the frameworks by regional and local authorities. Together with the national Anti-Poverty Coordinators, the Commission will organise regular and effective exchanges of best practices in fighting poverty, by supporting mutual learning and enhancing their cooperation and supporting evidence-based decisions.

In the framework of the European Semester, the Commission will continue providing guidance to the Member States and help coordinate relevant national policies. Through the integration in the Semester of the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights ⁽⁴⁴⁾, economic governance contributes to social resilience. The Semester identifies social challenges and gaps in national social protection systems, while recommending appropriate policy responses. In each of the last two Semester cycles, more than one third of Member States received a Country Specific Recommendation relating to poverty. It is important that Member States speed up their implementation.

Besides Member States, the Commission will cooperate with other institutions and organisations to support the implementation of the Strategy. In particular, the Commission will continue to engage through an informal structured dialogue with the European Parliament, notably with the **Intergroup on Fighting Poverty**. The Commission will also agree on a **Joint Action Plan with the European Committee of the Regions by the end of 2026**, enhancing cooperation in key priority areas such as actions fighting poverty at local and regional level. They will collaborate on the launch of an **“EU Social Inclusion Award”** ⁽⁴⁵⁾ for cities and municipalities, to recognise innovative and effective actions implemented at the local level and foster peer learning by enabling cities and municipalities to exchange good practices. By the end of 2026, the Commission and the **European Economic and Social Committee** will also conclude a **cooperation agreement**, building on the existing framework for expert advisory support, and share best practices to address poverty.

Building on the positive experiences during the consultation process for the Strategy, the Commission will scale up its **cooperation with people experiencing poverty**. It will put in place a dedicated forum to consult them in a structured way, regularly, on the design, implementation and monitoring of initiatives aimed at combating poverty or social exclusion, as well as in other policy areas that may affect their lives. The Commission will also continue to engage with **civil society organisations** ⁽⁴⁶⁾, in a structured way to support the implementation of the Strategy. In parallel, **social dialogue** will continue playing a key role in finding balanced solutions in response to changes in the world of work ⁽⁴⁷⁾.

Funding

⁽⁴⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1263 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2024 [on the effective coordination of economic policies and on multilateral budgetary surveillance and repealing Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1466/97](#).

⁽⁴⁵⁾ This Award will add to the already existing tools providing EU recognition and visibility to the efforts made by local and regional authorities.

⁽⁴⁶⁾ Commission Communication COM/2025/790 final of 12 November 2025 [on the EU strategy for civil society](#).

⁽⁴⁷⁾ Commission Communication COM(2023) 40 final of 25 January 2023 [on strengthening social dialogue in the European Union](#): harnessing its full potential for managing fair transitions.

In light of the urgent need for action, it is essential to ensure sufficient financial support for the fight against poverty. To scale up measures against poverty, public and private funding need to be more effectively mobilised at both EU and national levels. This includes both long-term investments, to improve the delivery of services, and rapid emergency measures to prevent people from falling into poverty and reduce the length of poverty spells. In this regard, in the short term, special attention should be given to fund services assisting the transition of children in need to adulthood (bridging the European Child Guarantee and the Youth Guarantee) as they break the inter-generational transmission of poverty. This will include strengthening early identification of at-risk children, expanding mentorship and guidance schemes, outreach and other support measures. Moreover, while the Strategy stresses that quality jobs are the best way out of poverty, ensuring that those excluded from the labour market are supported requires strong and well-funded public employment services.

Currently, Member States are making use of the EUR 139 billion under the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) (2021-2027) ⁽⁴⁸⁾. The mid-term review of the cohesion policy programmes has allowed Member States to successfully reprogramme EUR 34.6 billion in their 2021-2027 cohesion policy funds towards the EU's most urgent strategic priorities. This has also resulted in a positive uptake in the thematic concentration requirements of the ESF+, with resources dedicated to addressing child poverty increasing by 5.4% (an additional EUR 491 million) and material deprivation increasing by 3.5% (an additional EUR 211 million). In addition to ESF+, the EU supports the fight against poverty with the Cohesion Policy Funds such as the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the Just Transition Fund and other funding programmes like the Social Climate Fund, InvestEU, Recovery and Resilience Facility, the Technical Support Instrument. The Commission calls on Member States to transpose the Emissions Trading System 2 (ETS2) and submit their Social Climate Fund plans without delay so that vulnerable households can be supported. The Commission will assist Member States to make maximum use of available EU funding and reallocate EU funds where feasible and in line with Member States' and regions' preferences to anti-poverty measures that can deliver lasting impact.

Significant resources are also being deployed through the Recovery and Resilience Facility (with a total budget EUR 577 billion). Recovery and Resilience Plans already include reforms and investments that are helping Member States contribute to combating and preventing poverty. These are to be completed by 31 August 2026, in line with the deadlines set in the Facility's legal architecture. This can also be achieved by accelerating the delivery of relevant measures in the Recovery and Resilience Plans, and by making good use of the indicators provided in the Commission Communication 'NextGenerationEU - The road to 2026', where feasible within the RRF implementation deadline (31 August 2026) ⁽⁴⁹⁾.

The Commission's proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034 earmarks at least 14% of the National and Regional Partnership Plans to social objectives. Member States are asked to concentrate its resources on four types of social measures: social inclusion; food or basic material assistance; addressing child poverty and implementing the European Child Guarantee; combating youth unemployment and

⁽⁴⁸⁾ Out of the EUR 142 billion, EUR 95,1 billion comes from EU budget.

⁽⁴⁹⁾ As an instrument designed to tackle the adverse consequences of the COVID-19 crisis in the Union, supported by extraordinary and temporary additional means, the RRF was created with very strict time limits that cannot be derogated from, as they are set in the EURI Regulation, the RRF Regulation and the Own Resources Decision.

implementing the Youth Guarantee. The proposed EU Facility will enable to continue supporting micro-finance and finance for social enterprises through a budgetary guarantee mechanism, as under the current Social Investment and Skills Window of the InvestEU.

As part of our collective responsibility to fight and prevent poverty, the private sector can make a major contribution and take further action to addressing multidimensional poverty in the EU. Businesses and philanthropic organisations and investors can strongly complement public resources and help scale up innovative solutions to combat poverty, conducing to better welfare and opportunities for all in society, and stronger prosperity and competitiveness. To better enable private investments to be directed towards social objectives, relevant standards, concepts and methods matter. The Commission, in cooperation with the OECD, will explore the preparation of a voluntary market-led framework of investable objectives. This will help investors design, assess and compare investment strategies consistently and flexibly.

In 2026, around the occasion of the international day of the eradication of poverty (17 October), the Commission will launch **a Coalition Against Poverty, bringing together socially responsible business and philanthropic organisations.** The Coalition will serve as a European platform for cooperation and mutual learning, encouraging private companies and charities to contribute to preventing and reducing poverty and to help boost engagement with relevant stakeholders, delivering meaningful social impact. Coalition partners will sign a Charter setting common principles and actions for businesses of all sizes to support the fight against poverty. They will also make specific pledges, for instance to provide goods and services, implement social inclusion projects in the community where they operate or support the integration and employment of specific groups, such as vulnerable young people.

The Commission will continue to strengthen its cooperation with multilateral investment banks to mobilise funding for anti-poverty measures. The European Investment Bank (EIB) Group supports inclusive growth by financing social infrastructure and essential services that enable people to participate fully in society and the economy. Looking ahead, **the EIB Group aims to finance new social infrastructure investments to approximately EUR 22 billion in the period 2026–2027,** strengthening the Group's contribution to equal opportunities and shared prosperity across Europe. The Commission will continue to engage with the EIB Group on supporting investments reflecting the scope of the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy as well as the European Child Guarantee. Moreover, with an exclusively social mandate and focus on vulnerable people and those at risk of socio-economic exclusion, the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) will continue to support investments in human capital, inclusive and resilient living environments, access to finance and job creation, in the range of EUR 3 billion per year, across its EU members based on current lending volumes. The EU is strengthening strategic cooperation with the CEB, and to that effect, in 2026 the Commission adopted a proposal for the EU to become shareholder of the CEB. The European Commission and the CEB will work towards establishing **by 2027 a Joint Cooperation Framework to strengthen investments to address poverty and social exclusion in the EU.**

Monitoring

The measurement of poverty and social exclusion in the EU reflects their multidimensional and systemic nature. The headline EU indicator of the risk of poverty

or social exclusion (AROPE) combines three dimensions⁽⁵⁰⁾: monetary poverty, deprivation in access to goods and services⁽⁵¹⁾ and low work intensity.

The Commission will continue to monitor progress towards the EU 2030 target. Combating poverty demands data-driven, evidence-based policymaking, supported by comparable high-quality indicators. The rapid pace of changes exacerbated by the cost of living, as well as significant shifts in the labour market and workforce, calls for better anticipation and stronger evidence that becomes available more rapidly. To this end, the Commission will improve monitoring of poverty and **put forward new indicators to measure the impact of affordability components on poverty, with a view to having them agreed by 2028** and identify a strong monitoring basis for progress towards the 2050 ambition. The aim is to improve the timeliness and comprehensiveness of poverty-related data, including by enriching the measurement of material deprivation and standardising it at EU level, and to explore other approaches to measure both affordability and severe poverty, and to have more granular indicators of territorial disparities. Subject to agreement with the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumers Affairs Council (EPSCO) and its advisory committees, this could then also lead to a review of the related indicators in the social scoreboard in view of strengthening the relevant analysis in the Social Convergence Framework. This new set of indicators will reflect different dimensions of poverty, as well as affordability, such as access to basic goods and services essential for a decent life, and purchasing power, wealth and debt.

The Commission stands ready to support the **Social Protection Committee**, and where relevant, the Employment Committee, to contribute to the monitoring of the Strategy and serve as a forum for exchange among the Member States and with the Commission, while being mindful of not creating unnecessary administrative burden.

The Staff Working Document accompanying this Strategy reviews the progress in the fight against poverty in the EU, with a view towards the 2050 ambition⁽⁵²⁾. Further joint work with the Social Protection Committee will include stress-testing the resilience of Member States' social protection systems when confronted with potential shocks.

Global efforts

At global level, EU action underlines that tackling poverty worldwide is vital for shared prosperity, global security and stability. The EU has long been a global leader in advancing Sustainable Development Goal 1 on ending poverty in all its forms. This commitment is reflected in the more than EUR 26.6 billion directly allocated to this SDG, as well as in the wider scope of EU-financed Official Development Assistance (ODA), where all SDGs are enablers of poverty reduction. The Commission will continue cooperation with the United Nations to implement the SDGs.

⁽⁵⁰⁾ The EU headline indicator to monitor the risk of poverty or social exclusion combines three dimensions: relative monetary poverty (having a total disposable income below 60% of the national median); severe material and social deprivation (not being able to afford basic goods and services that are considered essential for a dignified life); and very low work intensity (the overall work spans are less than 20% of their total combined full-time work-time potential).

⁽⁵¹⁾ This represents the proportion of the population experiencing an enforced lack of at least 7 out of 13 deprivation items, which are described in the Commission Staff Working Document, Poverty in the EU – key trends and policies, SWD (2026) 770.

⁽⁵²⁾ Commission Staff Working Document, Poverty in the EU – key trends and policies, SWD (2026) 770.

The EU's enlargement process is a key accelerator for social inclusion, employment and poverty reduction in candidate countries and potential candidates, while preparing them for EU membership. Furthermore, the EU's engagement on poverty reduction in candidate countries and potential candidates must be understood as a strategic investment in their societies, in their future integration and competitiveness of the internal market. EU support is mainly channelled through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance and targeted measures are included under the Reforms Agenda for the Western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine.

4. CONCLUSION

Acting to prevent and combat poverty is more urgent than ever. The challenge ahead is immense. Determined, bold and concerted action is needed to help protect those living in poverty and to prevent others from falling into poverty in the context of increasing cost of living and hardship. This means making sure that **every person has the opportunity to live a dignified life**, access quality jobs, affordable housing and quality and affordable basic goods and essential services. Everyone should also be empowered to reap the opportunities stemming from the green and digital transitions; and discrimination and stigma should be combated so that no one is barred from integration into society and the economy.

This strategy sets out the path to come closer to the EU 2030 poverty reduction target and to help eradicate poverty by 2050. Moreover, it puts forward EU tools to support Member States and stakeholders to step up their efforts and move forward together in a coordinated way. Combating poverty effectively and ensuring that living in the EU equals living in dignity require strong ambition. The EU needs to accelerate and join efforts at all levels, by public and private actors alike, and deliver on a coherent strategy with the strong involvement of civil society and those experiencing poverty. Only in this way, we will contribute to improving today, setting the path for a better tomorrow, breaking the transmission the poverty and disadvantage and helping achieve a poverty-free EU by 2050.

Annex: List of new initiatives included in the Anti-Poverty Strategy

| Initiative | Date |
|---|--|
| 1. MEASURES TO TACKLE POVERTY IN EVERY AGE GROUP | |
| Communication on “Breaking the cycle of child poverty – Strengthening the European Child Guarantee” | Together with the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy |
| Launch the first-stage consultation of European social partners to obtain their views on the possible direction of EU action to support the activation of persons excluded from the labour market and equality between women and men with regard to labour market opportunities | 2026 |
| Commission Recommendation providing evidence-based policy guidance to prevent and combat in-work poverty in the European Union, followed-up by dedicated structured discussions with the Member States | 2027 |
| Report on the enforcement of Minimum Wages Directive, followed by mutual learning activities | 2026 and continuous |
| Compendium of best practices to help address non-take-up of benefits | 2027 |
| High-level exchange on integrated policies for dignified old age | 2027 |
| 2. MEASURES TO ADDRESS HORIZONTAL CHALLENGES THAT AGGRAVATE POVERTY | |
| Proposal Council Recommendation on fighting housing exclusion | Together with the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy |
| Update of the Social Protection Committee EU Voluntary Quality Framework | In agreement with the SPC |
| Update 2023 Commission Report on Access to Essential Services | 2027 |
| Proposal Council Recommendation on easier and integrated access to services | 2027 |
| 3. STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE AND FUNDING AND IMPROVING MONITORING TO REDUCE AND PREVENT POVERTY | |
| Principles for effective anti-poverty policies | Together with the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy |
| Conclude a cooperation agreement with the European Economic and Social Committee and a Joint Action Plan with the European Committee of the Regions on actions supporting fight against poverty | 2026 |
| EU Social Inclusion Award | Launch in 2027 |
| Coalition Against Poverty with private sector and philanthropy | Launch in 2026 |
| Structured dialogue with persons experiencing poverty | Launch in 2027 |
| New poverty indicators | 2028 |