



Policy Roadmap

*for the 2014 Implementation of the
Social Investment Package*

September 2014 version

*Employment,
Social Affairs
and Inclusion*

Policy Roadmap for the 2014 Implementation of the Social Investment Package

The European Union is facilitating Member States' progress towards implementing the Social Investment Package through enhanced analysis and monitoring of Member States' policies and social outcomes in the framework of the European Semester, providing financial assistance, and streamlining its governance and reporting. These activities will support Member States' policy reform to help reach the objectives set in the Europe 2020 strategy to reduce the number of people living in poverty and social exclusion by at least 20 million by 2020. The below activities are those where action is planned to be undertaken in 2014.

1. Strengthening the social investment approach through the European Semester

Deliverable	Implementation Status/Milestones	Timeframe / deadline
<p><i>The Commission supports social policy reform as set out in the Social Investment Package (SIP) through the follow-up to the 2013 Semester, through all stages of the 2014 and subsequent Semesters, and through dialogue with Member States in the Social Protection Committee about the trends to watch pinpointed by the Social Protection Performance Monitor (SPPM). The 2014 European Semester is the first to have been informed from its start by the guidance in the Social Investment Package, including notably the social objectives reflected in the <u>Annual Growth Survey 2014</u>:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Implementation by Member States of the Active Inclusion priorities</i> • <i>Preserving access to adequate social protection benefits, services, health and long term care</i> • <i>Access to more personalised services ("one-stop shop")</i> • <i>Addressing the impact of gender pay and activity gaps on women's pension entitlements</i> • <i>Containing and reducing poverty</i> • <i>Modernising pension systems</i> <p><i>The Commission will support Member States through enhanced analysis and monitoring of outcomes. Relevant activities are detailed below.</i></p>		

	Deliverable	Implementation Status/Milestones	Timeframe / deadline
	Methodology to support Commission monitoring, in the framework of the European Semester, of efficiency, effectiveness and the investment dimension of Member States' budgets for social policies	<p>A Social Protection Committee ad-hoc group on efficiency and effectiveness of social spending and financing arrangement report on these issues including the financing of different social protection functions to be adopted.</p> <p>Report to be published after adoption by the SPC.</p>	<p>December 2014</p> <p>February 2015</p>
	A knowledge bank to help policymakers and experts to share in an interactive manner social policy experiences and exchange information on what works and what doesn't	<p>A feasibility study on the business requirements of the Knowledge Bank was finalised in November 2013. A network of social policy experts supports the management of the knowledge bank, including providing content.</p> <p>On this basis a pilot version is currently being finalised with the involvement of the Social Policy Network supported by the EU and the SPC. The public launch of the Knowledge Bank is foreseen for late 2014. .</p>	December 2014
	A policy makers' manual for applying innovative approaches to long-term care provision	Manual to be produced in cooperation with the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies of the Joint Research Centre and the Social Protection Committee Working Group 'AGE'	Publication February 2015
	Closing the Gap: SPC report on the contribution of innovative approaches to long-term care	The report on Adequate social protection for long-term care needs in an ageing society jointly prepared by the Social Protection Committee and the European Commission services was adopted by the SPC on 20 May 2014 and its Key Messages were endorsed by the Council on 19 June 2014.	Publication September 2014
	Assess efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare	Joint work with OECD scheduled to start in autumn 2014, which will result in expert seminars with policymakers and a published report.	Final report Spring 2017

Independent advice on effective ways of investing in health	The first meeting of the expert panel on investing in health took place in Brussels 11-12 July 2013. The panel continues.	End-2014
Methodology on reference budgets to help Member States ensure adequate income support	Will build on findings from Framework Programme 7 project on reference budgets A call for tender has been launched for an academic research consultation with the Social Protection Committee and its Indicators' Sub Group to produce: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature review published . • Draft of the common methodology has been presented to ISG in June; Finalised version to be presented by October 2014 • Reference budgets for 3 types of households for capital regions of 18 MS 	Final report due 1st half 2015 August 2014 December 2014 March 2015
"Portraits of individuals with no or limited labour market attachment"	Joint project with the World Bank in 6 countries, with the aim of supporting policy work within the European Semester by developing knowledge on active inclusion strategies at national level.	Publication September 2014
Council Recommendation on enhancing effectiveness of measures to achieve Roma integration in the Member States	Adoption by Council	ADOPTED - December 2013
Commission Communication, 'Steps forward in Implementing National Roma Integration Strategies'	Communication focussing on practical preconditions of implementation Annual report (Communication) foreseen, focussing on implementation concerning education, employment, health and housing 1st Annual Report on the implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategies	June 2013 ADOPTED IN APRIL 2014 December 2015

	<p>Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion (ROMACT) conference</p> <p>NCP network meeting (next meeting)</p> <p>Indicator framework</p> <p>Handbook on using EU funds for Roma inclusion</p>	<p>October 2014</p> <p>Autumn 2014</p> <p>Launched – on-going work</p> <p>April 2014</p>
<p>The European Platform on Investing in Children to identify, evaluate and report on good practices for investing in children, in particular related to ECEC, parenting support, and child participation, as well as monitor the implementation of the Recommendation on Investing in Children.</p>	<p>The EPIC website was launched in February 2013, integrating and extending the work of the Alliance for Families including a repository with evidence based practices steadily growing as the country profiles have been updated and provide access to relevant studies and other links.</p>	<p>February 2013 – on-going</p>
<p>Conference on the Social Investment Package with the Irish Presidency to communicate the policy guidance of the social investment package and draw together efforts to support implementation</p>	<p>Results of conference available here – conclusions on implementation</p>	<p>May 2013</p>
<p>2013 Annual Convention of the Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion</p>	<p>The event focussed on the thematic priorities of the social investment package, to help policymakers and stakeholders share policy lessons and good practice on how to combat poverty</p>	<p>26-27 November 2013</p>
<p>Conference on social entrepreneurship, ‘Social entrepreneurs: have your say’</p>	<p>The event included a workshop specifically on 'Social Policy Investment and Social Entrepreneurship', social innovation informs many of the event's activities</p>	<p>16-17 January 2014</p>
<p>Conference on Social Policy Innovation</p>	<p>Conference on Social Policy Innovation</p>	<p>19+20 May 2014</p>

2. Making the best use of EU funds to support social investment

	Deliverable	Implementation Status/ Milestones	Forecast timeframe
<p>The Commission will support Member States to implement the Social Investment Package through mobilising its financial resources. Member States will take into account the Social Investment Package in the programming of EU funds, especially the ESF, for the period of 2014-2020.</p>			
	Policy guidance on the use of ESI funds to support implementation of social investment	Addressed to Commission staff and MS Managing Authorities involved in preparation of Operational Programmes and Partnership Agreements for 2014-2020 ESI funds	COMPLETED
	Identifying social innovation and social investment priorities for Horizon 2020, the EU's 2014-2020 €70 billion programme for research and innovation	The Horizon 2020 Work Programme for 2014-15 includes a specific call including on innovative social investment approaches for the modernisation of social policies and services	ON GOING - Call for proposals early 2014
	Support MS in the design of reform strategies for more cost-effective social protection systems (based in particular on cooperation with international organisations and other Member States)	To be supported through call for proposals under Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) Programme	launched in June 2014 Results in 2015
	Assessment of the effectiveness of conditional cash transfers for improving children's outcomes	Study launched (follow-up actions to be confirmed)	March 2015
	Study on effective policies to reduce homelessness and housing exclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The right to housing - homelessness prevention in the context of evictions. Publication and launch seminar expected end-2015 • Building expertise on preventing and tackling homelessness and housing exclusion through mobilising social housing policy measures, with OECD • Work in Stations project supporting integration of homeless people around train stations by creating partnerships between local authorities, railway companies, and NGOs 	December 2015 Publication in 2015

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study on the relation of mobility and migration with destitution in the EU • Peer review on “Housing First” in Denmark 	<p>September 2014</p> <p>November 2013</p>
Support to stakeholders through calls for proposals in line with the social investment approach.	<p>The Commission will fund social policy innovation aimed at measuring the impact of a social policy intervention in line with the Social Investment Package.</p> <p>2013 PROGRESS call for proposals Projects selected will run till 2016-2017.</p> <p>Social Policy innovation call for proposals closed (applications currently being evaluated)). Projects selected will run till 2017-2018.</p>	<p>2016-2017</p> <p>2017-2018</p>
Providing support services for actors engaged in testing social policy innovations including through social policy experimentation	Concrete support actions to MS authorities and other stakeholders (presentations, training, guide and advice function).	February – November June 2014

3. Streamlining governance and reporting

	Deliverable	Implementation Status	Timeframe
<p>The Commission will support Member States through enhanced monitoring of outcomes, building on the Social Protection Performance Monitor, and working together with the European Statistical System through more accurate and timelier statistics on poverty and outcomes of social and health policies, to help improve monitoring of social situations and better targeting of social policy interventions.</p>			
	<p>Employment and Social Developments in Europe 2013, with dedicated chapters on efficiency and effectiveness and gender equality, to provide analytical support for policy development and monitoring.</p>	<p>The 2013 Employment and Social Developments in Europe Report features a dedicated chapter on the efficiency and effectiveness of social spending.</p> <p>The publication will also feature a chapter on barriers to women's participation in the labour market, and one on the efficiency and effectiveness of social protection systems.</p>	<p>January 2014</p>
	<p>Report on progress towards the achievements of the Barcelona targets,</p> <p>EIPA seminars</p>	<p>Report is published to support Member States' efforts to invest in early childhood education and care (ECEC)</p> <p>The seminars are to be launched in MS with child-related country-specific recommendations. 2 seminars took place in IT and EL; seminars planned for autumn 2014: in ES, HU, RO, LV, IR, SI.</p>	<p>June 2013</p> <p>Sept – Dec 2014</p>
	<p>Annual Report on Progress on Equality between Women and Men, and dedicated reports to specific issues concerning gender equality in employment and social fields</p>	<p>Dedicated reports released in 2013:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Starting Fragile: gender difference in the youth labour market’ • ‘The gender gap in pensions in the EU’ • ‘The role of men in gender equality – European strategies and insights’ 	<p>2013</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'The impact of the economic crisis on the situation of women and men and on gender equality policies' • 'Mid-term review of the Strategy for Equality between women and men (2010-2015)' • Report on progress on equality (published April 2014) 	<p>May 2014</p> <p>April 2014</p>
Study to assess the financial, economic and social returns on different forms of social investment,	To develop further evidence concerning the social investment case and support evidence-based policy choices.	January 2014
Family Database	Contract to support the OECD in maintaining and developing the family database, with focus on vulnerable children.	2014-2016
Assessing Member States' social situations and social policy reforms through the Social Protection Committee Annual Report	Assessment presented in the SPC Annual Report 2013 including country profiles	February 2014
Providing support for policy development and policy monitoring through better statistical data	<p>The Commission will review the financial distress indicator to identify how to improve/further develop it.</p> <p>Revise the SILC housing module to focus on homelessness</p> <p>The Commission is developing a methodology for the calculation of the gender pension gap with the help of the Commission's network of gender equality experts and the Social Protection Committee's Indicator's Sub-Group.</p> <p>The EU-SILC 2014 will feature an ad-hoc module on material deprivation with a special focus on children</p> <p>The Commission will start working with the SPC's Indicators Sub-Group to identify indicators related to access to affordable childcare, children's health and children in vulnerable situations, to support monitoring of the 'Investing in children' Recommendation</p>	<p>Second half 2014 onwards</p> <p>2014-2017</p> <p>2014 - 2015</p> <p>2014</p> <p>2014 - 2015</p>

	Following the SIP call for more up-to-date statistics on the social situation in Member States, their timeliness of social statistics has been improved (e.g. EU-SILC).	2014
Further development of Joint Assessment Framework (JAF) quantitative tool	The Commission is reviewing the feasibility/usefulness of adding a policy area covering the health OMC to the Joint Assessment Framework. This will be discussed over the course of the year with the Social Protection Committee's Indicators' Sub Group. In 2014, coverage of the pension's area will also likely be investigated.	December 2014
Further development of Active Ageing Index	Follow-up project with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe to further develop the Active Ageing Index, to help policymakers recognise the untapped potential of older people A new wave of the AAI was calculated for 2014, and the results will be released in October 2014 Paper on active ageing trends in Europe A call for papers on "Building the evidence-base for active ageing policies, with the use of the AAI" was launched and best papers will be presented at an international seminar in April 2015. More details are available on the project wiki	Final report February 2016 October 2014 Early 2015 April 2015
Adapting WHO global guide on age-friendly cities to the EU context and establishing an EU network of age-friendly cities	Joint Project with World Health Organisation	Publication planned for September 2015
•Supporting social enterprises' access to finance: European Social Entrepreneurship Funds	Regulation on European social entrepreneurship funds	Adopted 17 April 2013- Fully in force since 22 July 2013

	•Protecting people against financial difficulty	Proposal for a Directive on the comparability of fees related to payment accounts, payment account switching and access to payment accounts with basic features	Published by Commission on 5 May 2013
	•Improving access to information for citizens	Proposal for a Directive on the accessibility of public sector bodies' websites	Published by Commission on 3 December 2012
		Update of the current social protection guides to make information about access to social benefits and services more easily accessible to citizens	Publication June 2014
		Proposal for a Directive on measures facilitating the exercise of rights conferred on workers in the context of freedom of movement for workers	Published by Commission on 26 April 2013
	Open days seminar on accessible quality care services	Seminar on "Removing barriers to women's labour market participation through accessible, quality care services"	8 October 2014