

Health and Social Development Foundation

Dear Secretariat General,

We are deeply impressed by the modern, practical and humanistic spirit of the proposed Strategy. In order to support the line of concrete approaches and effective steps, we would like to make the following suggestions (marked in yellow):

Page 3, paragraph 5

In order to meet these challenges, employment rates of both men and women will have to rise rapidly and social protection systems will have to be modernised so that they provide **both assistance and human development as** an affordable response to the future needs of our society. **Early childhood development services and building of life-skills among adolescents is a successful strategy for breaking the vicious circle of intergeneration poverty.**

Page 5, paragraph 2:

Strengthening **education** is one of the most effective ways of fighting inequality and poverty. The high number of low achievers in basic skills (reading, mathematics and science) **and of those who lack sufficient life skills** needs to be addressed urgently to enhance the employability of young people and to bring them into the world of work after school. Preventing early school leaving reduces future exclusion from the labour market and the threat of future social exclusion. **Ensuring early childhood education is a priority step in this process.** A greater emphasis on vulnerable groups, gender equality and social cohesion is needed to ensure that no one is excluded from knowledge.

We wish you success.

Kind regards,

Elena Kabakchieva,
Chair