



# National consultation events on the European Pillar of Social Rights - report from Estonia

**Representation in:** Tallinn

**Date:** 30 September 2016

**Participants:** 85

**Event title:** European Pillar of Social Rights – what is the position of Estonia?

**Description:** The national debate on the European Pillar of Social Rights was organised jointly by the Members of European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), the Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia and the European Commission Representation in Estonia. Presentations by the Commission, the Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs and the University of Tartu were followed by a panel discussion with participation of social partners and civil society representatives.

**Main conclusions:**

The discussion focussed on the rapidly changing nature of work due to ICT and technological development. This will leave an impact on social policy systems, which need to be adjusted to the future needs. The most discussed topics were labour market relevance of education and skills, need for intensified social dialogue in finding new solutions for effective social policy measures, and sustainability of social security systems in the light of ageing and declining population.

Both employers' organisations and trade unions agreed that the social systems need to be modernised and adjusted to the changing needs of working life in order to ensure efficient and financially sustainable support for people. Employers stressed the need to carry out credible analyses on the impact of the Social Rights Pillar on the economic performance and competitiveness. According to employers, the focus should be on labour market reforms, and on improving the skills and educational level of people. Trade unions were arguing for more rapid and upward convergence of social policies in the EU. According to them, a strong social policy and high social standards across all EU Member States are a prerequisite for a strong economy and continuous political unity in the EU.