



ESPN Thematic Report on Social Investment France

2015

Michel Legros
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EUROPEAN SOCIAL POLICY NETWORK (ESPN)

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Summary

- The French social welfare system was built on the basis of different concepts and mechanisms most of which relate to insurance and care, but also redistribution to combat inequality. The notion of social investment has also been very evident, in particular in the education and training field.
- Numerous indicators relating to population dynamics, lower rates of poverty and higher diploma levels illustrate the positive effects of this mixed social welfare strategy. The recent financial crisis has also shown the protective benefits of this approach.
- Over the years, a gap has emerged between the contribution capacities of the social system and the evolving needs and expectations of the population. These needs are connected to demographic and social developments and economic change. This is particularly visible in terms of healthcare and the dependence of old people, housing, and the difficulties encountered by the education system in stemming rising inequalities.
- Faced with these limits, which show that social welfare policies are less effective, the concept of social investment in the European sense of the term is once again topical.
- This topicality is not just theoretical or rhetorical, it is translated by an intention to rework policies aimed at young children, i.e. day care for infants in community structures, support for parenthood, creation of local family service schemes, and reform of parental leave. These measures aim to socialise children and make it easier to combine family life and work.
- The reforms under way in the national education system, the campaign to combat early school leaving, the implementation of a new law on vocational training, and longer-term transformations in the way that higher education is organised, participate in this movement devised to give a greater place to social investment.
- A draft law readjusting public action priorities, aimed at moving dependent old people from healthcare establishments towards communities, is part of the same perspective.
- To combat exclusion from the labour market, the announced reforms of different indemnity systems, the current reorganisation of social services, as well as Pôle-emploi (job centre) practices, with a stronger emphasis on assisting people in difficulty, also fit in with a social investment strategy.

1 Assessment of overall approach to social investment

Although the term “social investment” as used since 2013 by the European Commission in its *Social Investment Packages (SIP)* was not referred to, the multiplication of prevention structures in the second half of the 20th century largely sprang from this rationale, as shown, for example, by occupational medicine, school medicine, the mother and child health programme, child welfare and the juvenile protection service. From 1946, the right to vocational training and social security figured in the preamble to the Constitution of the Republic.

In 2014, 65.8 million people were living in France¹, making it the second most populated country in the EU behind Germany. The French population increases by 0.5% per year. French population dynamics can be largely explained by family policies, while longer life expectancy is (although only partially) linked to the development of a health system offering curative and preventative care. Fertility dynamics are accompanied by an employment rate for women slightly above the European average. Although indicators show that social policies associating redistribution, compensation of weaknesses, insurance against the risks of life and social investments have had a clear impact, 3 other indicators point to genuine weaknesses.

A gap has grown over the years between inhabitants and the French social system. The basic principle of social welfare, i.e. “*Contribute in proportion to income and receive according to needs*” did not have a scissors effect as long as the rise in health and care expenditure remained in proportion to economic growth. From the late seventies, a lag emerged between the demand for services and the financial capacity of supply. A period thus began marked both by a continuation of the 1945 project aimed at extending social protection and new measures to control expenditure on care. The 17 financial recovery plans put in place during this period were based on a set of measures that mainly increased the contribution made by patients and stopped reimbursing some medical practices and goods. There was thus no reduction in expenditure on care or health insurance expenditure, or a significant difference in their pace of change, though this was the target. The creation of universal health cover (CMU) in 1999 constituted a significant step forward by giving the most disadvantaged a door to social welfare measures. However, since CMU focuses on the poorest and does not give them direct access to common social security procedures, it marked a clear move away from the idea of universality, and the same can be said for the introduction of partial means testing for child benefit in 2015.

In terms of housing, inhabitants’ requirements are covered by a combined system of market availability and social benefits. For the first time in ten years, the number of building-permit applications dropped by 11.9% in 2013. The number of worksites dropped by 11.4% (to below 300,000 houses) despite the fact that 500,000 need to be constructed per year to cover current needs. Almost €42 billion are earmarked for housing each year. Direct aid to people amounts to €18 billion, with €15 billion on tax aid, credits and exemption. Lastly, €5 billion take the form of preferable rates for housing associations with a little over €2 billion going to urban renovation. Despite this significant investment, market prices, which peaked in recent years, have come down only slightly, aid has significant inflationary impacts, and households’ disposable income most directly benefits landlords.

Surveys continue to show that significant social inequalities are accentuated by the school system. 20.5% of pupils from impoverished backgrounds have had to repeat at least one year of primary school. This rate is only 3.6% for the children of white-collar workers. A child living in a sensitive urban zone (ZUS) is twice as likely to arrive at secondary school a year behind a child living outside a ZUS. The many examples all point to insufficient returns on educational investment to the detriment of the most vulnerable sections of the population.

¹ Source Insee, December 2014

More generally, studies carried out over recent years² show that social investment in France is one of the highest in OECD countries, but that the financial and social returns on this investment are too low. An analysis of poverty rates according to age shows the influence of pensions systems in reducing poverty among the over-65s, a rate that dropped steeply in the mid-1970s when the pensions system was producing its full effects, and accentuated by the development of dual-income households. However, over the years, public funding has become more public expenditure than real investment. Since it is not able to mobilize additional funding, France has had to reorganise its social investment, but this involves making changes to existing situations, transforming practices, and in the short term, generating new winners and new losers. This supposes a capacity for political mobilisation that is difficult to develop in France during a period of financial and social tensions.

In February 2014, the Economic, Social and Environmental Council (ESEC)³ published a report by Bruno Palier on the examinations, exchanges and in particular the outcome, of numerous previous studies undertaken by this assembly. The report points out and argues for the efficiency of social welfare policies, including those on pensions. It also shows the limits of social protection confronted with longer life expectancy, the emergence of new diseases, changes in the family unit and especially the profound upheaval of economic production conditions, whereby low qualifications lead to mass long-term unemployment and the social welfare system suffers from a lack of funding and insufficient returns on investment. This report adopted by the Economic, Social and Environmental Council points to all the changes and reforms that need to be undertaken to give greater place to social investment founded on the will to anticipate and prevent problems and social risks rather than treating them only as they occur; it also highlights the need to make social issues an instrument of growth and development without calling into question social assistance and insurance measures to deal with the risks of life. This report, which provided significant material for this Thematic Report, constitutes one of the first strong and explicit responses to European orientations.

2 Assessment of specific policy areas and measures / instruments

2.1 Support for early childhood development

On 1 January 2014, 65.8 million people were living in France⁴, making it the second most populated country in the EU behind Germany. The French population increases by 0.5% per year. This growth is mainly due to a natural balance (+240,000) and, to a lesser extent, to a migratory balance (+40,000). The total fertility rate is stable at 1.99 (second in Europe), despite a slight drop over the last three years. This rate has risen from 1.68 to 1.99 over the last twenty years, peaking in 2010. French population dynamics can be largely explained by family policies, while longer life expectancy is (although only partially) linked to the development of a health system offering curative and preventative care. Fertility dynamics are accompanied by an employment rate for women slightly above the European average. Although no new strong measures have been devised in recent years, a political volition has clearly emerged to rework and reinforce policies aimed at children and conciliating family life and work, which over the years had become weaker and lost impetus.

² See e.g. Céline Mareuge and Catherine Markling, "Pourquoi les dépenses publiques sont-elles plus élevées dans certains pays ?", France-Stratégie, July 2014

³ Bruno Palier, "La stratégie d'investissement social", Economic, Social and Environmental Council, February 2014, www.lecese.fr.

⁴ Source Insee, december 2014

2.1.1 Early childhood education and care

The quality and efficiency programmes pointed out that for every 100 children aged under 3, in 2010, France provided 49.9 childcare places in formal structures, i.e. crèches, childcare centres and nursery schools. The programmes put in place by the previous government resulted (in 2011 and 2012) in a higher community childcare capacity of 27,700 places over 3 years, and a rise of 29,500 equivalent places and 65,700 places in certified childminder's homes. On the other hand, the number of under-3-year-olds attending nursery school dropped by 55,000 during the same period. Over the last 10 years, the number of children under 3 in school went from 35% to 13%. The number of children aged 3 and under dropped from 270,000 to 95,000. The government has announced a boost for pre-schooling, with a priority on *"schools located in disadvantaged social environments, which could be urban, rural, in the mountains or in French overseas territories"*. The target is a 30% schooling rate in these disadvantaged zones. 3,000 supplementary teachers are planned to deal with the numbers. At least 10% of pre-schooling places will be reserved for children living below the poverty line. As part of the multi-year plan to fight against poverty various actions are now being implemented in this field:

- Improved reception of young children in collective structures, either involving schooling for children from 2 years old or community or innovative care (flexible hours, flexible attendance, etc.).
- Stronger connections between families and educational staff, especially for the most vulnerable families, including children under judicial protection service.
- Improved access to school dinners.
- Stronger measures to tackle school absenteeism and lack of schooling for children from communities living in caravans.
- Easier access to school for children living in travellers' camps or slums and for children engaged with judicial services.

2.1.2 Family Benefits

Since 2013, different measures have attempted to balance out child benefits between families on high incomes and low-income families. Single-parent families already receive numerous benefits, including a higher allowance for those eligible for *"revenu de solidarité active"* (earned income supplement - RSA). For all single-parent families, the additional income brought by direct social transfers and taxes amounted to 24% of available income in 2010, of which child benefit represented 13%, housing benefit 7% and social minima 4%. This proportion rises to over 50% for single-parent families with a child under 3 (child benefit 28%, 10% social minima and 14% housing benefit). The 2013 poverty plan measures result in a 25% increase in parental support benefit (ASF) over 5 years, which mainly applies to single-parent families, and a 50% increase in the family supplement, concerning families with 3 children or more. In October 2014, these measures were supplemented by a means-tested change to child benefit. From 15 July 2015, child benefit will be halved for parents with 2 children who earn over €6,000 per month, and quartered for those who earn over €8,000 per month, with the income ceiling raised to €500 per additional child.

In parallel, since October 2014, an experimental *"unpaid maintenance obligations guarantee"* is being developed to reinforce the activity of the family benefits office (caisses d'allocations familiales - CAF) and the agricultural social mutual fund (caisses de mutualité sociale agricole - CMSA) to support single mothers and fathers with a modified family support benefit (ASF). The objective is to provide more protection for parents faced with unpaid maintenance obligations. This experiment is based on a mode of local partnership governance involving departmental councils (coordination of social support for ASF beneficiaries), Ministry for Justice and the *"Trésor Public"* (recovery procedures), municipal and inter-municipal social action centres, legal experts (lawyers, mediation services, bailiffs, etc.) and associations (justice centres, etc.). During the last 2 years an emphasis has been placed on the following aspects:

- Changes in the organisation of family benefits with a focus on aid for single-parent families and large families.
- Easier payment of family maintenance obligations, a significant share of which are currently not paid, despite representing a fifth of the income of single-parent families.

2.1.3 Parenting services

In 2014, 17 *départements*⁵ put in place local family service schemes. These schemes have a two-fold objective: develop services for families (childcare solutions for young children and support measures for parents), and reduce the very obvious inequalities between regions in access to such services. These schemes, working on the basis of shared diagnosis, define strategic axes to implement and the priority territories for caring for young children for which the family branch provides greater financial support thanks to a territorial weighting fund set out in the Convention d'objectif et de gestion (COG) Etat-Cnaf. In terms of support for parenthood, financial resources written into the COG should also make it possible to develop more diverse and better-structured territorial services. As part of these schemes, the objective to provide childcare for children from poor families needs reinforcing (proposal of individual support for families, creation of allocation commissions by nursery administrations, etc). Although the effect of this measure on the development of the supply of childcare for young children will not be clear until the second half of 2015, the impetus created has been unanimously approved as a lever for cooperation and mobilization. For these reasons, the decision has been made to extend the measure in 2015 to cover *départements* in which it is not yet in place, still based on voluntary participation from territorial communities⁶.

The conference on poverty also enacted a significant increase in credit to support parenthood (€150 million instead of €75 million over the period 2013/2017), which explicitly targets improving the well-being of children and parents⁷.

It is still too early to evaluate the scope of all of these measures. The National Young Childhood Observatory indicates, however, that the targets are far from being reached. Although the number of 2-year-olds in schools has slightly picked up after dropping for 10 years, the number of new community nursery places is lower than predicted, 56% of families hoping for a community nursery place have not received one⁸.

2.2 Supporting parents' labour market participation

2.2.1 Childcare

At the conference on poverty, it was decided to create 275,000 additional places for young children, with the aim of making at least 10% of them from poor families. A special fund was created to support local initiatives aiming to provide good care conditions for children whose parents work atypical hours or are on insertion programmes. A "nursery" plan was set up at the end of 2014 with the aim of accelerating the creation of 100,000 nursery places. This plan is partly based on an

⁵ Ain, Bas-Rhin, Bouches du Rhône, Charente, Charente-Maritime, Côtes d'Armor, Corrèze, Finistère, Indre et Loire, Jura, Lot, Loire Atlantique, Pas de Calais, Pyrénées atlantique, Seine saint Denis, Seine Maritime, Réunion

⁶ These measures regarding child support were the main subject of the peer review dated 13 and 14 January 2015 in Brussels.

⁷ The Réseaux d'écoute, d'appui et d'accompagnement à la parentalité (Network for listening to, supporting and accompanying parenthood - REAAP) reaches over 800,000 parents. Family mediation and areas for parents and children to meet are devised to ease family conflicts, in particular in case of separation. Local school support contracts help children and parents.

⁸ CNAF, l'é-ssentiel, No. 140, Nov.2013

exceptional aid of €2,000 for each new place decided on in 2015, and partly on more flexible building regulations for nurseries.

The measures presented above directly target the very young, but their existence reinforces the conciliation between family life and work. Yet vocational training and schooling are the strongest avenues of social investment to open up access to the labour market (Note, however, the (not yet total) reinforcement of care for people in dependent situations, in particular in the home, which weighs heavily on families and especially women).

2.2.2 Long-term care

The number of people aged over 85 is set to increase in France, rising from 1.4 million in 2014 to 5.4 million in 2060. Long-term care in France mainly concerns the elderly. Focusing on prevention and anticipation, the bill currently under discussion in parliament marks a turning point in the French conception of long-term care policy. Although home-based care has been a priority since the end of the 1990s with the creation of a specific allowance attributed to old people in need of care (Allocation personnalisée d'autonomie - personal autonomy allowance or APA), the French elderly care policy is based on the notion of dependency and mainly aims at supporting old people suffering from considerable physical disabilities. The assessment of the level of dependency of old people in need of care centres on biomedical criteria. In the announced law, home-based care is still a priority but the rationale is now to anticipate problems. It moves away from financing care for people in health and social facilities, and instead focuses on prevention, support for the elderly and care in the home. The law anticipates making use of the 0.3% levy on large retirement pensions that is already in place and brings in €650 million a year, to achieve its objective. It will use half of it to increase the amount of APA granted to old people still living at home, and the other half to reorganise and renovate old people's housing. These housing facilities offer an alternative to home-based care or traditional residential care. Funding should make it possible to adapt individual housing and facilitate care in the home. This focus on care in the home involves developing support for informal family carers that provide daily care for a partner or parent(s) and constitutes the foundation of home care arrangements. In the announced law, prevention is the core of this home-based care organisation. The objective is to propose solutions upstream, in order to anticipate health problems and high levels of dependency. It aims to make it easier for old people, particularly those on low incomes, to access remote assistance and home automation (e.g. luminous path markings to avoid falls). This reform should not lead to women having to leave the labour market but instead should increase the offer for home care.

2.2.3 Parental leave scheme

Lastly, parental leave has become "the shared benefit of children's education", to balance the care of infants between their mothers and fathers. A recent reform has changed the parental leave. This is brought up to 6 months to a year for the first child, provided that both parents take it. Otherwise, it will remain at 6 months. From the second child, its duration is limited to 3 years of the child, but both parents will take only 24 months. If one takes 24 months, the remaining 12 months will have to be taken by the second parent to qualify for the maximum time. The maximum amount of the allowance is €567.24 per month for a total cessation of activity.

Although this reform improved participation in the labour market only marginally, it should however help to strengthen equality between men and women in the parental couple.

2.3 Policy measures to address social and labour market exclusion

2.3.1 Unemployment benefits.

Of the 5 million jobseekers, 2.7 million receive earnings-related unemployment benefit, which is around 54%. Among claimants of unemployment benefit, those

receiving 'special solidarity benefit' (*Allocation de Solidarité Specific - ASS*) receive €487.50, and they numbered 411,000 in 2013, as against 311,000 in 2008.

The new rules for unemployment benefits following Decree No. 2014-670 of 24 June 2014 have been incorporated in the Labour Code. They came into force on 1 October 2014. The major point of the adopted reform provides for setting up a system of "rechargeable rights." The principle is simple: the unemployed can earn compensation entitlements for each job they have done. For these new rights, the unemployed person must have worked at least 150 hours, once or through several short contracts. Thus, when an unemployed person reaches the end of rights, their account will be recharged by the employment centre with new allocations obtained through periods worked. This will include a number of jobseekers at the end of rights, but having worked not to switch to the RSA and continue to receive unemployment benefits.

2.3.2 Planned reforms of the RSA (earned income supplement) and the employment allowance.

At the Council of Ministers on 20 November, the Prime Minister presented the main lines of a reform of the Prime pour l'Emploi (PPE – employment allowance) and the RSA-activité (earned income supplement). The government has decided to replace the PPE and RSA-activité with an activity allowance starting from 1 January 2016. The future activity allowance (or "prime d'activité") will be open to working people from households on low incomes close to the minimum wage. It will include a personal-based share in line with earnings, and a family-based share to take different family situations into account. Employed people under 25 years will be eligible for the allowance. It will take the form of a benefit dispensed by the CAF with simplified rights and a fixed 3-month amount. This reform will be based on current expenditure on the RSA-activité and the PPE, which is about €4 billion. Associations working with poverty that are members of the "Alert" collective fear that this reform with a constant budget will result in lower incomes for some current beneficiaries. It is also increasingly likely that the reform will affect the specific solidarity allowance. As a result, the entire anti-exclusion measure will have been reformed.

2.3.3 Active labour market policies

Month after month, unemployment continues to rise. The most recent data published at the end of December 2014 show an increase of 5.8% for the year, with 0.8% over the last month, higher for the over-50s but only 0.5% for the youngest thanks to aided employment schemes. Despite the surtax on short-term contracts of less than 3 months created in 2013 by the job security law, these temporary contracts continue to gain ground, reaching 84% of new contracts in 2014 compared to 70% in 2008. Half of the short-term contracts that ended in 2013 lasted under 10 days, compared to 14 days in 2014. On the other hand, the proportion of workers on permanent contracts remains stable at 87% of those employed.

A report by the general inspectorate of finance and social action⁹ shows that in the latest period, half of the targets set by Pôle-emploi were not reached, whether they related to supporting jobseekers or facilitating their return to work and despite a downscale of targets during the same period. Similarly, new services aimed at companies have not produced satisfactory results, and only the compensation for unemployed people is considered a success. The new agreement signed for 2015-2018 should tackle the following weak spots:

- Persistently high level of unfilled job offers
- Unacceptably long delays to obtain training
- Negative image of Pôle-emploi for companies

⁹ "Evaluation de la convention tripartite Etat-Unedic-Pôle emploi 2012-2014", IGF – IGAS, November 2014, www.igas.gouv.fr

- Significant share of unemployed people not actively searching for a job.

Pôle-emploi is currently testing out a new method for monitoring highly de-socialised unemployed people in association with regional councils, but this is still at an experimental stage and will only concern about 1,000 people by the middle of the year.

After a strong decrease from 200,000 in the 1970s to 140,000 in 2013, the number of young people leaving education with no diploma has not dropped in the last years. Measured by the rate of early school leavers, numbers were an estimated 11.6% of young people aged 18 to 24 in 2012, or around 620,000 in mainland France. The absence of reliable information on the situation in French overseas territories is particularly regrettable since the unemployment rate of young people there is 2.5 times higher than in mainland France, and school attendance rates are much lower.¹⁰

Public authorities have been closely involved in attempts to combat early school leaving. After an emergency plan for schools in Seine-Saint-Denis, and leading up to a digital plan, a new early school leaving plan has just been announced. It includes training for teachers on detecting the signs, as well as reference personnel in each school. The resources are however limited to €50 million, or €40 per pupil.

Along with a general reform of the national education system focusing on the school timetable, teacher training and pedagogical developments, France has created targeted types of remedial support. Around 40 "second chance" schools (E2C) offer comprehensive support to encourage social and professional integration for young people who left school with no qualifications, or "drop-outs". 14,000 young people attended these schools in 2013. To understand how these second-chance schools operate, DARES (government research and statistics body) commissioned a qualitative study in 2012. According to this monograph survey, these young people had a history of interrupted schooling, often due to social and personal difficulties. Their reason for attending an E2C is often personally motivated. Surveys continue to show that significant social inequalities are accentuated by the school system. 20.5% of pupils from impoverished backgrounds have had to repeat at least one year of primary school. This rate is only 3.6% for the children of white-collar workers. A child living in a sensitive urban zone (ZUS) is twice as likely to arrive at secondary school a year behind as a child living outside a ZUS. The rate of early school leaving is twice as high for the children of immigrants. Homework assignments further accentuate this inequality. A young person from a less-advantaged social background spends 2.2 hours less a week on homework than a child from an advantaged background. The very hierarchical education system has the effect that almost half of the children of unskilled workers sit a vocational school-leaving exam ("*baccalauréat professionnel*"), compared to less than a third of managers' children. Managers' children are ten times more likely to obtain a scientific *baccalauréat* and directly access the highest level of education¹¹. A correlation clearly emerges between poverty of place and educational underachievement. The many examples all point to insufficient returns on educational investment to the detriment of the most vulnerable sections of the population.

On 1st January 2015, the Service Public Régional de l'Orientation was set up, resulting from the law of March 2014 on vocational training. This law gives regions a dominant role in coordinating and driving organisations to compete for this public service, i.e. information and orientation centre, ONISEP, local associations, job centre agencies. This public service should be better placed to satisfy user demands, combat early school leaving, and organise the right to return to initial training, an enforceable right for 16 to 25-year-olds who left school early.

¹⁰ Evaluation partenariale de la politique de lutte contre le décrochage scolaire, Ministry for Education, SGMAP, March 2014

¹¹ See INSEE première, No. 1512, September 2014.

The personal training account enters into force on 1st January 2015, replacing the individual right to training, and now follows workers throughout their careers, and even during periods of unemployment.

2.3.4 Planned reorganisation of social services

The parliamentary assemblies on social work, launched at the multi-annual poverty action plan in January 2013, aim to redefine the functions of social work, as well as to provide training for professionals. These parliamentary assemblies take the form of regional meetings between the main stakeholders in the sector (professionals, users, local employers' groups). A national overview of their discussions should be available during the first half of 2015, followed by the publication of the chosen directions. Already, the main associations have started campaigning for a genuine overhaul of the sector, in particular reorganizing territorial practices with improved support for people in difficulty (Association nationale des assistants de service social). FNARS¹² (National Federation of Reception and Social Rehabilitation Centres) is championing the creation of a right to social support open to all, also on a territorial basis, aside from specific measures for accessing work, health and accommodation. FNARS is also campaigning for an extensive reorganisation of training for these professionals, which is currently based on a 40-year-old model.

More generally, whether the issue is housing benefit, social minimum income, the role of job centres (Pôle-emploi) or, of course, the social services; support and guidance for people in difficulty have come up in the public and professional debates over the last few years.

¹²www.fnars.org/images/stories/2_les_actions/travail_social/actualites/PlateformePropositions_TravailSocial.pdf

Appendix

Indicator table France

Indicateurs	France 2008	France 2012	Euro. Union (28) - 2012
Spending on Child day care, All schemes, Euro per inhabitant (at constant 2005 prices),	134,39	157,63	92,76
Spending on family benefits (cash and in-kind), All schemes, Euro per inhabitant (at constant 2005 prices),	724,67	707,26	505,51
Percentage of children less than 3 years in formal childcare by duration, 2012/1to29/30 +/-Total		17/23/40	(UE27) 14/14/28
Perc. of children 3 years to minimum compulsory school age in formal childcare by dur., 2012/1to29/30 +/-Total		45/(UE27)	37/46/83
Percentage of children less than 18 years at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE),	21,2	21,3	28,1
Percentage of children less than 18 years at-risk-of-poverty (AROP),	15,6	19	20,7
Percentage of children less than 16 years in severe material deprivation,	6,6	7,2	11,8
Percentage of children less than 18 living in (quasi-)jobless households	7,4	7,2	9
Percentage of children less than 18 at persistent risk of poverty,		9,7	12,8
Percentage of children less than 18 in overcrowding households	13,6	11,3	23,1
Long-term care spending in % of GDP,	2006 0,3	2008	UE 27 2008 0,41
Self-reported unmet need for medical examination or treatment, % Total,	4	5,5	6,4
Involuntary part-time employment as percentage of the total part-time employment, %,	32	39,3	29,6
Main reason for part-time employment - Looking after children or incapacitated, %	30,4	29,4	22,7
Childcare fees in % of average wage per 2 years old attending accredited early-years care and education services		19,7	Average OECD 27,6
Spending on all social protection benefits to unemployed all unemployment benefits as % of the GDP	1,9	2	1,5
Spending on social exclusion benefits (social assistance) as a % of the GDP,	0,6	0,8	0,4
Active Labour market expenditure by type of action, Summary tables, Total LMP (categories 2-7), Percentage of GDP	0,642	0,673	0,471
Placement services and job search assistance, All schemes, - unemployment function, PP St per inhabitant,		5,33	3,13
: Periodic benefit vocational training, All schemes, - unemployment function, PPSt. per inhabitant	7,14	21,95	17,61
: Vocational training, All schemes, Purchasing Power Standard per inhabitant,	13,7	9,16	20,2
Long-term unemployment in % of unemployment, Annual average,	37,5	40,4	47,4
People aged 0 to 59 years living in (quasi-)jobless households,	8,8	7,9	10,7
: Persistent at-risk-of-poverty rate in total population		7	10,2
Participation rate in education and training (last 4 weeks), Percentage 18 to 64 years	13,1	23,5	16,1
Number jobseekers (total), Persons Stock Registered	3 294 063	4 695 476	
Percentage of total population at risk of poverty before social transfers (pensions excluded from social transfers),	23,5	24,2	25,8
: Percentage of total population at risk of poverty	12,5	13,7	16,7
At-risk-of-poverty rate, Employed persons 16 to 64 years	6,5	7,9	8,9
: At-risk-of-poverty rate, Non-employed persons 16 to 64 years	21,1	24,6	29,2
At-risk-of-poverty rate, Unemployed persons 16 to 64 years	39,7	36,1	46,6
Single person at-risk-of-poverty thresholds, Purchasing Power Standards,	10,49	11,63	
Single person at-risk-of-poverty thresholds, National currency	11,34	12,572	

Source Eurostat

