

# Have your say on reinforcing Social Europe - submit your contribution

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

Thank you for expressing your views on the implementation of the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#). Please reply to the questions below and submit your contribution in one of the following ways:

## Personal information

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**\* Name**

**\* E-mail**

**\* Country of origin**

**\* Are you replying**

- as an **individual** in your personal capacity?
- in your professional capacity or on behalf of an **organisation**?

**\* Name of organisation**

**\* Type of organisation**

- Administration
- Civil society
- Industry
- Social partner
- Think tank
- University
- Other

**\* Your organisation is operating at:**

- EU level
- national level
- regional level
- local level

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## Submit your contribution

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**\* Your contribution is:**

- input for new initiatives at EU, national, regional or local level
- a pledge

**Please select one of the following:**

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*5000 character(s) maximum*

When discussing possible avenues for implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights, a preliminary observation concerns its multi-level nature. As stressed in several policy documents, the responsibility in delivering on the Pillar implies action at EU, national and local level. For CEC it is fundamental that the distribution of competences (as defined in the Treaties) is safeguarded at every stage of the process, bearing in mind the necessity to respect national traditions, rules and sensitivities.

Given CEC's status, the present contribution will aim at identifying a few proposals for areas of further involvement by the EU and resulting concrete suggestions for EU initiatives, in those areas that are of bigger interest and relevance for the category CEC represents.

Any reflection on the strengthening of social Europe cannot disregard analyzing the consequences of the pandemics on our societies and economies. The crisis has brought in the spotlight the importance of health, based on the evidence that in a situation of health urgency, societies cannot guarantee the promotion of any of the social and economic rights that the Pillar refers to. To enjoy these rights fully, the precondition is to ensure a controlled and manageable health situation, that cares for the many. This calls in the first place for

a profound revision of the EU health policy domain, starting from reinforcing EU competences but also bringing forward a reflection on how to progress towards the creation of a Health Union. In this respect, CEC welcomes the recent initiatives launched by the European Commission.

Another lesson to be drawn from the Covid crisis relates to the protection of the environment: scientists agree that new pandemics can be expected, as humanity continues to reduce the scope of biodiversity, attacking natural resources. Continuing on the path of sustainability, as the EU has started to do with its ambitious Green Deal and the relevant policy interconnections, is an objective to pursue not only for its meaning in terms of “immediate” protection of the environment, but also for its global health-related implications.

As a final observation, the crisis showed the importance of unity – all EU countries have profited from the fact they could rely on each other, being part of a common institutional, legal, economic and trade framework. The EU must complete its “unions”, wherever they exist already, to ensure interoperability and the full enjoyment of the rights citizens can derive from being part of the EU, wherever they are. This includes the coordination of social security systems, the possibility to enjoy training opportunities everywhere in Europe (and the recognition of training credits), the full recognition of all professional qualifications, just to name a few.

The unfolding of the crisis, and its socio-economic consequences, have exposed the following challenges, that the implementation of the Pillar could help counter.

- Increasing the adaptability of workers is central to respond to very short-term changes of the labour market: therefore flexibility in employability and continuous improvement of skills is key to ensuring that people can stay at work, feel personal recognition and can participate meaningfully in the society providing the “basis” for growth. We support introducing portable individual training accounts, to allow for life-long learning from everywhere in Europe.
- The continuity of economic activities and social services has happened also thanks to the joint efforts and dialogue of the representatives of the economic actors (business and workers of all levels, including managers). In this light, we welcome the ongoing reflection on social dialogue at national and EU level, which needs to be reinforced thanks to tools (including conditionality measures related to other macro-economic policy coordination mechanisms) to ensure the respect and promotion of social partnership by all Member States.
- Access to social protection nets that are adaptive and cover the temporary difficulties one might encounter in his/her lifetime is essential. Financing welfare systems in the future, with a changing “structure” of the workforce, is a delicate issue that concerns mainly Member States. The recommendation on access to social protection adopted in 2019 was already a good step in this direction; we believe that a monitoring of the implementation of its conclusions in the light of the COVID\_19 implications should be accelerated to assess whether new initiatives might be necessary.
- Finally, the crisis has caused additional strain on pre-existing societal challenges, relating mainly to the disproportionate impact of the crisis on specific groups (like women or the most precarious) and the consequences of isolation on human behavior (from work organization to mental health, from work-life balance to violence and harassment). In these fields the EU has however already a strong basis of competences.

**3. You can also [submit your contribution by email](#) to the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.**

## Final questions

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\* 1. How did you find out about this consultation?

- Social media advertisement

- Advertisement in specialised magazines/ journals
- European Commission website
- Event I attended
- Word of mouth
- Other

**\* 2. Has participating in this consultation changed your attitude towards the EU?**

- Yes, I have a more positive attitude towards the EU
- Yes, I have a more negative attitude towards the EU
- No, it has not changed my attitude towards the EU

**Contact**

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