

THE
FUTURE
OF SOCIAL
PROTECTION



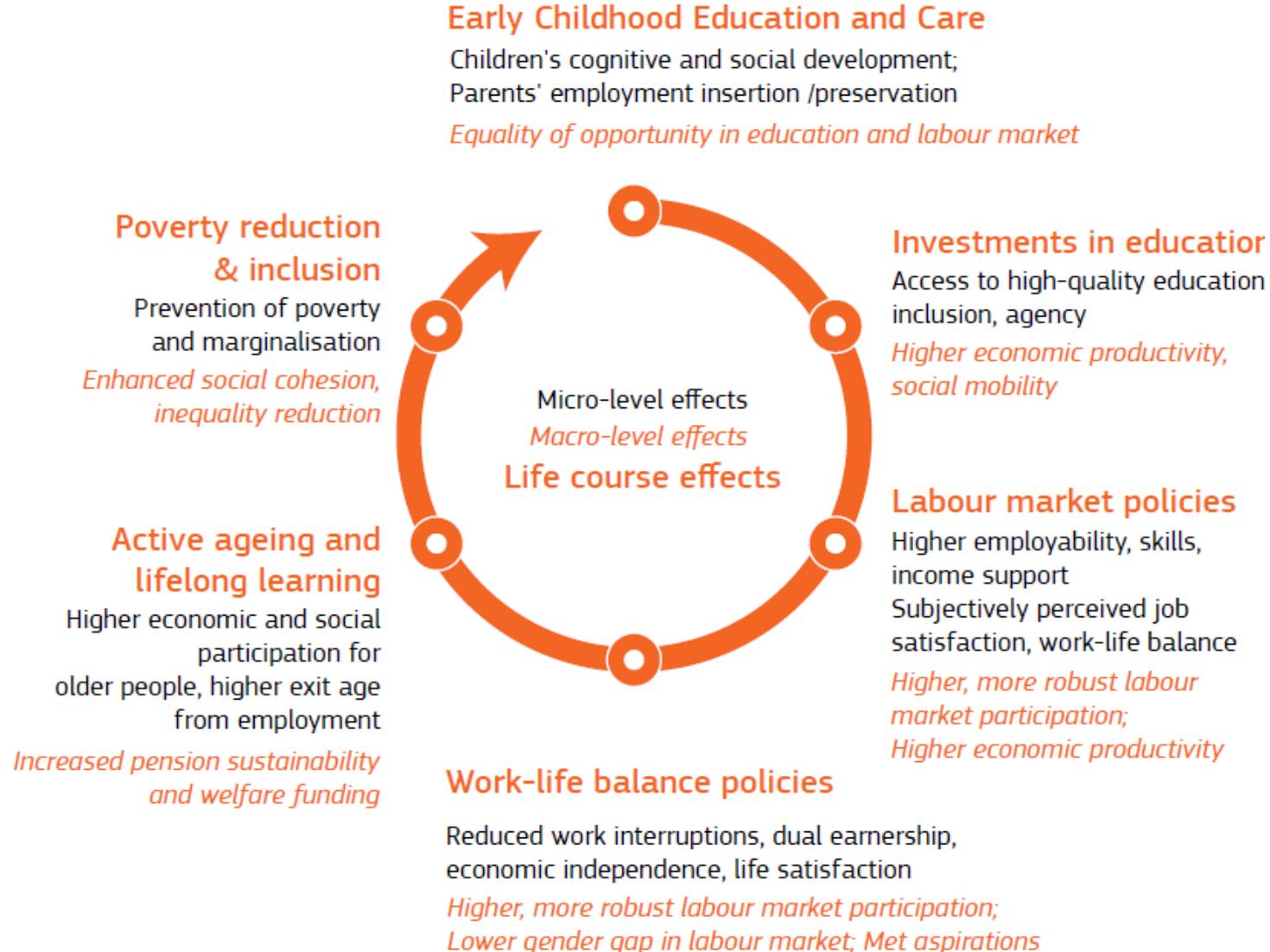
AND OF THE
WELFARE
STATE
IN THE EU

High-level Group Report on the Future of Social Protection and of the Welfare State in the EU 2023

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*Navigating the future:
challenges and opportunities of longevity in Europe
Brussels, 27 June 2024*

The Social investment life-course multiplier at micro and macro level



Source: A. Hemerijck, S. Ronchi, I. Plavgo, Social investment as a conceptual framework for analysing well-being returns and reforms in 21st century welfare states, *Socio-Economic Review*, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ser/mwac035>.

Megatrends

Long-term challenges to welfare states: social risks & sustainability

- **Demographic ageing:** longevity, *a sustainability issue & opportunity?*
- **Changing work:** *longevity → later / longer retirement*
 - Adapting work environment for older workers, life-long learning strategy
 - Flexible / gradual retirement, working pensioner
 - Disability pensions for age-related incapacity
 - Expanding long-term care and health care sectors – recruitment & upskilling
- **Digitalization:** *restructuring jobs and tasks, opportunity*
 - Job losses due to digitalization more likely among less skilled older workers
 - Digitalization in long-term care and health care could lead to gains; new jobs
- **Green transition:** *eco-friendly economies and resilient societies*
 - Decarbonization leading to job losses, but green jobs growth
 - Urban and rural planning: public transport/proximity to social and health services

21 KEY STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS



A. Starting strong

- 1) Affordable early childhood education and care
- 2) Income support and services to prevent child poverty
- 3) Support to enable starting a family
- 4) High quality jobs for the youth, complemented by financial support for further education and training



B. Ensuring inclusive social protection and lifelong learning

- 5) Access to social protection for all people in employment irrespective of their status
- 6) High quality of work throughout working life
- 7) Opportunities for up- and re-skilling for the digital and green transitions
- 8) Inclusion of migrants through social and labour market policies
- 9) Job retention schemes for all to protect income, jobs and skills during crises



C. Supporting adequate income and high-quality care in old age

- 10) Flexible working-time and adjusted workplaces for longer careers in good health
- 11) Chance for everyone to earn an adequate pension, and decent minimum benefits to tackle poverty in old age
- 12) Pension credits for care giving periods
- 13) High-quality and affordable long-term care services



D. Promoting inclusive and high-quality services including energy-efficient housing and transport



- 14) Affordable, energy-efficient and universal-design housing
- 15) Energy-efficient public transport accessible to all
- 16) High quality and inclusive social services, better involving non-profit and social economy organisations



E. Ensuring sustainable financing for a resilient welfare state



- 17) Broadening the tax basis through progressive taxation on income, consumption, capital, carbon and energy
- 18) Considering minimum tax rates on capital at EU level
- 19) Golden rule for public finances to secure social protection and investment in social infrastructures



F. Stepping up EU capacity to secure social protection in the future

- 20) Additional EU legislative initiatives to fulfil all principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights and ensure consistent enforcement across the Union
- 21) Minimum package of social rights, based on the European Pillar of Social Rights. guaranteed at national level.

