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ioreSME Newsletter

PROJECT 101051860

THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

The European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) is an initiative launched by the European Commission to acknowledge the potential of the social economy. The measures in the action plan seek to bring back the social dimension across the member states, launch economic policies with a social conscience and connect with citizens.

The EPSR is built on the notion of shared prosperity and equal opportunities for all, irrespective of sex, racial origin, religion, disability, age and sexual orientation.

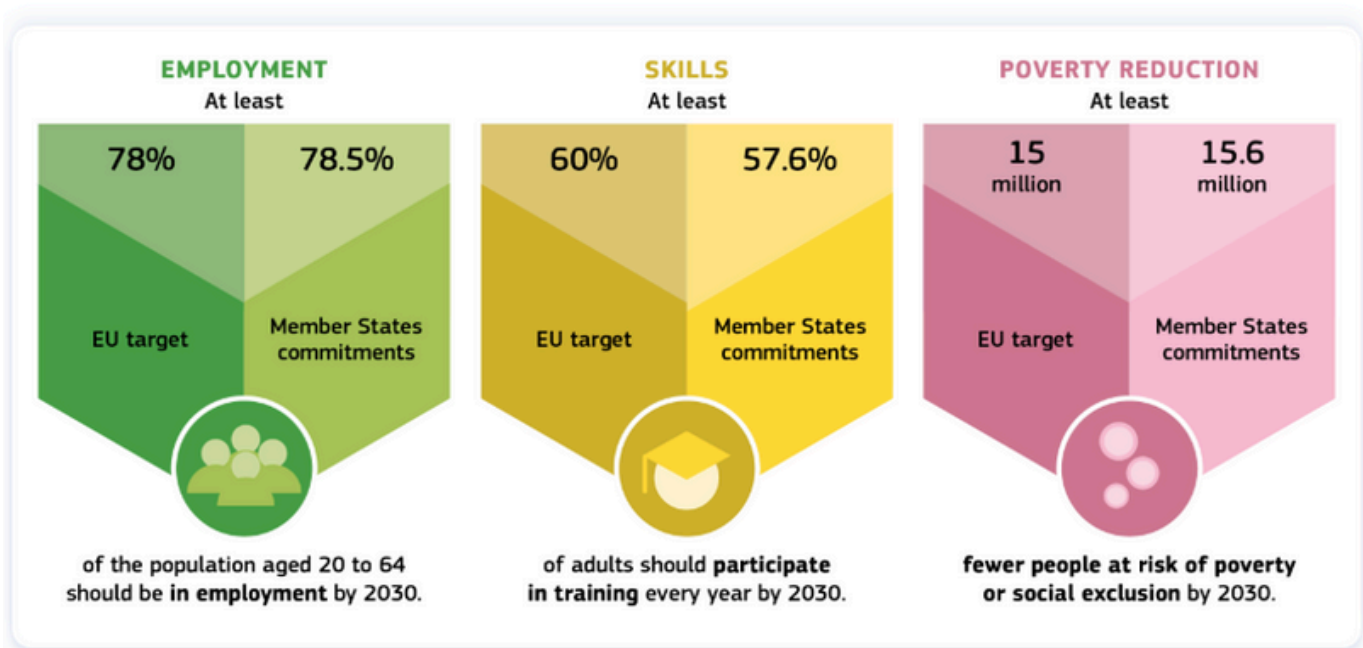
The action plan sets 3 headline targets to be achieved by the end of the decade in the areas of employment, skills and social protection. The employment target is that at least 78% of the population aged 20 to 64 should be in employment by 2030. This ambitious goal, when achieved, will significantly decrease the employment gender gap and increase the provision of formal early childhood education and care (ECEC), thus contributing to a better balance between professional and private life while supporting female participation in the labour market. The EU should also decrease the number of young people neither in employment nor in education (NEETs). People currently discouraged from participating in the labour market, including under-represented groups – such as low-skilled, disabled, ethnic and rural minorities – should be encouraged to seek employment, inspiring hope and optimism for a more inclusive and prosperous Europe.

IN THIS EDITION

The European Pillar of
Social Rights - Key Targets

Carbon Border Adjustment
Mechanism (CBAM)

Latest Industry News



[Your EU Social Rights - European Union \(europa.eu\)](http://europa.eu)

The second target pillar of the EPSR is that at least 60% of all adults should participate in training every year. A key success factor is a strong foundation of essential and soft skills acquired in the early mandatory years of schooling. This will ensure adults are in a position to keep up with the re-upskilling needed later in life. Yet a considerable percentage of young people in Europe leave mandatory schooling with a very low level of certification. This is weakening the ability of Europe to keep on top of the skilling race, where continuous learning and adult education are key to the continent's competitiveness.

The EU, through the EPSR and other similar ambitious initiatives such as the European Skills Agenda, aims to increase to 80% of those aged 16-74 to have basic digital skills and reduce the early school leaving and increase participation in the upper secondary level.

A third pillar of the EPSR is to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty. The ambitious Europe 2020 social target of a 20 million reduction of people in poverty was not met. The EPSR, however, remains steadfast in its commitment to reduce the number of people in poverty by 15 million, a third of which should be children, to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. This commitment underscores the empathy and concern of the EPSR for the most vulnerable in our society.

A scoreboard information on data supports the new targets. The social statistics collated over time, including the EU labour force survey (LFS) and the EU statistics on income and living conditions (SILC), monitor progress towards the EPSR targets and identify trends.



CARBON BORDER ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM (CBAM)

The EU uses the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) to promote cleaner industrial output in non-EU nations and to set a fair price on carbon emissions from the production of carbon-intensive items entering the EU. The CBAM will replace the EU ETS free emissions allowances mechanism through a 9-year phase-out of the free allowances under the EU ETS from 2026 to 2034.

The EU CBAM started its transitional phase on 1 October 2023, and obliges importers to report a set of data, including emissions embedded in their goods. At the end of transition period the EC will evaluate the CBAM and decide whether to extend it further – for example to other levels of the value-chain such as indirect emissions, including the emissions from electricity in the production of goods.

From 2026, EU importers will buy carbon certificates corresponding to the price of carbon in an EU country. EU importers will have to declare annually the quantity of goods and the amount of emissions in the goods they imported in the EU in the preceding year.

If the producer of the goods illustrates that the non-EU country has already borne the price of carbon, then the cost will be deducted from the EU importer. The objective is to drive carbon leakage while driving producers to switch to zero-emission operations.

The objective is to tax energy-intensive imports such as aluminium, hydrogen, steel, cement and electricity generation. Countries with passive climate-control regulations will be taxed the most. In contrast, others who implement measures to reduce carbon emissions during their domestic production will limit the impact of the CBAM on their revenue from the export market. The UK announced its intentions to implement the CBAM with preparatory work starting this year.

CBAM is a key element in the EU's efforts to combat climate change. The mechanism punishes imports from countries with lax commitments to reducing emissions. The effective implementation of CBAM will confirm the EU as a leader in international efforts to fight climate change.

LATEST NEWS

- CO2 emissions from new car sales were down by a quarter in 2022 over the same in 2019. This was published last month [CO2 emissions from new cars and vans in 2022 down over a quarter since 2019 thanks to growing zero-emission vehicle sales - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#), and is the result of an increase in the sales of zero-emission vehicles. The main reason for the decrease is the growing share of hybrid and electric cars in the market – these made up 23% of the new car market in 2022, with 13.5% being fully electric.
- The EC has published its 9th Cohesion Report, showing that the Cohesion Policy is reducing the gaps that exist between the member states and regions.

Read more [Cohesion Policy continues to narrow the gaps in EU regions and Member States | European Social Fund Plus \(europa.eu\)](#)
- Transversal talents can enable people to succeed in any professional setting, whether through entrepreneurship, creativity, or the development of digital literacy. Apprenticeships can assist workers in becoming more adaptable to changes in the labour market. The most recent factsheet from the European Alliance for Apprenticeships clarifies the growing significance of transversal skills and their present difficulties. To assist businesses and providers of vocational education and training in incorporating transversal skills into apprenticeship courses, the document provides some shrewd tactics and current EU efforts.

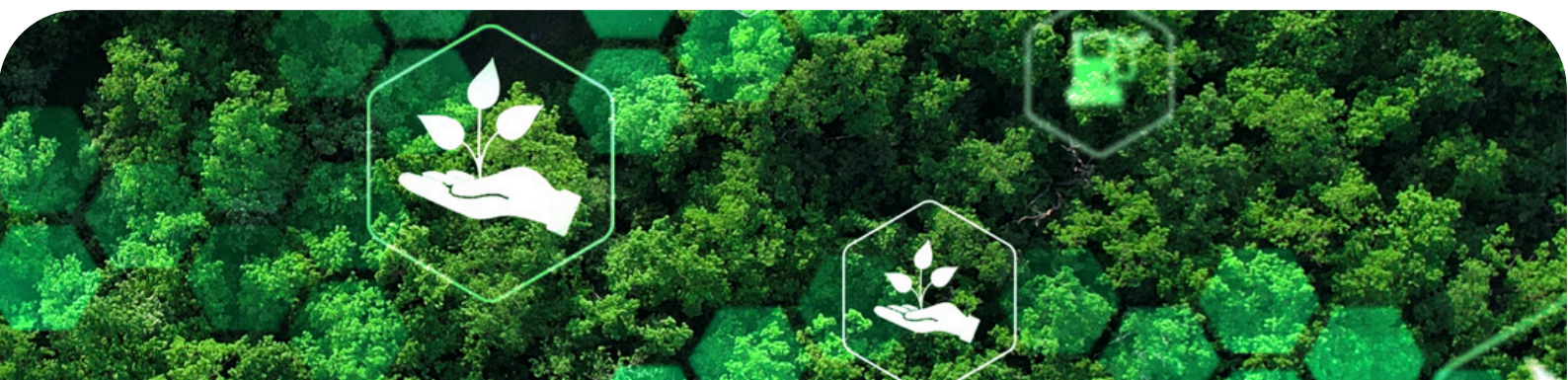
Read more [EAfA_Transversal skills_Factsheet_v5.pdf](#)

- Consumers can now choose from nearly 96000 goods and services with proven environmental credentials. The Ecolabel ensures that the products displaying the logo meet the highest environmental standards. It helps consumers choose the right products that have committed to sustainability rather than others engaged in superficial greenwashing tactics. A catalogue of products of products is available here [ECAT - Product Catalogue - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#). Read more about the EU Ecolabel here

Read more [EU Ecolabel - March 2024 Facts and Figures - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#).

- Earlier this month the Council a revised directive on the energy performance of buildings. Currently buildings account for one-third of greenhouse gas emissions in the EU. The new rules will see all new buildings to be zero-emission by 2030 and by the end of the next two decades the EU's building stock will be transformed into zero-emission building stock.

Read more [Revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive \(EPBD\) \(europa.eu\)](#).



This newsletter is part of the loreSME project and seeks to provide information pertinent to the business community on the EU Green Deal and European Pillar of Social Rights.

loreSME project aims to raise awareness of and give visibility to the activity/function/responsibility of SME employer organisations in the EU and foster their role as social partners. loreSME seeks to understand the expectations of the members of the Social Partners (SPs) while providing the opportunity for the SPs to raise awareness of their services and their role in the social dialogue discourse in their country.

The Partners of the Project are [Malta Chamber of SMEs \(smechamber.mt\)](http://smechamber.mt); [About | GSEVEE: Hellenic Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen, and Merchants](#); [CNA | Confederazione Nazionale dell'artigianato e della Piccola e Media Impresa](#); [Home | UNIZO](#); [home - Confartigianato Imprese](#); [SMEunited | Crafts & SMEs in Europe](#); [About us \(ozs.si\)](#)

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