



RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE SCOREBOARD

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Thematic analysis

Social protection

April 2022



This paper is part of a series of thematic analyses undertaken by the European Commission to illustrate the impact of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). The RRF is the European Union's largest ever funding instrument and is intended to support European economies and societies to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and build resilience against future shocks. EU Member States commit to implement ambitious reforms and investments and receive funds from the RRF when they achieve these commitments.

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Policy Overview

Social protection systems need to be adapted to keep up with changing circumstances. Globalisation, technological developments and demographic changes have driven transformations in the European labour markets and the society at large and will continue to do so in the future. The social dimension is at the core of a competitive social market economy with the European Pillar of Social Rights providing the reference framework for employment and social policies that support an inclusive and sustainable growth model.

The COVID-19 crisis is a powerful reminder of the importance of adequate social protection. In the past years, countries have introduced or extended and scaled up existing schemes to support those in need. At the same time, the crisis has shed light on long-standing weaknesses of some schemes, particularly regarding the coverage of non-standard workers and the self-employed. It has also shown the importance and the challenge of ensuring accessible and adequate income and other types of support, in particular to those whose vulnerability and disadvantaged situations have been intensified by the pandemic. Well-designed social protection and inclusion policies are therefore essential, and the impact of the pandemic warrants continued reflection on their role, effectiveness and adequacy (including the sources of their funding).

The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan published by the Commission on 4 March 2021 sets out the way forward for strengthening and modernisation of social protection systems. One of the three EU headline targets proposed by the Commission in the Action Plan is to reduce the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by at least 15 million by 2030. Out of these 15 million, at least 5 million should be children. In the Porto Declaration of 8 May 2021, EU leaders welcomed this headline target and expressed a commitment to ‘reducing inequalities, defending fair wages, fighting social exclusion and tackling poverty, taking on the objective of fighting child poverty and addressing the risks of exclusion for particularly vulnerable social groups such as the long-term unemployed, the elderly, persons with disabilities and the homeless. The June 2021 European Council also welcomed the 2030 EU headline targets proposed in the Action Plan.

To achieve these goals and implement these principles, funding remains key. Beyond the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the European Social Fund Plus, with EUR 88 billion in seven years, will continue to be the EU’s main instrument to support the implementation of the Social Pillar. Other funds such as the European Regional Development Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers will also contribute to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights objectives and targets.

In March 2021, the Commission also published its recommendation on Effective Active Support to Employment following the COVID-19 crisis (EASE)¹ providing policy advice to Member States on how to gradually transition from emergency measures to forward-looking actions in their labour markets. The recommendations from EASE foster the economic and social recovery through employment, address the need for social protection, social dialogue and social services, and enable the green and digital transitions in an inclusive and socially fair manner.

In 2022, the Commission continues to follow up on the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, including in the areas of minimum income to support Member States’ policies, social dialogue at the EU and national level, and the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to asbestos.²

¹ Commission Recommendation for Effective Active Support to Employment (EASE), C(2021) 1372, 4 March 2021

² Commission Work Programme 2022, COM(2021) 645, 19 October 2021

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Social protection in the Recovery and Resilience Facility

Within the Recovery and Resilience Facility, **social and territorial cohesion** is one of the six pillars. Alongside measures to tackle unemployment and increase labour market participation (see thematic analysis 'Employment support and job creation'), reforms and investments in the area of social protection and inclusion should contribute to fighting poverty and ensuring social cohesion, which will help Member States' economies rebound while leaving nobody behind. Measures should support the inclusion and integration of disadvantaged groups, and strengthen social dialogue, infrastructure and services, as well as the wider social protection and welfare systems.

Social protection in the recovery and resilience plans

Overview of the plans

The recovery and resilience plans adopted by the Council³ include important measures on social protection. According to the analysis of the Commission, 216 measures accounting for around EUR 13.4 billion in grants and loans are linked to social protection and inclusion measures.⁴ Recovery and resilience plans cover a broad range of reforms and investments to strengthen Member States' social protection systems in relation to their effectiveness, quality and resilience depending on country-specific needs as highlighted in the 2019/2020 country-specific recommendations.

The amounts spent in the area of social protection within the recovery and resilience plans need to be considered in conjunction with other EU spending on social protection (EUR 3.761 billion in 2019)⁵, and the specific requirements of the Recovery and Resilience Facility, which have been designed to avoid overlap with other financing sources. Recurring costs (costs not limited in time), including social benefits in general, cannot be financed by the Facility and should generally be financed from national budgets. Nevertheless, the Facility encourages Member States to introduce reforms that create the necessary institutional environment for more effective social protection systems.

Many measures in the recovery and resilience plans in areas such as education, health, long-term care, housing and employment, include specific actions that aim at the integration, equality and well-being of socio-economically disadvantaged people and specific vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities, elderly, Roma or migrants. Other measures are designed to improve more directly the socio-economic situation of households through the strengthening of social services and benefits coverage, adequacy and financing.

Main investments

Many social protection investments in the plans focus on upgrading, expanding or improving the social services network. These measures are tailored for the specific needs of the targeted population. They include investments to increase the capacity of social service providers, which should improve the quality, coverage of, and access to social services. Some national plans invest in better training for social service personnel, and in additional funding for social service infrastructure, including facilities. Importantly, some recovery and resilience plans put a

³ The recovery and resilience plans of 22 Member States have been adopted at the time of the publication of this analysis.

⁴ This does not include expenditure on e.g. social housing and other social infrastructure (which represents a similar share of the plans) or long-term care. The territorial and social cohesion pillar as a whole accounts for 42% of the estimated cost of the 22 plans according to the pillar methodology developed by the Commission. The main expenses within this pillar concern territorial infrastructure and services that should improve territorial and social cohesion more widely.

⁵ Source: Eurostat: Social protection statistics - social benefits - Statistics Explained (europa.eu)

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clear emphasis on the digital and green transition of social services, in particular through the purchase of digital equipment and electric vehicles.

Another major area of investment by Member States concerns the inclusion of vulnerable groups, in particular to protect and support the inclusion of marginalised people. Around half of the plans address specifically the social protection of people with special needs. This includes measures aiming to improve the coverage of disability benefits, to increase autonomy and mobility of persons with disabilities or the elderly, and other investments to improve access to housing as well as job opportunities for vulnerable groups, including new possibilities that are offered by digital technology. Some plans focus on the protection and inclusion of specific target groups such as refugees, (ex-)convicts, homeless, victims of violence, and Roma. A few Member States also invest in culture and sports as a tool for integration.

While investments in the recovery and resilience plans cannot directly contribute to an increase of social benefits (see above), some Member States invest in the **modernisation and digitalisation of social benefit systems**, which will improve their coverage. A few investments also focus on **fighting energy poverty** and on improving access to food and water sanitation for the poorest households.

Main reforms

The Recovery and Resilience Facility supports Member States to undertake reforms in the area of social protection.

National plans include various measures aimed at improving the integration of vulnerable groups in the education system and the labour market and at improving their access to social services. Many reforms also focus on strengthening the **care system for older people and persons with disabilities**, with a strong focus on mental health, in line with the principles of deinstitutionalisation.

Reforms to increase the effectiveness and adequacy of social benefits focus on simplifying social insurance systems, including unemployment benefits, and making them more transparent, as well as on adapting them to societal developments and better cover e.g. non-standard workers or (e.g. elderly) people losing their autonomy in life. Some measures are taken in the area of minimum income, to increase adequacy of **minimum income schemes**, to contribute to expanding minimum income programmes and to foster the integration of beneficiaries.

The plans also include the adoption of national strategies and action plans to provide a framework for thematic interventions targeting specific groups. For instance, some Member States aim to restructure and modernise their social services, in order to improve their efficiency and accessibility, in particular for persons with disabilities.

Measures to improve national pension and retirement schemes include reforms that strengthen the link between contributions and entitlements to improve the financial sustainability of the contributory system; investments to improve the **coverage of self-employed, atypical workers**, or the pension rights linked to maternity breaks. Other measures target early retirement schemes, for instance through incentives to remain active on the labour market after meeting early retirement conditions. Some pension benefit systems are also being modernised to improve their transparency and the availability of information about accrued rights.

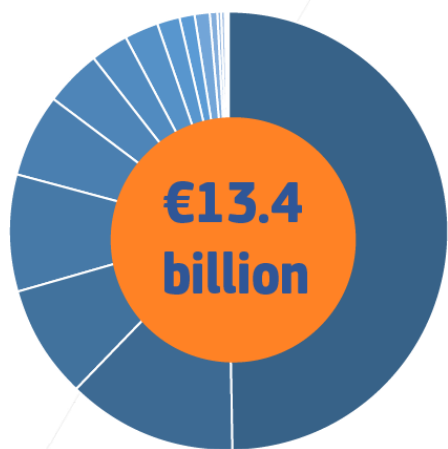
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Social protection and social inclusion in the RRF

Expenditure in EUR millions per Member State



Italy (6.69)	Spain (1.67)	Romania (1.14)	Greece (1.13)
Portugal (0.84)	Slovakia (0.54)	France (0.4)	Finland (0.31)
Austria (0.25)	Sweden (0.15)	Czechia (0.13)	Croatia (0.06)
Germany (0.03)	Cyprus (0.02)	Latvia (0.02)	Belgium (0.02)
Denmark (0.01)	Lithuania (0.01)		

Note: This chart shows estimated expenditure based on the pillar tagging methodology for the Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard and corresponds to the measures allocated to the policy area "Social Protection, including Social Services and Integration of Vulnerable Groups" as primary or secondary policy areas.

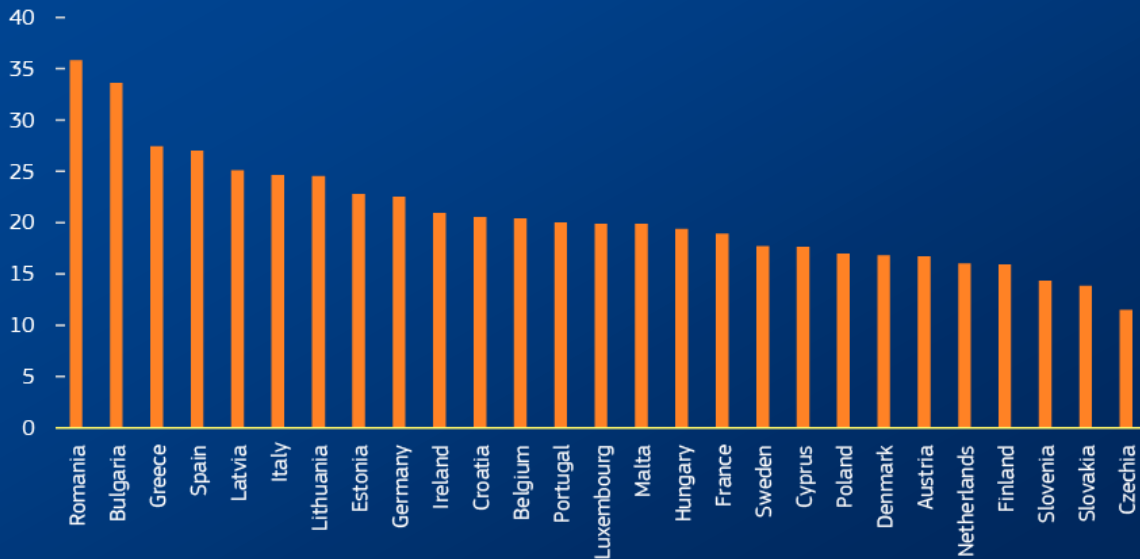
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The need for funding: At risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU Member States

AROPE rates per Member State, 2020, IT 2019 data.



Examples of measures



Investments to boost the social economy

In Spain, the Recovery and Resilience Facility will support innovative social economy projects. At least 30 social economy projects will receive support until 2023 aiming to consolidate existing social economy entities, to transform viable companies in difficulty into cooperatives or other forms of social economy entities, to digitalise social economy enterprises, and to provide capacity-building and training. This support aims to create a more inclusive and sustainable economic fabric by ensuring employment, coverage and quality of the social economy network.



Ensuring access to social services for dependent older people

This reform aims to improve social services and the living conditions of elderly people losing autonomy in Italy. It will include simplifying older people's access to services through the creation of single points of access to social and health services and improving the identification of multidimensional assistance needs. Finally, it aims to define specific projects that promote deinstitutionalisation of elderly care and social services.



Increasing the adequacy and sustainability of social benefits

The Lithuanian plan envisages a reform to increase the adequacy and sustainability of social benefits. Changes in legislation will increase coverage of the unemployment insurance scheme, introduce additional benefits to

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single elderly people and persons with disabilities, as well as improve the pension indexation mechanism, with the overarching aim to reduce old-age poverty.



National Strategy to Combat Poverty

Portugal has set up a new strategy to combat poverty through the development of a multidimensional, integrated, medium- and long-term approach. This reform is further complemented by specific investments in the most deprived metropolitan areas of Lisbon and Porto. It provides a framework to allow for thematic interventions targeting specific groups, from children to elderly, including the most vulnerable groups. For instance, it sets out the conditions for the development and implementation of policies focusing on specific challenges of social exclusion and poverty at the local level. In addition, it also creates a single monitoring framework for poverty related indicators.



Connection of low-income households to the water supply and sanitation system

The Romanian plan will provide support to low-income households for the connection to the public water supply and sewers. The National Programme for the first connection to water and sewerage networks aims to support families and single people with incomes below the minimum wage. The investment is implemented by local authorities through the public water and sewerage operators to cover the cost for the connection work, with a maximum of EUR 2 000 per household. As a result of this investment, at least 88 400 additional households will be connected to water and sewerage.



Social mentoring

Croatia introduces a reform and an investment to provide social mentoring to individuals at risk or already in a marginalised position in society. These measures will roll out a new individualised mentoring service at social welfare centres. This new service will focus on the integration of persons with disabilities, victims of violence, homeless people, migrants, Roma, young people, persons serving prison sentences and members of other socially vulnerable groups.

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Country overview

The figures provided in the Country Overview are based on the pillar tagging methodology for the Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard and correspond to the measures allocated to the policy area “Social Protection, including Social Services and Integration of Vulnerable Groups” as primary or secondary policy area. For all Member States, the listed relevant components are based on the Council Implementing Decision. Only relevant investments and reforms from these components are counted in the figure shown.

Austria

Allocation: EUR 248.5 million. Relevant components: 1, 3, and 4.

The plan includes several measures addressing the social dimension. One among them is the investment in remedial education aimed to compensate for the accumulated learning deficits and potential losses in education during the prolonged periods of distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. The focus is particularly on disadvantaged pupils, to avoid any increase in already existing inequalities in education outcomes. The measure on fighting energy poverty helps reduce social vulnerabilities related to the sometimes costly investment in the transition to renewable energies and make the green transition more inclusive. The measure on ‘early aid’ for disadvantaged pregnant women, their young children and families offers a range of targeted services, with the aim to reduce their social vulnerabilities. For instance, electronic mother-child passes target those women and children who do not necessarily take up these services. The reform of the pension system will make the entire system fairer and is expected to reduce the gender pension gap. All these elements will help reduce existing social vulnerabilities.

Belgium

Allocation: EUR 15.3 million. Relevant components: 4.1 and 4.2.

The plan includes several measures to strengthen social cohesion notably by fostering the inclusion and integration of vulnerable groups. Some measures focus on education, including measures to prevent early school leaving. The plan also includes measures to increase participation of women and vulnerable groups in the labour market (low-skilled, people with a migrant

background, people with disabilities). Other measures are also expected to favour social cohesion, notably social housing interventions and the provision of early childhood care for vulnerable households.

Croatia

Allocation: EUR 64.9 million. Relevant components: 1.4, 1.5, 2.3, 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3.

The plan features measures aimed at countering poverty and social exclusion among vulnerable groups and those in inactivity and unemployment. The plan commits to improving coverage, adequacy and targeting of social benefits, including through better use of means and income testing. Transparency will be improved by developing an application that will provide access to information on all benefits administered at the national level. Furthermore, social mentorship will be developed to cater for the most disadvantaged persons, including long-term unemployed, people with disabilities, victims of violence, homeless people, migrants, Roma, ex-convicts and others. The measure aims to integrate the final recipients into the community, reduce their social exclusion and improve their employability through an individualised approach. When it comes to people beyond working age, the plan commits to increasing the Guaranteed Minimum Benefit and the minimum pension of at least 3% in real terms and increasing the survivor’s pension between 10% and 15%.

Cyprus

Allocation: EUR 22.4 million. Relevant component: 5.2

Social protection related measures aim to reform the social insurance system to widen social protection for all regardless of the type and duration of employment by extending and improving coverage of various

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benefits. Two special schools will improve the school environment for pupils with severe disabilities or other special educational needs. Other measures are also expected to improve social cohesion. The plan provides investments in home structures to strengthen the capacity of social welfare services for unaccompanied minor refugees, adolescents with conduct disorders, persons with disabilities and people in need of long-term care. Energy efficiency measures are expected to reduce energy poverty. Measures in quality inclusive education will foster equal opportunities for all and social inclusion.

Czechia

Allocation: EUR 126.8 million. Relevant components: 3.2 and 3.3.

The plan addresses social and territorial challenges relevant for Czechia. The plan includes measures to modernise the social care network to support the transition towards community-based social and long-term care, notably through electric vehicles. Tutoring and specific support for disadvantaged schools will improve equal access to quality education). Other measures are also expected to have a positive impact on social cohesion, such as the extension of childcare and the digitalisation of schools in socially excluded areas. The design of the support mechanism for the replacement of coal-fired boilers should also improve support for low-income households, contributing to addressing energy poverty.

Denmark

Allocation: EUR 7 million. Relevant component: 1

While the plan does not have other measures on social protection besides a study on the effect of COVID-19 vaccines, several measures are expected to contribute to maintaining a high degree of social cohesion through increased employment in rural areas and by extending digital services. Renovation measures, also to ensure energy efficiency, are expected to temporarily boost local jobs and investments. Moreover, the investment in renovation will also reduce energy bills, which account for a larger proportion of less wealthy households' income.

Estonia

Allocation: EUR 0 million. Relevant component: 6.

While the plan does not have a specific investment in this field, some important reforms will contribute to improving social protection in Estonia. The measure on the establishment of a mechanism to activate the extension of the period of the unemployment insurance benefits by 60 days aims at helping people to bridge a longer period of unemployment in difficult labour market conditions. The measures in the area of long-term care aim at improving the care for children with high care needs, help people live independently and enhance the care of people with lower care needs. The Welfare Development Plan will lay down the strategic objectives of reducing social inequalities and poverty, ensuring gender equality and greater social inclusion, and promoting equal treatment of persons belonging to minority groups. It will also outline the measures to reduce the gender pay gap.

Finland

Allocation: EUR 307 million. Relevant components: P3C1 and P4C1.

The recovery and resilience plan includes measures to improve access to social services and the prevention of health problems, with a special focus on vulnerable groups. In this regard, key interventions include the implementation of a new care guarantee, reducing the backlog in provision of social and health services arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthening the early identification of social and health needs. In addition, the plan includes investments to support the integration of people with partial work ability including persons with disabilities in the labour market.

France

Allocation: EUR 339.5 million. Relevant components: 8 and 9.

The plan contributes to improving the provision of care for the older people and people with disabilities. In particular, the plan provides for the creation of a fifth branch within the general social security system covering the risk of loss of autonomy in addition to the

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pre-existing branches (covering the risks of sickness, retirement, family, work-related accidents and occupational diseases). The integration in the labour market of persons with disabilities is supported by a dedicated temporary hiring subsidy and individualised guidance. The recovery and resilience plan includes also measures for equal access to education, notably through state-backed guarantees for student loans for students that are unable to provide a personal guarantee that would allow them access to a credit. A digital inclusion measure will help vulnerable people with basic digital tasks. Various other health, long-term care, education and infrastructure measures are also expected to have a positive impact on the social and territorial cohesion.

Germany

Allocation: EUR 28.8 million. Relevant component: 4.1

The plan commits to developing a digital pension portal which aims to support citizens in their pension planning by providing an overview of their individual pension provisions from all three pension pillars. While specific measures focused on social protection are limited, the German plan strengthens social cohesion also through several measures aiming to reduce social vulnerabilities. The plan includes in particular measures to ensure equal opportunities through additional childcare capacities and teaching support. With the Social Guarantee 2021, the plan also contributes to preventing a rise in non-wage labour costs, which have remained at a high level in Germany.

Greece

Allocation: EUR 1.1 billion. Relevant components: 1.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 4.6.

Measures under the third pillar of the recovery and resilience plan provide the backbone of strengthening social cohesion. The plan promotes labour market integration of vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, refugees and Roma, and supports diversity awareness actions among employees of both the private and public sector. It also improves availability of early childhood education and care and access to effective social policies through digital transformation of the social protection system and development of accessibility infrastructures for persons with disabilities. Furthermore, the plan includes the digital

transformation of the immigration and asylum system aimed at increasing the quality of services to beneficiaries. In addition, measures to promote social integration include digital training for older people and persons with disabilities, and the provision (on a pilot basis) of housing support to the most vulnerable groups facing homelessness. Major measures aim at supporting and enhancing access to the health-care sector, including by establishing home health care for patients with chronic disabilities and improving mental health services for people suffering from mental illness and addiction, in order to prevent marginalisation. An energy poverty action plan outlines measures to improve energy efficiency among deprived households.

Ireland

Allocation: EUR 0 million. Relevant component: 3.

While the plan does not have specific investments on social protection, it contains a pension reform. The proposed measures aim at contributing to the simplification and harmonisation of the pension landscape and assisting in harmonising the tax treatment of contributions and simplifying the drawdown process. Furthermore, measures dedicated to activation support and upskilling, as well as those related to social and affordable housing and tackling the digital divide have the potential to support social inclusion.

Italy

Allocation: EUR 7 billion. Relevant components: M1C1, M1C3, M4C1, M5C2, M5C3, and M6C1.

The recovery and resilience plan presents a comprehensive set of measures to improve social protection. It includes measures to increase social inclusion with actions targeted towards vulnerable and disadvantaged groups such as people with disabilities and older people. These measures aim at increasing synergies between social and health services, preventing institutionalisation and supporting the autonomy of older people and persons with disabilities, including by strengthening community and home-care services. It also addresses major social vulnerabilities in terms of material poverty and housing deprivation and invests in urban regeneration and sports to foster social inclusion and integration. Social protection is also

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supported with education measures, for instance through investments to increase the availability of early childhood education and care facilities (0-6 age group), to tackle school-dropout of vulnerable groups of students, and to provide scholarships to increase access to university studies. Finally, health measures aim to strengthen healthcare assistance at home for vulnerable people.

Latvia

Allocation: EUR 20.3 million. Relevant components: 3 and 6.

Investments and reforms in social inclusion are expected to strengthen social cohesion and social protection. The introduction of the indexation of minimum income benefits will ensure they will be annually adjusted to wage growth with a threshold of 20% of the national median income, and thus improve their adequacy. The plan contains investments in improving accessibility of private and public buildings for persons with disabilities and in development of social and occupational rehabilitation services for people with functional impairments. Furthermore, measures on strengthening NGOs aim to improve the representation of socially vulnerable groups in public advocacy.

Lithuania

Allocation: EUR 5.9 million. Relevant components: 1, 3, 6 and 7.

The plan focuses on enhancing social protection by some key measures. The assessment of the effectiveness of the tax and social insurance contributions in preventing poverty and reducing income inequality together with the reform of the guaranteed minimum income scheme aims at improving the social welfare of the most vulnerable groups. Increasing coverage of the unemployment insurance scheme, accreditation of social care, introducing additional benefit to single older and persons with disabilities as well as improving the pension indexation mechanism will contribute to alleviate poverty. The plan also contains measures to develop ICT tools for more efficient communication of persons with disabilities as well as long-term care

reform together with investments in day centres and mobile commands. Finally, Lithuania is expected to establish a public health service delivery model.

Luxembourg

Allocation: EUR 0 million. No component.

The plan does not include any specific measure on social protection. However, it envisages a number of relevant reforms and investments aiming to improve skills of job seekers and workers placed in a short-time work scheme, to increase access to healthcare, and to support social housing.

Malta

Allocation: EUR 0 million. Relevant component: 5.

While the Maltese plan does not have specific investments focused on social protection, it includes reforms to strengthen social cohesion. Pupils with special needs are to profit from enhanced quality and inclusive education in mainstream school environments through multi-sensory learning rooms and autism units, accompanied by training for educators. Comprehensive online courses and coaches ('e-College') will allow better access to training for all, in particular the low-skilled. A study assessing unemployment benefits is expected to make concrete recommendations on how to improve effective coverage and achieve better adequacy, both in terms of duration and effective access, whilst enhancing incentives to work. The strategic review of pensions undertaken to assess the state of the system will be followed up by the elaboration of policy options with a view to continue pursuing reforms that ensure their adequacy and sustainability.

Portugal

Allocation: EUR 835.6 million. Relevant components: 1, 2, 3 and 13.

The plan includes various social measures, including a comprehensive approach on social and affordable housing, population ageing, long-term care, support to vulnerable groups, disadvantaged communities and territories, and social safety nets. It expands in

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particular the access and coverage of social services, including access to early childhood education and care. Specific measures focus on the integration and mobility of people with disabilities and on the fight against energy poverty. Finally, Portugal establishes a new general framework for social interventions with the adoption of a national disability strategy, a national poverty strategy and a mental health reform that includes a dedicated section on long-term care.

Romania

Allocation: EUR 1.1 billion. Relevant components: 1, 8, 12, 13, 14, and 15.

Support to social protection in the Romanian recovery and resilience plan is robust and stretches across various demographic groups. It tackles access to services in remote areas, support for early childhood education and care, support for students at risk of drop out, as well as strengthening of long-term care services for older people. Significant effort is dedicated to improving the access for people in rural disadvantaged and marginalised areas to basic health care, including through prevention and early diagnosis and treatment services, as well as to address the complexity of health services in primary, outpatient and community care. Besides investments, the plan includes reforms of long-term care services, the education system, the implementation of the minimum income scheme, a reform of the protection system for adults with disabilities, a reform of the social economy, and a reform of the public pension system.

Slovakia

Allocation: EUR 537 million. Relevant components: 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 18.

The Slovak Plan includes significant measures at the intersection between social and health/care services. It focuses on expanding services, including investments in community-based long-term care, setting-up the outpatient clinics in the underserved areas and on mental care, aiming to help protect vulnerable groups. The plan also includes measures to improve skills of pupils by modernising school curriculum and ensure equal access to quality education and support school desegregation. Slovakia will also set up a scholarship scheme for students to attract talented youngsters to take up high school education.

Slovenia

Allocation: EUR 148.2 million. Relevant components: 10, 14, 15 and 16.

The Slovenian plan includes a number of measures on social protection across several components. It includes notably reforms to improve the adequacy of unemployment and pension benefits, as well as investments to support the employability of persons with disabilities by introducing more flexible working methods. Other measures aim to increase access to the health and long-term care services with a special focus on vulnerable groups. The long-term care reform is expected to relieve the current burden on the families of people needing special care. The reform will be accompanied by investments in long-term care nursing homes and care homes. Finally, the recovery and resilience plan includes measures to improve the social housing system and provide more social housing units primarily for socially disadvantaged and marginalised groups.

Spain

Allocation: EUR 1.7 billion. Relevant components: 15, 21, 22, 23, 26, 28, 29 and 30

The plan is expected to modernise and strengthen social services and inclusion policies putting a particular focus on promoting deinstitutionalisation of long-term care services linked to an ageing population. In addition, the plan envisages measures to promote new dwellings for social rental purposes at affordable prices. For the medium term, the plan envisages a national deinstitutionalisation strategy with the objective of taking better account of the needs and preferences of people in need of support. A reform aims at establishing a national minimum income scheme, setting up a minimum level of non-contributory financial benefits for the most vulnerable households and streamlining of the unemployment assistance to extend unemployment protection by filling coverage gaps in the system. The adoption of a framework law to guarantee common standards for the provision of social services will contribute to improving the coordination with other related social protection systems and reducing regional disparities relating to the type, level and quality of services provided. Furthermore, a new law for the protection of

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families will take into consideration different types of family structures and determine benefits and services on the basis of their features and income levels, which aims to reduce child poverty. Other specific actions aim at supporting victims of gender-based violence, at improving the capacity of the reception system for asylum-seekers and other people in need of protection, and at improving the accessibility of persons with disabilities to public services.