

Public consultation on a possible EU action addressing the challenges of access to social protection for people in all forms of employment in the framework of the European Pillar of Social Rights

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

I. Identifying information

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*** Country:**

- Austria
- Belgium
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- Finland
- France
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- Ireland
- Italy
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- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- EU level
- Other

Language of your contribution:

- Bulgarian
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- Estonian
- Finnish
- French
- Gaelic
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Maltese
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Slovak
- Slovenian

- Spanish
- Swedish

You are a(n):

- Individual citizen
- Central government / ministry
- Other public authority (local, regional, etc.)
- Workers' organisation/ trade union
- Employers' organisation
- Self-employed organisation
- Civil society
- Researcher/academic
- Think-Tank / Consultancy
- European Institution
- International organisation
- Occupational / Mutual funds
- Company
- Other

Your reply:

- can be published with your personal information (I consent to publication of all information in my contribution and I declare that none of it is under copyright restrictions that prevent publication)
- can be published in an anonymous way (I consent to publication of all information in my contribution except my name/the name of my organisation and I declare that none of it is under copyright restrictions that prevent publication)

II. Questionnaire

Providing access to social protection and related employment services for people in all forms of employment is crucial not only for the economic and social safety of the workforce, but also for well-functioning labour markets and economies that create quality jobs and sustainable growth. Yet, there are groups of employed who are left without sufficient access to social protection and related employment services. The Commission has identified and described relevant challenges in the background document.

Respondents to this questionnaire are recommended to read the background document before proceeding.

1. The background document identifies some challenges regarding social protection and related employment services.

Do you agree with the identification of the challenges outlined in the background document?

	I do agree	I rather agree	I rather do not agree	I do not agree	I don't know
Gaps in formal coverage	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gaps in effective coverage	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Insufficient transferability of rights	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Insufficient transparency of rights and	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regulatory complexity	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There are other challenges in access to social protection and employment services	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please specify:

200 character(s) maximum

Challenges in accessing social protection outside of employment relationships. Examples are access to employment services when being retired or access to pension or health insurance for informal carer

2. Social protection covers several benefits and services from unemployment benefits to long-term care, and employment services are connected to some of these benefits.

Which areas of social protection and employment services (listed below) do you consider to be relevant for a possible EU initiative promoting access?

2.1 for workers in non-standard forms of employment? (please choose max. 3 items on the list)

Social protection:

	High relevance	Medium relevance	Low relevance	Not relevant at all	Don't know
Unemployment benefits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sickness benefits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Benefits in respect of accidents at work and occupational diseases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Old-age benefits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invalidity benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survivor's benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maternity and equivalent paternity benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Long-term care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.1 for workers in non-standard forms of employment?

Employment services:

	High relevance	Medium relevance	Low relevance	Not relevant at all	Don't know
Guidance, counselling and placement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Training and updating skills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rehabilitation and re-insertion measures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.2 for self-employed? (please choose max. 3 items on the list)

Social protection:

	High relevance	Medium relevance	Low relevance	Not relevant at all	Don't know
Unemployment benefits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sickness benefits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Benefits in respect of accidents at work and occupational diseases	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Old-age benefits	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invalidity benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survivor's benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maternity and equivalent paternity benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Long-term care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2.2 for self-employed?

Employment services:

	High relevance	Medium relevance	Low relevance	Not relevant at all	Don't know

Guidance, counselling and placement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Training and updating skills	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rehabilitation and re-insertion measures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Some common principles could be promoted to help increase access to social protection and employment services to all people, regardless of their form of employment, and so foster upward social convergence in the EU. Do you think that the following general policy principles should be pursued by a possible EU initiative?

	I do agree	I rather agree	I rather do not agree	I do not agree	I don't know
Regardless of the type and duration of their employment relationship, workers, and, under comparable conditions, the self-employed, have the right to adequate social protection;	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tying rights to individuals as they work (and not to the contract) and making rights transferable;	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Making rights and related information transparent;	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Simplifying administrative requirements.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
No action required	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. People in non-standard forms of employment and self-employed are facing gaps in formal coverage to social protection and their effective coverage is limited by rules of eligibility, low-levels of benefits, complexity of rules and the risk of under-insurance. Action to address gaps in access to social protection may be taken at EU, national and regional level.

4.1 Which avenues do you consider most appropriate to address the challenges of the gaps in formal and effective coverage by social protection?

4.1.1 for non-standard forms of employment

4.1.1.1 The social protection rights and obligations not yet formally covered should: (Please choose only one answer from the list)

- be mandatory (for every kind of job, irrespective of the type of contract)
- be voluntary (for every kind of job where gaps exist, irrespective of the type of contract)
- be partly mandatory and partly voluntary (for every kind of job where gaps exist, irrespective of the type of contract)
- remain as they are (no action required)

4.1.1.2 What should be the level of protection in the case of rights not yet formally or effectively covered? (Please choose only one answer from the list)

- Mandatory protection and contributions aligned to the level of standard workers
- A minimum level of mandatory protection and contribution is defined for all people in employment
- Differentiated levels are defined
- Remain as it is (no action required)

4.1.1.3. What is the most appropriate way to ensure effective coverage? (Multiple answers possible)

- A single social protection scheme covering all people in employment
- Specific mandatory social protection schemes could co-exist and their qualification criteria, contribution rules and benefit calculation could be tailored to the specificities of each group
- Temporary and decreasing incentives for low income people in non-standard forms of employment to enable them to fully and/or effectively participate on a mandatory basis in social protection schemes.
- Access to unemployment benefits and employment services tied with activation measures for all people in employment, regardless of their employment contract
- Automatic enrolment with opt-out clauses
- Creation of voluntary schemes accompanied with better information and reduced administrative burden
- Tailoring better the qualification criteria, contribution rules and benefits' calculation of the voluntary schemes to the needs and specificities of each group
- Temporary and decreasing incentives for low income people in non-standard forms of employment to enable them to fully and/or effectively participate on a voluntary basis in social protection schemes
- Other

4.1.1.4 In your view, is there a need for EU-level action to ensure access to social protection and related employment services for people in non-standard forms of employment where gaps exist?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

What elements from sections 4.1.1.1, 4.1.1.2 and 4.1.1.3 should be addressed by EU action?

500 character(s) maximum

Incentive measures for coverage of non-standard employment should not create disincentives to standard employment. Tailoring of qualification criteria should only take place if other initiatives (mandatory enrolment and mandatory enrolment with incentive measures) are not feasible and as to provide access to social protection for low-income non-standard workers, who did not choose their form of employment.

What kind of EU policy instrument(s) would be most effective?

	Highly effective	Moderately effective	Low effective	Not effective at all	Don't know

Improve the implementation of the existing EU-level legislative framework	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Introduce new EU legislation (ex: Directive)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Introduce soft EU legislation to be adhered by MS on a voluntary basis (ex: Council recommendation)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strengthen EU level coordination and monitoring (e.g European semester, Social Open Method of Coordination, employment guidelines, benchmarks)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Exchange of best practices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A combination of two or more of the above	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please specify

200 character(s) maximum

The EU could use its experience in making rights transferrable cross-border also to make them transferrable between employment statuses.

4.1 Which avenues do you consider most appropriate to address the challenges of the gaps in formal and effective coverage by social protection?

4.1.2 for self-employed not yet covered

4.1.2.1 The social protection rights and obligations should (Please choose only one answer from the list)

- be mandatory for all self-employed
- be voluntary for self-employed not yet covered
- be partly mandatory and partly voluntary
- remain as they are (no action required)

4.1.2.2 What should be the level of protection? (Please choose only one answer from the list)

- Mandatory protection and contribution aligned to the level of standard workers
- A minimum level of mandatory protection and contribution is defined for all people in employment
- Differentiated levels are defined for self-employed according to their specific needs
- Remain as it is (no action required)

4.1.2.3 What is the most appropriate way to ensure effective coverage? (Multiple answers possible)

- A single social protection scheme could be envisaged to cover all people in employment
- Specific mandatory social protection schemes could co-exist and their qualification criteria, contribution rules and benefit calculation could be tailored to the specificities of each
-

The choice of contributing to a public or private insurance scheme is left open to self-employed as long as they are part of an insurance scheme which would protect them in case of need

- Temporary and decreasing incentives for low income self-employed to enable them to fully and/or effectively participate on a mandatory basis in social protection schemes
- Access to unemployment benefits and employment services tied with activation measures
- Automatic enrolment with opt-out clauses
- Creation of voluntary schemes accompanied with better information and reduced administrative burden
- Tailoring better the qualification criteria, contribution rules and benefits' calculation of the voluntary schemes to the needs and specificities of each group
- Temporary and decreasing incentives for low income self-employed to to enable them to fully and /or effectively participate on a voluntary basis in the social protection schemes
- Other

4.1.2.4 In your view, is there a need for EU-level action to ensure access to social protection for self-employed where gaps exist?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

What elements from sections 4.1.1.1, 4.1.1.2 and 4.1.1.3 should be addressed by EU action?

500 character(s) maximum

The ideal situation would cover self-employed and non-standard employed on equal terms, maybe with some positive incentives to help start-ups / starting self-employed in job creation. Leaving the choice between private or public insurance might lead to non-coverage in countries where adequate, affordable and appropriate private coverage is not available.

What kind of EU policy instrument(s) would be most effective?

	Highly effective	Moderately effective	Low effective	Not effective at all	Don't know
Improve the implementation of the existing EU-level legislative framework	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Introduce new EU legislation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Introduce soft EU legislation to be adhered by MS on a voluntary basis (ex: Council recommendation)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strengthen EU level coordination and monitoring (e.g European semester, Social Open Method of Coordination, employment guidelines, benchmarks)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Exchange of best practices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

A combination of two or more of the above	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Please specify

200 character(s) maximum

The same comment as above applies, a combination of instruments should be used to be most effective

4.2 Transferability and transparency of social protection rights could help to ensure secure labour market transitions. Which avenues do you consider most appropriate to address those gaps ?

	Highly appropriate	Moderately Appropriate	Low appropriate	Not appropriate at all	Don't know
Stipulating minimum standards for timely acquisition, preservation and transferability of social protection and employment service rights	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creation of individual accounts for social protection and/or employment service rights (in order to avoid losses of social entitlements when changing jobs)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Simplifying administrative procedures	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4.2.1 If your response is highly or moderately appropriate, is there a need for EU-level action?

	Yes	No	I don't know
Stipulating minimum standards for timely acquisition, preservation and transferability of social protection and employment service rights	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Creation of individual accounts for social protection and/or employment service rights (in order to avoid losses of social entitlements when changing jobs)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Simplifying administrative procedures	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If yes, what kind of EU policy instrument(s) would be most effective?

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	Highly effective	Moderately effective	Low effective	Not effective at all	Don't know
Introduce new EU legislation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Introduce soft EU legislation to be adhered by MS on a voluntary basis (ex: Council recommendation)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strengthen EU level coordination and monitoring (e.g European semester, Social Open Method of Coordination, employment guidelines, benchmarks)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Exchange of best practices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A combination of two or more of the above	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please specify

200 character(s) maximum

The same comment as above applies, a combination of instruments should be used to be most effective

4.3 The background document identified gaps in access to employment services for some groups. Which avenues do you consider most appropriate to address the challenges of the gaps in access to employment services?

	Highly appropriate	Moderately Appropriate	Low appropriate	Not appropriate at all	Don't know
Access to employment services for workers should be ensured, irrespective of type of contract, and for self-employed	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Some social protection benefits should be bound to the participation in specific employment related programmes.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4.3.1 If your response is highly or moderately appropriate, is there a need for EU-level action to ensure that rights and obligations to employment services are voluntary where gaps exist?

Yes

- No
- I don't know

If yes, what kind of EU policy instrument(s) would be most effective?

	Highly effective	Moderately effective	Low effective	Not effective at all	Don't know
Improve the implementation of the existing EU-level legislative framework	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Introduce new EU legislation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Introduce soft EU legislation to be adhered by MS on a voluntary basis (ex: Council recommendation)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strengthen EU level coordination and monitoring (e.g European semester, Social Open Method of coordination, employment guidelines, benchmarks)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Exchange of best practices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A combination of two or more of the above	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please specify:

200 character(s) maximum

Action is needed to provide access to employment services for all, regardless of the employment status, unemployment or inactivity. Conditionality on unemployment benefits should be avoided, though.

5. According to your assessment, the impact of making social protection rights mandatory in all forms of employment would be positive, neutral or negative for

	positive	neutral	negative
The European society: Cohesion in society	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The European society: Intergenerational justice	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The labour market: Labour market transitions	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The labour market: Transparency	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The economy: Competitiveness	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The economy: Resilience and adaptability	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The economy: Economic growth	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The workers: Security of workers	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The workers: Investment in people and their skills	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social protection and public finances: Financial sustainability of social protection systems	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social protection and public finances: Adequacy of social protection benefits and services	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social protection and public finances: Public budget	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Small and medium sized enterprises: Cost	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Small and medium sized enterprises: Competition	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5.1 In your opinion, what is the most important positive and negative impact of making social protection rights mandatory in all forms of employment?

400 character(s) maximum

Making social protection rights mandatory for all forms of employment would prevent situations of discrimination and abuse, including overuse of atypical work contracts, and reduce competitive distortion between different models of employment between companies. It also fosters transparency and promotes a level playing field among workers.

6. According to your assessment, the impact of making social protection rights voluntary where gaps currently exist would be

	positive	neutral	negative
The European society: Cohesion in society	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
The European society: Intergenerational justice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
The labour market: Labour market transitions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
The labour market: Transparency	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
The economy: Competitiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The economy: Resilience and adaptability	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The economy: Economic growth	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The workers: Security of workers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
The workers: Investment in people and their skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Social protection and public finances: Financial sustainability of social protection systems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Social protection and public finances: Adequacy of social protection benefits and services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Social protection and public finances: Public budgets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Small and medium sized enterprises: Cost	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Small and medium sized enterprises: Competition	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6.1 In your opinion, what is the most important positive and negative impact of making social protection rights voluntary where gaps currently exist?

400 character(s) maximum

Making social protection rights voluntary would fail to reach the goal to ensure effective access to social protection for all workers, notably the most vulnerable ones, as they would be more likely not to take up voluntary protection because of its cost. It will leave the door open to unfair competition, discrimination and abuse, including overuse of atypical work contracts.

7. If you have any additional comments and/or suggestions, feel free to use the open answer box below.

1500 character(s) maximum

Q 2.1 and 2.2 are misleading. All areas of social protection listed are relevant and should be provided. We chose the 3 selected benefits specifically linked to employment (except for work accident insurance, because we had to reduce to 3), while universal access for all people in society should be ensured for all the other listed areas.

Q4.3.1 is not clear: the aim should be to make services accessible to all, not create 'voluntary obligations'. AGE regrets that the focus of the initiative on 'social protection for all' is only focussing on non-standard forms of employment and self-employment, as many persons who are not employed lack access to social protection benefits and services: first of all informal carers who have stopped being employed because of their care duties, but also older workers with health difficulties or having dropped out of unemployment benefits because they have not been hired in time, or inactive workers with health difficulties. They should be reached by social protection systems with universal health and long-term care insurance, but also with pension credits (carers), employment services when a progressive return to employment is feasible and minimum income arrangements that allow people to live in dignity.

Therefore we call for a Council recommendation on the social protection and services for informal carers and a Framework Directive on Minimum Income. Action should also be taken to increase take-up rates of social benefits and services.

8. If you wish please send your written contribution to EMPL-ACCESS-SOCIAL-PROTECTION-OPC@ec.europa.eu

Contact

EMPL-ACCESS-SOCIAL-PROTECTION-OPC@ec.europa.eu