

Principle 13: Unemployment Benefits

Action to improve the adequacy of unemployment benefits, coverage of beneficiaries and duration of payments



1 What are the demands of Social Platform & its Members?

The EU should support and encourage Member States to strengthen their efforts to improve the adequacy of unemployment benefits, coverage of beneficiaries and duration of payments to ensure a life of dignity;

More action is needed to make the 2008 Recommendation for the Active Inclusion of Those Furthest from the Labour Market a reality;

Member States should further improve the implementation through integrated and comprehensive strategies based on three strands: adequate income support, access to quality labour services, and inclusive labour markets;

It is crucial to ensure decent income levels for job seekers and for those who cannot access employment through unemployment benefits or other forms of social protection to keep people socially included in society, which is also a precondition for their inclusion in employment.

“ The unemployed have the right to adequate activation support from public employment services to (re) integrate in the labour market and adequate unemployment benefits of reasonable duration... ”

2 Why do we make these demands?

In most Member States unemployment benefits and coverage are reduced over time;

Unemployment benefits are mainly regarded as a tool to get people back to work and not to ensure a life of dignity;

This forces people to accept jobs of poor quality, leading to a "revolving door" between poor jobs and often inadequate benefits.

3 How should they be implemented at EU level?

Mainstream the full implementation of active inclusion principles into a post-2020 Strategy, and monitor it through the European Semester process;

Ensure that the Social Pillar actively supports quality and inclusive labour markets, through new legal frameworks and effective benchmarking, defending employment and social rights as well as social standards.

Our chapter on principle 13 also includes recommendations on the Permanent European Unemployment Benefit Reinsurance Scheme. Read more in our [full paper](#).



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