### Principle 14: Minimum Income

**An EU Framework Directive on Adequate Minimum Income**

> Everyone lacking sufficient resources has the right to adequate minimum income benefits ensuring a life in dignity at all stages of life, and effective access to enabling goods and services...

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

1. **Adopt a Framework Directive to set minimum standards across the EU** for calculating adequate income support schemes to raise the living and working conditions of millions of people currently experiencing poverty or social exclusion;

2. **Set common methodologies** for adequate, accessible and enabling minimum income schemes at EU level to achieve a level playing field;

3. **Combine adequate minimum income with affordable quality services** and a comprehensive labour market inclusion approach for those who can work;

4. **Regularly update minimum income levels to the actual costs of living** for different household types and across different regions;

5. **Support Member States in the realisation of adequate minimum income schemes**, including through relevant EU-wide indicators, benchmarks and systematic monitoring.

#### Why do we make these demands?

1. More than 109 million people in the EU are living at risk of poverty or social exclusion (2018);

2. This amounts to 21.7% of the population;

3. The COVID-19 pandemic likely increased the number;

4. Only two Member States have minimum income levels at or above the national poverty threshold.

#### How should they be implemented at EU level?

1. **Adequacy**: only a MI at the level of the national poverty threshold is a starting point for defining adequacy;

2. **Access**: MI needs to be available to everyone in need and as long as needed for;

3. **Enabling aspects**: MI needs to be rooted in an active inclusion strategy and have people’s empowerment, participation and well-being at its core.

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*Read more about principle 14 in our full paper.*