



Brussels, 3 May 2021

To: European Commission, Eurostat, and the Indicator Sub-Group of the Social Protection Committee

Subject: Open letter on an ambitious and comprehensive revision of the Social Scoreboard

Dear colleagues,

We are facing unprecedented health, economic, employment, and social crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has exacerbated pre-existing social and health inequalities and brought to the surface the weaknesses of existing health and social protection systems. This crisis has especially impacted people in vulnerable situations, who already started out in a position of disadvantage compared to other groups. This is particularly evident for people who are facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination who experience compounded risks and burdens.

Social Platform, its member organisations and their members at national level represent the interests of social civil society organisations and people in all their diversity, including those in the most vulnerable situations. They also represent social economy actors and not-for-profit social service providers who support millions of people in their day-to-day lives and who have been key during this pandemic in ensuring care and support.

We call on the European Commission, together with Eurostat, to revise the Social Scoreboard ambitiously and comprehensively. It must contain additional headline and secondary indicators that extensively cover all 20 Social Pillar principles. It must also better disaggregate data by various factors, such as gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, aiming at measuring the impact of policies on various groups, particularly those in vulnerable situations. Only then can persisting and complex barriers and reforms needed for improving the living and working conditions for these groups be identified and translated into adequate policy responses. Moreover, it is crucial to ensure coherence between the Social Scoreboard and other measuring and monitoring frameworks attached to new and existing EU strategies and action plans, such as on Roma inclusion, on the integration and inclusion of third-country nationals, on persons with disabilities, on gender equality, on the LGBTQI+ community, the Child and Youth Guarantees, etc.

Our key recommendations for the Scoreboard revision can be found in an annex to this letter.

Now is the time for the EU and Member States to act, demonstrating that they are committed to building a more resilient, socially just, and inclusive Europe that leaves no one behind.

Yours sincerely,

Piotr Sadowski, Social Platform President



Annex: Social Platform key recommendations on the revision of the Social Scoreboard

1. Social Platform calls for an **ambitious and comprehensive implementation of the Social Pillar and its Action Plan that truly leaves no one behind**. We therefore are concerned by what we consider to be **missing indicators in the European Commission proposal for the revision of the Social Scoreboard**, and **call for the following groups and policy areas to be sufficiently addressed through additional indicators** in the revised Social Scoreboard:

- an indicator and subsequent targets to measure and reduce the gender pay, pensions and poverty gaps (principle 2);
- an indicator monitoring the impact of discrimination on all groups to respond to principle 3 on Equal Opportunities, as the section of the Scoreboard which is titled as such is currently only focused on skills and income inequality. This should be disaggregated as further explained in point 2;
- an indicator to measure job creation by social economy actors for groups in vulnerable situations (principle 4);
- indicators measuring aspects related to quality employment, such as work-life balance (e.g. workplace arrangements, and the take-up rate of men availing of parental leave measures not just childcare), access to trade union membership and collective bargaining, and active support to employment (through comprehensive Active Inclusion approaches) (various principles in chapter 2);
- an indicator for measuring the practice of the participative management in enterprises (principle 8);
- in addition to the proposed indicators on spending on long-term care (as % of GDP) and on coverage of needs, an indicator reflecting access to affordable and quality long-term care and a sub-indicator reflecting the extent to which informal carers can access adequate support (e.g. social protection, income support, support services, access to training, advice and peer exchange, as well as protective work-life balance measures) as part of countries' investment in quality long-term care (principle 18);
- an indicator on homelessness and on housing cost overburden, in particular the overburden for tenants in the private sector (principle 19);
- an indicator measuring the level of investment into social services as % of GDP spent or equivalent (principle 20);
- an indicator measuring self-reported met/unmet needs for social services (principle 20).
- an indicator on service provision for people seeking protection in situations of gender-based violence (principle 20).

2. In order to detect and effectively tackle **the effects of intersectional discrimination**, Social Platform calls for better **disaggregation of data**, including:

- disaggregation by racial and ethnic origin for all Social Scoreboard indicators, in-line with the demands of the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan, at EU and national level, and following the principles of equality data collection (e.g. in-line with the following [guidelines](#) or the following [handbook](#));
- breakdowns by age (including children and youth), gender, country of birth and disability as well as socio-economic status added to all the Social Scoreboard indicators, not only where it is considered to be "relevant";



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- revision of the age groups used in the indicators to avoid cutting data collection at age 65 and take account of the growing share of older persons in the composition of the population, notably regarding very high age groups (85+, 95+);
- breakdowns by "subnational level" or "territorial units" (e.g. NUTS-2 level) to capture regional differences.

3. Considering existing difficulties with disaggregating European Union Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) data by various factors, while ensuring a sufficiently large sample size, we are calling for EU-SILC's sampling structure to be reshaped to better address these issues.

4. Also, further efforts must be made to include (so-called) hard-to-reach-groups, such as persons in institutional care facilities, homeless persons etc.

5. Finally, we would like to draw your attention to the Gender Equality Index, produced annually by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) to measure progress on gender equality in the EU. This unique source provides comparable data across Member States in six core domains and two additional domains, including intersecting inequalities. The Gender Equality Index goes beyond the 'household unit' measurement that is used by EU-SILC and is therefore very relevant for the disaggregation of data in the Social Scoreboard.