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EU funds for Malta 2014 2020

Stakeholder Consultation Committee

Policy Objective 4 - A more Social Europe – Implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights

Labour Market and Social Cohesion

3re February 2020

Labour Market: Overview

Current situation:

Significant improvements in employment rates in 2018, particularly when compared to data from 2014 and to current EU-28:

- 75.5% of 20 to 64 year olds are employed (EU-28 average of 73.2%);
- 2.4% of the labour force are unemployed (EU-28 rate of 4.4%);
- Regional discrepancies between Malta and Gozo have decreased.

Notwithstanding:

- Gender-based discrepancies;
- Underemployment.

Labour Market: Gender analysis

Current situation:

- Male employment rate is currently 7.6% higher than the EU-28 rate;
- Female employment rate of females is 1.9% less than the EU-28 rate;
- Employment rate of women exceeds the EU-28 average up to age 34, however it declines sharply thereafter.

Investment needs:

- Reduction of the gender pay gap;
- Increase the employment rate for women over 35, including through flexibility in employment conditions;
- Incentives for women to become self-employed.

Labour Market: Youth employment

Current situation:

Improvements since 2014:

- Youth Guarantee Scheme;
- 50.9% employed (EU-28 average of 35.4%);
- Unemployment rate for young people decreased from 11.7% to 9.1%;
- More gender balance;
- Less NEETs and ESLs, albeit persisting challenges.

Investment needs:

- Reduction of ESLs, through schemes such as the youth and child guarantee;
- Lifelong learning and CPD.

Labour Market:

Vulnerable/disadvantaged groups

Current situation:

- The elderly - activity rate of 51.9% (still lower than EU-28 average 61.9%), especially for females).
- Foreign nationals - 23.6% of the total employed population (doubled since 2014); 73.4% of which are from Europe.
- Persons with a disability - Decrease in number of people with disability registering for work between 2014-2018.

Investment needs:

- Employment schemes, lifelong learning and CPD, including in the case of youth and foreign nationals.
- Support for employers and employees.

Social cohesion: Overview

Current situation:

- Effective address of the 2008-2013 poverty surge;
- Public expenditure growth rate of 13.7%;
- Material deprivation is higher for females, similar to the EU-28 average;
- Severe material deprivation at 3.0% (less than the EU-28 average of 5.9%).

Notwithstanding:

- Age and sex variants significantly affect poverty and material deprivation;
- Limitations intersect with health (physical & mental), education and training.

Social cohesion:
At-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion

Current situation:

- Population aged 55 years and over at highest risk of poverty, currently at 24.9%;
- 59.6% of the unemployed are at risk of poverty (EU-28 rate 48.5%);
- Amplified gender discrepancies between age cohorts;
- 17.6% of households with dependents are at-risk-of-poverty, compared to 16.1% of (households without dependents;
- Lowest household expenditure in Southern Harbour district, Gozo and Comino.

Social cohesion:

Sub-standard housing & risk of homelessness

Associated with increased risks of:

- Poverty; Social exclusion; Injury; and Illness.

Currently, vulnerable cohorts include:

- Victims of domestic violence;
- Separated persons living under same roof;
- People with physical and/or mental health challenges;
- Low-income families suffering multiple deprivations.

Investment needs:

- Availability of adequate and affordable housing;
- Investment in community centres and programmes targeting vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and promoting integration.

Social cohesion: Education

Current situation:

- Persons attaining low levels of education experience a higher at-risk of poverty rate;
- The higher the level of education of parents, the less likely that the respective child will face poverty and social exclusion;
- Within the cohort of adults holding ISCED Level 0-2, females stand a higher risk of poverty (30%) than their male counterparts (23.1%).

Social cohesion:
Investment needs

- A gender-sensitized approach;
- Increased participation in further & higher education;
- Long-term & sustainable integration & participation in the labour market & quality employment;
- Decreased dependency on state benefits & permanent transition out of poverty.

Thank you for your attention.

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