

**November 2017**

*Deepening economic and monetary union (EMU) and achieving 'Social Triple A' status, which should be a tool to contribute to fair and balanced growth, decent jobs and labour protection, is one of the priorities of the current Commission. In this context, in April this year, it presented the European Pillar of Social Rights, to serve as a reference for a renewed process of convergence. It sets out 20 principles and rights to support the renewal of current labour markets and welfare systems. The main issue around the Pillar and the broader topic of the future of Social Europe is how these principles and rights will be implemented, so that they reach all and lead to real upward convergence. Related to this issue is the rather limited competence of the EU in the social field, and the very different developmental paths of EU Member States. In this context, the Gothenburg Social Summit will provide an open forum for EU Heads of State or Government, the social partners and other key stakeholders to discuss how to promote fair jobs and growth across the different EU Member States.*

**Reflection paper on the social dimension of the EU**

*Briefing by Nora Milotay, June 2017*

The paper addresses two major issues in the social and employment fields: the main challenges that Member States are facing, and the added value of the various EU instruments available to tackle them. The Commission is proposing three alternative scenarios: an exclusive focus on the free movement of workers, development of a multispeed Europe, and genuine deepening of economic and monetary union across the EU-27. The successful implementation of the European pillar of social rights and related initiatives will depend a great deal on the outcome of this reflection process.

**The future of work in the EU**

*Briefing by Monika Kiss, April 2017*

Economic and technical changes are redrawing the map of the world of work: new jobs are appearing and atypical work patterns are replacing full-time work and open-ended contracts. Work is increasingly being carried out on online platforms. Through robotics and digitalisation, machines are progressively replacing the human workforce for routine tasks. Active labour-market policies are needed to cater for the changing reality in the world of work. This concerns social security systems, unresolved ethical and practical problems relating to robotics, and the need for new digital skills.

**NEETs: Who are they? being young and not in employment, education or training**

*Briefing by Marie Lecerf, March 2017*

In 2015 in the European Union, 12 % of 15 to 24-year-olds (6.6 million people) were not in a job, training or an internship. This social group is highly diverse, including short- and long-term unemployed people, young people in transition, young people with family responsibilities, and people with disabilities or medical conditions. In response to the NEET situation the European Commission drew up an EU Youth Strategy for the 2010-2018 period, whilst the European Parliament defended the NEET cause. The Youth Guarantee scheme created as a result is the European Union's key measure to provide support to NEETs.

**Understanding social dumping in the European Union**

*Briefing by Monika Kiss, March 2017*

With no existing definition, social dumping is considered to be a set of practices on an international, national or inter-corporate level, aimed at gaining an advantage over competitors, which could have significant negative

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consequences for economic processes and workers' social security. Suppressing social dumping is a component of different regulations on working mobility, undeclared work, and the status of transport workers. Applicable EU rules can only be effective if adequate implementation and enforcement by the Member States is guaranteed.

## [Fostering social innovation in the European Union](#)

Briefing by Nora Milotay, January 2017

Social innovation is gaining increasing importance in the public, private and third (i.e. non-profit) sectors, and can contribute greatly to addressing the growing challenges, such as migration, poverty and global warming. The EU particularly promotes social innovation through employment and social policies, as well as policies on the single market. The main initiatives explicitly target the governance and funding mechanism of social innovation with varied impact. To make these initiatives more effective, it is important to know more about the impact of social innovation, including its social and environmental value and the importance of these for the economy.

### Further reading

#### [Measuring social progress in EU regions](#)

Briefing by Agnieszka Widuto, EPRS, November 2017

#### [Measuring social impact in the EU](#)

Briefing by Nora Milotay, EPRS, May 2017

#### [Risk of precariousness: Results from a European working conditions survey 2010-2015](#)

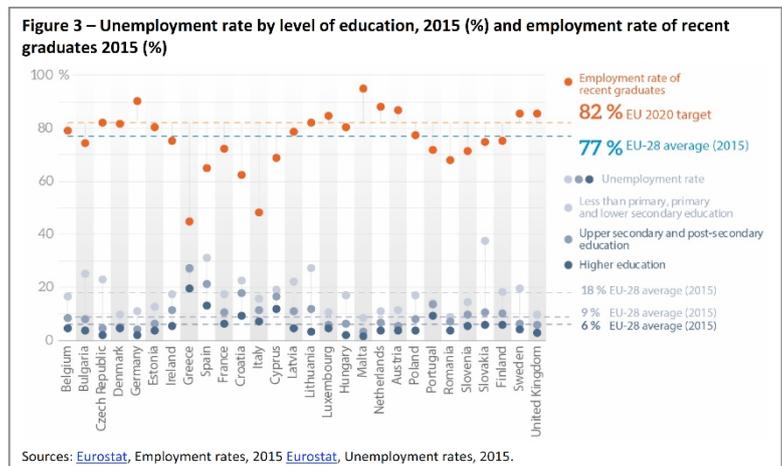
In-depth analysis for the EMPL Committee, Policy Department for Economic and Scientific Policy, European Parliament, March 2017

#### [The collaborative economy: Socioeconomic, regulatory and policy issues](#)

In-depth analysis for the IMCO Committee, Policy Department for Economic and Scientific Policy, European Parliament, February 2017

#### [Digital skills in the EU labour market](#)

In-depth analysis by Monika Kiss, January 2017



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