Dear Reader,

COVID-19 has impacted heavily on young people’s employment, education and mental well-being. Preventing the damage from becoming long-term ‘lockdown generation’ is a policy priority at EU level. A variety of EU initiatives, particularly the reinforced Youth Guarantee are already addressing many challenges ahead and EU funding for youth has increased considerably.

The effectiveness of new measures and increased spending, however, depends on their successful implementation at national level. The paper (see below) provides updated information on young people’s economic and social situation and indicates gaps still to be addressed. It recommends to improve further the monitoring of implementation and reporting on results.

Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, MEP, Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)

Youth In Europe: Effects of COVID-19
Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies

Young people, especially new labour market entrants, have been hit hard by the economic and social impact of the pandemic, leading to rising unemployment and inactivity rates.

The study requested by EMPL committee analyses the impact on young people of a pandemic-specific combination of factors - e.g. they tend to work in heavily-affected sectors and to work on temporary contracts. It also looks at effects on income, education and mental health and reviews Member State and EU policy initiatives.

Scan the QR code to access the publication
**Artificial Intelligence and urban development**
*Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies*

Expectations surrounding AI are high, especially in the context of smart-city initiatives, but the actual benefits are yet to be fully assessed. The study explores the state of available knowledge regarding the role of AI within urban development, its potential advantages and risks, and the foreseeable implications for socio-economic and territorial cohesion.

**EU Member States’ regulations on prostitution**
*Policy Department for Citizens’ Rights and Constitutional Affairs*

Risks, costs, problems and cross-border implications on women’s rights related to differing national regulations on prostitution. This study identifies and evaluates cross-border problems and risks related to differing EU Member States’ regulations on prostitution. It also suggests future EU legislation to reduce such problems/risks, thus preventing women from being trafficked while also protecting fundamental rights and gender equality.

**Requirements for a single database of beneficiaries**
*Policy Department for Budgetary Affairs*

The study serves as background information for the legislative Own Initiative Report on the digitalisation of European reporting, monitoring and audit. Building on the findings of the study on ‘The largest 50 beneficiaries in each EU Member State of CAP and Cohesion Funds’, this study assesses the requirements for a single EU database of beneficiaries. A single EU database of beneficiaries would serve for both audit and control, as well as transparency purposes.

**The human right to drinking water**
*Policy Department for External Relations*

The paper analyses the impact of large scale agriculture and industry on the right to water outside the EU, and assesses the potential of a human rights based approach. The analysis, requested by the DROI committee, looks at the pressure on water availability in third countries, caused by agriculture and industry. Taking into account the water-food-energy nexus, the author presents good practices for fulfilling state obligations and business responsibilities related to the right to water.

**FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS**

**PETI**  Illegal logging: legal issues and solutions - October 2021

**REGI**  Cross-border cooperation in healthcare - October 2021

**INTA**  Foreign subsidies and public procurement - October 2021

**BUDG**  Recovery, Brexit, Off-Budget instruments... what should be addressed in the next revision of the Financial Regulation? - November 2021

**ENVI**  Carbon farming: making agriculture fit for 2030 - November 2021

**JOIN THE NETWORK**

Policy departments provide in-house and external expertise to support EP committees and other parliamentary bodies in shaping legislation and exercising democratic scrutiny over EU policies.

Send your details to: ep-policydepartments@ep.europa.eu

All publications: www.europarl.europa.eu/supporting-analyses

**Disclaimer:** The items contained herein are drafted by the policy departments of the European Parliament and are provided for general information purposes only. The opinions expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the European Parliament. © Images and photos used under the license or the right of use by the European Parliament.