



SOCIAL INCLUSION

Social inclusion is a strategic objective of the European policy. Defining and measuring poverty and social exclusion is a difficult task as these notions are closely related to the concepts of standard of living and well-being. Considering them, we should have in mind a certain number of aspects, related to the access to employment, education, health care, housing as well as the degree of meeting the main needs and the ability to participate fully in society.

Poverty and social conditions are closely connected with the state of the economy. The high level of poverty, as well as the increase of long-term unemployment and the number of jobless households, negatively affect the national economy. Education as an investment in human capital is also a key factor. An increase in the number of people with a low level of education could reduce the capacity for engagement of human resources for providing economic welfare, and could negatively influence the growth of GDP and the long-term competitiveness. On the other hand, education and training could contribute to the increase of employability and respectively to reducing the risk of poverty. A higher gender pay gap could influence the willingness for work of women and consequently - the total employment.

Poverty and in particular the persistent risk of poverty may have a negative impact on health of the population. The level of poverty and the change in the level and quality of education could also reduce society's capacity to adapt to new consumption and production patterns, which has an impact on climate change, energy and transport.

The indicators included in this theme are as follows:

1. **At-risk-of-poverty rate before and after social transfers - key indicator**
2. S80/20 income quintile share ratio
3. People living in jobless households
4. Wages and salaries gap between men and women
5. **Long-term unemployment rate - key indicator**
6. **Early leavers from education and training - key indicator**
7. Participation rate of the population (7 - 15 years of age) in compulsory education
8. Persons with low educational attainment, by age groups
9. Participation in life-long learning
10. Low reading literacy performance of pupils
11. Internet usage by individuals.