

# EUROPE'S BUDGET

## Social and Skills

JULY 2025

The EU budget will help deliver on the European Pillar of Social Rights by investing in people through quality jobs, social inclusion, education, skills, health, housing and social infrastructure, including through the European Social Fund delivered via the National and Regional Partnership Plans. This support strengthens the Union's cohesion, resilience and competitiveness.

## Why is this a priority?

As Europe faces major transitions—green, digital, demographic—that reshape jobs, skills and our societies. Investing in upskilling and reskilling, in childcare, affordable housing or long-term care is essential to improve lives across Europe, and helps achieve social cohesion by:

- Supporting **quality employment and labour mobility**, and socially fair transition.
- Promoting **social inclusion and equality**.
- Balancing **economic integration with social inclusion**.

## What is the Commission proposing?

**At least 14% of National and Regional Partnership Plans will be dedicated to social expenditure**



## Tailoring reforms and investments to needs

The **European Social Fund** will be implemented via the new **National and Regional Partnership Plans** which will feature comprehensive sets of measures supporting education, employment and social objectives **such as reforms and investments to reskill and upskill people, improve the quality of education and training systems, fighting poverty and homelessness.**

Member States will also receive means to invest in social inclusion and skills with **Catalyst Europe** policy loans.

## Addressing skills shortages

For quality jobs in strategic sectors through the **European Competitiveness Fund**, supporting:

- life-long learning
- education
- training projects
- apprenticeships

## Tackling poverty

The **European Social Fund** will promote via the Partnership Plans equal opportunities for all, support strong social safety nets, foster social inclusion, intergenerational fairness and fight poverty.

With 93 million Europeans at risk of poverty or social exclusion, the new **plans** will support the most vulnerable, strengthening the Union's societies and social model.



## Promoting social innovation

The **EU Facility** will support microfinance, social enterprise finance, social economy as well as social infrastructure (incl. health and educational infrastructure) and social and student housing.

## Support for learning, mobility and cooperation in education

**Erasmus+** provides essential funding to support sport and youth initiatives across Europe, fostering cross-cultural collaboration, personal development, and community engagement.