

Eradicating poverty in the EU

May 2026



The **first-ever EU anti-poverty strategy** aims to prevent and address poverty in all its dimensions, **from birth to old age**. It sets out an ambitious social plan to **help eradicate poverty by 2050**. It puts a focus on **quality jobs**, which is the most effective way out of poverty for those who can work. The strategy comes together with new measures to **tackle housing exclusion and better support children** at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

1 in 5 Europeans, including 1 in 4 children,
are at risk of poverty or social exclusion

MAIN ACTIONS



Addressing poverty across people's lives

- Strengthening the European Child Guarantee
- Consulting social partners on a legal action to remove barriers to employment
- New guidance to address in-work poverty
- Supporting older people through adequate pensions and opportunities to stay in work



Tackling drivers of poverty

- Council Recommendation on fighting housing exclusion to expand social and affordable housing
- Easier access to social services
- Addressing discrimination and stigma around poverty



Joining efforts to combat poverty

- Principles for effective anti-poverty policies
- Ensuring people with lived experience of poverty help design solutions
- Coalition Against Poverty with businesses and philanthropic organisations





Combating child poverty

The **reinforced Child Guarantee** aims to meet the urgent needs of children in poverty, and **break the cycle of poverty** for good.



19.3 million children are at risk of poverty or social exclusion



75% of mothers with young children say care duties keep them out of work



Growing up in poverty nearly **doubles the risk of remaining in poverty as an adult**

MAIN ACTIONS



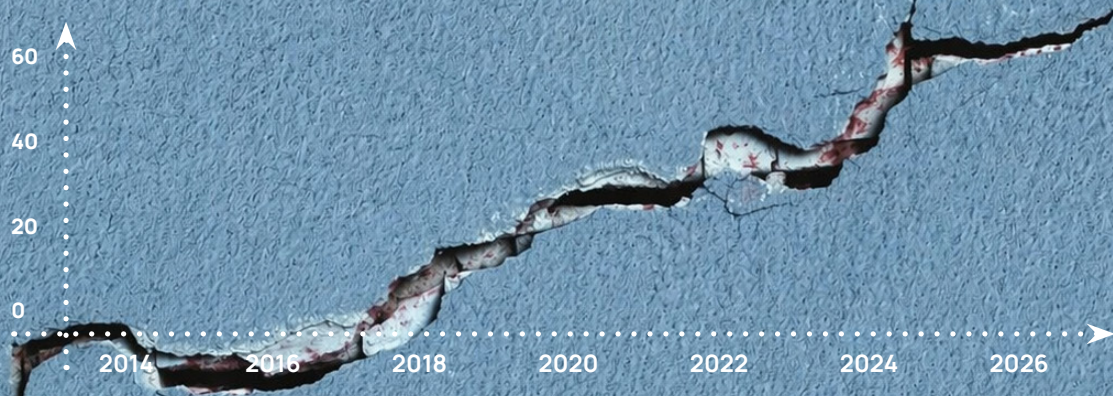
Better access to **quality childcare** and **more efficient child benefits**

Ensuring that all vulnerable children have access to the services they need to reach their full potential and protecting them from growing threats



Smoother transition to adulthood, with extended support





Fighting housing exclusion

The proposed **Council Recommendation on fighting housing exclusion** aims to ensure that everyone has a safe place to live, and to act early so that **no one is left sleeping on the streets**.



Approximately **1 million people** are affected by homelessness in the EU



40% of citizens identify lack of affordable housing as an **immediate and urgent problem** in the place where they live



House prices have **increased by 60%** since 2013

MAIN ACTIONS



Early **prevention of housing exclusion** through better monitoring and support



Stable housing solutions for homeless people



A housing-led approach centred on **people and their needs**



More availability of **social and affordable housing**