



# Towards a Social Europe

***Kalamata Conference on Growth  
Thematic Session on Strengthening Social Development  
and Social Cohesion  
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## Where we are

- *The promotion of social cohesion and supporting social development are key building blocks of the European Union;*
- *The COVID 19 crisis, followed by the energy crisis and the galloping inflation rate today, deepened inequalities at national and regional level and impacted more the vulnerable groups;*
- *A call for action was needed at European level and unprecedented policy and financial recovery packages were developed to address the impact of subsequent crisis;*
- *Cohesion Funds, in complementarity with the Recovery and Resilience Facility, boost the recovery process for a better economic and social cohesion;*

## What challenges we face

- *The unemployment rate in Greece remains high (EL 13% in 2021 vs EU27 6.5%) and affects disproportionately women (EL 19.8% in 2021 vs EU27 10.8%) and youth (EL 35.5% in 2021 vs EU27 16.6%);*
- *Skills mismatches persist and the level of digital skills is relatively low with limited participation in adult learning (EL 3.5% in the last 4 weeks in 2021 vs 10.8% EU 27);*
- *AROPE remains high in comparison to the EU average (EL 27.4% in 2020 vs EU 21.5%) with children most affected (EL 30.8% in 2020 vs 23.8% EU 27);*
- *Regional disparities remain important and regional targeting of the interventions is key in addressing social inclusion, unemployment and skills mismatches needs;*

# What we plan to deliver

- *The European Pillar of Social Rights is the compass of the recovery and our best tool to ensure no one is left behind;*
- *Greece set ambitious targets to support the delivery of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan:*
  - *At least 71.1% of the population aged 20 to 64 in Greece should be employed in 2030;*
  - *At least 35% of all adults in Greece should participate in education, training and learning every year in 2030;*
  - *The number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in Greece should be reduced by at least 7.3% by 2030.*

# What support instruments are available

- *Several funds and instruments are available and delivered at national and regional level in a complementary manner [ESF+, ERDF, JTF, REACT EU and RRF];*
- *For ESF+ Greece already committed to allocate important amounts to improving youth employment and social inclusion, tackle child poverty and support the most deprived;*
- *The targeted investments in the regional programmes will further strengthen regional cohesion;*
- *The reforms and investments in the NRRP boost the policy framework for a successful implementation of the principles of the Pillar and related priorities in Greece.*

**Thank you for your  
attention!**

**Ευχαριστώ για την  
προσοχή σας!**