

Together for a stronger Social Europe

Stakeholder Workshop on the implementation of the Recovery & Resilience Plan "Greece 2.0" *Monday, 28 November 2022 Athens*

> Patrick Paquet Head of Unit, European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion Unit Cyprus, Greece



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 policy funds in complementarity with the Recovery and Resilience Facility will boost the recovery process for a stronger economic and social cohesion;



What we plan to deliver

- The European Pillar of Social Rights serves as an essential compass of the recovery and is 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 40% 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.



Labour Market and Employment

- ➡ High unemployment rate in Greece (EL 13% in 2021 vs EU27 6.5%) which affects disproportionally women (EL 19.8% in 2021 vs EU27 10.8%) and youth (EL 35.5% in 2021 vs EU27 16.6%);
- RRF invests in job creation and participation in the labour market by facilitating the modernisation and simplification of the labour law, deliver on the ALMPs and DYPA reforms and ensure its digital transformation;
- ESF+ investments aim to strengthen and facilitate access to employment with focus on women, youth, the long-term unemployed and vulnerable groups as well as address the skills and demand mismatches on the labour market.
- □ **The key for success** in the capacity to enforce and generalise a delivery model focused on individualised needs by DYPA, alone or in partnerships.



Education and Skills

- □ Skills mismatches persist and reaching the target of 40% in education or training by 2030 requires an important effort;
- RRF invests in the development of a new lifelong learning strategy, strengthening the apprenticeships and the VET systems and ensure the digital transformation of the educational system;
- ESF+ investments aim the development of key competences and skills, with a focus on digital and green skills at all educational levels, improve participation in early childhood education and care as well as lifelong learning programmes;
- □ **The key for success** depends on delivering a meaningful skills forecasting mechanism, based on good anticipation of the labor market needs and an efficient delivery model;



Social Protection and Inclusion

- ❑ AROPE remains high in comparison to the EU average (EL 27.4% in 2021 vs EU 21.5%) with children most affected (EL 30.8% in 2021 vs 23.8% EU 27);
- RRF invests in streamlining the provision of child protection measures, reform the protection system for persons with disabilities, boost the social integration of vulnerable groups, ensure the digital transformation of the social protection and inclusion systems or important reforms in the healthcare sector;
- ESF+ investments aim to support the socio-economic integration of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, implementation of the DI strategy for children, persons with disabilities and the elderly or increase the accessibility to primary healthcare services.
- □ **The key for success** will largely depend on the capacities of the national, regional and local authorities to ensure availability, integration and sustainability of the developed services.



Main takeaways

- □ The complementary delivery of the reforms and investments under RRF and ESF+ is key for the success of the employment, educational, social protection and inclusion as well as healthcare policies in Greece;
- ESF+ investments are fundamental for ensuring a better future for the most vulnerable people in the communities;
- □ In order to achieve this goal, the full **cooperation** between the local, regional and national authorities as well as social partners and civil society organizations **is important**;
- □ Commission services have been constantly supporting the authorities in delivering strong policies in a coordinated manner.



Thank you for your attention!

Ευχαριστώ για την προσοχή σας!