



**Local & Regional
Europe**

On access to social protection

First phase consultation of Social Partners on a possible action addressing the challenges of access to social protection for people in all forms of employment in the framework of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

CEMR response

June 2017

1. Do you consider that the Commission has correctly and sufficiently identified the issues and the possible areas for further EU action?

Whilst CEMR sees benefits in the initiatives outlined on social protection, there is insufficient detail currently available as to how this could be implemented successfully. Non-legislative action may be the best way to balance the rights of employees and needs of employers. More widely there would also be cost implications at local level with the implementation of the changes to parental leave within the Directive on Work Life Balance for Parents and Carers which also needs to be planned for.

Moreover, there is an issue about how to concretely ensure similar social protection rights for similar work and to make social rights transferrable. Not having access to social protection and employment services is not always a problem: sometimes the worker has another job in which he or she is sufficiently protected. The problem is only arising for those workers who do not have access to social protection and employment services at all.

2. Which branches of social protection and employment services do you consider to be most relevant for an EU initiative covering access for people in self-employment?

a. Social Protection

xi. unemployment benefits

xii. sickness benefits

xiii. benefits in respect of accidents at work and occupational diseases

xiv. old-age benefits

xv. invalidity benefits

xvi. survivor's benefits

xvii. maternity and equivalent paternity benefits,

xviii. family benefits

xix. healthcare

xx. long-term care

b. Employment services:

iv. guidance, counselling and placement

v. training and updating

vi. rehabilitation and re-insertion measures

In principle, all of these areas will have relevance but further detail and clarification would be required to be able to comment specifically. At this initial stage however we can see that under social protection: sickness benefits, benefits in respect of accidents at work and occupational diseases, old-age benefits, invalidity benefits and maternity and equivalent paternity benefits are key areas for local government. All areas of employment support: guidance, counselling and placement, training and updating and rehabilitation and re-insertion measures should be strengthened.

3. Should all people in self-employment be included in such an initiative?

Yes, but it is difficult to see how this would work for workers classed as self-employed in particular. Small and micro-sized business would be problematic and assessment should be made of each employment type to see if additional measures are required.

The main responsibility for social policy and the design and financing of social insurance schemes lies in the competence of the Member States. Additionally, social insurance schemes which include elements of self-governance from the social partners have to be respected.

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Contact

Leonard Ebner
1 Square de Meeûs, 1000 Brussels
Tel. + 32 2 213 86 96
Leonardo.Ebner@ccre-cemr.org

About CEMR

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) is the broadest organisation of local and regional authorities in Europe. Its members are over 50 national associations of municipalities and regions from 41 European countries. Together these associations represent some 150 000 local and regional authorities.

CEMR's objectives are twofold: to influence European legislation on behalf of local and regional authorities and to provide a platform for exchange between its member associations and their elected officials and experts.

Moreover, CEMR is the European section of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the worldwide organisation of local government.

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