

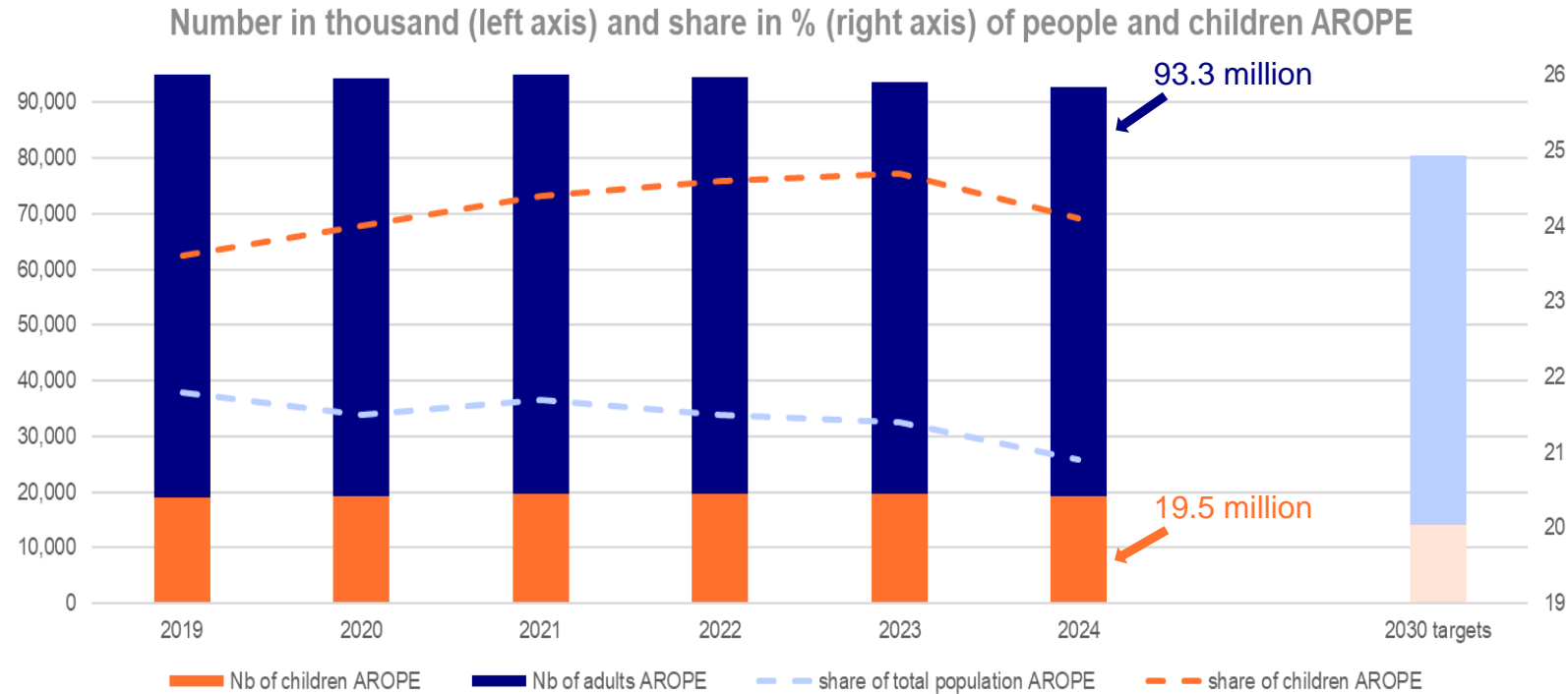
The EU Anti-Poverty Strategy: Ensuring inclusion and protection of vulnerable people at the Core

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While the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan set poverty reduction targets for 2030, incidence of poverty remains high in the EU



Change between 2019-2024:
2.7 million people less in poverty
with however 0.25 million children
more in poverty

**There is a need to accelerate
the pace of poverty
reduction to meet the 2030
target of reducing by at least
15 million the number of
persons AROPE, including at
least 5 million children**

Source: Eurostat (ilc_PECs01), break in time series in 2020

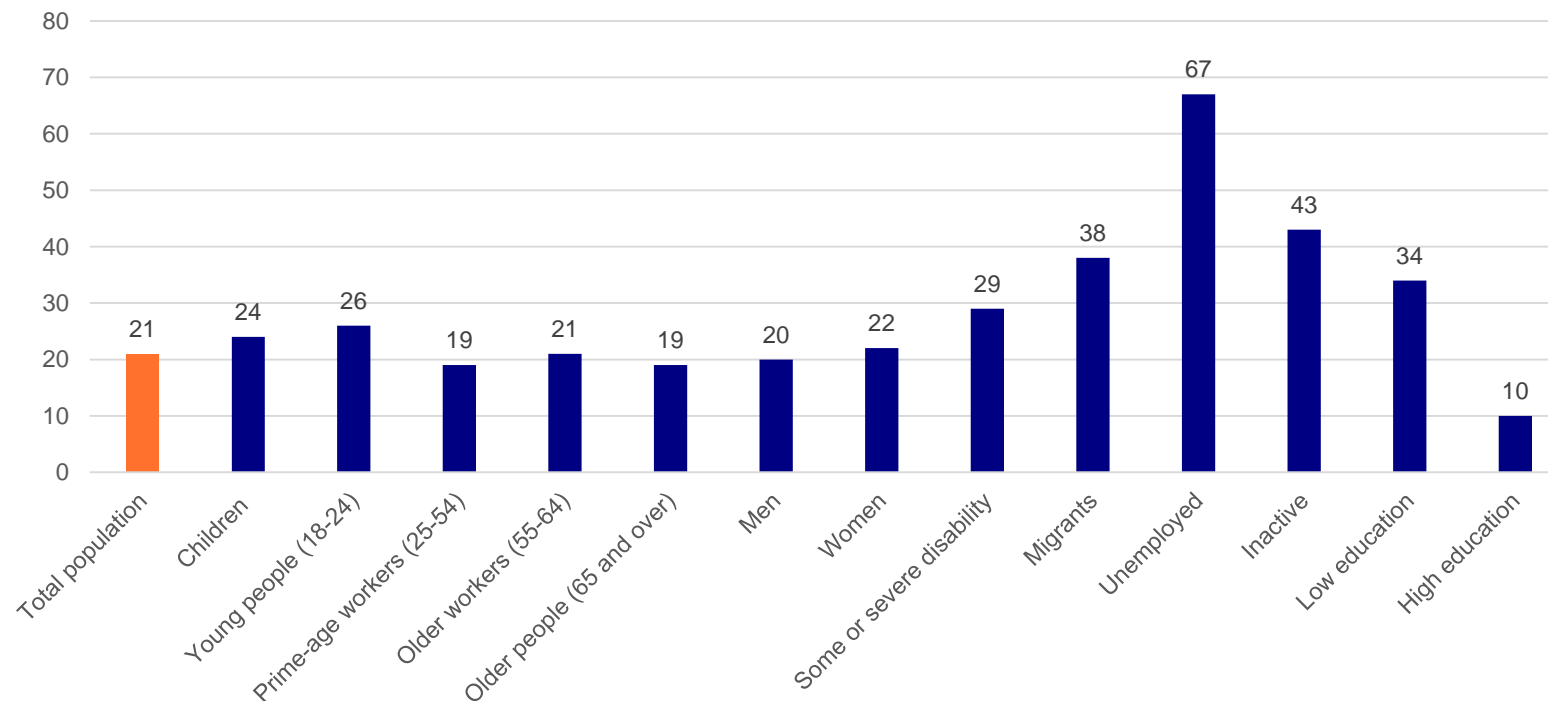
Definition of at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE): persons are AROPE when they are either at risk of poverty, or severely materially and socially deprived, or living in a household with a very low work intensity. Persons are included only once even if they are in more than one of the situations mentioned above. For more information about the definition, please see [here](#).



Not everyone is subject to poverty to the same extent

Unemployed, persons outside the labour market, migrants, low educated people, persons with disabilities, young people and children face significantly higher AROPE rates than the overall population

AROPE rates (%) by socio-demographic characteristics on average in the EU, in 2024



- **Persons with disabilities are more exposed to risk of poverty or social exclusion** than persons without disabilities (28.8% versus 17.9% in 2024)
- Also underrepresented in the labour market: while they represent 17% of the working age population, **only half of them has a job**
- Obstacles in developing **skills**, resulting in untapped potential in the EU labour force.



The **first-ever EU Anti-poverty Strategy** was announced in the 2024-2029 Political Guidelines with the aim '***to help people to get access to the essential protection and services they need, along with addressing the root causes of poverty***'.

In her 2025 State of the Union address, President von der Leyen also stressed the need for '***an ambitious European Anti-Poverty Strategy ... to help eradicate poverty by 2050***'



Why an EU Anti-Poverty Strategy?

- **Political rationale** — To enhance social cohesion, address growing distrust in institutions and make our societies more resilient
- **Social rationale** — To accelerate the pace of poverty reduction to reach the 2030 EU poverty reduction target and help eradicate poverty by 2050, in line with the Agenda for Sustainable Development
- **Economic rationale** — To reduce the cost of poverty and make EU more competitive through enriched human capital and larger labour force (social investment approach)



Tentative principles guiding our preparatory work

1. A person-centred approach

- Aiming to develop concrete solutions for people (acting on both the root causes and immediate needs)
- A life-cycle approach
- Focus on key moments when people risk to fall into poverty
- Supporting AND empowering people (ie. activation)

2. A systemic approach

- Aiming to take into account public policy areas beyond employment and social policy remits in order to address the various needs of vulnerable groups


3. Recognising the role of national/local authorities


- Aiming to support national and local authorities in THEIR fight against poverty, drawing inspiration from best practices across the EU that have proven to work



Some **tentative** blocks to build on throughout the preparatory phases

Some first tentative blocks:

- Further **implement existing initiatives** (Council Recommendations on access to social protection, on adequate minimum income, establishing a Child Guarantee, European Platform on Combating Homelessness, minimum wage Directive...)
- Take **new targeted actions** where necessary and in line with EU competences
- **Mainstream anti-poverty** 
- Activate **horizontal enablers** (e.g. support to national and local actors, with for instance the European Semester, distributional impact assessment, monitoring)



In her Political Guidelines, President von der Leyen also announced that as part of the Strategy, ***we will strengthen the Child Guarantee to prevent and fight social exclusion through education, healthcare and other essential public services***



Mainstream anti-poverty – links with other flagship initiatives

Synergies are to be fostered with other flagship initiatives within and beyond the employment and social policy remit to efficiently address the root causes of poverty

- The Anti Poverty Strategy



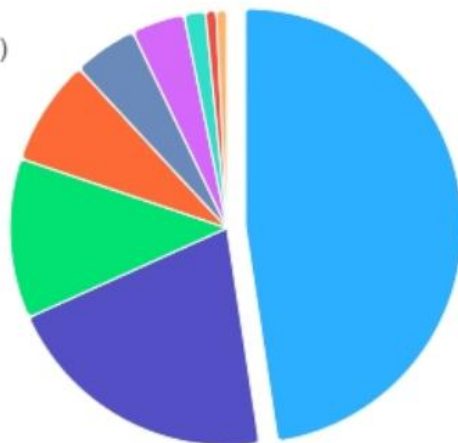
- The Union of Skills
- The Quality Jobs Roadmap
- The Affordable Housing Plan
- Enhancing the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities up to 2030



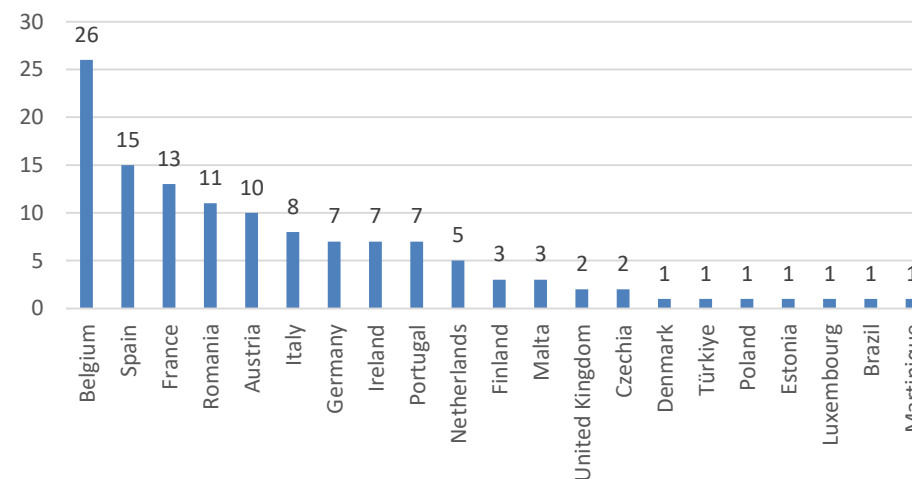
Public consultation: questionnaire and CfE

- The Public Consultation Questionnaire received in total *126 replies* and *59 positions papers*
- The Call for Evidence received in total *196 replies* and *81 position papers*

By category of respondent



Country of Origin



Key recommendations from public consultation

Adequate and comprehensive social protection

- Universal child allowances
- Progressive taxation with relief for low-income families
- Framework Directive on Adequate Minimum Income
- Universal Basic Income (UBI) or minimum income

Labour Market & Employment

- Part-time vocational training for single parents
- Reskilling programs
- Lifelong learning opportunities
- Living wage standards

Access to quality services

- One-stop-shop service centers with centralized access
- Local government involvement to tailor solutions
- Flexible, affordable childcare
- Free school meals in disadvantaged areas
- Financial literacy programs
- Expand affordable housing stock
- Housing First
- Early warning systems to prevent evictions
- Prohibition of evictions for families with children

Intersectional vulnerabilities

- Monitor specific vulnerable groups (Roma, children, persons with disabilities), e.g. their access to services
- Address feminization of poverty, gender-responsive policies
- Ring-fenced budgets for vulnerable groups

Fundamental rights

- Combat educational segregation
- Establish mechanisms to hold institutions accountable for rights violations
- Combat stigma and negative narratives
- Support access to legal aid to challenge discriminatory decisions

Enabling conditions

- Cross-sector coordination (health, education, employment, housing)
- Multidimensional approach to poverty (beyond income measures)
- Prevention rather than reactive intervention
- Partnership approaches
- Evidence-based policymaking and continuous evaluation
- Social funding conditionality clause in MFF post-2027

