

Caritas Cares Italy Report November 2015

What this report is about

This report describes the main challenges related to poverty and social inclusion in Italy and provides recommendations for policy makers to address these challenges. The recommendations are based on an analysis of the grass-roots experience of Caritas Italiana, which is compared to official data.

About Caritas Italiana

Caritas Italy is the pastoral organisation of the Italian Episcopal Conference, whose aim is to promote the expression and testimony of charity of the Italian Catholic church community in co-operation with other institutions, in ways that are appropriate for the complete development of the human being, social justice and peace. It carries out a wide variety of activities, most of which are for people who are at risk of poverty and social exclusion. At national level, diocesan Caritas promotes and runs approximately 700 social services: canteens, dormitories, and food aid distribution centres. It also runs 2,500 *Centri di Ascolto* (CdA) - counselling centres.

In 2014, the CdAs reached a total of approximately 500,000 beneficiaries (family members included); of these, 52.2% were male and 47.8% were female. Most beneficiaries in CdAs were aged 35-44 (26.8%), followed by those aged 45-54 (25.1%) and 18-34 (24.2%). Children represented a very low percentage (1.4%), since activities are mainly targeted at adults. Elderly people also represent a small percentage (7.1%), as they normally prefer to ask for help directly from their parish church or parish priests. Migrants represented 58.1% of the total (higher in northern regions compared to southern regions where Italian beneficiaries are more numerous) and families with children 37.6% (21.5% in 2008). 61.7% of CdA beneficiaries were unemployed (68.4% for beneficiaries aged 18-34).

Recent publications by CARITAS ITALIANA:

[Annual Report on Poverty and Social Exclusion in Italy 2014](#)

[Flash Report on poverty and social exclusion in Italy 2014](#)

[The Balance of the Crisis. A report on poverty in Italy 2014](#)

[2015 Report on Anti-Poverty Policies in Italy](#)

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Austerity measures have particularly hit people more at risk of poverty and social exclusion who have seen public services reduced or restricted.

Italy's main challenges related to poverty and social exclusion:

- ❖ **The lack of a comprehensive system that could provide adequate income support is one of the main obstacles that hampers active inclusion.**

Currently, there is no comprehensive national minimum income scheme that could alleviate individuals and families from unexpected financial difficulties.

- ❖ **Long-term unemployment, youth unemployment, in-work poverty and undeclared work are undermining the development of a sustainable and inclusive society.**

Recent employment policies and programmes have only been partially effective as they are not generally complemented with specific policies that target certain groups more at risk of being unemployed.

- ❖ **Access to rights and quality services has become more restricted for single parents, migrants and long-term unemployed persons.**

As a result, these groups are now more at risk of poverty and social exclusion as they are not on the political agenda.

Policy recommendations:

Adequate income support:

1. Introduce a minimum income scheme for people living under the absolute poverty threshold combined with measures that facilitate their access to quality services.
2. Simplify access to existing safety nets for people who suddenly lose their jobs, ensuring a quicker and less bureaucratic process.

Inclusive labour market:

3. Review and reform the vocational education system to ensure it is linked to the labour market's needs.

Access to quality services:

4. Adopt a new national housing plan guaranteeing sufficient supply of affordable housing, including access to social housing.
5. Introduce a system of parental leave and home care, with special attention to weak and disadvantaged groups (families with members with disabilities, families composed of all elderly members, lone parents, etc.).

1. Poverty and social exclusion in Italy: the reality behind the data

The problems of most concern in Italy

- ❖ Youth unemployment
- ❖ In-work poverty

Youth unemployment

Youth unemployment is currently a national emergency considering its impact and consequences on young people's lives, in terms of their personal development but also in terms of their social development. It affects the future of a whole generation; since the migration wave of 1900, most young people had not considered moving abroad to seek employment and new life opportunities until recently. This phenomenon is also having a long-term effect on the value of education and training skills, as the rate of unemployment among new graduates is very high. According to data issued by the National Statistical Institute (Istat),¹ in 2014, the unemployment rate for young people aged 15-24 in Italy stood at 44% (EU average: 26%). Among people aged 25-34 it reached 19% (EU average: 13%). Among graduates aged 25-34, 16% were unemployed. These figures show that unemployment is widespread; even those with tertiary education are affected.

In-work poverty

In 2014, 9.6% of all employed people lived below the poverty threshold, a rate which was only slightly higher among the unemployed (11.5%).² Although being employed is a key factor towards social inclusion, data shows that in many cases it is insufficient in order to live above the poverty threshold in Italy. Official data and data from Caritas Italiana show that there is a strong connection between poverty, low education levels and professional profiles. Since the economic crisis began, the situation of precarious and unstable jobs has increased thus putting more people at risk of poverty and social exclusion, even when they access employment.

Groups at risk of poverty with the highest need for political action in Italy

- ❖ Single parents
- ❖ The long-term unemployed
- ❖ Migrants

Single parents

The number of single parent households (single mothers or single fathers with children) has considerably increased: by approximately 550,000 in 10 years (2001: 2,100,999, which represented 9.6% of the total number of households (21,810,676); 2011: 2,651,827, which represented 10.8% of the total number of households (24,611,766)). In general, family policies in Italy are weak and less well-resourced

¹ Istat, 2015. <http://www.istat.it/it/archivio/disoccupati>.

² Istat, 2015. <http://www.istat.it/it/archivio/164869>.

compared to other EU countries: there are no targeted or specific policies for single parents or adequate family-friendly fiscal frameworks or emergency measures that tackle sudden loss of work, etc. According to family organisations and related associations' network, the new ISEE (a tool for measuring the level of economic participation in public services) does not take into account the specific needs of single parent families.³

According to Eurostat,⁴ in 2013, 44.4% of single parents with dependent children were at risk of poverty and social exclusion, compared to 29.9% of the general population, or 24.8% of households with one dependent child, or 30% of households with two dependent children.

Caritas Italiana observed a change in beneficiaries' family structures between 2013 and 2015 (first semesters): the number of "traditional families"⁵ decreased by 11.4 percentage points; whereas single-parent families increased by 10.2 percentage points; and the number of "de facto" families increased by 1.2 percentage points and single person families increased by 1.2 percentage points.

Long-term unemployed

Italy has the third-highest rate of long-term unemployment (people unemployed for a year or more) in the European Union. According to Eurostat data, the long-term unemployment rate reached 7.8% in 2014, an increase of 4.9 percentage points compared to 2007, when the rate was 2.9%.⁶ When older workers (from 50 to 65) lose their jobs they have more difficulty finding a new job: in general, the labour market offers few opportunities for re-qualification and job re-insertion. Despite this, long-term unemployment is currently not a priority on the political and welfare agenda compared to other issues, such as youth unemployment.

Migrants

Migrants are being severely hit by the crisis: many have lost their jobs, are receiving lower incomes and are no longer able to make ends meet. Data collected by Caritas Italiana shows that they are returning to its services after many years, seeking help. Generally speaking, the crisis is worsening labour conditions, with new situations of slavery and exploitation, especially in the agricultural sector. In recent times, the influx of refugees from Libya, Syria and Iraq has created a humanitarian emergency that is also reflected in increasingly fewer resources available for the ordinary integration of migrant families.

The challenges in achieving active inclusion in Italy

- ❖ Adequate income support
- ❖ Inclusive labour markets
- ❖ Access to quality services

³INPS, 2014. [ISEE 2015: Come ottenerlo.](#)

⁴ Eurostat, [People at Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion by Income Quintile and Household Type.](#)

⁵ Meaning families in which at least two members are united by a marital bond.

⁶Eurostat, 2015. [Long-term Unemployment Rate - % of active population in the same age group.](#)

Adequate income support

In Italy, there are no minimum income schemes with the exception of some initiatives, such as the State-funded, ad hoc allowances given to people in poverty, or the SIA (Active Inclusion Support), implemented by some municipalities, which have not been very effective at reducing poverty and social exclusion nor at promoting active inclusion. Should the Government design income support schemes in the future, they should be carefully planned, implemented and evaluated in consultation with key stakeholders, in particular specialised NGOs and people at risk of poverty and social exclusion, and be accompanied by complementary social services so as to avoid the risk of creating poverty traps.

Inclusive labour markets

Various obstacles hinder the development of an inclusive labour market in Italy:

- The high proportion of people working in the informal economy undermines the sustainability of social protection systems and discourages legally compliant hiring. According to Istat,⁷ undeclared work in Italy represents 11.5% of national GDP (€187 billion).
- Social protection systems and labour market policy interventions are not flexible or inclusive enough, especially for groups at greater risk of poverty and social exclusion.
- There are insufficient incentives encouraging employers to hire people who belong to vulnerable groups.

Access to quality services

In recent years, access to services has become increasingly restricted; austerity policies and containment of public spending have resulted in a progressive reduction of public spending in different policy areas: education, health, social-welfare, social security, etc. The social costs of austerity have, in particular, hit individuals and families at risk of poverty and social exclusion: their needs are generally not a priority on the political agenda; quite the contrary, they have experienced restrictions or limitations in their access to certain services. According to evidence gathered both at local and national level, a growing number of Caritas beneficiaries have limited or no access to public social services and therefore turn to Caritas and other private bodies to seek social and financial support. Family expenses for private social and health care service provision are increasing among families, causing an increase of over-indebtedness; consequently many turn to the informal credit market or take out loans at usurious rates. In addition, the complexity of both the national welfare system and the absence of a single access point to refer to when accessing social services and benefits is limiting the positive impact of public services and reducing their effectiveness.

⁷ Istat, 2014. <http://www.istat.it/it/archivio/131097>.

Access to rights is limited for people at risk of poverty and social exclusion in Italy

- ❖ Right to healthcare
- ❖ Right to housing

The main problems related to not being able to realise these rights derive from budget cuts and restrictive policies in the case of the right to healthcare, and to the lack of adequate social housing policies in the case of the right to housing. The health levels of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion is worsening, especially due to the restrictions in free, preventive, public service assistance. At the same time, the difficulty in accessing affordable housing is having a negative impact on families and individuals. Data from Caritas Italiana (2014) shows that 17% of its beneficiaries have received eviction notices; 13% have difficulty in accessing social housing; 27.4% live in overcrowded homes; and 53.6% live in crumbling and damaged houses.⁸ Between 2013 and 2015, the incidence of housing problems among Caritas beneficiaries increased by 2.8 percentage points (2013: 16.1%; 2015: 18.9%). The highest increase was among non-Italians. Generally speaking, one out of every five beneficiaries faces severe housing problems.

2. How effective are Italy's policies to fight poverty and social exclusion?

The Country Report for Italy,⁹ published by the European Commission in February 2015, reflects the main problems and reality of poverty and social exclusion in the country. The National Reform Programme¹⁰ published by the Government of Italy partially reflects the reality of poverty and social exclusion in the country. The document contains many descriptive statistics of the phenomenon but offers little information on the causes of poverty and the changes in poverty over the years.

In general, it can be said that the current policies implemented in Italy only partially address the problems related to poverty and social exclusion. For instance, the Jobs Act¹¹ has not addressed some of the problems related to in-work poverty. The Act foresees social safety nets in the case of temporary job losses but nothing has been included with regards to people living below the poverty threshold despite working. The initial version of the Jobs Act included the introduction of a minimum hourly wage, but later both unions and employers' associations expressed opposition and the measure was withdrawn.

⁸ See chapter on housing problems, in: Caritas Italiana, *Povert  plurali. Rapporto 2015 su povert  ed esclusione sociale in Italia*, ottobre 2015.

⁹ European Commission, 2015. [Country Report Italy 2015](#).

¹⁰ Government of Italy, 2015. [National Reform Programme Italy 2015](#).

¹¹The [Jobs Act](#) (Legislative Decree 22/2015) is a reform of the labour law in Italy, promoted and implemented in Italy by the government of Renzi, through various legislative measures undertaken between 2014 and 2015.

On the other hand, the Youth Guarantee Programme in Italy is encountering many difficulties related to contacting young people and providing concrete employment opportunities. For instance, independent research, based on a sample of young people registered on the Youth Guarantee Programme Portal, shows that 50% of those registered had not been contacted; only 24% who had had an initial interview were contacted for a second interview to assess possible employment or education opportunities; 44% of those who had had an initial interview state that they had received only a generic employment or internship offer; 39% who had been interviewed received an employment or internship offer; and only 12% received a comprehensive and detailed employment or education offer. Many of these problems remain, in spite of the conclusions extracted from this research.¹²

Policies implemented in recent years have generally been ineffective in addressing the problems of poverty and social exclusion. The Alliance Against Poverty, a platform of 33 organisations of which Caritas Italiana is a founding member, is very critical of the recent measures undertaken by the Government to combat poverty. It criticises the experimental approach, which lacks a comprehensive and integrated plan to combat poverty.¹³ It also criticises the introduction of State-funded allowances for people experiencing poverty, not accompanied by social services at local level. The recent increase in public expenditure, aimed at fighting poverty, is limited in duration and is not foreseen as a multi-annual or structural programme. The experimental introduction of the SIA (Active Inclusion Support) in some municipalities has not delivered its expected results, mainly due to bureaucratic complications, which have limited its effectiveness and its extension to the rest of the country.

What policies are needed to address poverty and social exclusion more effectively?

The Government should adopt a comprehensive National Plan against Poverty and Social Exclusion based on the REIS (Income of Social Inclusion): a social policy instrument combining adequate income support with access to quality services. Such a plan should strengthen the Government's commitment to promote active inclusion.

Regarding youth unemployment, the Government should adopt a social and economic investment plan intended to develop a more inclusive labour market. Youth unemployment should not be addressed separately from the mainstream economy and labour market policies should ensure opportunities for all. The Government should, however, complement this with specific and targeted labour inclusion programmes for young people, e.g. a mandatory internship during the final years of higher education, financially supported by government; a better connection between education and the labour market to guarantee that education and skills training matches the market's needs; enhancing the effectiveness of employment centres; and involving civil society organisations in employment programmes.

¹² ADAPT e Repubblica degli Stagisti, 2015, [Monitoraggio informale Garanzia Giovani](#).

¹³ The programme and goals of the Alliance are presented in: <http://www.redditoinclusione.it/>

As for in-work poverty, policies should focus on a dual dimension: the introduction of a minimum wage scheme as well as measures to discourage people from entering the informal and unregulated economy. The Government should aim to reduce exploitation, under-employment and job insecurity whilst promoting and convincing society of the benefits of the formal economy.

In this context, the EU could support the Italian Government in addressing the problems of poverty and social exclusion more effectively by improving the monitoring and evaluation of the Youth Guarantee and ensuring the achievement of certain minimum targets. Proposing an EU directive on a minimum hourly wage, while taking into account the different cost of living in the different EU countries, would also be welcomed.

Social protection system reforms & modernisation in Italy

- ❖ The reforms have only focused on budget cuts without undergoing a reform of the social protection systems.
- ❖ Currently, social protection services and benefits do not target the groups most in need.

Recent reforms of the social protection system have had both a positive and negative impact on poverty and social exclusion in Italy.

Example of an effective policy or programme related to the active inclusion pillar of adequate income support

An example of a policy measure with a positive impact on poverty reduction and social inclusion is the National Operational Programme related to the FEAD, the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived, implemented by the Ministry of Social Affairs. The implementation of this programme is a good example of coordination with Third Sector organisations. In addition, thanks to national funding provided by the Italian State in the period in which the programme was interrupted at EU level, it was and has been possible to ensure food supply continuity in line with people's needs. Taking into account the fact that Italy has no universal minimum income scheme, the FEAD represents the only effective measure to combat poverty in the country, through a very complex supply chain that unites European resources implemented through different actors (the EU, the Ministry of Labour and Agricultural Policies, charitable organisations, as well as food production and distribution companies).

Through this programme, Caritas Italiana has promoted a network of 4,305 different types of food aid services (353 canteens, 3,816 centres of food distribution, 54 social markets, and 82 social agriculture projects).

Example of an ineffective policy or programme related to the active inclusion pillar of adequate income support

Since 2014, Caritas Italiana has observed a delay in the implementation of the SIA (Active Inclusion Support) in the country, which has had a negative impact on the reduction of poverty and social exclusion. On July 15th 2015, the Minister of Social Affairs announced the criteria and guidelines of a new National Plan Against Poverty, which includes a new measure aimed at replacing the SIA with the RIA (Active Inclusion Income), a universal measure that would provide economic support to beneficiaries based on a tailored activation plan. The resources for monetary transfers will be those already allocated for the SIA (funded by the State budget). The resources for social support and tailored activation plans will be complemented with funds from the European Social Fund (National Operational Programme, or *Programma Operativo Nazionale (PON) Inclusion*, approved by the European Commission, for a total of €1.2 billion over the next seven years).¹⁴

Since the law on social services of 2000 (Law 328/2000), Italy still cannot count on stable measures against poverty and it continues with the design of new measures (in the form of new “experimental programmes” which don’t appear to turn into stable services and measures), without checking the former measures nor concluding the process of activation of the actions already planned.

The use of EU funds in Italy

Although Caritas Italiana has been involved in the programming of European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020 and will be involved in its implementation, very few of Caritas Italiana’s proposals were taken into account at the design and planning phase.

Caritas Italiana has also been involved in the planning process of the European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020 in Italy. However, only a few proposals were taken into account in the programming documents. Caritas Italiana is expected to be involved in the direct implementation of the European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020.

In this programming period, Caritas is part of a group of seven national organisations that have been involved in the definition of the operational programme related to the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD), led by the Ministry of Welfare and adopted by the European Commission on 11 December 2014.

¹⁴Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali, 2015. [Lotta Alla Povertà: Il Ministro Poletti incontra i rappresentanti del Partenariato economico e sociale per una discussione sulle linee guida del Piano nazionale.](#)

3. The response of Caritas: initiatives that have been effective when addressing poverty and social exclusion

Diocesan Caritas promote a wide range of innovative activities that seek to combine material assistance with empowerment in an innovative way, by addressing the needs of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion. These projects work at micro and macro levels: family budgeting, solidarity stores, micro-loans, purchase cards, solidarity funds, job orientation, social housing, promotion and support of the social economy and social enterprises. There are also highly empowering projects that require both the commitment of beneficiaries and the involvement of families willing to provide aid in terms of time, financial resources, material goods, etc.

We highlight below two projects that have had a particularly positive effect at addressing the needs and problems of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

ACTIVE INCLUSION THROUGH FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMMES http://s2ew.caritasitaliana.it/materiali/Media/Italia_Caritas/2013/IC_giu_2013.pdf

Project “Social markets”

Description

The aim of the programme is to promote the active inclusion of families with children: encouraging them to find solutions for independent living through an innovative programme, which combines food distribution through social markets with counselling support. Their access to the social market is limited to 6 months and is authorised by a counselling centre after an interview. There are around 60 social markets in Italy.

Problem addressed

This project addresses a challenge related to the “adequate income support and access to quality services” pillars of active inclusion, by targeting the new forms of poverty of families with children.

Results

Compared to a traditional food parcel delivery, a remarkable result of the project is the autonomy of the family, as they can freely choose the kind of food they need. In addition, as access to the social market is guaranteed for up to 6 months, the family can enjoy a period of respite, during which to best design its own future.

Innovative features & success factors

In comparison to other food distribution programmes, the project does not put the focus on the food distribution but on the counselling services, which encourages the family to find mid-term solutions to their problems.

INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT IN RURAL AREAS

http://s2ew.caritasitaliana.it/materiali/Media/Italia_Caritas/2015/IC03_apr2015.pdf

Project “Social agriculture and rural projects”

Description

The aim is to promote access to employment and social inclusion of people excluded from the labour market through various social tools linked to an agriculture context. It fosters the involvement of local communities’ agents (social gardens, support for responsible tourism, recovery of land and production capacities, organic farming, the production of food and use of funds for Caritas activities, plus activities and workshops for children and students). Social farming includes a plurality of experiences and practices which combine the use of agricultural resources with social activities. This initiative combines five major areas of activity:

- Funding and/or promotion of agriculture businesses with the aim of giving employment to disadvantaged groups, such as former-prisoners, people with drug addictions, migrants, refugees, etc.
- Rehabilitation and care within the agricultural sector for people with disabilities, mainly with a socio-therapeutic purpose.
- Recreation and quality of life with social and recreational purposes, including special forms of rural social experiences of social peri-urban vegetable gardens for elderly people.
- Education aimed at training young people on environmental and other issues.
- Services for everyday life (e.g. agri-kindergarten or day-care services for the elderly)

In addition to these five areas, we promote the use and consumption of farming products within Caritas food services (canteens, food distribution, etc.).

Problem addressed

This project addresses a challenge related to the “inclusive labour markets” pillar of active inclusion, by promoting activities aimed at fostering innovative social integration paths through the use of agricultural resources.

Results

Good social inclusion of people excluded from the labour market and promotion of the environmental produce.

Innovative features & success factors

Recovery of traditional, local agriculture and involvement of ancient crafts and skills.

4. Recommendations to address the described problems

Recommendation 1: Introduce a minimum income scheme for people living below the absolute-poverty threshold, combined with measures that facilitate their access to quality services.

- **Problem addressed if implemented:** The absence of a minimum income scheme and the dispersion of benefits through more than 25 national/local measures.
- **Governmental department that could lead this measure:** The Ministry of Social Welfare.
- **Policy framework:** The EC Recommendation on the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market (the “adequate income support” and “access to quality services” pillars), the new “*Piano nazionale di contrasto alla povertà e all’esclusione sociale*” (National Plan Against Poverty and Social Exclusion, presented by the Minister of Social Welfare in July 2015.)¹⁵
- **How the European Commission could support this measure:** By developing an EU common base regarding minimum income schemes according to the poverty threshold in every EU Member State.

Recommendation 2: Simplify access to existing safety nets for people who lose their jobs, ensuring a quicker and less bureaucratic process.

- **Problem addressed if implemented:** The delay and complexity in the implementation of safety nets in the case of job loss.
- **Governmental department that could lead this measure:** The INPS (National Institute for Social Security).
- **Policy framework:** The EC Recommendation on the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market (the “adequate income support” pillar).

Recommendation 3: Adopt a new national housing plan enabling a sufficient supply of affordable housing, including access to social housing.

- **Problem addressed if implemented:** The high cost of housing and limited access to affordable and social housing.
- **Governmental department that could lead this measure:** At different levels of responsibility: the Ministry for Infrastructure and Transport, the Regions, the Municipalities, the National Companies for Public Housing (ATER).
- **Policy framework:** The EC Recommendation on the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market (the “access to quality services” pillar).

¹⁵ For more information see Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali, 2015. [Lotta Alla Povertà: Il Ministro Poletti incontra i rappresentanti del Partenariato economico e sociale per una discussione sulle linee guida del Piano nazionale.](#)

Recommendation 4: Introduce a system of parental leave and home care, with special attention to weak and disadvantaged groups (families with members with disabilities, families composed of all elderly members, lone parents, etc.)

Note: Caritas Europa, through the “European social models” working group, is preparing common standards for parental leave and home care to be included in European welfare legislation: 1) ensuring the legal right to maternity leave of at least 15 weeks, as well as parental leave of at least 6 months; 2) allowing a number of days per year of special leave for care work in the family (for children, the elderly, at times of illness, etc.); 3) ensuring a minimum income during longer periods of leave for care work; 4) considering the eligibility of time spent on care work in the calculation of pension rights.

- **Problem addressed if implemented:** The difficulties in balancing work and family life as well as in situations where families or individuals have caring responsibilities (towards elderly people or people with disabilities).
- **Governmental department that could lead this measure:** The Ministry of Social Affairs (to provide the budget and national guidelines); and the local authorities (for implementation).
- **Policy framework:** The EC Recommendation on the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market (the “access to adequate services” pillar).
- **How the European Commission could support this measure:** By adopting an EU directive on parental leave and home care in line with Caritas Europa’s common standards.

Recommendation 5: Review and reform the vocational education system to ensure it is linked to the labour market’s needs.

- **Problem addressed if implemented:** The absence of a linkage between the world of education and the world of work and the labour market. Furthermore, it would address the high rates of youth unemployment and early school leaving as well as the need of many adults to obtain new qualifications based on ever-changing labour market demands.
- **Governmental department that could lead this measure:** The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.
- **Policy framework:** The EC Recommendation on the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market (the “inclusive labour market” and “access to quality services” pillars).
- **How the European Commission could support this measure:** By facilitating recommendations and guidance on how to review and reform vocational education based on experiences that have been successful and by encouraging Governments to make use of ESF funding for this purpose from a sustainable perspective.



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