

EAPN'S PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE POVERTY COUNTRY-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Country	Comment	Relevant CSRs
Bulgaria	<p>No mention of poverty in CSR. 5 CSRS. Although preamble mentions Bulgaria facing highest levels of material deprivation.</p> <p>Very ambiguous text on MI and MW implying reducing minimum wage.</p> <p>Focus on integrated ALM measures, but not on need to provide adequate minimum income, access to services, and quality jobs.</p> <p>Access to schooling important, but early school not enough.</p>	<p>CSR 3: Develop an integrated approach for groups at the margin of the labour market, particularly older workers and NEETs. Establish a transparent mechanism for setting minimum wage and minimum social security contributions in the light of their impact on in-work poverty, job creation and competitiveness</p> <p>CSR 4: Adopt the reform of the School Education Act and increase the participation of disadvantaged children, particularly Roma, by improving access to good quality early schooling.</p>
Czech Republic	<p>No mention of poverty in CSR. Only 4 CSRs.</p> <p>Positive reduction of higher taxes and affordable childcare, but not about integrated services, minimum income.</p>	<p>CSR 4: Reduce the high level of taxation on low-income earners, by shifting tax to other areas. Further improve the availability of affordable childcare.</p>
Croatia	<p>No mention of poverty in the CSR 6 CSRs</p> <p>Ambiguous around adequacy of pensions, with increasing restrictions of exceptions.</p> <p>Worrying focus on increasing incentives to work, ie conditionality.</p> <p>Consolidation of social benefits, doesn't imply increase adequacy, but increased targeting.</p>	<p>CSR 2: Discourage early retirement by raising penalties for early exits. Improve the adequacy and efficiency of pension spending by tightening the definition of arduous and hazardous professions.</p> <p>CSR 3: Tackle weaknesses in the wage-setting framework, in consultation with the social partners and in accordance with national practices, to foster the alignment of wages with productivity and macroeconomic conditions.</p> <p>Strengthen incentives for the unemployed and inactive to take up paid work. Based on the 2014 review carry out the reform of the social security system and further consolidate social benefits by improving targeting and eliminating overlaps.</p>
Hungary	<p>No mention of poverty in the CSR. 5 CSRS.</p> <p>Support to the public work scheme – work fare, but positive support to increase adequacy and coverage of benefits.</p> <p>Increased support for education for disadvantaged group, particularly Roma, but not for other groups.</p>	<p>CSR 4: Reorient budget resources to the public work scheme to active labour market measures to foster integration into the primary labour market; and improve the adequacy and coverage of social assistance and unemployment benefits.</p> <p>CSR5: Increase the participation of disadvantaged groups in particular Roma in inclusive mainstream education, and improve the support to these groups</p>

		through targeted teacher training; strengthen measures to facilitate transition between different stages of education and to the labour market, and improve the teaching of essential competences.
Ireland	<p>Mention of poverty – child poverty. 4 CSRs</p> <p>Similar to last year, but lack ambition according to EAPN Ireland.</p> <p>Undermined by CSR 1 on accelerating deficit and debt reduction.</p>	<p>CSR 3: Take steps to increase the work intensity of households and to address the poverty risk of children by tapering the withdrawal of benefit and supplementary benefits upon return to employment and through better access to affordable full-time childcare</p>
Romania	<p>No mention of poverty. 4 CSRs</p> <p>Focus on ALM – with focus on youth and long-term unemployed, but not all vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Much better focus in the preamble section, than in the CSRs themselves. ie paragraph on poverty. Positive reference to minimum insertion income and provision of early childhood education and care.</p> <p>Strategies for early school leaving and health, but no Rec about social inclusion strategy</p>	<p>CSR 3: Strengthen the provision of labour market measures, in particular for unregistered young people and long-term unemployed. Establish in consultation with the social partners and in accordance with national practices, clear guidelines for setting the minimum wage transparently. Introduce the minimum insertion income. Increase the provision and quality of early childhood education and care, in particular for Roma. Adopt the national strategy to reduce early school leaving. Pursue the national health strategy 2014-20 to remedy issues of poor accessibility, low funding and inefficient resources.</p>
Slovenia	<p>Mention of in-work poverty. 4 CSRs.</p> <p>No paragraph on poverty in the preamble.</p> <p>Focus on employment, with ambiguous phrase about minimum wage. Focus on employability and incentives. But not on adequacy of benefits, services.</p>	<p>CSR 2: Review in consultation with the social partners and in accordance with national practices, the mechanism for setting the minimum wage, and in particular the role of allowances, in light of the impact on in-work poverty, job creation and competitiveness. Increase the employability of low skilled and older workers. Take measures to address long-term unemployment and provide adequate incentives to extend working lives.</p>