

Proposal from the International Social Tourism Organisation (ISTO) Trade Union Task Force for the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR)

“A strong Europe is about people and their well-being” (EPSR Action Plan)

This EPSR, which aims to give citizens new and more effective rights, is based on 3 pillars - Equal Opportunities, Fair Working Conditions, Social Protection and Social Inclusion - which are broken down into 20 key principles.

These principles – especially those related to **Equal Opportunities, Work-Life Balance, Old Age Income** and **Inclusion of People with disabilities**, and the indicators that serve as a scoreboard for the implementation of the EPSR should include aspects related to **participation in leisure, tourism and holiday activities which play a fundamental role in the quality of life of European citizens.**

- Social progress is the basis for tourism, as it depends on social rights and decent wages. Being able to go on holidays requires means and social conditions, which are the core of the European social rights base.
- Leisure and holidays are an important component of the **work-life balance**.
- In terms of equal opportunities and access to the labour market, social tourism which is part of the social economy ecosystem, has demonstrated, through its good practices, that it can make a sustainable contribution to the **creation and maintenance of jobs, especially for young people and women**.
- With regard to the inclusion of people with disabilities, **policies and initiatives in favour of "Tourism for All"** make an important contribution to ensure that these people can participate in society.
- The same inclusion principle applies to holiday and leisure programmes for **children from disadvantaged backgrounds** to promote their inclusion in society.

Proposal

An important topic strongly related to the well-being of European citizens is the access to leisure, tourism and holiday activities. With less than 52 % of EU citizens having been able to go on holidays before the pandemic, and a presumably even stronger decrease of this participation rate due to it, this issue must be taken into account in order to achieve equal opportunities, work-life balance as well as inclusion of old age people, people with disabilities and children coming from disadvantaged backgrounds. Furthermore, the social tourism component of the social economy ecosystem in Europe has proven how social policies and programmes in this field can contribute to the creation and maintenance of jobs, in particular during low season, and especially for young people and women. The whole question should be part of the revised social scoreboard in the secondary indicators, also in lines with SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities).

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