

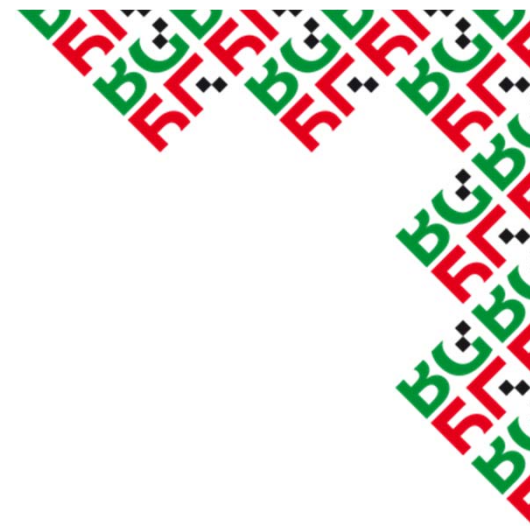


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REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA  
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL POLICY



# PRIORITIES

in the area of employment  
and social policy during  
the Bulgarian Presidency of  
the Council of the European Union  
1 January – 30 June 2018

СЪЕДИНЕНИЕТО ПРАВИ СИЛАТА



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# DRAFT PROGRAMME OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (1 JANUARY – 30 JUNE 2018)

- Adopted by Decision No 387/13 July 2017 of the Council of Ministers
- **Main objectives of the Bulgarian Presidency** set out in the draft programme:
  - ✓ achieving future-oriented tangible results in line with the principles of **transparency and accountability** in the framework of a **Presidency that is “open to citizens”**;
  - ✓ seeking a **balance** between the specific priorities of Member States and the EU's strategic priorities in active dialogue with citizens;
  - ✓ preserving **unity and solidarity** between Member States;
  - ✓ seeking a **consensus, compromise and understanding** between Member States;
  - ✓ promoting **partnerships** at all levels on the basis of an **integrated approach and cooperation**;
  - ✓ horizontal priorities: youth and security.



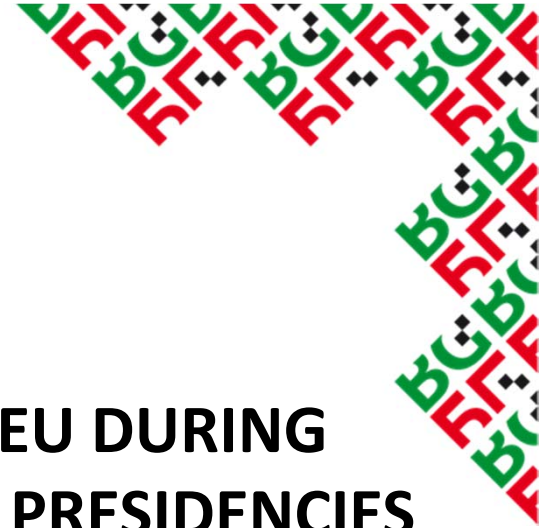
- **Three key messages:**

- ✓ **Consensus** – focusing on security, prevention of radicalisation, migration, justice, the future of the Western Balkans, and a sustainable integrated approach to the Danube and Black Sea regions;
- ✓ **Competitiveness** – focusing on the Single Market, supporting entrepreneurship, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups, achieving economic growth and job creation, deepening the economic and monetary union, a sustainable environment, an effective Energy Union;
- ✓ **Cohesion** – focusing on the new Multiannual Financial Framework, investing in Growth and Jobs, the Future of the Cohesion Policy post-2020 and the European Structural and Investment Funds, simplifying and modernizing the Common Agricultural Policy and cultural heritage.



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## **THE PROGRAMME OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EU DURING THE BULGARIAN, ESTONIAN AND AUSTRIAN PRESIDENCIES (1 JULY 2017 – 31 DECEMBER 2018)**

- Highlights and priorities in the Trio Programme within the area of competence of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy:
  - ✓ Entrepreneurship and job creation;
  - ✓ Investing in the future;
  - ✓ A Union that empowers and protects all its citizens.



## THE BULGARIAN PRESIDENCY:

- Targeted and active actions in preparation for the Presidency
- The start of the Presidency Trio – Declaration on Gender Equality
- Priorities, key dossiers and possible scenarios for their development during the Presidency



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Within the national preparation process of the Bulgarian Presidency the following **four priority themes** in the area of employment, labour mobility and social policy have been identified:

**I. Future of work**

**II. Opportunities for support from the European Social Fund after the 2014-2020 programming period**

**III. Early childhood development policies**

**IV. People with disabilities – full members of the society**



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## I. FUTURE OF WORK

- **Key priority**
- **International conference** scheduled for 21 - 22 March 2018;
- **Vision** for the future of work:
  - ✓ identifying the right skills for the new jobs;
  - ✓ better planning and linking the policies in the field of education, training and employment;
  - ✓ emphasis on youth employment, skills and competencies needed for the future labour market.



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- **Four areas** have been identified in which progress will be pursued during the Presidency as part of **the debate on the future of work**:
  - ✓ industrial relations;
  - ✓ new work and entrepreneurial skills in the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy;
  - ✓ labour mobility;
  - ✓ equal opportunities and non-discrimination (gender mainstreaming approach in different areas).





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## II. OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUPPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND AFTER THE 2014–2020 PROGRAMMING PERIOD

- Continued **support** aiming to ensure:
  - ✓ better employment opportunities;
  - ✓ stronger social inclusion;
  - ✓ fight against poverty;
  - ✓ promotion of education, skills and life-long learning;
  - ✓ increase of growth and sustainable jobs;
  - ✓ enhanced economic, social and territorial cohesion.



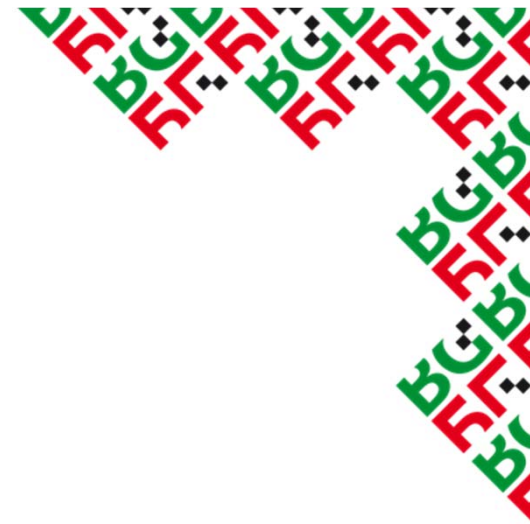
### III. EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

- In line with the priorities for **reducing poverty and promoting social inclusion** through child and family support, including integrated early childhood development policies.
- Thematic focus – informal meeting of the Social Protection Committee on 20-21 March 2018, Sofia;
- Council Conclusions – June 2018 EPSCO.
- **Early childhood development concept:**
  - ✓ comparatively new;
  - ✓ has great potential to become an important instrument for child and family support;
  - ✓ promotion and establishment as an integrated policy ensuring the welfare of children from an early age.



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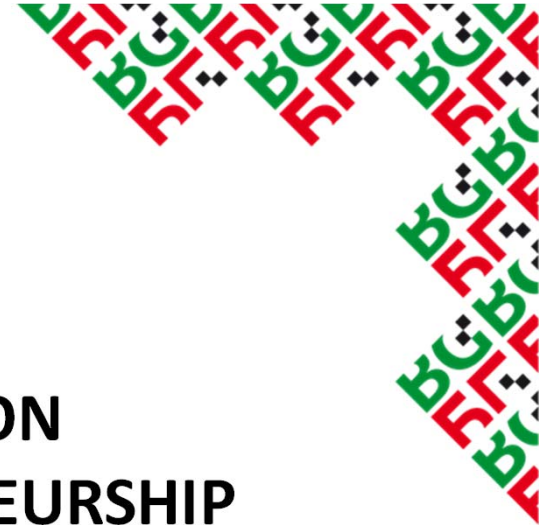
## IV. PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES – FULL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

- **Key priority** - developing opportunities enabling people with disabilities to exercise their rights and freedoms to the fullest extent and without discrimination
- **Equal opportunities**
- **Accessibility**
- Continuing the work on non-discrimination and equality **dossiers**



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## **INTERNATIONAL HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL ECONOMY AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

- Priority event – combining with the Seventh European Forum on Social Entrepreneurship on 16 April 2018 and the EPSCO Council on 17-18 April 2018
- In recent years, there has been a significant progress in practical implementation
- Emphasis on social innovations as a means of:
  - ✓ sustainable economic development;
  - ✓ opportunity to integrate disadvantaged groups.



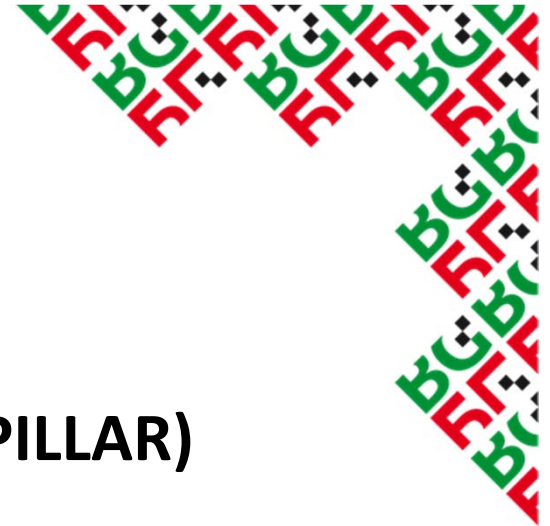
## KEY DOSSIERS

- The Presidency is expected to be a busy period for social policy at EU level with work continuing on a number of important and politically-sensitive dossiers such as:
  - ✓ Posting of Workers Directive;
  - ✓ Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems;
  - ✓ European Accessibility Act.



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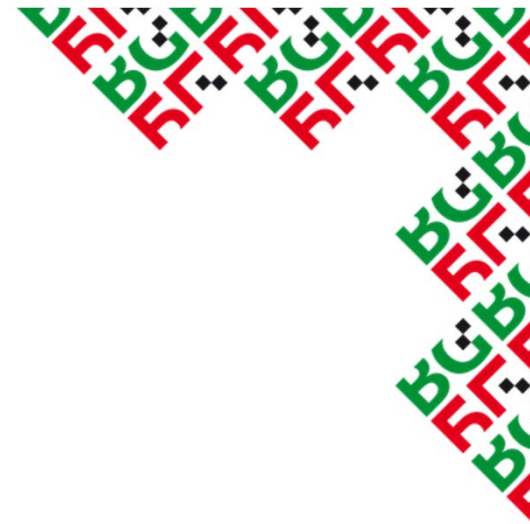
## EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS (THE PILLAR)

- Bulgaria has expressed its **support in principle** for the initiative
- The Pillar is **an important step in developing the social dimension** in the EU
- **The proclamation** was approved at the EPSCO meeting on 23 October and it was signed by the Council, the Commission and the Parliament at the Social Summit in Gothenburg on 17 November 2017



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Thank you for your attention