

CEEP PRIORITIES 2019-2024

THE WAY FORWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICES AND SGIs

THE VOICE OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST

CEEP represents around **500.000 providers of public services and services of general interest** throughout Europe. Contributing to more than 26% of the EU GDP and **employing more than 60 million people**, our members are the backbone of the EU economy, **providing citizens and enterprises with essential services** such as central and local administrations, healthcare, education, energy, transport, water, environment, waste management, housing, tourism, communications and postal services.

THE GENERAL CROSS-INDUSTRY SOCIAL PARTNER FOR PUBLIC SERVICES EMPLOYERS

CEEP is one of the three **European general cross-industry social partners**, representing employers of public services and services of general interest. As a recognised actor in the EU social dialogue, CEEP has a say in the **bipartite and tripartite social dialogue at the highest level**.

SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CEEP members have a key role in ensuring that the EU shows the way in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As such, and as one of the general cross-sectoral organisations at EU level, CEEP can directly address and impact the sustainable transition, with members having an impact on making the transition just.

For the EU, **providers and employers of services of general interest will be instrumental to reach these commitments** and should pave the way towards sustainable growth and development. To our members, the SDGs should serve as a guiding compass for the future of the EU and as a basis for the reflection on the role of services of general interest in Europe.



SERVICES OF GENERAL INTEREST AND DIGITALISATION

Building upon the achievements of the 2014-2019 mandate, the EU approach to **digitalisation** remains the key to the **long-term sustainable and economic success**. Impacting all sectors and all parts of our lives, a **holistic approach is required** to reap the full benefits of the digital revolution for the workforce, for **mobility** in smart connected cities or for developing **climate-friendly** and affordable **housing** solutions. To find the best ways to succeed in turning our economy and society into digital leaders is crucial for the EU to remain competitive, to succeed its energy transition and to ensure a continuously high-level of social protection and growth.



OUR PRIORITIES, OUR DEMANDS, OUR COMMITMENTS

1 SET UP A FAIR AND PREDICTABLE LEVEL-PLAYING FIELD FOR SGIS

Public services and SGI providers of all sizes should be able to operate in the best conditions possible to invest and innovate. Equal treatment of all modes of provision of public services or SGI is necessary to offer citizens and enterprises with the best infrastructures.

For that reason, CEEP proposes to move away from the current 'exemption approach'. It is necessary to recognise SGIs as an integral part of the EU socio-economic ecosystem, making a streamlined approach on the EU SME definition, on public procurement and on state aid regimes necessary.

2 PROMOTE ACTIVE SOCIAL DIALOGUE AT EU AND NATIONAL LEVEL

At EU level, social dialogue has a key role to play in bringing the European project forward, by relying on strong and representative national social partners, with clear mandates in EU bipartite negotiations and a clear legitimacy to be involved and associated in shaping national reform programmes.

National social partners can also contribute to ensuring a better connection between the EU and citizens, at a time when it seems so difficult. The support and trust of EU institutions is essential for the social partners, and for supporting capacity-building activities.

3 CREATE AN ATTRACTIVE INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT

To establish a stable and more investment-friendly environment, the EU now needs a smart and stimulating investment framework. A sound and modern Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2021-2027, including sufficient means for the European Investment Stabilisation Function and Reform Support Programme, is a pre-condition for those investments to happen.

Physical and social infrastructure investment should be one of the main priorities; the investment gap in Europe is estimated between €270bn and €330bn, despite the important progress made thanks to the European Fund for Strategic Investment.

4 SUPPORT THE INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

CEEP is committed to supporting the inclusion of migrants and refugees into work and society. Both as providers of essential services such as healthcare, housing and education and as employers, our members are committed to helping migrants and refugees integrate into the EU society.

In that context, CEEP has been a partner, since 2016, of the Labour INT project to promote the swift integration of third-country nationals into the labour market, and of the 'European Partnership for Integration', with the European Commission and the EU Social and Economic partners.

5 STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY THROUGH COHESION AND SUBSIDIARITY

CEEP members, public services and SGI employers and providers, are the very fabric of the European society, connecting citizens, enterprises and authorities. This central role put us at the heart of the goals of the cohesion policy, the cornerstone of a successful European project.

To maximise its effects, it is central to respect the principle of subsidiarity: the EU should indeed focus on the overarching issues, 'doing less more efficiently', whilst leaving national, regional and local authorities free to organise the provision of public services and SGIs.



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