

# How can the social vaccine be delivered through public policies?

- 1. How to deliver on such “social vaccine”*
- 2. EU initiatives that can be helpful*
- 3. Opportunities within EU budgets*

Global Health & Education webinar series,  
CHAIN - Education as a “social vaccine” against COVID-19  
10 December 2020



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# The social sector investment gap

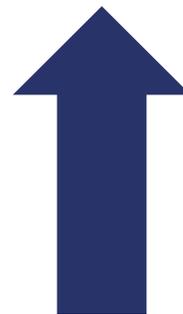
In the EU, the investment gap in social infrastructure (education, housing, health, social services) is estimated to be **€192 billion/year**

The health investment gap increased from **€20 to €70 billion/year** due to the COVID-19 crisis

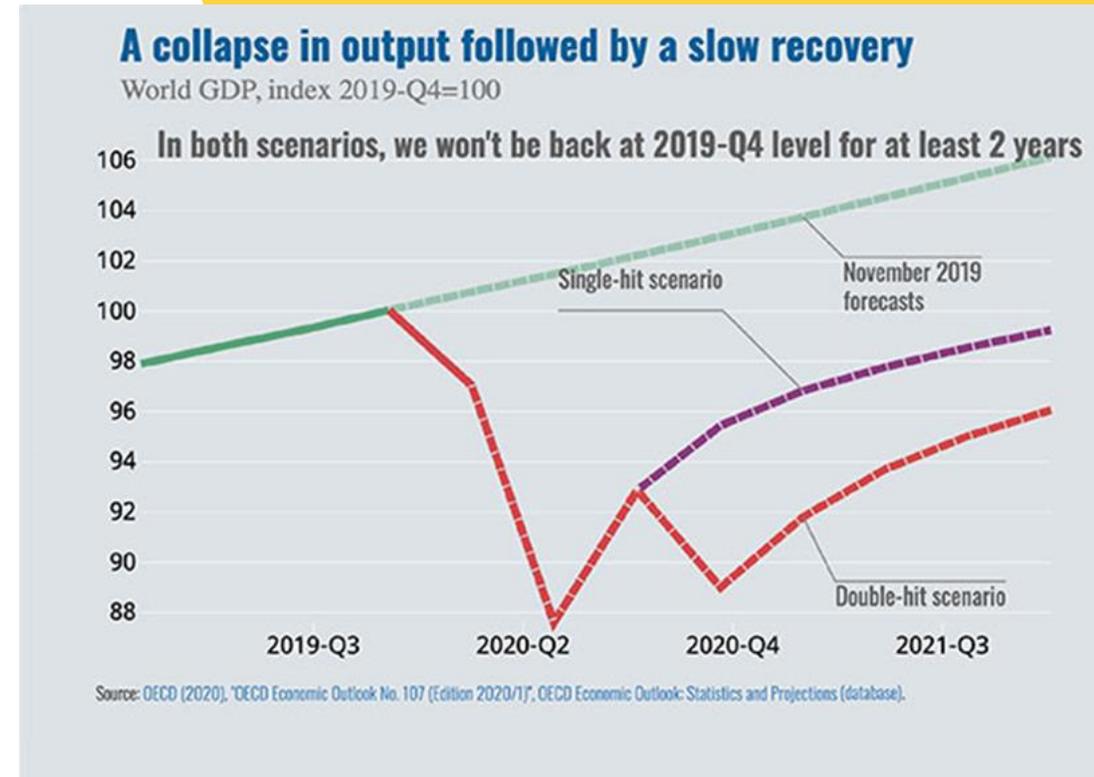
*(Identifying Europe's recovery needs, European Commission report May 2020)*



In 2018, public sector investment was still 20% lower than in 2008

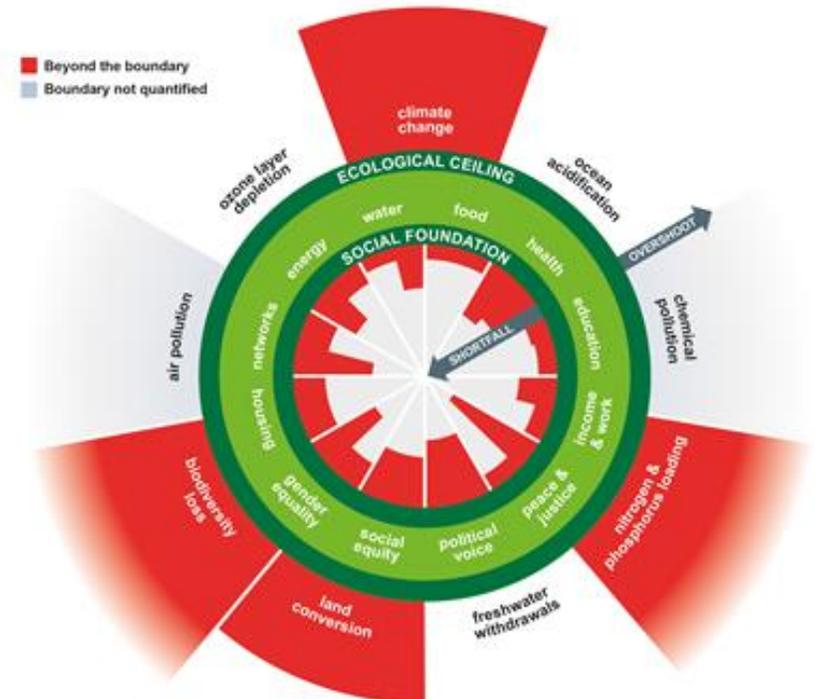
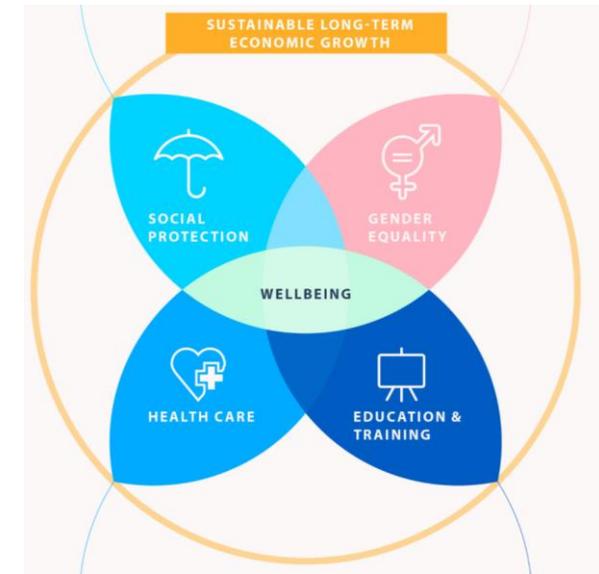


Yet the demand (ageing, NCDs) is rising...

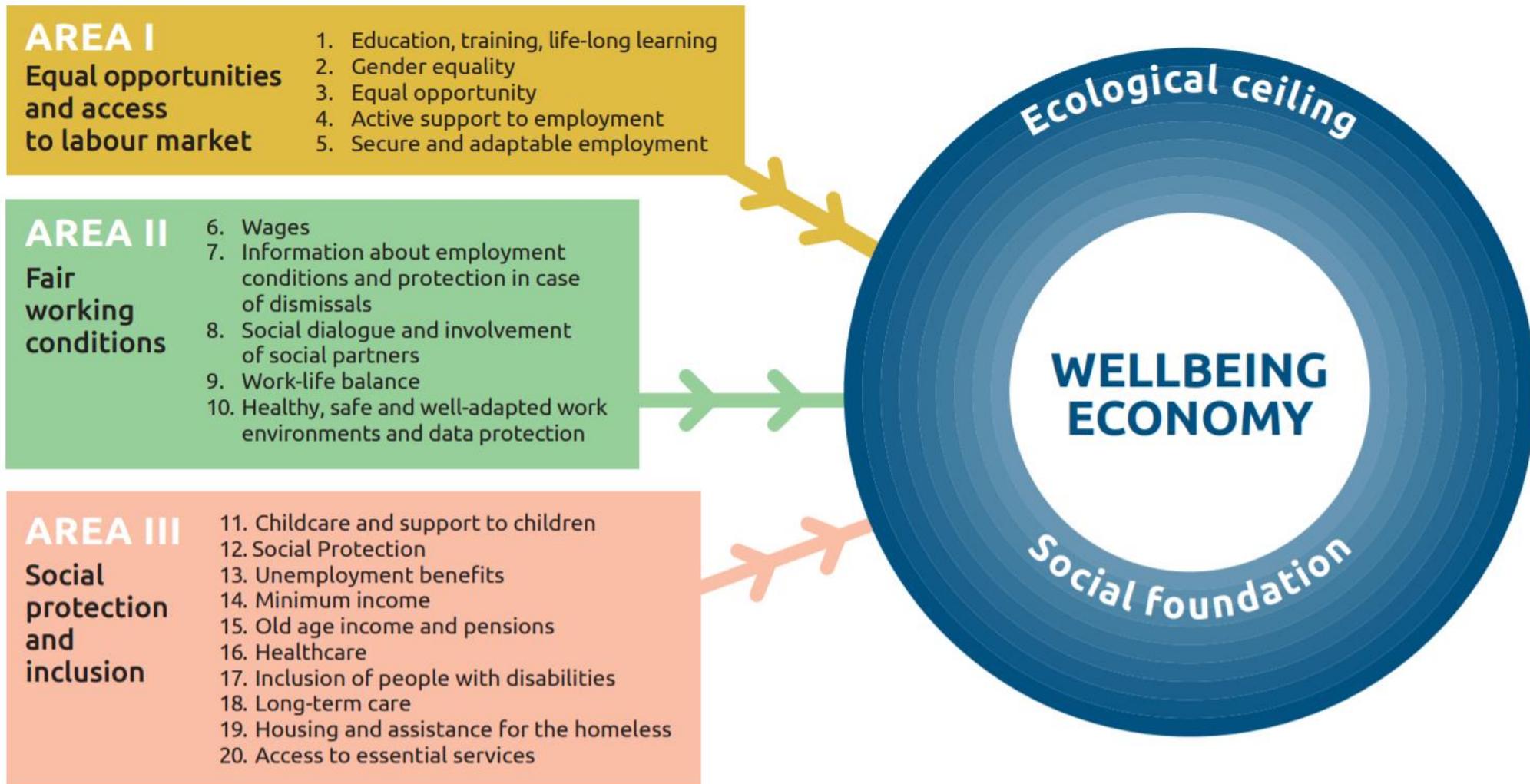


# Economy of Wellbeing

- In a wellbeing economy, citizens' wellbeing drives economic prosperity, stability and resilience, and vice-versa.
- People and wellbeing at centre of policy making.
- It connects economic growth, social progress and environmental sustainability => SDGs
- *Doughnut Economy – Kate Raworth*



# The European Pillar of Social Rights & Action Plan



# Education and Training 2030

## European Education Area (by 2025)

- Tackling disadvantage and supporting well-being at school
- European quality framework for early childhood education and care systems
- ET2030 framework

## Digital Education Action Plan (2021-2027)

## EU Skills Agenda

- Strengthen Europe's sustainable competitiveness
- Ensure social fairness in education, training and lifelong learning
- Up- and reskilling for the green and digital transition



# The EU Child Guarantee

The **EU Child Guarantee** => to ensure that all children in Europe, who are at risk of poverty, social exclusion, or are otherwise disadvantaged, have free or affordable **access to essential services of good quality**.

- Education
- Early childhood education & care
- Healthcare
- Nutrition
- Housing

*EU countries will need to invest and develop action plans.*



# Opportunities for a 'social vaccine' under the MFF 2021-2027

**European Social Fund+** for all regions according to need.

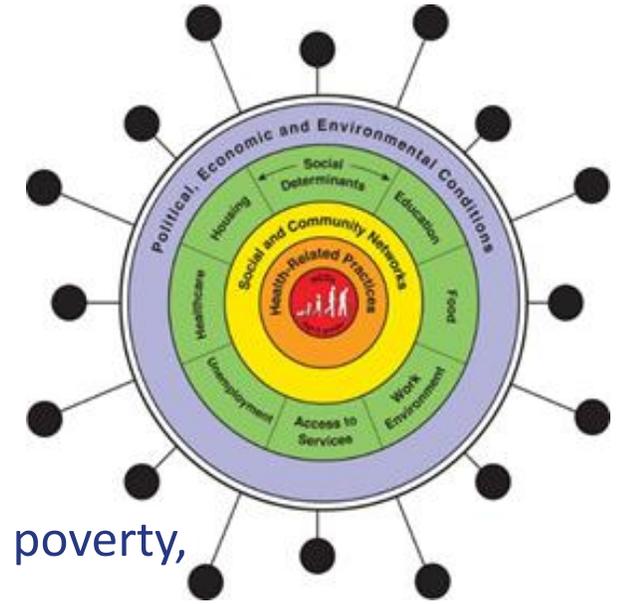
- ESF+ is the main financial instrument for a 'social vaccine' - **€ 87.3 billion**
- at least 25% of ESF+ will be allocated to fostering social inclusion, 4% to extreme poverty, 5% to child poverty, 15% to NEETs.

**European Regional Development Fund (€ 192.4 billion) and Cohesion Fund (€ 42.5 billion)**

- Key investment priority 4 (out of 5): delivering on quality employment, education, skills, social inclusion, equal access to healthcare, health systems' resilience.
- 'Europe closer to citizens': locally-led approach

**EU4Health Programme: € 5.1 billion**

**Recovery & Resilience Facility (for reforms, jobs and skills) € 672.5 billion**





# JOINT ACTION HEALTH EQUITY EUROPE!

Coordinated by Italy (ISS), 24 Countries participate, 5 work strands (1.monitoring, 2.healthy living environments, 3.migration, 4.access to health care, 5.HiAP). Based on policy analysis and country assessments, many actions are being implemented.

EXAMPLES of actions:

**Netherlands** => To develop a future-proof method for calculating trends in health inequalities, with educational level as SES indicator.

**Cyprus** => to create healthy living environment in kindergartens and reduce any inequalities among children from different provinces, ethnic groups or socio-economic backgrounds

**Sweden** => to support lower differences in vaccination uptake for children and adolescents, with the long- term aim to increase vaccination acceptance and reduce inequities.



# Final messages

- ✓ A ‘**social vaccine**’ must lead to **systemic change** and **sustainable** investments => towards a **wellbeing economy** at the core of recovery.
- ✓ From bio-medical <=> to also **psycho-social** action to tackle the *syndemic* pandemic and health inequality
- ✓ We need to think **long-term**, invest in **public health leadership** and boost **capacities** to work across sectors, advocate, access funds and opportunities
- ✓ **Share** examples and ideas and work with a **diverse range of actors** from **local, national** and **EU/WHO** to **global** levels.

