

[More than one in four working-age adults in the EU remain economically inactive](#)

Unemployment in the EU continues to fall, however more than one in four of the EU's working-age population are economically inactive; meaning they are not working and are either not seeking work or are not available for work. Furthermore, the vast majority of economically inactive people would like to work in some form. Eurofound's new publication [Reactivate: Employment opportunities for economically inactive people](#) looks in detail at what could be Europe's most important economic resource.

The number of economically inactive people has been steadily declining in the EU in recent years: in 2015 it stood at 27.5%, down significantly from 31.4% in 2002, and less than the pre-crisis figure of 29.7% in 2007. However, this substantial section of the population remains outside the labour market, and is not included in official employment statistics. While employment policy tends to focus primarily on the unemployed, there is scope for policies to focus more explicitly on the labour market integration of inactive people, and to harness their economic and social potential.

The new report examines groups within the inactive population that find it difficult to enter or re-enter the labour market and explores the reasons why. It also maps the characteristics and living conditions of these groups, discusses their interest in taking up employment and examines the barriers that prevent them from doing so. It finds that around four out of five inactive people would like to work at least some hours per week, depending on their financial needs, and approximately half would like to work 32 hours or more. The desire to work is particularly strong among students and homemakers.

The report also looks at strategies currently being implemented by Member States to promote the inclusion of those outside the labour market. It highlights that inactive people often face more than one barrier to employment, such as a low level of education coupled with care responsibilities, and stresses the importance of focusing on the specific needs of the inactive population.

Finally, the report underlines that Member States should fully implement the 2008 European Commission Recommendation on the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market in the design and implementation of labour market integration strategies. In this regard, the European Pillar of Social Rights, which refers to inactivity as an issue in relation to inclusive education and lifelong learning, provides a unique and timely political impetus.

Download the report: [Reactivate: Employment opportunities for economically inactive people](#)

Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the occasion of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, 2 November 2017

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On the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, the European Union commends the work of journalists in uncovering abuses of power, shining a light on corruption and human right violations, and questioning received opinion, often putting themselves at risk of intimidation, violence and death. An independent and free media is the basis of a participatory and pluralist democracy, and a tool to make governments accountable for their actions.

An attack on journalists represents an attack on democracy and pluralistic societies. Information comes to us at a price: journalists are still being persecuted, detained or even killed, not only in situations of armed conflict, but also in peacetime, including in the European Union, as we have sadly witnessed only a few weeks ago. Violence against journalists and media actors not only represents an attack on the victim, but also limits the ability of the public to access information and ideas of all kinds, both online and offline.

The EU will continue to use all appropriate external policy and financial instruments to enhance the quality of journalism, access to public information and freedom of expression. The EU plays a key role in funding the European Centre for Press and Media freedom (ECPMF) and provides targeted protection through Human Rights Defenders programmes.

We condemn killings, acts of violence, intimidation and harassment against journalists and other media actors in the strongest possible terms. We expect

State authorities to uphold their international obligations by protecting journalists against intimidation, threats and violence, irrespective of their source, whether governmental, judicial, religious, economic or criminal. Any alleged unlawful killing, ill-treatment, threat or attack against journalists, whether by State or non-State actors, should be promptly investigated in an effective and independent manner, with a view to prosecuting the perpetrators of such crimes and bringing them to justice. Any impunity for these crimes is a blow to democracy and to the fundamental rights such as freedom of expression.

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[Joint statement by the European Commission and the Department for Exiting the European Union](#)

The following joint statement has been issued by the European Commission and the Department for Exiting the European Union:

“Michel Barnier, the European Commission’s Chief Negotiator, and David Davis, Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, agreed today that the two teams would meet for Article 50 negotiations on 9 and 10 November 2017. An agenda will be published in due course.”

For More Information

[Task Force on Article 50 Negotiations with the United Kingdom \(TF50\) webpage](#)

[Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and Mongolia enters into force](#)

The Agreement, which was signed on 30 April 2013, replaces the 1993 Agreement on trade and economic cooperation between the European Economic Community and Mongolia.

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini

said: *“The European Union and Mongolia are consolidating their strong ties, based on shared values and interests, and a common will to work more closely together. The entry into force of our Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, combined with the establishment of a European Union Delegation in Ulaanbaatar, which will take place in the coming days, consolidates existing areas of cooperation and engagement, and deepens and diversifies relations further in areas of mutual interest, for the sake of our peoples.”*

The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement strengthens the existing relationship between the European Union and Mongolia and builds on a shared commitment towards good governance, human rights and sustainable development. Moreover, the Agreement will broaden cooperation in a wide range of areas, such as sustainable development, raw materials, climate change, justice and security, human rights, science and technology, good governance, as well as facilitate trade and investment. The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement brings on board the European Union and all of its Member States, therefore providing opportunities to create synergies between EU activities and individual Member States’ policies.

The entry into force of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement coincides with the opening of an EU Delegation in Mongolia, for which implementing the Agreement will be a top priority.

For more information:

[Website](#) of the EU Delegation to Mongolia

[Factsheet](#) on the EU-Mongolia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

[Press release](#) on the decision to open an EU Delegation to Mongolia

[Full text](#) of the EU-Mongolia Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

[**Rohingya Crisis: Commissioner Stylianides visits Bangladesh and reaffirms EU humanitarian support**](#)

His visit comes a week after the EU and its Member States pledged more than 50% of the USD 344 million total funding raised at the international Conference on the Rohingya Refugee Crisis held in Geneva.

“Here in Bangladesh the scale of this emergency is painfully clear to see; this is the fastest-growing refugee crisis in the world. The EU has decisively stepped up its aid to Rohingya communities. The Rohingya people are not alone in these difficult times. We commend and support the generous

approach of the Bangladeshi authorities. At the same time, the European Union continues to insist on full aid access in Myanmar and is working to address the situation in Northern Rakhine State. Beyond aid, it is crucial that every refugee is registered properly and that Myanmar takes all necessary steps to allow them a voluntary and dignified return in secure conditions.", said Commissioner **Stylianides**.

Commissioner **Stylianides** is today visiting the Kutupalong camp in the Cox's Bazar area, where an EU funded project is helping over 100,000 people, mostly vulnerable children and women, gain access to essential services.

The Commissioner will also hold meetings with government officials of Bangladesh and humanitarian partners to discuss the international community's response to the crisis and Bangladesh's needs moving forwards.

The visit follows that of the Commissioner to Myanmar in May earlier [this year](#).

Background

On 23 October, the European Union co-hosted the Pledging Conference on the Rohingya Refugee Crisis, with Kuwait, in Geneva on 23 October, in partnership with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). International donors announced pledges for more than US\$ 344 million to urgently scale up the delivery of critical humanitarian assistance to both Rohingya and host communities in Bangladesh.

With a pledge of €30 million from the EU budget on 23 October, the total Commission support to the Rohingya and their host communities in Bangladesh and Myanmar comes to €51 million for 2017.

The European Union has been funding humanitarian programmes in Cox's Bazar since 1994 through international NGOs and the UN. Since 2007, the EU has allocated over €163 million to Bangladesh; of which close to €43 million has been allocated for basic health care, water, sanitation, shelter, nutrition, protection and psychological support to the Rohingya.

In Myanmar the EU has provided since 2010 more than €76.5 million in humanitarian aid to vulnerable people in Rakhine state, including in the more isolated northern areas which Christos **Stylianides** became the first European Commissioner to visit earlier this May. In 2017, the EU is funding projects throughout Myanmar's Rakhine State to address some of the most urgent needs, including food and nutrition, basic health services, water, sanitation, protection and shelter for affected communities displaced by outbreaks of violence in 2012 and 2016.

For more information

[Factsheet on Bangladesh](#)

[Factsheet on the Rohingya crisis](#)

[Press release: Commissioner Stylianides visit to Myanmar, May 15](#)

[Press release: The EU pledges additional €30 million for the Rohingya crisis at Geneva donors' conference](#)