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UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
Europe Regional Office

Human Rights Talk
Ensuring adequate minimum income, a matter of human rights
27 September 2023, 11:00-12:30 CET

Key takeaways

- In line with international standards, minimum income systems are important components of more comprehensive social protection systems. Social protection is a human right. Addressing and improving non-take up of minimum income schemes is critical and the Spanish EU Presidency's commitment to tackle this issue across the EU is strongly welcomed. The most disadvantaged groups of people are the least likely to take up their rights – more must be done to remove the hurdles they are facing.
- To this end, the need to strengthen targeted outreach to eligible beneficiaries to improve take-up rates was underlined. While the digitalization of procedures has advantages, it is essential that precautionary (and non-digital) measures are in place to ensure that no one is left behind.
- Minimum income should ensure a life in dignity while being well-coordinated with activation measures to encourage and support the integration of beneficiaries into the labour market.
- Ensuring adequate social protection to all and improving take-up rates of minimum income should be seen as a much-needed investment that will benefit the economy and societies in the long run.
- Panellists and participants welcomed the Spanish EU Presidency's focus on EU action towards reaching its social and employment objectives under the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals.