

Text 1

Generally, health and social services play a significant role in the economies and societies of the EU Member States. They meet essential social needs, generate employment on a large scale and contribute significantly to GDP. Yet, at the moment, their importance varies widely across the EU.

Text 2

Health and social services, their economic, social and employment potentials are clearly underdeveloped in certain Member States. Public perceptions show that, as a result, social needs are insufficiently met and expectations are frustrated.

Text 3

In spite of the overall wealth of the European Union (EU), poverty in the EU is still at a relatively high level. Nearly 1 in 7 people are at risk of poverty. The figures are even higher for some groups such as children and older people.

Text 4

Poverty is a direct attack on people's fundamental rights, limits the opportunities they have to achieve their full potential, brings high costs to society and hampers sustainable economic growth. Poverty also reflects failures in the systems for redistributing resources and opportunities in a fair and equitable manner.

Text 5

In the UK there are currently some 5,000 unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people who are being looked after or supported by local authorities. In some respects these young people present a fresh version of familiar challenges and dilemmas for social workers.

Text 6

Separation and loss are fundamental parts of any unaccompanied child's story, as for many young people that social workers care for. Providing care and protection to unaccompanied asylum seekers from overseas, however, presents a number of additional, different challenges.

Text 7

One in six people in the European Union – around 80 million – have a disability that ranges from mild to severe. Over one third of people aged over 75 have disabilities that restrict them to some extent. These numbers are set to rise as the EU population grows progressively older.

Text 8

Mental health is not just the absence of mental disorder. It is defined as a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community.

Text 9

Instead of providing care in large psychiatric hospitals, countries should integrate mental health into primary health care, provide mental health care in general hospitals and develop community-based mental health services.

Text 10

What is age discrimination and who suffers from it? If a prejudice against a person or group of people on the grounds of their age becomes the driving force behind a decision, it is considered age discrimination. Although typically associated with the older generations, discrimination can happen to people of all ages.

Text 11

Trafficking in children is a global problem affecting large numbers of children. Some estimates have as many as 1.2 million children being trafficked every year. There is a demand for trafficked children as cheap labour or for sexual exploitation.

Text 12

Child trafficking is lucrative and linked with criminal activity and corruption. It is often hidden and hard to address. Trafficking always violates the child's right to grow up in a family environment.

Text 13

People are in a vulnerable situation when their personal well-being is put at risk because they lack sufficient resources, are at risk of being in debt, suffer poor health, experience educational disadvantage and live in inadequate housing and environment.

Text 14

One of the problems with discussing poverty is clarifying what it means and how it can be defined. Within the current debate at EU level, poverty is generally divided into two types, absolute or extreme poverty and relative poverty.

Text 15

In most countries, particularly low- and middle-income countries, mental health services are severely short of resources - both human and financial. Of the health care resources available, most are currently spent on the specialized treatment and care of the people with mental illness.

Text 16

People with mental disorders around the world are exposed to a wide range of human rights violations. The stigma they face means they are often ostracized from society and fail to receive the care they require.

Text 17

Governments need to dedicate more of their health budget to mental health. The mental health workforce needs to be developed and trained to ensure that all people have access to good quality mental health services at each level of the health care system.

Text 18

Countries should put in place mental health policies, laws and services that promote the rights of people with mental disorders, empower them to make choices about their lives, provide them with legal protections, and ensure their full integration and participation into the community.

Text 19

How do we get protection from age discrimination? Previously, there was no way to combat instances of age discrimination. Unlike disability, sex, religion or race discrimination it was not outlawed.

Text 20

Now that the employment equality (age) regulations are in force, however, it is illegal for employers to discriminate against employees, trainees or job seekers because of their date of birth. They must now ensure all workers have the same rights in terms of training and promotion, regardless of their age.

Text 21

The focus of social work intervention in improving people's social wellbeing depends on the individual, their unique circumstances, needs and priorities and on the social worker's specific job role.

Text 22

Social work is a profession concerned with helping individuals, families, groups and communities to enhance their individual and collective well-being. It aims to help people develop their skills and their ability to use their resources and those of the community to resolve problems.

Text 23

Mental health and substance abuse social workers support people with mental health or substance abuse problems. Therapy is one common intervention used by social workers to help clients address these problems.

Text 24

Social workers are educated and trained to address social injustices and barriers to their client's overall wellbeing. Some of these include poverty, unemployment, discrimination and lack of housing.

Text 25

Social workers support clients and communities who are living with disabilities, substance abuse problems or experience domestic conflicts. They assist them with important resources, such as temporary housing, healthcare, and mental health services, that will improve their lives.

Text 26

A clinical social worker, for example, focuses on diagnoses, treatments and prevention of mental emotional and behavioral issues. On the other hand, a social worker may focus on research and development for small or large-scale programs to help the community.

Text 27

There are three levels of social work practice: micro, mezzo and macro social work. At the micro level, social workers provide one-on-one, family and small-group services to individuals addressing a wide range of social issues. These may include housing support, substance abuse counseling and mental health therapy.

Text 28

Social workers on the micro level are protecting society's most vulnerable individuals, including young children, people with mental disabilities, victims of domestic violence, and elderly people in many different aspects of their lives. They assist them with important resources, such as temporary housing and mental health.

Text 29

Social workers who operate at the mezzo level work with groups of people, such as in a school, prison, hospital or neighborhoods. They may help students struggling academically, address substance abuse recovery with prison inmates or help coordinate care for patients who are admitted to hospitals for long-term care.

Text 30

Macro social work encompasses practices like social work research, program development for small and large communities, community-based education initiatives, policy analysis and advocacy, non-profit administration and leadership, and organizational development.

Text 31

A social worker assists people within a wide range of settings, from mental health clinics to schools and hospitals. Social workers can work with individuals or within large communities or organizations and assist with a variety of ailments from addiction treatment to chronic illness and child support services.

Text 32

Social workers provide help and support to children and adults in need or at risk. They are, among other things, catalysts for change in individuals and families, working with them, their communities and partner agencies to make improvements, achieve goals and keep safe and well.

Text 33

Social work is underpinned by a core set of professional values. These include service to others, promoting social justice, respecting the dignity and worth of the individual, recognizing the importance of human relationships and maintaining integrity and competence.

Text 34

Social workers need to know how to connect with and communicate with people, be able to listen and discover what's going on below the surface, show empathy, build trust and work creatively and flexibly with others to find solutions.

Text 35

Social workers need to be able to balance managing risk alongside being supportive mediate in people's behalf. They also need to know how to connect with and communicate with people, be able to listen and discover what's going on below the surface.