

EVALUATION OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER (2025)



Evaluation questions

- How relevant is the Charter to member states, as reflected in their national policies, legislation, and practices?
- To what extent have member states changed their policies, legislation, and practices to address the shortcomings identified by the monitoring mechanism?
- Is the ongoing reform process progressing in the right direction, and are all necessary elements for the Charter's reform in place?
- What added value does the Charter offer in comparison to similar international mechanisms?

Methodology



92
individuals
interviews



132
documents
analysed



4
field visits



41
member States
analysed against 8
conformity criteria



1
observation of high-
level conference

Strengths

Vital during crises:
The Charter provides crucial
protections during social and
economic instability

Comprehensive coverage:
The Charter ensures broad
protections for
various vulnerable groups

Measurable outcomes:
The Charter has shaped
national policies and legislation

Flexible and adaptive:
The Charter can address
emerging issues and remain
relevant

Challenges

Limited visibility:
Low awareness of the Charter
among stakeholders

Secondary social rights:
The Charter is viewed as
less important than civil and
political rights

Varied effectiveness:
The Charter's effectiveness is
strongly influenced by political
will and institutional capacity

Complex processes:
The Charter's monitoring
and compliance mechanisms
remain time-consuming

Recommendations*

1. Increase the visibility of the Charter through targeted, high-visibility events and outreach
2. Enhance dialogue between Charter monitoring bodies and member States, as well as between ECSR and GC
3. Promote the collective complaints procedure among governments and parliaments to increase targeted reporting
4. Assess the value of ad hoc reports in complementing regular monitoring reports to address emerging issues
5. Reduce the time between receiving reports and publishing conclusions to increase impact
6. Encourage greater involvement of national CSOs in the collective complaints procedure
7. Further involve Parliaments, NGOs, and civil society in follow-up and implementation of resolutions and conclusions
8. Strengthen Charter implementation by linking it with Council of Europe co-operation activities

* The recommendations have been shortened for the purpose of the Infographic