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## **EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER**

Ad hoc report on the cost-of-living crisis

submitted by

**THE GOVERNMENT OF NORWAY**

Report registered by the Secretariat

on 28 December 2023

**CYCLE 2024**

## **Norway's response to the request for an ad hoc report on the cost-of-living crisis relating to the application of the European Social Charter**

Please note Norway's response to the request for information on measures taken in Norway to preserve living conditions in the context of high inflation during the past two years. The Ministry of Labour and Inclusion has coordinated Norway's response in collaboration with other relevant ministries.

### **Questions**

**1) Please provide information as to whether and how the statutory minimum wage is regularly adjusted/indexed to the cost of living. Please indicate when this last happened, specifically whether it has been adjusted /indexed since the end of 2021.**

There is no statutory minimum wage in Norway.

**2) Please provide information on any supplementary measures taken to preserve the purchasing power of the minimum wage since the end of 2021.**

There is no statutory minimum wage in Norway.

**3) For States Parties with no statutory minimum wage, please describe any measures taken to preserve the purchasing power of the lowest wages since the end of 2021.**

In Norway the social partners are responsible for setting the wages, including those receiving the lowest wages. The authorities have no formal role in this process.

**4) Please provide information as to whether the cost-of-living crisis has led to the extension of inwork benefits.**

There are no in-work benefits in Norway.

**5) Please provide information on changes to social security and social assistance systems since the end of 2021. This should include information on benefits and assistance levels and the allocation of benefits.**

Social security and social assistance, interpreted broadly, includes a range of public services and benefits across sectors, where changes since 2021 encompasses changes to both transfers and reduced cost of services. The changes should however be understood in their wider context of the Norwegian welfare state where benefits and services to a large extent are universal and rights based, and where social security is indexed annually by law. This is the foundation of the Norwegian social safety net which to an extent are intended to support a certain standard of living also in periods of volatility with cost increases and uncertainty. Additionally, some of the changes described under are done to address the cost-of-living crisis by compensating further the population at large, and in particular low-income

households. Some of the changes are not directly linked to the current cost-of-living crisis, but rather a consequence of ongoing and long-term policy processes. Relevant changes have been listed under in the following order:

- Financial social assistance
- Disability benefit
- Housing allowance
- Child benefit
- Unemployment benefit
- Pension
- Reduction of the employee social security contribution rates
- Other relevant policy measures

### **Financial social assistance**

Financial assistance is a temporary assistance for those who are unable to financially support themselves, administered by municipalities who conduct an individual assessment of each case. The state provides guiding rates for part of the financial assistance which are to cover the cost of basic needs. In addition, other costs including housing and electricity are to be covered.

Adjustment of the guiding rates are decided by parliaments budget adoptions, and are traditionally adjusted annually in accordance with inflation, also in the period since 2021. In addition, the guiding rates were increased by 10 per cent from 1. July 2023 in response to the cost-of-living condition, and recipients received an extra lump sum payment of 1000 NOK in December 2022.

### **Disability Benefit**

To address the issues relating to increasing costs of living, persons receiving a minimum payment of disability benefit received a lump sum of NOK 3000 in the month of February 2023.

### **Housing Allowance Scheme**

The Norwegian housing allowance scheme is a means-tested government grant for households with low incomes and high housing expenses. The housing allowance depends on household's income and housing expenses. It is calculated by subtracting a personal contribution from the recognized housing costs. The housing allowance is equal to 73.7 per cent of the remaining amount. The household's contribution depends on the household monthly income before deduction for taxes and the number of people in the household. The bigger the income is, the larger the personal contribution. In this calculation, a portion of the household's net wealth exceeding a deductible amount, is added to the household's income. If the income is under a threshold, the personal contribution is set at a minimum level.

The housing costs has an upper limit for housing expenses which varies across municipalities and size of the households.

No income thresholds are set in the scheme. However, the calculation scheme implies that income over a certain level will disqualify, when the personal contribution exceeds the upper limit for housing expenses.

The following changes have been made to the housing allowance scheme since late 2021:

*Increased payments for bigger households:* When calculating the household's contribution, the household's income is divided by a household weight. This weight is the sum of values assigned to each household member. The first household member is assigned a value of 1. Each additional household member adult was previously assigned the value 0.1. On 1. January 2022, the value for each additional person was increased to 0.13, and as of 1. February 2023 the value for children was further increased to 0.15, leading to an increase in housing allowance for household with children.

*Higher maximum housing expenses allowed:* On 1. January 2022, the maximum housing expenses allowed in the assessment of housing allowance were increased by 2 100 NOK for all households.

*Extra payments to alleviate higher electricity costs:* Since late 2021 recipients of housing allowance have also received extra payments to alleviate for higher electricity costs. See answer to question 7 below for further details.

*Temporarily reduced household contribution:* Temporary rules for calculating the household's contribution have been in effect since December 2021. Reduced household contribution implies increased benefit for recipients with income over a certain level, and higher income thresholds which enable new households with higher income to be entitled to both housing allowance and the extra payments for higher electricity costs. See answer to question 7 for further details.

In December 2021 and January–March 2022, the prescribed addition to income due to net wealth, was suspended, allowing more home-owners to receive housing benefit and extra payments.

### **Child benefit**

The following changes are made to the Norwegian universal Child Benefit:

- As of t 1. September 2022, the universal child benefit is kept out of the calculation of financial social assistance.
- Single parents are entitled to an extended child benefit. On 1. March 2023, the extended child benefit was increased by NOK 5000 per year. Additionally, to simplify the public benefits schemes for this group, the tax deduction for single parents was removed while the extended child benefit was increased, corresponding to the maximum tax value of the deduction in 2022.
- Due to the increase in the extended child benefit, some single parent households lost the rights to a means tested advanced payment of child maintenance. Consequently, the income thresholds in the advance payment scheme were raised so that the

recipients are entitled to the same advance payment as before. The new income thresholds entered into force 1. July 2023.

- In the revised budget for 2023, the child benefit for children above the age of 6 was increased by NOK 2400 per year, reducing the gap in child benefit rates between children under og above the age of 6.

### **Unemployment benefit**

A holiday supplement of 9.5 per cent of the previous year's paid unemployment benefit was introduced in 2022, for those who had received the benefit for more than eight weeks. Benefit recipients who support children under the age of 18, have their unemployment benefit increased by a child allowance of NOK 35 per child per day. The child supplement was increased by NOK 17 from 1. February 2023. From 2023, the child supplement is given to both parents when both receive unemployment benefits. Earlier only one of the parents was entitled to the child supplement.

### **Pension**

#### *Minimum pension level for a single pensioner*

From January 2023 the minimum pension level for a single pensioner increased with NOK 4 000, to NOK 236.816. Included the annual adjustment of the basic amount from 1 May 2023, the minimum pension level for a single pensioner is NOK 257.040. If the pensioner has been a member of the National Insurance Scheme for less than 40 years, the benefit is proportionately reduced.

#### *Reform of benefits for survivors*

From 1. January 2024 there will be a reform of the National Insurance benefits for survivors. The pension for the surviving spouse is replaced by a time-limited adjustment allowance. The adjustment benefit corresponds to 2.25 times the basic amount (NOK 266.895). If the deceased had been a member of the National Insurance Scheme for less than 40 years, the benefit will be proportionately reduced. The adjustment benefit is reduced if the survivor has income from work in addition to the benefit that exceeds half of the basic amount. The benefit must then be reduced by 45 per cent of the excess income. The adjustment benefit can be granted for up to three years after the death and can be extended by up to two years. In certain situations, the survivor can receive the benefit until the survivor turns 67 years old and is entitled to old-age pension.

The pension for surviving children has also been changed with the reform. The change entails a simplification, while at the same time the rates at which the child's pension is granted have been increased. For children who have lost one parent, the annual child pension corresponds to one basic amount per child (NOK 118.620). For children who have lost both parents, the annual child pension corresponds to 2.25 basic amount per child (NOK 266.895). The rates assume that the deceased had a membership period in the national insurance of 40 years or more. In case of a shorter membership period, the benefit is reduced proportionately. With the reform the child's pension can be granted until the age of 20, two more years than the current rules.

### **Reduction of the employee social security contribution rates**

The employee social security contribution (SSC) rates on wages, social benefits and self-employed income have been reduced. The employee SSC on wages and social benefits was 8.2 per cent in 2021, 8.0 per cent in 2022, and is 7.9 per cent in 2023. Similarly, the SSC on self-employed income was 11.4 per cent in 2021, 11.2 per cent in 2022, and is 11.1 per cent in 2023. The «employee» SSC on pensions, e.g. old-age pensions, has been kept unchanged at 5.1 per cent from 2021 to 2023.

Additionally, the lower limit for paying employee SSC has been increased from NOK 59.650 in 2021, to NOK 64.650 in 2022, and to NOK 69.650 in 2023. If total personal income (i.e. gross wage, social benefits, pensions and self-employed income) is below the limit, no employee SSC must be paid. Above the limit, SSC is paid according to a special rate of 25 pct. until ordinary rates applied on the whole income give a lower calculated total of SSCs. The employer social security contribution has an ordinary rate of 14.1 per cent, but is regionally differentiated, e.g. such that the northernmost part of Norway has a zero rate. This has been kept unchanged from 2021 to 2023.

However, an extra rate of employer SSC was introduced in 2023. The extra rate amounts to 5.0 per cent on the part of wage income that exceeds NOK 750.000 for each employee, and it applies equally to all parts of the country. In the 2023 budget proposal from the government, the extra rate was justified as a measure appropriate for the situation. It contributed to increasing the room to manoeuvre in the budget by about NOK 6.4 billion and enabled stronger redistribution. The government stated that the overheating in the labour market and the surplus of vacancies indicated that it was a good time to introduce an additional SSC for employers.

### **Other relevant policy measures that help to reduce the cost of living:**

The maximum fee for kindergarten has in the period of 2022-2023 been reduced by NOK 215 per month. In 2023, the maximum fee is NOK 3000 per month. Some low-income families are also entitled to a reduced fee.

All families with more than one child attending kindergarten get a discount, and in 2023, kindergarten was made free for the third child attending kindergarten at the same time. Kindergarten was also made free for all children in the most northern municipalities. As of 1. August 2022, first grade pupils are entitled to 12 free hours of after-school program per week. From 1. August 2023, second grade pupils are entitled to the same 12 weekly hours for free.

In the period of 2022-2023, the national grant scheme for the inclusion of children and young people in holiday and leisure activities has been strengthened by NOK 181 million. The grant scheme amounts to NOK 680 million in 2023.

In the revised budget for 2023, NOK 15 million was granted to cover participation fees for children in organised leisure activities.

**6) Please provide information as to whether social security benefits and assistance are indexed to the cost of living, as well as information in particular on how income-replacing benefits such as pensions are indexed. Please indicate when benefits and assistance were last adjusted/indexed.**

### **Basic amount**

Many benefits from the National Insurance Scheme are determined in relation to a basic amount (B.a.). This amount is annually adjusted with effect from 1 May, in accordance with the increase in wages. Deviations from actual wage growth will be adjusted for the following years. From 1. May 2022 the B.a increased with 4.77 pct. and from 1. May 2023 with 6.41 pct.

### **Sickness benefit**

As a general rule, the calculation basis for employees corresponds to monthly income during the last three months before the sickness absence, up to 6 times the Basic Amount. For the self-employed, the calculation basis normally corresponds to the average of the annual income for the last 3 years, up to 6 times the Basic Amount.

### **Old-age pensions in payment**

Old-age pensions in payment, the guaranteed pension and the minimum pension level are from 1. May 2022 indexed to the average of nominal wage growth and price growth. Deviations from actual wage and price growth will be adjusted for the following years. This implies that pensioners will have real income growth, if wage earners experience real wage growth on average. If wage earners experience real wage decrease, pensions will experience a smaller real income decrease. From 1. May 2022 pensions increased with 3.53 per cent and from 1 may 2023 8.54 per cent.

### **Disability Benefit**

The disability benefit is calculated on the basis of the average pensionable income of the best three of the previous five years before the onset of disability. Income exceeding 6 B.a. is not taken into account. The disability benefit rate per year is 66 per cent of the calculation basis. The yearly minimum is 2.28 B.a. for persons living with a spouse/cohabitant, but is 2.33 B.a. if the person subsequent to 31 December 2014 received a recalculated disability pension. For others, the yearly minimum is 2.48 B.a.

Insured persons born disabled or having become disabled due to a severe illness, injury or defect before reaching the age of 26, are entitled to a higher yearly minimum benefit. The yearly minimum is 2.66 B.a. for persons living with spouse/cohabitant and 2.91 B.a. for others. A supplement of up to 40 per cent of the B.a. is on certain conditions granted for each supported child under the age of 18. The supplement is income-tested.

### **Work Assessment Allowance**

Work Assessment Allowance is granted to insured persons between the ages of 18 and 67 whose working capacity is reduced by at least 50 per cent due to illness, injury or defect. Work Assessment Allowance shall cover living expenses and is normally granted when the

person in question is undergoing active treatment or vocational measures, or when the person in question has tried such measures and is still considered to have a certain possibility of becoming employed, and is being followed up by the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Service.

Work Assessment Allowance is calculated on the basis of the pensionable income the year before the working capacity was reduced by at least 50 per cent. The Work Assessment Allowance shall, however, be calculated on the basis of the average pensionable income of the last three calendar years prior to the contingency, if this results in a higher basis. The maximal calculation basis is 6 B.a.. The benefit rate per year is 66 per cent of the calculation basis, and is paid for five days a week. Insured persons who had low or no pensionable income before the working capacity was reduced by at least 50 per cent, is guaranteed a minimum annual benefit of 2 B.a.. For persons born disabled or having become disabled before attaining the age of 26, the minimum allowance is 2.44 B.a.. In addition, a child supplement of NOK 27 is granted for each dependent child under the age of 18. The supplement is paid for five days a week.

### **Housing allowance**

The housing allowance scheme rates have been indexed to the cost of living since 2017. The maximum housing costs allowed under the general housing allowance scheme are adjusted annually in June. They are adjusted according to the preceding 12 months sub-indexes reflecting market rents within the Consumer price index. These sub-indexes are determined based on the Rental market survey conducted by the Norwegian statistics bureau (Statistics Norway). Most other rates in the scheme are also indexed annually in June in line with changes in the Consumer price index delivered by Statistics Norway

### **Child benefit**

The child benefit rates are not adjusted annually by law. From 1996-2018, the child benefit rates were not increased at all. Since 2019, the child benefit rates have been increased on several occasions, but not consistently indexed. In 2023, the child benefit was increased in line with expected price increases.

### **Tax rules**

Tax rules are not indexed automatically, but dependent on explicit adoption in parliament. However, a reference tax system is calculated yearly. All revenue effects and distributional effects are calculated relatively to this indexed reference system, and the reference system thereby serves as a basis for the budget tax proposal.

The reference system for 2023 intends to project the 2022 rules unchanged in «real» terms, e.g. in the sense that an employee should pay approximately the same *percentage* tax of income in 2023 as the employee did in 2022. Tax rules in the reference system are therefore adjusted with relevant growth rates from 2022 to 2023.

In the reference system for direct taxes, the main rules are adjusted by expected wage growth. This applies for example to thresholds in the bracket tax, the minimum allowance for wage income and (approximately) the personal allowance. Most other allowances are



adjusted by expected consumer price growth, such as the allowance for travel between home and work, which is related to travel costs. Specific tax rules for pensions are adjusted by expected pension growth, which indirectly is related to the expected average of consumer price and wage growth through the rules for pension indexation. Thresholds in the wealth tax are increased by expected wealth growth. All rates (percentages) are projected unchanged from the previous year.

This means that higher inflation will lead to higher indexation of some amounts and limits in the reference tax system for direct taxes, but the parliament may decide to deviate from the reference system in the adopted tax rules. As an example, in the 2023 budget, thresholds in the bracket tax were adjusted by expected wage growth in bracket 1 and 2 only (the two lowest brackets), while the thresholds in bracket 3, 4 and 5 were reduced nominally. On the other hand, the personal allowance was increased by 36.7 per cent instead of being increased by (approximately) wage growth.

In the reference system for indirect taxes, all excise duties (which are expressed in NOK) are adjusted by expected consumer price growth, such that they will amount to approximately the same *percentage* of the price as in the previous year. However, the general CPI growth is used for all such taxes. The value added tax rates are expressed as percentages and are therefore kept unchanged. This means that higher inflation leads to higher excise duties in the reference system in nominal terms, but the parliament may decide to deviate from this, in the same way as they may for direct tax.

***7) Please provide information as to whether any special measures have been adopted since late 2021 to ensure persons can meet their energy and food costs, such as price subsidies for energy, fuel, and basic food items.***

Since late 2021 the Norwegian Parliament has adopted several measures to provide extra support to help households meet the increased energy costs. This includes several measures, both on the tax and on the expenditure side of the budget.

**Financial support to cover energy needs**

Norway has a temporary financial support to household to cover electricity costs, introduced in 2021. From September 2023 the government will base its support on the average market price (hour by hour) in the local price area which the household belongs to. When the price exceeds 70 øre per kilowatt per hour (KWh) excluding VAT, the government will cover 90 per cent of the price above this threshold. In October, the state expenditure for 2023 for the electricity support was at 6.4 billion NOK.

In addition, the government has introduced financial support to cover high electricity costs to private sector companies, students, farmers, volunteer organisations and churches.

**Changes to the housing allowance scheme to increase household support:**

*Additional payments:* Anyone who is granted housing allowance has also received additional payments to help meet higher electricity costs. These payments have been carried out several times in the past and have varied in size. The amount has been independent of the

actual household's electricity expenses. The table below shows when this additional payments have occurred, how much the additional payment consisted of, and how many households have benefited from it since late 2021.

<b>Payment month</b>	<b>Amount<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Number of households</b>
November 2021 <sup>21</sup>	2 950 NOK	63 900
December 2021	2 950 NOK	71 200
January 2022	1 500 NOK	86 000
February 2022	2 500 NOK	90 400
March 2022	2 500 NOK	97 200
April 2022	1 000 NOK	96 200
May 2022	1 000 NOK	97 400
June 2022	1 000 NOK	90 800
November 2022	2 000 NOK	94 500
December 2022	2 500 NOK	100 800
January 2023	1 500 NOK	102 000
February 2023	1 500 NOK	109 200
March 2023	1 500 NOK	110 000
April 2023	1 500 NOK	111 300
May 2023	1 500 NOK	102 300
November 2023	1 000 NOK	Not yet paid
December 2023	1 500 NOK	Not yet paid
January 2024	1 500 NOK	Not yet paid

*Temporarily reduced household contribution.* See answer to question 5. Higher income thresholds enable new households with higher income be entitled to both housing allowance and the extra payments for higher electricity costs. About 23 000 additional households are entitled to housing allowance due to this change

### **Support to Food Banks**

For 2020 and 2021, the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food granted NOK 7.8 million per year in organisational support to Food Banks Norway (Matsentralen), which is an umbrella organisation for Norway's 8 food banks. In 2022, the support was increased by NOK 7 million, i.e., a total of NOK 14.8 million, and for 2023 NOK 14.181.000 has been allocated. The food banks redistribute surplus food from manufacturers, wholesalers, and grocery stores to non-profit organisations which distributes it further to people in need.

### **Changes to the Child Benefit**

The increase in the extended child benefit for single parent households and for children above the age of 6 has increased the economic opportunities of families with children to meet the higher energy and food costs.

### **Taxation**

<sup>1</sup> Plus an additional 150 NOK for each additional person in the household

<sup>2</sup> Only in Southern Norway

In terms of taxes for individuals, net tax cuts for groups with income less than NOK 750.000 were prioritised. In the adopted budget, these low-income tax cuts were calculated to a total of NOK 4.7 billion, while taxes for groups with higher income and high wealth were increased. A principal measure was an increase in the personal allowance from NOK 58.250 to 79.600, which provided broad income tax relief for those with low incomes. In addition, the («employee») social security contribution rates on wages, social benefits and self-employed income were reduced by 0.1 percentage point. This also provided a general tax relief, and it reduced the marginal tax on work, thereby stimulating employment. The bracket tax on high incomes, the tax on shareholder income, and the wealth tax were increased. Other elements of the government’s cost-of-living package on the tax side of the budget, included a cut in the road usage duty to reduce overall fuel taxes. The base tax on mineral oils was cut in the proposal, but was instead abolished in its entirety in the adopted budget. This reduced prices of fuel in construction and agriculture.

Single providers with incomes too low to benefit from deductions in the tax base, received an extra income boost, because the full tax value of the special allowance for this group was transferred to an increase in the child benefit. The child benefit for single providers was also increased additionally. See corresponding changes to the child benefit as described under question 5.

In the revised 2023 budget (spring of 2023), tax cuts of NOK 1.4 billion on pensions were adopted. These were proposed to keep the minimum pension level «tax free», despite an adopted extraordinary increase in the minimum level in 2023, and higher automatic indexation than expected in May 2023 due to increased price and wage growth. Pensioners with low pensions received the largest tax cuts, while the tax on relatively high pensions was kept unchanged.

**8) Please provide up-to-date information on at-risk-of-poverty rates for the population as a whole, as well as for children, families identified as being at risk of poverty, persons with disabilities and older persons. Please show the trend over the last 5 years, as well as forecasts for upcoming years.**

**AT-RISK-OF-POVERTY: PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH LOW INCOME, EU-60 SCALE<sup>34</sup>**

	2015-2017	2016-2018	2017-2019	2018-2020	2019-2021
Population as a whole	9.6	9.8	10.1	10.1	9.9
67 year and older	9.0	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9
Percentage of children under the age of 18	10.7	11.3	11.7	11.7	11.3

The latest income data available is from 2021. Income data from 2022 will be available around March 2024. The risk-of-poverty rate for upcoming years is highly uncertain. In addition, there is a time inconsistency between price increases and income levels in the short

<sup>3</sup> Percentage of people in a households with low income below 60 per cent of the median income over a three-year period, 2017-2021. EU equivalence scale. Source: Statistics Norway  
<sup>4</sup> Statistics on low income among persons with disabilities are not available

term, and the economic consequences of higher living costs for people at risk of poverty will therefore not be accurately measured using only income levels.

**9) Please provide information on what measures are being taken to ensure a coordinated approach to combat poverty as required by Article 30 of the Charter, and to diminish reliance on last-resort relief, such as food banks and soup kitchens.**

Norway continuously emphasise the importance of cross-sectorial approaches to address poverty and living conditions, and have several mechanisms established on municipality and state level to facilitate coordination and cooperation. In addition, the government has instigated a number of white papers and expert group reports which will assist coordination of policy processes relating to poverty and living condition. These includes:

- *White paper on social mobility and social equalization:* the work with a white paper on social mobility and social equalization, focusing on children and youth in danger of falling behind due to their social economic background, has been initiated. Four Ministries, The Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion, The Ministry of Children and Families, The Ministry of Health and Care Services, The Ministry of Education and Research, will be working together to present this paper.
- *White paper on integration:* A white paper on integration, with an aim to include more immigrants in work life. To involve civil society as well as the social partners the Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion have initiated the work with a request for input.
- *White paper on labour marked policy:* the Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion have also initiated a work on labour marked policies. The current situation in the Norwegian labour marked is good – the demand for workers is high and the unemployment rate is low. However, there is still too many people standing outside work life. More than 200 000 persons in working age is registered with reduced working capacity at the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Service in 2023. Persons with lack of competences and little formal education is in majority within this group. Also, demographic changes and a continuously older population, digitalisation and adjustments relating to the green transitions, in combination with uncertainties regarding immigration of workers, underlines the importance of mobilising and qualifying more people currently outside the work force. To achieve this goal, it is important to provide for an adjusting and efficient labour marked that may meet the demands of the future. The white paper will suggest new policy measures to ensure this.
- *Committee looking into low income and income differences:* to reduce inequalities and reduce income differences is a main goal for the Norwegian Government. The aim is to gain more knowledge about the low-income situation in Norway. The committee will deliver its report 15 June 2024
- In 2020, the previous government launched a collaborative strategy on children and youth growing up in low-income families. The strategy was developed and is implemented in close cooperation between relevant ministries. The strategy covers 65 measures within 7 key areas: family, health, education, housing, leisure and participation, employment, and research and data.

- In 2022, the current government appointed an expert group on children growing up in poor families. The expert group was given the task to consider effective measures to strengthen the living conditions of children in poor families and prevent poverty from being inherited from one generation to the next. In October 2023, the expert group submitted its recommendations to the government.

***10) Please provide information on steps taken to consult with, and ensure the participation of, the person's most affected by the cost-of-living crisis and/or organisations representing their interests in the process of designing of measures in response to the crisis.***

The Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion regularly organising dialog between the government and a collaborative forum against poverty in Norway, which consist of 10 national organisations for people affected by low living conditions and next of kin. The meetings normally take place 3 times a year.

The Minister of Children and Families has also had regularly meetings with NGOs representing children and families, where they have been putting forward their views and policy recommendations on how to meet the cost-of-living crisis.

As part of the working process of the expert group on children in poor families, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) representing youth and families were consulted with. The group also received many written contributions from governmental and non-governmental organisations, including youth advisory boards from various municipalities.