

## EUROPEAN SEMESTER 2013

Selective overview of CSRs<sup>1</sup> with regard to thematic fields of Priority Area 9 “People & Skills” of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region  
(CSRs selected and emphasis added by Priority Area 9)

| MS | CSR 1 | CSR 2  | CSR 3   | CSR 4  | CSR 5   | CSR 6   |
|----|-------|--|---|--|---|---|
| AT |       | Bring forward the harmonisation of pensionable age for men and women, link the statutory retirement age to life expectancy, implement and monitor the recent reforms restricting access to early retirement and <b>improve older workers’ employability</b> in order to raise the effective retirement age and the employment rate of older workers. | Take new measures to <b>increase the labour market participation of women</b> , namely by further improving child care and long-term care services and <b>address the high gender pay and pension gaps</b> . Fully use the <b>labour market potential of people with a migrant background by improving the recognition of their qualifications and their education outcomes</b> . Reduce the effective tax and social security burden on labour for low-income earners in a budget-neutral way by relying more on other sources of taxation less detrimental to growth, such as recurrent property taxes. |  | <b>Improve educational outcomes, in particular of disadvantaged young people, including by enhancing early childhood education and reducing the negative effects of early tracking</b> . Further improve strategic planning in higher education and enhance measures to reduce drop-outs. |   |
| BG |       | Phase out early retirement options, introduce the same statutory retirement age for men and women and  | Accelerate the <b>national Youth Employment Initiative</b> , for example through a <b>Youth</b>   | <b>Adopt the School Education Act</b> and pursue the reform of higher education, in particular |   | <b>Accelerate the absorption of EU funds</b> . Ensure sound implementation of public-procurement legislation by |

<sup>1</sup> As recommended by the EC on 29 May 2013, see also [http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/making-it-happen/country-specific-recommendations/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/making-it-happen/country-specific-recommendations/index_en.htm)

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|    |   | implement <b>active labour market policies that enable older workers to stay longer in the labour market</b> . Tighten the eligibility criteria and controls for the allocation of invalidity pensions to effectively limit abuse. | <b>Guarantee</b> . Reform the Employment Agency with a view to providing effective counselling to jobseekers and develop capacity for <b>forecasting and matching skill needs. Enhance active labour-market policies, in particular concerning national employment schemes</b> . Undertake a review of the minimum thresholds for social security contributions to ensure that the system does not price the low-skilled out of the labour market. Ensure <b>concrete delivery of the National Strategies on Poverty and Roma integration</b> . | through <b>better aligning outcomes to labour-market needs and strengthening cooperation between education, research and business. Improve access to inclusive education for disadvantaged children, in particular Roma</b> . Ensure effective access to healthcare and improve the pricing of healthcare services by linking hospitals' financing to outcomes and developing out-patient care.                               |  | extending ex-ante control by the Public Procurement Agency to prevent irregularities.  |
| CZ | Implement as envisaged the budget for the year 2013 so as to correct the excessive deficit in 2013 in a sustainable manner and achieve the structural adjustment effort specified in the Council recommendations under the EDP. For the year 2014 and beyond, reinforce and rigorously implement the budgetary strategy, supported by sufficiently specified measures, to ensure an adequate fiscal |  | Speed up the increase of the statutory retirement age compared to current legislation, introduce a clear link between the statutory retirement age and life expectancy, and revise the indexation mechanism. Accompany the increase in retirement age with measures <b>promoting employability of older workers and reduce early exit pathways</b> . In particular, remove the public subsidy for the pre-  | Take measures to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the public employment service. Increase significantly the availability of <b>inclusive childcare facilities</b> with a focus on children up to three years old, and <b>the participation of Roma children</b> , notably by adopting and implementing the law on private childcare facilities and strengthening the capacities of public childcare facilities. | Ensure implementation of the anti-corruption strategy for 2013-2014. Adopt a Public Servants Act that should ensure a stable, efficient and professional state administration service. <b>Improve the management of EU funds in view of the 2014-2020 programming period</b> . Strengthen the capacity for implementation of public tenders at local and regional level. | <b>Establish a comprehensive evaluation framework in compulsory education and take targeted measures to support schools that rank low in educational outcomes</b> . Adopt measures to enhance accreditation and funding of higher education. Increase the share of performance-based funding of research institutions. |

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|    | <p>effort to make sufficient progress towards the medium-term objective.</p> <p><b>Prioritise growth-enhancing expenditure including committing on time remaining projects co-financed with EU funds under the current financial framework.</b></p>  |   | <p>retirement scheme. Take measures to significantly improve cost-effectiveness of healthcare expenditure, in particular for hospital care.</p> |       |       |       |
| DE | <p>Preserve a sound fiscal position as envisaged which ensures compliance with the medium-term objective over the programme horizon. Pursue a growth-friendly fiscal policy through additional efforts to enhance the cost-effectiveness of public spending on healthcare and long-term through better integration of care delivery and a stronger focus on prevention and rehabilitation and independent living. Improve the efficiency of the tax system, in particular by broadening the VAT base and by reassessing the municipal real estate tax base; use the available scope for increased and more efficient <b>growth-enhancing spending on education</b> and research at</p> | <p>Sustain conditions that enable wage growth to support domestic demand. To this purpose, reduce high taxes and social security contributions, especially for low-wage earners and <b>raise the educational achievement of disadvantaged people. Maintain appropriate activation and integration measures, especially for the long-term unemployed. Facilitate the transition from non-standard employment such as mini-jobs into more sustainable forms of employment. Take measures to improve incentives to work and the employability of workers, in particular for second earners and low-skilled,</b> also with a view to improving their income. To</p> |   |       |       |       |

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|    | all levels of government. Complete the implementation of the debt brake in a consistent manner across all Länder, ensuring that monitoring procedures and correction mechanisms are timely and relevant. | this end, remove disincentives for second earners and <b>increase the availability of fulltime childcare facilities and all-day schools</b> |   |   |       |   |
| HU |  |   | Ensure a stable, more balanced and predictable corporate tax system. Streamline corporate taxation and minimise distortions of resource allocation created by sector-specific taxes, so as to <b>foster growth and employment. Continue making taxation of labour more employment-friendly</b> by alleviating the tax burden on low-wage earners, inter alia by refining the eligibility criteria for the Job Protection Act, and by shifting taxation away to environmental taxes. Fully implement and step up the already announced measures to improve tax compliance and reduce the cost of tax compliance. | <b>Address youth unemployment, for example through a Youth Guarantee. Strengthen active labour market policy measures and enhance the client profiling system of the Public Employment Service. Reduce the dominance of the public works scheme within employment measures and strengthen its activation elements. Reinforce training programmes to boost participation in lifelong learning. Continue to expand child-care facilities to encourage women's participation. Ensure that the objective of the National Social Inclusion Strategy is mainstreamed in all policy fields in order to reduce poverty,</b> |       | <b>Implement a national strategy on early school-leaving and ensure that the education system provides all young people with labour-market-relevant skills, competences and qualifications. Improve access to inclusive mainstream education, in particular for Roma. Support the transition between different stages of education and towards the labour market. Implement a higher-education reform that enables greater tertiary attainment, particularly by disadvantaged students.</b> |

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|    |       |   |       | particularly among children and Roma.   |  |  |
| RO |       | <p>Ensure growth-friendly fiscal consolidation and implement the budgetary strategy for the year 2013 and beyond as envisaged, thus ensuring achievement of the medium-term objective by 2015. Improve tax collection by implementing a comprehensive tax compliance strategy and fight undeclared work. In parallel, explore ways to increase reliance on environmental taxes.</p> <p><b>Equalise the pensionable age for men and women and underpin the pension reform by promoting the employability of older workers.</b></p> |       | <p><b>Improve labour market participation, as well as employability and productivity of the labour force, by reviewing and strengthening active labour market policies, to provide training and individualised services and promoting lifelong learning. Enhance the capacity of the National Employment Agency to increase the quality and coverage of its services. To fight youth unemployment, implement without delay the National Plan for Youth Employment, including for example through a Youth Guarantee. To alleviate poverty, improve the effectiveness and efficiency of social transfers with a particular focus on children. Complete the social assistance reform by adopting the relevant legislation and strengthening its link with activation measures.</b></p> | <p><b>Speed up the education reform including the building up of administrative capacity at both central and local level and evaluate the impact of the reforms. Step up reforms in vocational education and training. Further align tertiary education with the needs of the labour market and improve access for disadvantaged people. Implement a national strategy on early school leaving focusing on better access to quality early childhood education, including for Roma children. Speed up the transition from institutional to alternative care for children deprived of parental care.</b></p> | <p>Strengthen governance and the quality of institutions and the public administration, in particular by improving the capacity for strategic and budgetary planning, by increasing the professionalism of the public service through improved human resource management and by strengthening the mechanisms for coordination between the different levels of government. Significantly improve the quality of regulations through the use of impact assessments, and systematic evaluations.</p> <p><b>Step up efforts to accelerate the absorption of EU funds</b> in particular by strengthening management and control systems and improving public procurement.</p> |

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|    |       |       |  | <b>Ensure concrete delivery of the National Roma integration strategy.</b> |       |       |
| SI |       |       | Ensure that wage developments, including the minimum wage, support competitiveness and job creation. <b>Monitor closely the effects of the recent labour market reform and if necessary identify the areas where further action is needed to foster job creation and tackle segmentation, including through the regulation for student work. Take further measures to increase employment of young tertiary graduates, older persons and the low-skilled by focusing resources on tailor-made active labour market policy measures while improving their effectiveness. Address the skills mismatch by improving the attractiveness of the relevant vocational education and training programmes and by further developing cooperation with the relevant stakeholders in assessing labour market</b> |  |       |       |

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|    |       |       | needs.   |  |       |   |
| SK |       |       | <p><b>Take measures to enhance the capacity of public employment services to provide personalised services to jobseekers and strengthen the link between activation measures and social assistance. More effectively address long-term unemployment through activation measures and tailored training.</b> Enhance the provision of childcare facilities, in particular for children below three years of age. Reduce the tax wedge for low-paid workers and adapt the benefit system.</p> | <p><b>Step up efforts to address high youth unemployment, for example through a Youth Guarantee. Take steps to attract young people to the teaching profession and raise educational outcomes. In vocational education and training, reinforce the provision of work-based learning in companies.</b> In higher education, create more job-oriented bachelor programmes. Foster effective knowledge transfer by promoting cooperation between academia, research and the business sector. <b>Step up efforts to improve access to high-quality and inclusive pre-school and school education for marginalised communities, including Roma.</b></p> |       | <p>Amend the Act on Civil Service to strengthen the independence of the public service. Improve the management of human resources in public administration. Step up efforts to strengthen analytical capacities in key ministries, also with a view to <b>improving the absorption of EU funds.</b> Implement measures to improve the efficiency of the judicial system. Promote alternative dispute resolution procedures and encourage their greater use.</p> |