

The Solidarity Program for Europe

What is the situation?

The **strict austerity policy** of the recent past and the associated slump in public and private investment led to a **social crisis** in Europe. This hit countries on the periphery particularly hard. But even in a surplus country like Germany, the number of working-poor (those who cannot live from their wages) is growing. Today Europe is facing a variety of problems:

- increasing unemployment, especially among young people
- precarious working conditions
- starving and homeless people
- pensions below the poverty line
- a steadily deteriorating quality of healthcare

That is why **doubts** about the **European project** are constantly growing and **nationalist tendencies** are getting stronger.

DiEM25 therefore proposes the following:

All Europeans should enjoy in their home country **the following:**

- the right to **basic goods** (e.g. nutrition, shelter, transport, energy)
- the right to **paid work** contributing to the maintenance of their communities **while receiving a living wage**
- the right to decent **social housing**
- the right to **high quality health and education**
- the right to **a sustainable environment**

DiEM25 proposes the following **three programs** for the **continuation of the European idea** and the relief of Europe's weakest citizens:

A. The Anti-Poverty Program

DiEM25's European New Deal proposes a common European program to fight poverty, in particular for **nutrition assistance**. This would be modelled on the US Food Stamps program and on the Greek Nutrition Assistance Program, so that all Europeans have guaranteed access to food. It is a model **based on debit cards**.

At a later stage DiEM25 aims to extend this program to a **Europe-wide unemployment insurance**.

Furthermore, the increase of the lowest pensions is also planned as a **foundation for a European Pension Union** to eliminate destitution among the old.

B. The Housing Program

DiEM25 takes a stand for the **protection of homeowners against eviction**. Former homeowners should be allowed to stay in their (auctioned) houses against payment of a fair rent set by local community boards.

As a long-term goal DiEM25's European New Deal proposes to **restore the model of social housing** across Europe. European countries, both EU and non-EU members, must come to a multilateral agreement to fund and **guarantee suitable housing** for every European in their home country. As a result, new investments and construction projects will be carried out.

(more on reverse)

C. The Jobs Guarantee Program

The jobs guarantee rests on DiEM25's principle that all Europeans should have **the right to a job at a living wage** in their community. This jobs program is geared towards ensuring **the economic and social stability** of each European country.

Such jobs would be created **in the public and non-profit sectors** at the local level. However, they are not intended to replace public service jobs or to provide permanent employment. But they would provide jobs and incomes for those willing to stay in their home communities, and thus provide an alternative option to the cruel dilemma between unemployment and forced migration.