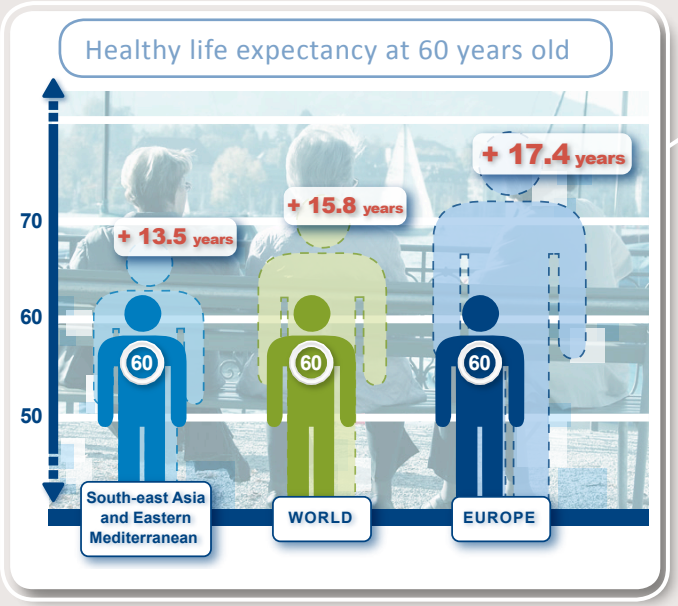
BUSINESSEUROPE

EUROPE IS ONE OF THE BEST PLACES TO LIVE AND WORK IN THE WORLD. THE EU HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN MAKING THE EUROPEAN WAY OF LIFE WHAT IT IS TODAY.

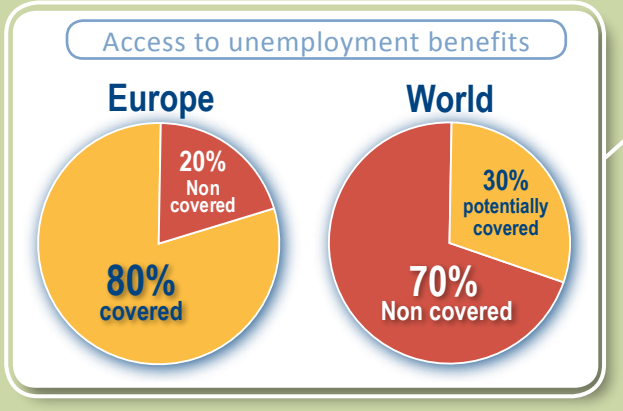
1. EU countries generally rank very high in terms of human development. 26 out of 28 EU countries are categorised in the top category of the UN's Human Development Index.

2. Europe has unparalleled investment in social safety nets. 50% of the global population lacks access to any type of social security, whereas the EU-28 has the highest level of expenditure on social protection in global comparisons. Nearly 29% of GDP compared to just above 20 % in Japan and below 20% in Australia or Canada.



Source:
World Health Organisation

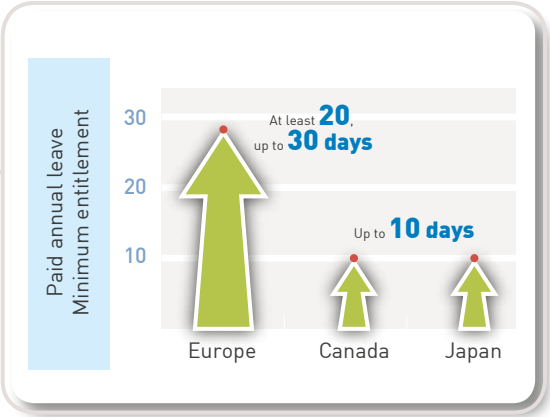
Europeans have longer **healthy life expectancy** than people in other parts of the world



Access to unemployment benefits in Europe is very high in global comparisons: less than 30% of workers worldwide are potentially eligible for unemployment benefits, whereas 80% of workers are covered in Europe.

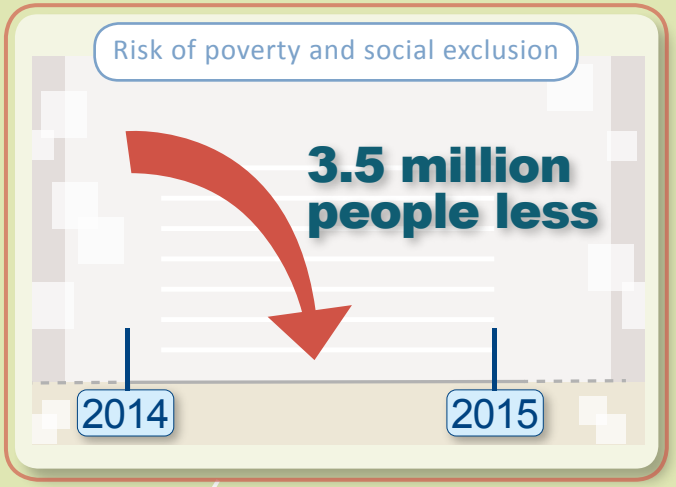
Source:ILO

The number of days of **paid annual leave** is higher in Europe than other parts of the world



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS GO HAND IN HAND. TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR SOCIAL SYSTEMS, WE NEED TO DO BETTER ON GROWTH, EMPLOYMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY.

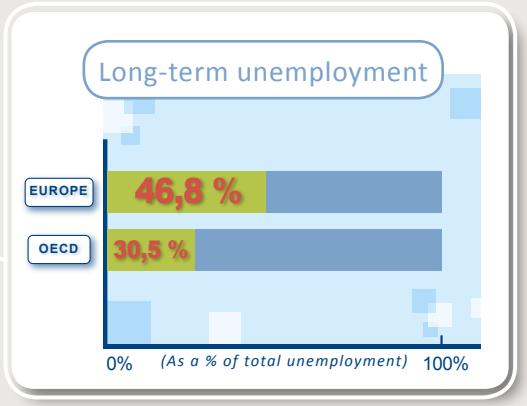
3. The economy is improving and so is the social situation. In 2016, real GDP grew by 1.9% in the EU. About ten million jobs have been created since 2013, and in June 2017 the unemployment rate (7.7%) was at its lowest since January 2009.

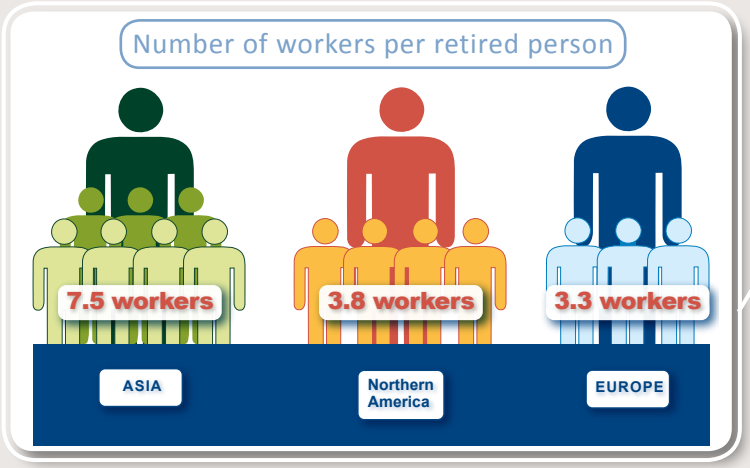


Poverty is decreasing but is still too high

4. The current window of opportunity must be used to address remaining weaknesses. Since the crisis, employment in the EU has only grown on average by 0.15% between 2008 and 2016, compared with 0.41% in Japan.

We still have very high levels of unemployment and long-term unemployment. In the 3rd quarter of 2017, EU unemployment stood at 7.9% compared to 2.9% in Japan and 5.8% in Australia.





We need to do more in view of demographic change. We have too few people working to support those in retirement compared with other parts of the world.

COMPANIES PROVIDE JOBS, INVEST AND GENERATE THE WEALTH AND GROWTH WE NEED TO MAINTAIN OUR SOCIAL SYSTEMS. WITH THE RIGHT CONDITIONS AND POLICIES, THEY WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO DO SO.

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