



# Social Protection Committee Indicators Sub-group

## The Secretariat

### 2013 ISG Work Programme

#### **1. Introduction**

The ISG work programme for next year will be focused on contributing actively to delivering on the 2013 SPC priorities, including on the following issues:

- Europe 2020 and the European Semester
- Reaction to EU initiatives and implementation of previous decisions
- Implementation of mandates received from the Council

In function of these priorities and on-going activities, the work of the ISG will focus on the main areas listed below. The impact of possible new activities that the SPC decides to undertake in the course of 2013 will be assessed and the ISG work program will be adjusted if appropriate.

The ISG will take note of the Social Investment Package planned for adoption by the European Commission in early 2013 and will consider the possible implications for its work during 2013.

The **main work priority will be the review of the indicators related to health** and exploring the feasibility of developing a health policy area within the Joint Assessment Framework.

The following sections detail the specific tasks the ISG will undertake during 2013, including the on-going activities related to statistical developments in the area of social inclusion, pension and health. The ISG will prioritize its work taking into account its decision to focus on health indicators during 2013.

#### **2. Europe 2020**

##### ➤ **EU headline poverty and social exclusion target**

The ISG will follow closely the monitoring of progress towards the Europe 2020 headline target on poverty and social exclusion. It will assess results from studies and analysis on the dynamics of the target and the target population in the context of the review process.

##### ➤ **Joint Assessment Framework (JAF)**

The ISG will continue its regular review of the Joint Assessment Framework together with the EMCO Indicators group and the European Commission. It will assess the feasibility of developing two new JAF policy areas on health care systems and pensions as decided in 2012. The ISG will

also follow studies and assessments of the JAF methodology in view of its improvement and further development.

➤ **Social Protection Performance Monitor (SPPM)**

The ISG will continue its work on improving the Social Protection Performance Monitor, especially with what regards set of key social indicators in view of recent statistical developments and the first year of experience with the instrument.

➤ **Country surveillance on Council recommendations and thematic in-depth reviews on the trends to watch established by the Social Protection Performance Monitor**

The ISG will provide wherever necessary and appropriate input to the SPC multilateral surveillance and thematic in-depth reviews.

➤ **Portfolio of EU indicators on social inclusion and social protection**

The ISG will finalise its work on the review of the portfolio of EU indicators on social inclusion and social protection in order to adapt the framework for the development of indicators to the Europe 2020 context and to the renewed structure of the social OMC as defined in the SPC opinion adopted by the June 2011 EPSCO Council. This will include a reflection upon the context and format for use of the indicators, integration of the poverty target and coherence with the JAF and the SPPM, structure of the portfolio and improvement in the presentation and explanation of the indicators with a view of improving their visibility and communication potential.

➤ **Preparation of the 2013 SPC Annual report**

The ISG will contribute actively to the preparation of the SPC Annual Report. It will continue collecting bi-annually administrative data on benefit recipients in view of maintaining the current database developed in the context of the monitoring of the social impact of the crisis. The ISG will also strengthen its expertise in identifying the right tools to monitor the impact of fiscal consolidation measures on social spending and their subsequent redistributive impact.

### **3. Thematic work**

➤ **Health care**

The ISG will concentrate its work during 2013 on the review of the structure and list of indicators for monitoring health care systems in view of developing a JAF policy area on health and strengthening the assessment tools related to health care. It will take into account the most recent developments in data availability.

➤ **Pensions**

The ISG will start the preparatory work for the next Pension Adequacy Report planned for 2014 after discussing with the SPC-AGE working group the division of tasks. This will include assessing the possibility of adopting pension gender gap indicators based on on-going work and the development of pensions beneficiaries' indicators based on initial work done by Eurostat and the SPC-AGE group.

➤ **Social protection financing and expenditure**

The ISG will collaborate and actively participate in the work on the project on the financing of social security schemes and effectiveness of social protection spending which will be launched by the SPC in 2013.

➤ **Child poverty and well-being**

Following the SPC report on child poverty and well-being produced in 2012 and specifically its recommendations on indicators' development, the ISG will continue its work on strengthening the child dimension in the list of EU indicators as regards, in particular, child deprivation, child well-being, affordable and quality childcare for all income groups, children's health, as well as the situation of the most vulnerable children.

➤ **Active Inclusion**

The ISG will continue the identification and development of indicators in the field of Active inclusion and revise the JAF accordingly. More specifically, it will explore the adequacy of income support (building upon on-going work in the context of Euromod, the OECD benefit recipients' project and the MIPI project), the access to inclusive labour markets, and the quality of services. It will also assess the feasibility and develop indicators on the at-risk-of-poverty rate for households in which income comes mainly from social benefits and the average benefits relative to the at-risk-of-poverty threshold after 6 months/12 months/2 years of unemployment to complement policy areas 11 and 4.1 respectively, as decided in the latest review of the JAF quantitative tool. It will also look into the possibility of developing benefit coverage indicator(s). The ISG will strengthen its cooperation with the EMCO Indicators group in the development of this strand of work.

➤ **Housing exclusion and homelessness**

The ISG will continue following the statistical developments in the area of housing exclusion and homelessness based on the conclusions of the 2010 December Consensus conference on homelessness with the aim of better monitoring homelessness and housing exclusion in the Europe 2020 process. It will explore the feasibility of collecting (non-)harmonised data on homelessness trends in Member States on a regular basis and boosting transnational cooperation and exchange of good practices on measuring and monitoring homelessness and housing exclusion. Together with Eurostat, it will look into the results of the Belgian SILC-CUT project and assess any implications it could have for data development.

➤ **Roma inclusion**

The ISG will follow the statistical developments in the area of developing indicators for monitoring the Roma inclusion strategies, based on the 19 May 2011 EPSCO conclusions<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Inviting Member States to " to prepare, update or develop their national Roma inclusion strategies, or integrated sets of policy measures within their broader social inclusion policies; (...) to appropriately monitor and evaluate the impact of the Roma inclusion strategies or integrated sets of measures (...) and to foster the exchange of good practices and discussions on evidence-based approaches in the area of Roma inclusion policies."

#### **4. On-going activities on enhancing statistical capacity and methods**

In the course of 2013, the ISG will ensure its continuous contribution to the work of the Task Force on the revision of the EU-SILC legal basis and will follow closely its progress.

The ISG will collaborate with Eurostat on the on-going work on the inclusion of non-monetary income components in the definition of income, including imputed rent. It will follow closely and provide guidance to the on-going Eurostat project on “Social transfers in kind”.

The ISG will work with Eurostat on improving the age definition of the indicators based on the concept of work intensity. It will also assess the at-risk-of-poverty rate anchored at a fixed period in time indicator and the possibility of updating the reference year.

The ISG will assess the ways in which it can contribute to a reflection upon the data requirements to support social impact assessments.

The ISG will follow, support and contribute wherever relevant to the Commission-led strategy on improving the timeliness of social statistics. It will continue exploring the use of micro-simulation modelling and will periodically examine research and policy use outcomes as well as concrete ways to advance in the area. It will also reflect on ways to improve the capacity to measure the situation of the most vulnerable groups (migrants and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, etc.).

#### **5. Cooperation with other relevant groups**

The ISG will cooperate and consult with other relevant groups of other Committees and more specifically with the EMCO Indicators group in the context of the interaction between the labour market and social inclusion, and with the Expert Group on Health Information (DG SANCO) in the context of monitoring health care systems and indicators related to health, Net SILC 2 in relation to their research findings and activities based on SILC. It will also collaborate with academics and international organizations developing relevant research.