



Social Protection Committee

Indicators Sub-Group

2012 ISG Work Programme

1. Introduction

In 2011 an important reflection on the future of the social OMC in the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy was undertaken. The key role of the SPC in the governance of the social dimension of the Europe 2020 has been underlined and a proposal for adaptation of the working methods has been adopted in order to allow the SPC to fully contribute to the implementation of the Strategy and fulfil its Treaty based mandate to monitor the social situation and the development of social protection services. This internal reflection and the formal SPC opinion, adopted by the EPSCO in June 2011, emphasized the need for statistical and analytical capacity in the social field, both at EU and national level, as well as the appreciation by all actors of the social OMC indicators' portfolio. It also supported the continuation of the indicators' work on all three OMC strands: social inclusion, pensions and health care and long-term care, while ensuring consistency with the Joint Assessment Framework.

The ISG work programme for 2012 will be focused on contributing actively to delivering on the 2012 SPC priorities, including on the following issues:

- Europe 2020 Strategy and the social OMC;
- the adoption of the Pension Adequacy Report
- a renewed focus on health and long-term care;
- a in-depth thematic surveillance of the three pillars of the active inclusion approach as a contribution to the Commission follow up on the Recommendation on Active Inclusion;
- child poverty and well-being
- Preparation of the 2012 SPC Annual report on the social dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy
- Exploration of new activities (e.g. financing of social protection systems)

In function of these priorities, the work of the ISG will focus on the main areas listed below. The impact on the ISG work of possible new activities that the SPC decides to undertake in 2012 will be assessed and the work program will be adjusted if appropriate.

2. Europe 2020 Strategy and social OMC

2.1 EU headline poverty and social exclusion target

The ISG will further analyse the EU headline poverty and social exclusion target and its components, the target population covered, its characteristics and the population groups which accumulate one or several dimensions of poverty and social exclusion. It will explore the

relations between poverty and social exclusion and the other headline targets, in particular the employment and education targets.

The ISG will also actively contribute to the work of the Eurostat Task Force on Material Deprivation and the reflection on the review of the material deprivation indicator and component of the poverty and social exclusion target in view of the revision of the EU-SILC legal basis planned for 2013.

2.2 Joint Assessment Framework (JAF)

In the context of its joint work with EMCO and its indicators group on the development of the Joint Assessment Framework, the ISG will be involved in the finalisation of the quantitative assessment part of the framework. It will reflect upon the list of social protection and social inclusion indicators currently included in the JAF in view of assessing potential needs to integrate new indicators. The ISG will also contribute to the development of a tracking device for the monitoring of the headline target and the related national targets as well as to the reflection on a Social Performance Monitor, both being elements of the JAF.

2.3 Portfolio of EU indicators on social protection and social inclusion

The ISG will review the portfolio in light of 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.

2.4 Preparation of the 2012 SPC Annual report on the social dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy

The ISG will contribute actively to the preparation of the SPC 2012 Annual Report, both through preparing specific inputs based on its ongoing work during the year (e.g. poverty and social exclusion target monitoring) as well as through providing analysis based on the EU indicators on social protection and social inclusion. It will continue collecting 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. Pensions

In the area of pensions, the ISG will contribute to the finalisation of the Pension Adequacy Report in the first half of the year. It will continue looking into the notions of sustainability and adequacy of pension systems and the use of indicators in analysing them, drawing upon national experiences. It will periodically review results from the OECD work on data on private pensions and continue the work towards common indicators. The SPC AGE working group will work on identifying domains for future indicators' development. These proposals will be discussed by the ISG and their impact on further ISG work assessed.

4. Health care and long-term care

Following the discussion undertaken in 2011 and based on newly available relevant data, in the course of 2012 the ISG will review its list of health indicators. It will also reflect upon the ongoing OECD work on long-term care indicators in the context of strengthening the long-term care dimension of the portfolio. The ISG will also reflect upon the use of methodologies

such as the census linkage methodology for improvement of the information on life expectancy and/or pre-mature mortality by socio-economic status.

5. Thematic work

5.1 Child poverty and well-being

The ISG will continue its work on strengthening the child dimension in the list of EU indicators on social protection and social inclusion. It will discuss the possibility of adopting a 1+ child deprivation indicator and 1+ child well-being indicator based on an ongoing work in the context of the Net SILC 2 research network and the Eurostat Task Force on Material Deprivation. Representatives of the ISG will participate in the SPC ad-hoc group on child poverty and will contribute to the proposal for indicators-based monitoring framework to the Commission Recommendation on Child Poverty planned for the second half of 2012. The ISG will discuss and review this indicators-based monitoring framework and continue working on adopting a thematic portfolio of indicators on child poverty and well-being, based on this framework.

5.2 Active Inclusion

The ISG will continue the identification and development of indicators in the field of Active inclusion. More specifically, it will explore the adequacy of income support (building upon ongoing work in the context of Euromod, the OECD benefit reciprocity project and the MIPI project), the access to inclusive labour markets, and the quality of services. It will strengthen its cooperation with the EMCO Indicators group in the development of this strand of work.

5.3 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.

5.4 Financing of social protection systems

Following the definition of the scope of the work on this topic, defined as one of next year's new SPC priorities, the ISG will assess the ways in which it can contribute.

5.5 "Beyond GDP"

The ISG will contribute to the work undertaken by the SPC, in cooperation with the Economic Policy Committee (EPC), on the follow-up to the issue of measuring economic and social progress ("beyond GDP").

5.6 Social impact assessment

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

6. Ongoing activities on enhancing statistical capacity and methods

In the course of 2012, the ISG will ensure its contribution to the work of two important Eurostat Task Forces – the Task Force on the revision of the EU-SILC legal basis and the Task Force on Material Deprivation.

The ISG will continue its collaboration with Eurostat on the on-going work on the inclusion of non-monetary income components, including imputed rent, in the definition of income. It will also reflect on how to make a greater use of the make work pay indicators developed in the context of the EC/OECD tax-benefit model.

The ISG recognizes the need to improve the overall assessment of the functioning of social protection systems and in particular the measurement of the redistributive impact of taxes and benefit systems, including through the provision of in-kind benefits. In this context, it will continue exploring the use of micro-simulation modelling and will periodically examine the work carried out in the context of the Net 2 SILC project and the EUROMOD network, as well as the joint Com/OECD work on the issue and assess concrete ways to advance in the area.

The ISG will explore methods to improve the timeliness of social data (early results of EU-SILC, alternative sources, etc), improve the capacity to measure the situation of the most vulnerable groups (migrants and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, homeless, etc) as well as the have better regional dimension in poverty and living conditions data.

7. 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 inclusion¹. It will also collaborate with academics and international organizations developing relevant research to the activities of the group.

¹ These include indicators of labour market transitions; indicators that measure average size of unemployment benefits compared to previous earnings, such as the net replacement ratios in the first year as well as after 5 years of unemployment calculated by the OECD; the definition of life long learning indicators so that they cover all people, including the unemployed and the inactive; indicators broken down by activity status or by type of contracts; making work pay indicators (through a balanced approach to "traps" that puts them in the wider context of the coverage of social protection); the analysis of the relationship between poverty risks and work intensity of the household.