



## **Social Protection Committee Indicators Sub-group**

**The Secretariat**

### **ISG ACTIVITY REPORT 2012**

#### **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 following sections outline the specific activities and deliverables of the SPC Indicators Subgroup for the year 2012.

#### **2. Europe 2020 Strategy and social OMC**

During 2013, the ISG has followed the progress on the Europe 2020 poverty and social exclusion target and has contributed to clarifying the national 2020 targets and monitoring indicators. Together with the EMCO Indicators groups, it reviewed the Joint Assessment Framework, including reconsideration of the sub-indicators included in Policy Areas 11, 11a, 11b and 11c and changes related to improving the presentation, functionality and access of the JAF. The ISG started the review of the portfolio of EU indicators on social protection and social inclusion by looking at the social inclusion strand and having a first reflection on health indicators, taking into account current data developments. It produced the methodological report for the Social Protection Performance Monitor which was endorsed by the Council in October 2012. The ISG extensively contributed to the preparation of the 2012 SPC Annual report "Social Europe – Current challenges and the way forward."

#### **3. Pensions**

The ISG contributed to the finalisation of the EC-SPC report on "Pension Adequacy in the European Union 2010-2050" in the first half of the year.

#### **4. Health care and long-term care**

In the context of the review of the portfolio of EU indicators on social inclusion and social protection, the ISG had a first reflection on policy needs and took stock of the data developments related to health information.

#### **5. Child poverty and well-being**

Representatives of the ISG participated in the SPC ad-hoc group on child poverty and in the drafting of the SPC advisory report "Tackling and preventing child poverty, promoting child well-being". The ISG gave its input to the proposal for an indicators-based monitoring framework. The ISG reviewed and gave input to the work done by the Net-SILC 2 research network on a child deprivation indicator. A decision was also taken on the definition of the indicator at-risk-of-poverty rate for children in households at work and the relevant breakdowns.

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

In the course of 2012, ISG was represented in 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 group followed the work of the two Task Forces through regular reports of Eurostat. The Task Force on Material deprivation has delivered a proposal, based on the analytical work done by Net SILC 2, for a reviewed list of deprivation items to be collected in EU-SILC. The proposal was discussed and endorsed by the ISG. The group has also followed the progress and provided regular comments to the Eurostat project on Social transfers in kind (STIK). The ISG has put a strong emphasis on the need for regular calculation of confidence intervals for indicators disseminated by Eurostat; in this context, the ISG has followed Eurostat efforts in this direction and has made use of the first accuracy estimates for the main social indicators in the 2012 SPC Annual Report "Social Europe – Current challenges and the way forward." The group has been regularly informed and is contributing to the Commission strategy on improving the timeliness of social statistics.