



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

*SPC/ISG/2018/1/2 FIN2*

### **2018 ISG Work Programme**

#### **1. Introduction**

The ISG work programme for 2018 will be focused on contributing actively to delivering on the 2018 SPC priorities, including on Europe 2020 and the European Semester, the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR), and on possible priorities arising from the Commission Work Programme 2018. It will also contribute to identify in-depth thematic work in the context of the social OMC.

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 2018, will be assessed and the ISG work programme will be adjusted as necessary. Annex 1 contains a provisional overview of next year's meeting agendas, with an indication of the timing of the main activities over 2018.

#### **2. Europe 2020 and European Semester, and European Pillar of Social Rights**

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

The ISG will continue its monitoring and analysis of the 2020 poverty and social exclusion headline target, including examining the scope for improvement of the (quasi-)jobless household indicator in the short and longer term, and better addressing the gender dimension as requested in the June 2014 Council Conclusions.

##### **➤ Review of the EPSR scoreboard and current social monitoring framework**

The ISG will continue to review the current social monitoring framework (EPSR scoreboard, SPPM, JAF), including clarifying the relations between the existing monitoring tools. It will further examine how the monitoring framework can be adapted to include more policy lever indicators and better reflect the social investment dimension of welfare systems, and more generally, review improvements to the timeliness of indicators and to the JAF social policy areas. Specific activities in this area will include:

- **Further review of the EPSR scoreboard and its relation to existing SPC monitoring tools**

The ISG will reflect on the role of the EPSR scoreboard in relation to the other existing monitoring tools (and vice-versa), including methodological issues, and review the domains/policy issues to be covered by primary indicators together with the role of secondary indicators.

- **Timeliness of social indicators and flash estimates**

The ISG will follow Eurostat work on improving the timeliness of social indicators and on flash estimates of key income-based indicators, in view of including these as appropriate in ISG-SPC monitoring and related tools.

- **Joint Assessment Framework (JAF)**

The ISG will further review the Joint Assessment Framework together with the EMCO Indicators group and the European Commission in the context of the general review of the current social monitoring framework and the adoption of revised Employment Guidelines. The ISG will also follow assessments of the JAF methodology in view of its improvement and further development. It will also discuss ways to make results more widely available, including to external users.

- **Benchmarking, policy lever indicators of social outcomes and social investment**

The ISG will support further work outlined in the SPC work programme on benchmarking, in particular finalising the work on benchmarking of minimum income and exploring the possibility of a benchmarking framework for pensions adequacy, taking into account the contribution of the SPC-AGE working group.

Regarding benchmarking on minimum income, this will entail exploring more policy-lever indicators to support the analysis of the effectiveness and efficiency of social protection systems as also put forward in the EC-SPC report “Social Protection Systems in the EU: Financing Arrangements and the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Resource Allocation”. It will also examine how to better reflect the social investment dimension of welfare systems in the monitoring framework.

- **Assessing social impact of EU policies**

The ISG will follow developments in the field of assessing the social impact of EU policies, including the Commission methodology for assessing the social impact of economic adjustment programmes and the Better Regulation (BR) Package, the governance of the assessment of the social impact of new initiatives and the social impact of CSR linked reforms at the national level. The ISG will support the implementation of BR Guidelines and efforts to quantify and monetise the social impacts by reviewing possibilities to improve availability, accessibility and timeliness of evidence including administrative data.

- **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.

### **3. Monitoring of the social situation and the development of social policies**

- **Preparation of the SPC Annual report**

Pending the results of a review the SPC will carry out on its current reporting activity with regard to monitoring the social situation, and in particular the linkage to future reporting on the scoreboard for the EPSR as also outlined above, the ISG will contribute to the update on the social situation in the European Union, through preparing specific inputs based on its monitoring tools, on-going work as well as through providing analysis based on the EU social indicators. It will continue collecting statistics derived from administrative data on benefit recipients in view of maintaining the current database developed in the context of the monitoring of the social impact during and following the crisis.

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

In this context, the ISG will also continue work on improving and updating the Social Protection Performance Monitor, especially regarding the set of key social indicators in view of recent statistical developments and ISG adoption of new indicators.

### **4. Thematic work**

- **Social inclusion**

- **Child poverty and wellbeing**

In line with the 2013 Recommendation on child poverty ("Investing in children: breaking the cycle of disadvantage"), the ISG will follow up on work in this area, especially on the need for a specific indicator on material deprivation of children.

- **Inequality**

The ISG will review available indicators to assess inequality in its key dimensions, such as distribution of income, wealth and also inequality of opportunities, in order in particular to better identify potential improvements of indicators for monitoring inequalities.

- **Quasi-joblessness indicator**

The ISG will explore possibilities for improving the current indicator in both the short and longer term, as identified in the NETSILC2 and IMPROVE project presentations to the November 2015 ISG meeting, and examine possible complementary indicators such as persistent low work intensity.

- **Common methodology and policy indicators for measuring the quality of social services**

The Commission and ISG will look to develop a common methodology and policy indicators for measuring the quality of social services, encompassing inter alia such criteria as: accessibility, availability, affordability and coverage. This methodology would build on the voluntary European Quality Framework for Social Services, adopted by the Social Protection Committee in 2010. The methodology would help public authorities and national/regional and local level to develop their own standards for defining, assuring and evaluating the quality of services.

- **Active inclusion - income support and minimum income indicators**

The ISG will look to identify and develop indicators on income support in the context of active inclusion. More specifically, it will explore the adequacy, the coverage and the take up aspects of income support, and contribute to finalising the work on benchmarking of minimum income. It will follow recent work on the OECD Tax-Benefit model and EUROMOD.

- **Social indicators for monitoring of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

The ISG will follow work on social indicators for monitoring of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and contribute as necessary to the further development of the indicators in this area.

- **Housing exclusion and homelessness, Housing conditions**

The ISG will continue following statistical developments and pertinent Commission projects in the area of housing exclusion and homelessness, and discuss pertinent Commission projects on housing. The ISG will also explore the state of play on ongoing work relating to energy/fuel poverty.

#### ➤ **Pensions**

The ISG will cooperate with WG-AGE on indicator-related aspects in the context of the production of the PAR 2018. It will continue collaboration with the Indicators Group of EMCO relevant to the agenda of delivering on higher effective retirement ages and longer working lives.

#### ➤ **Health**

The ISG will support the further development of the OMC health work stream. It will complete the current work on JAF Health, and await SPC direction on when to commence further development work. The ISG will maintain regular contact with Eurostat and international organisations such as OECD and WHO in terms of policy needs and priorities in the area, and follow-up the work of the WPPH working group on Health System Performance Assessment. The ISG will also work on indicators on sickness benefit/pay following the in-depth review in the SPC.

#### ➤ **Long term care**

The ISG will support the further development of the OMC long term care work stream. It will develop a monitoring framework for LTC, including by identifying indicators that can be commonly used in the context of the OMC on long term care.

## ➤ **Reconciliation of private and professional life**

The ISG will discuss proposals for enhancing comparative EU-level data on the reconciliation of private and professional lives, and cooperate with EU agencies that have relevant indicators in this area. Such data cover the use of paternity, parental and carers leaves (by gender); use of flexible work arrangements; and identify barriers to accessing care services for children and other dependents. Experts from the European Social Policy Network may be invited to present their recent work in this area.

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

The ISG will carry out a review of the indicators adopted by the group and their usage in key analytical tools, and will consider holding a seminar with other interested stakeholders on this. The ISG will also reflect on its monitoring framework in view of the monitoring of policy issues for which the available information does not meet the current quality criteria.

In the course of 2018, the ISG will ensure its continuing contribution to the work of the Task Force on the revision of the EU-SILC legal basis and will follow closely its progress. It will follow up on the legal procedures concerning the proposal for a framework regulation for European statistics relating to persons and household, based on data at individual level collected from samples.

The ISG will collaborate further with Eurostat on the possibility of inclusion of non-monetary income components in the definition of income. In this regard, it will follow closely and provide guidance on any follow up to the Eurostat project on “Social transfers in kind”. It will also explore additional income inequality indicators, and follow up on the recommendations contained in the report on Net-SILC2 analysis on “Monitoring the evolution of income poverty and real incomes over time” and on related work being carried out under Net-SILC3.

At household level, income is an essential component of material well-being. However, two other dimensions should also be considered: consumption and wealth. At macro level, the three dimensions are captured by the national accounts, but their distribution is not taken into account. Therefore, the ISG will follow and advise the work Eurostat is carrying out in compiling and analysing existing data so as to better describe the joint distributions of income, consumption and wealth and the statistical links between micro and macro perspectives.

It will explore developing indicators which give a better view of the dynamic aspects of the social situation, such as indicators on poverty transitions, persistence and recurrence, making greater use of the longitudinal component of EU-SILC.

The ISG will support the EMCO IG as necessary in the further development of the LTU Recommendation monitoring framework.

The ISG will also work, in collaboration with the Commission, on ways to measure and analyse social spillovers, and explore strengthening the ability to analyse the link between social policy and economic policy. It will follow up on the aims of European Commission Communication on ‘GDP and

beyond - measuring progress in a changing world'. It will also follow the use of social indicators in the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure (MIP) scoreboard.

The ISG will support the development of reference databases for the minutes of its meetings and for the dissemination of the agreed EU social indicators for the monitoring of progress towards the EU objectives for social protection and social inclusion.

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

The ISG will cooperate and consult with other relevant groups of other Committees, including the working group on Social Protection Statistics and the related ESSPROS Task Force on methodology, the Eurostat Working Group on Public Health Statistics, EPC LIME group, and more specifically with the EMCO Indicators group in the context of the review of the EPSR scoreboard, the social dimension of the EMU, interactions between the labour market and social inclusion (and especially on the monitoring framework for and implementation of the Council recommendation on the integration of the long-term unemployment into the labour market, on aspects related to social services and income provision), and further development of the JAF. It will also monitor external research of potential interest for ISG work, especially through cooperation with contacts with several services of the Commission, and collaborate with academics and international organizations developing research relevant to the activities of the group.

## Provisional schedule of topics per ISG meeting in 2018

ISG Meetings dates 2018	Provisional agenda items
23-24 January	<p><b>2018 ISG Work Programme – Finalisation</b></p> <p><b>Indicators on access to quality social services -</b> presentation of Commission discussion paper</p> <p><b>Update of SPPM dashboard results</b> (EU-SILC 2016)</p> <p><b>PAR 2018 – TRR</b> main messages</p> <p><b>Disability indicators –</b> final discussion</p> <p><b>Benchmarking of pensions adequacy</b></p> <p><b>JAF health -</b> Country analyses and progress report 2016-2017</p> <p><b>JER –</b> second discussion</p> <p><b>ISG minutes database</b></p>
13-14 March	<p><b>Joint meeting with EMCO IG</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Indicators on reconciliation of private and professional life (WLB)</b></li> <li>- <b>Substantive thresholds for use in the EPM and SPPM</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Benchmarking Minimum income</b></p> <p><b>Benchmarking of pensions adequacy</b></p> <p><b>LTC indicators</b></p> <p><b>Inequality indicators</b></p> <p><b>EU Social indicators database</b></p>

	<p><b>Impact Assessment and underlying studies accompanying the Access to Social Protection initiative</b> - Presentation by the Commission</p> <p><b>State of Health in the EU</b> - Presentation by DG SANCO</p> <p><b>SPC annual report</b></p> <p><b>Material deprivation of children</b> – analysis and proposal for a child-specific indicator of deprivation</p>
26 April	<p><b>Social Transfers In Kind</b></p> <p><b>EPSR scoreboard and monitoring framework (TBC)</b></p> <p><b>Coverage and adequacy of benefits</b></p> <p><b>ISG minutes database</b></p> <p><b>Improvement of the (quasi-)jobless household indicator</b> – review of proposals and schedule</p> <p><b>Cooperation with DG RTD on research projects in the social field</b></p> <p><b>JAF review in context of revised Employment Guidelines</b></p>
24-25 May	<p><b>Update on social indicators for monitoring of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b></p> <p><b>Inequality indicators</b></p> <p><b>Assessing social impact of EU policies</b> – Presentation by Member States on practical examples of social impact assessment of policy reforms</p> <p><b>Coverage and adequacy of benefits</b></p> <p><b>EPSR scoreboard and monitoring framework</b></p> <p><b>EU Social indicators database</b></p> <p><b>SPC annual report to October EPSCO Council</b> - data issues</p> <p><b>Dynamic social indicators</b> - Proposals for indicators on transitions (in/out of labour market, inactivity) poverty persistence and recurrence</p> <p><b>Benchmarking minimum income.</b></p>

<b>20 June</b>	<p><b>SPC annual report preparation</b> (production schedule, results from SPPM dashboard update, key social challenges)</p> <p><b>Update on ESSPROS developments</b></p> <p><b>Update on work of EU-SILC TF on legal basis</b></p> <p><b>Housing prices/affordability</b> – presentation of LIME work on housing indicators, incl. indicator on housing affordability</p> <p>Benchmarking minimum income. (TBC)</p>
<b>11 September</b>	<p><b>SPC annual report (finalisation)</b></p> <p><b>Commission presentation of findings from 2018 ESDE review</b></p> <p><b>LTC indicators</b></p> <p><b>Improvement of the (quasi-)jobless household indicator</b></p> <p><b>Indicators on access to quality social services</b></p>
<b>23-24 October</b>	<p><b>Update on work on joint distributions of income, consumption and wealth and the statistical links between micro and macro perspectives</b></p> <p><b>Eurostat update on flash estimates and nowcasting of key income indicators</b></p> <p><b>2019 ISG Work Programme</b> – first discussion</p>
<b>5-6 December</b>	<p><b>Joint meeting with EMCO IG</b> (Draft Joint Employment Report etc.)</p> <p><b>2019 ISG Work programme</b> – finalisation</p> <p><b>Annual update by Eurostat on EU-SILC developments</b></p> <p><b>Update of SPPM dashboard results summary</b></p> <p><b>LTC indicators</b></p>