



Social Protection Committee Indicators Sub-group

SPC/ISG/2018/12/6 FIN

2019 ISG Work Programme

1. Introduction

The ISG work programme for 2019 will be focused on contributing actively to delivering on the 2019 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 2019. 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 2019 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 2019.

2. Europe 2020 and the European Semester

➤ Europe 2020 evaluation and EU headline poverty and social exclusion target

As tasked by the SPC, the ISG will prepare by early 2019, together with the EMCO indicators group, some first reflections and analysis on the Europe2020-related work carried out by the Committees and their sub-groups, including their monitoring and reporting frameworks. Some first reflections on a road-map for the final reporting on the Europe 2020 strategy, together with a mapping of the factors which could be relevant for the contours of a future strategy, will also be prepared as input for the SPC deliberations. This will be followed by further assessment work over the rest of 2019.

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 current social monitoring framework

The ISG will continue to review the current social monitoring framework (EPSR scoreboard, SPPM, JAF), including methodological issues, and reflect on the relations between the existing monitoring tools and on the scope to simplify the framework and its tools and improve the consistency in the use of indicators, including based on the work to be carried out in preparation of the Europe 2020

evaluation and in view of the Employment Guidelines. 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:

- **Review of the EPSR scoreboard in 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.

- **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 SPC-ISG 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. 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**

The ISG will support further work on benchmarking as tasked by the SPC. In particular, it will continue the work on a benchmarking framework for pensions adequacy.

- **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.

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

- **Preparation of the SPC Annual report**

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. An update of the SPPM dashboard based on the complete set of EU-SILC 2017 data will be produced by spring 2019.

Planned deliverables for 2019

(a) Reports

- Report to the SPC by early 2019 on first reflections and analysis on the Europe2020-related tasking, including a mapping of the factors which could be relevant for the contours of a future strategy and a road-map for the final reporting on the Europe 2020 strategy
- Contribution to the SPC annual report through an update on the social situation in the European Union and analysis based on the EU social indicators

(b) Indicators and tools

- Improvement to and updating of the Social Protection Performance Monitor

4. Thematic work

➤ **Social inclusion**

• **Inequality**

The ISG will continue to review available indicators to assess inequality in its key dimensions, such as distribution of income, wealth and also inequality of opportunities, in order to identify potential improvements of such indicators for monitoring inequalities and make the monitoring framework more comprehensive.

• **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.

• **Review of Material and Social Deprivation Indicator**

Together with the Commission the ISG will, on the basis of the most recent data, carry out a comprehensive examination of the performance over all available data years of the new Material and Social Deprivation (MSD) indicator.

- **Active inclusion indicators**

The ISG will look to identify and develop indicators in the context of active inclusion, including for example related to in-work poverty. It will follow recent work on the OECD Tax-Benefit model, the pilot project on developing a strictness indicator of activation requirements for income support beneficiaries, and EUROMOD.

The Commission and ISG will continue work on developing 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. This exercise will take into account the ongoing work on specific services (long-term care, healthcare, childcare), target groups (long-term unemployed, minimum income recipients). 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

- **Situation of persons with disabilities**

Together with the Commission the ISG will continue to develop new indicators for monitoring the situation of persons with disabilities. This includes further development of indicators in the area of education for persons with disabilities (for example: early school leavers). It will also explore the possibility to include the new indicators for persons with disabilities in the joint assessment framework (JAF).

- **Homelessness and housing exclusion, Housing conditions**

The ISG will look into the area of homelessness and housing exclusion with a view to further development of indicators and improving the availability of data in this area. The ISG will also follow work monitoring energy poverty.

- **Health**

The ISG will support the further development of the OMC health work stream. Pending SPC direction, it stands ready to commence further development work on the JAF Health. 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.

- **Long term care**

The ISG will support the further development of the OMC long-term care work stream. It will further develop the monitoring framework for LTC, including by identifying indicators that can be commonly used in the context of the OMC on long-term care. The monitoring framework will aim at including indicators on access, quality, affordability and sustainability of long-term care. The work on the quality of long-term care will be closely aligned with the work strand on common methodology and policy indicators for measuring the quality of social services.

➤ **Pensions**

The ISG will support the preparation of the 2021 Pension Adequacy Report. The ISG will discuss and propose to the SPC the key indicators, including the list of Theoretical Replacement Rate cases, to be used in the 2021 Pension Adequacy Report.

➤ **Reconciliation of private and professional life**

The ISG, in coordination with the EMCO IG, will discuss proposals developed in a joint SPC-ISG – EMCO-IG sub-working group 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. In particular, the group will propose EU-level indicators to measure the take-up of paternity, parental leave and potentially carers' leave.

➤ **Access to social protection**

Pending the outcome of the proposal for a Council Recommendation on access to social protection the ISG will explore data/indicators needed to assess the access to social protection for workers and the self-employed, including people in new forms of employment contracts or new forms of work.

➤ **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.

Planned deliverables for 2019

(c) Thematic work

- Adoption of new indicators on inequalities to make the monitoring framework in the area more comprehensive
- EU-level indicators to measure the take-up of paternity and parental leave (and potentially carers' leave)
- Proposal to the SPC on the key indicators, including the list of Theoretical Replacement Rate cases, to be used in the 2021 Pension Adequacy Report and a progress report to SPC on further developments on the pension adequacy benchmarking

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

The ISG will follow up on issues identified in the 2018 seminar on ISG monitoring capacities. In particular, the ISG will develop guidelines for the use of available information which does not yet

meet the criteria of the EU Social Indicators portfolio, to respond to urgent/new policy needs while maintaining certain quality standards. It will also explore how to meet the need to include more contextual information (such as on the types of national social protection systems) in order to help interpret better the available indicators. It will review and enhance its indicators where necessary on the basis of new data or analysis.

In the course of 2019, 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 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.

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 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.

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 including concerning 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 2019

ISG Meetings dates 2019	Provisional agenda items
6-7 February	<p>JER – second discussion</p> <p>Europe 2020 reflection</p> <p>Update of SPPM dashboard results (EU-SILC 2017)</p> <p>Disability indicators</p> <p>Update on social indicators for monitoring of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</p> <p>Guidelines for the use of new available information to respond to policy needs</p> <p>Review of Material and Social Deprivation Indicator</p>
19 March	<p>Benchmarking of pensions adequacy</p> <p>Europe 2020 reflection</p> <p>Improvement of the (quasi-)jobless household indicator</p> <p>Inequality indicators</p> <p>Indicators on access to quality social services</p> <p>LTC indicators</p>
22 May	<p>SPC annual report- data issues</p> <p>Europe 2020 reflection</p> <p>Homelessness and housing exclusion, Housing conditions</p> <p>Guidelines for the use of new information to respond to policy needs</p> <p>Review of Material and Social Deprivation Indicator</p> <p>Social transfers in Kind – update from Eurostat</p> <p>WLB indicators (maybe as part of EMCO IG meeting on 21 May)</p>

<p>20-21 June</p>	<p>Europe 2020 reflection</p> <p>Inequality indicators</p> <p>Indicators on access to quality social services</p> <p>Homelessness and housing exclusion, Housing conditions</p> <p>SPC annual report preparation (production schedule, results from SPPM dashboard update, key social challenges)</p> <p>Improvement of the (quasi-)jobless household indicator</p> <p>LTC indicators</p> <p>DG RTD on research projects in the social field</p>
<p>11 September</p>	<p>SPC annual report (finalisation)</p> <p>Benchmarking of pensions adequacy</p> <p>Europe 2020 reflection</p> <p>Indicators on access to quality social services</p> <p>Presentation of findings from 2019 ESDE review</p> <p>Access to social protection - monitoring framework</p>
<p>22-23 October</p>	<p>Eurostat update on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - work on joint distributions of income, consumption and wealth and the statistical links between micro and macro perspectives - progress on timelier production of EU-SILC and flash estimates/nowcasting of social indicators <p>LTC indicators</p> <p>Europe 2020 reflection</p> <p>Inequality indicators</p> <p>Preparation of the 2021 Pension Adequacy Report - key indicators, including the list of TRR cases</p> <p>2020 ISG Work Programme</p>
<p>5-6 December</p>	<p>Joint meeting with EMCO IG (Draft JER etc.)</p> <p>2020 ISG Work programme</p>

	Europe 2020 reflection Access to social protection – monitoring framework Annual update by Eurostat on EU-SILC developments
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