



Social Protection Committee

Indicators Sub-group

SPC/ISG/2021/12/2

2022 ISG Work Programme

1. Introduction

The work programme of the Indicators Sub-Group (ISG) of the Social Protection Committee (SPC) for 2022 will focus on contributing to delivering on the 2022 SPC priorities, follow up of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) and its Action Plan for implementation, the European Semester, and relevant priorities arising from the Commission Work Programme 2022. In addition, the ISG will contribute as necessary to in-depth thematic work in the context of the open method of coordination for social protection and social inclusion (Social OMC). Furthermore, the ISG will provide evidence and analysis measuring the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic using the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) as soon as the first harmonised data on this becomes available.

Given these priorities and on-going activities, the work of the ISG will focus on the main areas listed below. The impact of new activities that the SPC decides to undertake in the course of 2022 will be assessed on an ongoing basis and the ISG work programme will be adjusted as necessary. Annex 1 contains an overview of next year's provisional meeting dates and agendas, with an indication of the timing of the main activities over 2022.

2. Review of monitoring/reporting frameworks and follow up on the European Pillar of Social Rights and implementation of its Action Plan

➤ Follow up to the Europe 2020 Strategy

The ISG will follow up on the findings of the joint assessment report of the EMCO and SPC on the Europe 2020 Strategy, in particular on issues related to the Committees' monitoring and reporting frameworks.

➤ Follow up to the European Pillar of Social Rights and implementation of its Action Plan, including the poverty and social exclusion target for 2030

The ISG stands ready to contribute to relevant aspects related to the implementation of the Action Plan on the European Pillar of Social Rights and the monitoring of progress towards the new poverty and social exclusion target for 2030.

It will review the analytical content of the draft Joint Employment Report, and in particular, the assessment based on the EPSR scoreboard.

➤ **Review of the current social monitoring framework**

The ISG will continue to review the current social monitoring framework (EPSR scoreboard, SPPM, JAF, etc.)¹. It will reflect, jointly with EMCO IG, on the scope to simplify and consolidate the existing tools in line with the findings from the assessment report of the EMCO and SPC on the Europe 2020 Strategy. It will also review improvements to the timeliness of indicators. Specific activities in this area will include:

- **Reflect on the role of the EPSR scoreboard**

Jointly with EMCO IG, the ISG will reflect on the role of the EPSR scoreboard in relation to the action plan on the EPSR and other existing monitoring tools, including on the possible inclusion of secondary indicators in the scoreboard.

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

Timely estimates of the social situation are essential as was highlighted by the COVID-19 crisis. The ISG will follow Eurostat work on improving the timeliness of social indicators and on flash estimates of key income-based indicators, and will reflect further on the appropriate and systematic use of flash estimates in the EU monitoring framework.

- **Joint Assessment Framework (JAF)**

The ISG will review the Joint Assessment Framework together with the EMCO Indicators Group and the European Commission. The ISG will also assess the JAF methodology in view of its improvement and further development.

- **Benchmarking**

The ISG will continue the work on benchmarking as tasked by the SPC. The ISG will also, whenever called upon, review already existing frameworks.

- **Assessing social impact of EU policies**

The ISG will follow developments in the field of assessing the social impact of EU policies, including distributional impact assessment 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 the social impacts by reviewing possibilities to improve availability, accessibility and timeliness of evidence (including administrative data).

Planned deliverables for 2022:

- The ISG will, in collaboration with EMCO IG, review the current monitoring frameworks in view of updating them to the context of implementation of the Action Plan on the European Pillar of Social Rights and its targets for 2030, also with the overall aim to simplify and consolidate them.

¹ European Pillar of Social Rights Scoreboard, Social Protection Performance Monitor (SPPM) and Joint Assessment Framework (JAF).

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 review the technical and analytical content of the annual report, as well as the methodology for identifying the Key Social Challenges (KSCs) and Good Social Outcomes (GSOs). The ISG will also continue collecting statistics derived from administrative data on benefit recipients and provide analysis and evidence on social aspects of the COVID-19 crisis. When following up this work the ISG will consider ways to improve the comparability of benefit recipients data provided by Member states.

➤ Social Protection Performance Monitor (SPPM)

The ISG will continue the work on updating the SPPM, especially regarding the set of key social indicators in view of recent statistical developments and ISG adoption of new indicators. It will produce an update of the SPPM dashboard based on the complete set of EU-SILC 2020 data. The impact of the COVID-19 crisis will be reflected in this work.

Regular monitoring of the social situation following the COVID-19 outbreak

The ISG, as necessary and in cooperation with the EMCO Indicators Group, will produce regular updates on the social situation following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, based on the more frequent updates of the benefits recipients data collected via the ISG and possibly continued reporting on the crisis support measures implemented by Member States. Eurostat nowcasts of poverty and income inequality indicators and relevant studies on the social impact of the crisis will also be used as appropriate.

In carrying out its monitoring activities, and given the risk that the timeliness and quality of the usual data collections underpinning social indicators will be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the ISG will take into account Eurostat advice on this and discuss the greater use of nowcasting exercises.

Planned deliverables for 2022

Reports

- The ISG will contribute to the SPC annual report through an update on the social situation in the European Union and analysis based on the EU social indicators.
- It will provide regular updates as necessary on developments in the social situation following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Indicators and tools

- Update the Social Protection Performance Monitor

4. Thematic work

➤ Social inclusion

• Inequality

Following up on the set of indicators agreed to monitor income inequalities and inequalities of opportunities, the ISG will also explore further work in the areas of the evolution of the middle class (i.e. those around the middle of the income distribution), the assessment of the distributional impacts of public policies, the evolution of cross-country inequality as well as the evolution of purchasing power.

➤ Active inclusion indicators

The Council Conclusions on minimum incomes invite the Commission and the Committees (SPC with the involvement of EMCO) to prepare periodically a joint report to analyse and review the progress achieved in the development of minimum income protection in the Member States. As mandated by the SPC, the ISG will develop this report, with technical inputs from MINET (Minimum Income Network) and with the support of the Commission services, in line with the agreed report outline and in view of its finalisation in May 2022.

Following the discussions held in 2019, the work on policy indicators for measuring the quality of social services, encompassing inter alia such criteria as: accessibility, availability, affordability and coverage will resume once the Commission completes the mapping exercise of relevant services and quality indicators available at national level. The results of the mapping exercise undertaken in 2018 provides information on so-called mainstream social services, while further work is needed focusing on personal targeted services. On the basis of a study focusing on this dimension, further work on monitoring quality of social services will resume.

➤ Child poverty

The ISG will develop a monitoring framework for the recently adopted European Child Guarantee Recommendation, building on the work carried out for the benchmarking framework on childcare and support to children.

➤ 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) and employment. It will also explore the possibility to include the new indicators for persons with disabilities in the joint assessment framework (JAF), and new indicators following the inclusion of a disability question in social surveys.

➤ Homelessness and housing exclusion, Housing conditions

The ISG will look into the area of homelessness and housing exclusion with the aim to further develop indicators and improve the availability of data in this area, including in the context of monitoring under the new Platform on Combatting Homelessness. If tasked by the SPC, it may provide support to the monitoring activities foreseen under the Platform.

➤ **Indicators on Social and Labour Aspects of the Just Transition towards Climate Neutrality**

The ISG will follow work on indicators relevant to monitor the social and labour aspects of the just transition towards climate neutrality in view of the Commission initiative for a Council Recommendation in this area, and in particular examine the need for new indicators to address the fairness of the transition.

In this context the ISG will also follow work on energy poverty and be ready to contribute to the monitoring process in this area, which has been given heightened importance following the announcement of a forthcoming Commission proposal for a Social Climate Fund to tackle energy poverty.

➤ **Health**

The ISG will support the further development of the OMC health work stream and follow closely the work of DG SANTE on measuring access to healthcare, including considering the feasibility of new indicators for future work on the JAF Health framework of indicators.

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 Working Party on Public Health (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, reflecting the heightened policy interest in this area and the announcement of a forthcoming European Care Strategy. It will complete the monitoring framework for LTC, including by identifying indicators that can be commonly used in the context of the OMC on long-term care. In addition, the ISG will follow the work of the planned EUROSTAT Task Force on LTC in order to improve the availability and quality of indicators relating to LTC. It will also support as necessary the preparation of the next SPC Long-Term Care report.

➤ **Pensions**

The ISG will support the preparation of the 2024 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 2024 Pension Adequacy Report.

➤ **Reconciliation of private and professional life**

Following the finalisation of the guidance manual and indicator framework on comparative EU-level data on the reconciliation of private and professional lives, the ISG, in coordination with the EMCO IG, will follow-up as necessary on Member States' progress in preparing for and delivering the data required for the Directive on reconciliation of private and professional life.

➤ **Access to social protection**

The ISG will update and develop further the indicator framework for monitoring access to social protection for workers and the self-employed in the context of the 2019 Council Recommendation on access to social protection.

➤ **Social resilience, especially regarding social protection systems**

The ISG will follow analytical work on social resilience, including on the resilience of social protection systems.

➤ **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 2022

Thematic work

- Completing the monitoring framework for LTC.
- Further development of the monitoring framework for the Recommendation on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed.
- Development of a monitoring framework for the European Child Guarantee Recommendation.
- Produce by May 2022 a report to analyse and review the progress achieved in the development of minimum income protection in the Member States.
- Proposal to the SPC on the key indicators, including the list of Theoretical Replacement Rate cases, to be used in the 2024 Pension Adequacy Report and, as necessary, in the next Long-Term Care Report.

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

The ISG will explore how to include more contextual information (such as on the types of national social protection systems) in order to help users to better interpret the available indicators. It will also explore the use of alternative data sources that could possibly complement the existing surveys mainly used for social indicators, such as administrative data. It will review and enhance its indicators wherever necessary on the basis of new data or analysis.

In the course of 2022, 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 stemming from the framework regulation for European statistics relating to persons and household, based on data at individual level collected from samples (IESS). It will follow up on the implementation of IESS.

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 carried out under Net-SILC3.

The ISG will follow and advise the work Eurostat is carrying out in compiling and analysing existing data to better describe the joint distributions of income (including a follow-up on the use of tax data to enhance the SILC data on the income distribution), 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, upward convergence, 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 and organisations

The ISG will cooperate 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 and the EPC LIME group. It will continue its close collaboration 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.

The ISG will monitor research of potential interest for ISG work, especially through cooperation with several services of the Commission including the JRC, It will also collaborate with academics and international organizations, such as OECD, developing research relevant for the group.

Provisional schedule of topics per ISG meeting in 2022

ISG Meetings dates 2022	Provisional agenda items
20(-21) January (part joint with EMCO IG)	<p>Monitoring framework for the European Child Guarantee Recommendation</p> <p>Monitoring framework to assess access to social protection for workers and the self-employed (tbc)</p> <p>Report on progress achieved in the development of minimum income protection – first discussion</p> <p>Joint meeting with EMCO IG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Joint Employment Report
15 February	<p>Homelessness and housing exclusion, Housing conditions</p> <p>Collection of administrative data (especially on minimum income) (tbc)</p>
8-9 March	<p>Review of current social monitoring framework, including methodological issues and the scope to simplify and consolidate</p> <p>Energy poverty</p> <p>Monitoring framework to assess access to social protection for workers and the self-employed</p> <p>Discussion on EPSR scoreboard secondary indicators (tbc)</p> <p>Inequality indicators</p> <p>SPC annual report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - outline and data issues - review of methodology for identifying Key Social Challenges (KSCs) and Good Social Outcomes (GSOs)
6 April	<p>Report on progress achieved in the development of minimum income protection – discussion of full report</p> <p>Monitoring framework for the European Child Guarantee Recommendation</p> <p>LTC monitoring framework</p>

<p>17 May</p>	<p>Review of current social monitoring framework, including methodological issues and the scope to simplify and consolidate</p> <p>Inequality indicators</p> <p>Report on progress achieved in the development of minimum income protection – finalisation</p> <p>Homelessness and housing exclusion, Housing conditions</p>
<p>2 June</p>	<p>Monitoring framework to assess access to social protection for workers and the self-employed</p> <p>Review of current social monitoring framework, including methodological issues and the scope to simplify and consolidate</p> <p>Update on ESSPROS developments</p> <p>Indicators on access to quality social services</p>
<p>21-22 June (part joint with EMCO IG)</p>	<p>SPC annual report preparation (results from SPPM dashboard update, key social challenges exercise)</p> <p>Energy poverty</p> <p>Joint meeting with EMCO IG</p> <p>DG RTD on research projects in the social field</p>
<p>8 September</p>	<p>SPC annual report (finalisation)</p> <p>Presentation of findings from 2022 ESDE review</p> <p>Monitoring framework to assess access to social protection for workers and the self-employed</p> <p>Eurostat update on flash estimates/nowcasting of social indicators</p>
<p>29 September (tbc, provisional)</p>	
<p>19-20 October</p>	<p>Review of indicators for monitoring of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</p> <p>Preparation of 2024 Pension Adequacy Report - indicators</p> <p>Indicators on access to quality social services</p>

	LTC monitoring framework
16 November	<p>2023 ISG Work programme – initial discussion</p> <p>Eurostat update on work on joint distributions of income, consumption and wealth and the statistical links between micro and macro perspectives</p> <p>Homelessness and housing exclusion, Housing conditions</p> <p>Update on progress regarding measuring access to healthcare (SANTE/WHO)</p> <p>Annual update by Eurostat on EU-SILC developments including progress on timelier production of EU-SILC</p> <p>Preparation of 2024 Pension Adequacy Report - indicators</p>
(5-)6 December (tbc, part joint with EMCO IG)	<p>Joint meeting with EMCO IG (Draft JER etc.)</p> <p>2023 ISG Work programme – finalisation</p> <p>Homelessness and housing exclusion, Housing conditions</p> <p>Monitoring framework to assess access to social protection for workers and the self-employed</p>
14 December (tbc, provisional)	LTC monitoring framework