



Social Protection Committee Indicators Sub-group

The Secretariat

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SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SOCIAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE INDICATORS SUB-GROUP IN 2021

The year 2021 has been a very busy and productive year for the Social Protection Committee (SPC) Indicators Sub-Group (ISG). The main activities and achievements of the group, including its main deliverables, were as detailed below¹. In spite of the wide range of Member State's situations and opinions on the various topics, the group always **worked with the intention to integrate all views and national specificities** into the outputs and accomplishments listed. Even when under time pressure, there was always room given to present oral and/or written comments, which were duly taken into account or addressed.

Monitoring of the social situation in the EU

- In cooperation with the Employment Committee (EMCO) Indicators Group, the ISG produced **regular monitoring reports of the social situation under the continuing COVID-19 pandemic**, using more timely data and information, including through the collection and analysis of recipients of standard social benefits and of the special crisis support measures implemented to counter the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Eurostat nowcasts of poverty and income inequality indicators, and relevant studies on the social impact of the crisis;
- The ISG contributed to the annual report of the Social Protection Committee through a **detailed update and analysis on the social situation in the European Union based on the EU social indicators included in the Social Protection Performance Monitor**. It provided a final assessment of the progress achieved against the 2020 poverty and social exclusion headline target;
- As part of the European Semester process, the ISG **reviewed the analytical content of the draft 2021 Joint Employment Report**, and in particular the assessment of social developments based on the EPSR scoreboard.

Contributing to delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) and its Action Plan for implementation

- Jointly with the EMCO Indicators Group, the ISG reviewed **the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) scoreboard in relation to the related proposals in the Action Plan on the EPSR**, focusing mainly on the proposed new headline indicators. It also discussed the structure of the scoreboard and the role of secondary indicators.

¹ Most of the items mentioned can be consulted in further detail on the SPC and ISG websites.

Statistical developments

- The group carried out a detailed **review of the headline “at-risk-of-poverty-or-social-exclusion” (AROPE) indicator** used to monitor progress under the Europe 2020 Strategy. It reached agreement on a revised indicator, taking into account the new components on severe material and social deprivation and an improved indicator on (quasi-) jobless households, **that underpins the new EU poverty reduction target for 2030;**
- The ISG followed and made use of Eurostat work on **improving the timeliness of social indicators and on flash estimates of key income-based indicators.**

Benchmarking and monitoring frameworks

Regarding the further development of benchmarking and monitoring frameworks, the ISG:

- completed the **benchmarking framework on childcare and support to children**, and initiated work on an EU level framework to monitor progress in implementing the European Child Guarantee Recommendation;
- **completed work on a benchmarking framework on pension adequacy**, through extending the range of indicators and policy levers;
- **completed work on the monitoring framework on long-term care (LTC)**, including by reviewing efforts to conceptualise and monitor LTC quality and exploring possible indicators in this area;
- **developed further the monitoring framework for access to social protection for workers and the self-employed** in the context of the Council Recommendation on access to social protection, through updating data on formal coverage and the rules governing entitlements and contributions, further analysis on EU SILC indicators on effective access and adequacy, and discussion on the collection of national statistics under point 17 of the Council Recommendation.

Other activities

- The ISG agreed on the outline, content and work plan for a **joint SPC-European Commission report on minimum income**, to be elaborated in early 2022, providing an analysis and review of the progress achieved in the development of minimum income protection in the Member States;
- The group also **started to explore indicators of energy poverty**, focusing on the state of play concerning available indicators that are already used in different contexts at EU level and on possible additional dimensions to develop further in the future.