



# Social Protection Committee

## Indicators Sub-group

SPC/ISG/2022/12/7

### 2023 ISG Work Programme

#### **1. Introduction**

The work programme of the Indicators Sub-Group (ISG) of the Social Protection Committee (SPC) for 2023 will focus on contributing to delivering on the 2023 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 2023. 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 to monitor the social effects of the surge in the cost of living resulting from the Russian aggression in Ukraine and the global supply chain constraints still being experienced due to the COVID pandemic.

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 2023 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 2023.

#### **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 European Pillar of Social Rights and implementation of its Action Plan, including monitoring of the poverty and social exclusion target for 2030**

The ISG will contribute as necessary to relevant aspects related to the implementation of the Action Plan on the European Pillar of Social Rights and in particular the monitoring of progress towards the EU and national poverty and social exclusion targets 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 social scoreboard, SPPM, JAF, etc.)<sup>1</sup>. It will reflect, jointly with EMCO IG, on the scope to simplify and consolidate the

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

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:

- **Reflection 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.

- **Follow developments regarding the proposal for a Social Imbalances Procedure**

Jointly with the EMCO IG, the ISG will follow developments concerning the Belgian-Spanish proposal for a Social Imbalances Procedure, in particular with regard to the technical aspects, and reflect as necessary on the related possible implications for the existing monitoring tools and reports.

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

Timely estimates of the social situation are essential as highlighted by the COVID-19 crisis and the evolving cost of living crisis. The ISG will follow Eurostat work on improving the timeliness of social indicators and on flash estimates of key income-based indicators (and the possibility to extend estimates to cover other indicators), as well as the recent steps regarding the conduct of an infra-annual data collection through Eurostat. It will further discuss the possibility to use flash estimates more systematically in the EU monitoring framework, as well as possible other data sources (such as “financial distress” indicators).

- **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 review 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, such as in particular the minimum income benchmarking framework, following the conclusions of the joint SPC-EC report on minimum income.

- **Assessing social impacts of EU policies**

The ISG will follow developments in the field of assessing the social impacts 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 2023:**

- 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.
- The ISG will reflect, as necessary, on the possible implications for the existing monitoring tools and reports of the proposal for a Social Imbalances Procedure.
- It will make progress on the availability and use of timelier indicators of the social situation, especially to monitor the social effects of the surge in the cost of living.

### **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, and also reflect on the schedule for its production in view of earlier availability of EU-SILC data. The ISG will also continue collecting statistics derived from administrative data on benefit recipients and provide analysis and evidence on social aspects of the cost of living crisis. When following up this work the ISG will further 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 set of available EU-SILC 2022 data.

#### **➤ Thorough review of the Portfolio of EU Social Indicators**

Following on to the intermediate update conducted in 2022, the ISG will carry out a detailed review of the Portfolio of EU Social Indicators in view of its further updating and streamlining, and improving its user friendliness.

### **Planned deliverables for 2023**

#### *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.

#### *Indicators and tools*

- Update of the Social Protection Performance Monitor
- Review and streamline the Portfolio of EU Social Indicators

#### **4. Thematic work**

##### **➤ Social inclusion**

###### **• Inequality**

The ISG will further explore indicators on inequalities and in particular about the middle-income group. It will also explore the evolution of purchasing power, including in different parts of the income distribution.

###### **• Active inclusion indicators**

In line with the joint SPC-EC report on minimum income, the ISG will update the benchmarking framework on minimum income and will review potential areas for its further expansion in different dimensions (such as eligibility criteria, access to services and labour market transitions and incentives) and resume the exploration of indicators for measuring the quality of social services (encompassing inter alia such criteria as: accessibility, availability, affordability and coverage).

###### **• Child poverty**

The ISG will finalise the monitoring framework for the European Child Guarantee Recommendation, building on the work carried out for the benchmarking framework on childcare and support to children. On the basis of the first version of the ECG monitoring framework, it will prepare a final version in the course of 2023 also on the basis of the national action plans. Furthermore, if requested, the ISG will discuss and work, as relevant, on the monitoring aspects of the Council Recommendation on the Revision of the Barcelona Targets on early childhood education and care in cooperation with EMCO IG and other groups as necessary.

##### **➤ 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 or others such as health when data from surveys will be available. 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 European Platform on Combatting Homelessness.

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

The ISG will follow work on indicators relevant to monitor the social and labour aspects of the fair transition towards climate neutrality, and in particular examine the use of existing indicators and the need for additional indicators to assess the fairness of the transition.

In this context the ISG will focus in particular on further developing a set of indicators related to energy poverty and contribute to the monitoring process in this area, which has been given heightened importance in the current circumstances of surging energy costs.

➤ **Transport poverty**

The ISG will follow and support work on comprehensive and feasible definitions of transport poverty (focusing both on affordability and availability of transport). Pros and cons of the various definitions will be considered, as well as different data sources and methodologies. Results will be assessed also in comparison to standard social indicators.

➤ **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. In particular, it will contribute as necessary to the development of a framework of indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Council Recommendation on access to high-quality affordable long-term care, building on the joint work on common indicators on long-term care and other monitoring frameworks. 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.

➤ **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, in particular the list of Theoretical Replacement Rate (TRR) cases, to be used in the 2024 Pension Adequacy Report. The ISG will compute the TRR or validate the calculations carried out by the OECD.

➤ **Reconciliation of private and professional life**

On the basis 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 2023**

#### *Thematic work*

- Completion of the monitoring framework for the Recommendation on access to high quality and affordable long term care.
- Update and further develop the monitoring framework for the Recommendation on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed.
- Development of indicators on purchasing power across the income distribution as well as further development of indicators related to energy poverty.
- Finalisation of the monitoring framework for the European Child Guarantee Recommendation.
- Proposal to the SPC on the key indicators to be used in the 2024 Pension Adequacy Report, including the list of Theoretical Replacement Rate cases.

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

The ISG will follow up on issues identified in the 2022 seminar to mark 20 years of the existence of the group. In particular, the ISG will:

- explore addressing some of the remaining priority gaps identified in coverage of indicators. The ISG will also explore how to include more contextual information in order to help users to better interpret the available indicators;
- further explore the use of alternative data sources that could complement the traditional ones, such as administrative data and Eurostat data on the joint distribution on income, consumption and wealth;
- further reflect on practical improvements to working methods and organisation (including the suggestion to invite delegates to give short presentations of relevant issues in their countries, and to invite a delegate to be a discussant following thematic presentations), and in the dissemination of ISG output, including on a communication strategy to make the ISG and its products better known and enhancing cooperation with other relevant groups.

The ISG will follow up on the implementation of the framework regulation for Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS). It will also review and enhance its indicators wherever necessary on the basis of new data or analysis. For example, 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 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, further development of the JAF, and the review of the current social monitoring framework.

The ISG will monitor research of potential interest for ISG work, especially through cooperation with services of the Commission including the JRC and will liaise where needed with the MISSOC network. It will also collaborate with academics and international organizations, such as OECD, developing research relevant for the group’s activities.

## Provisional schedule of topics per ISG meeting in 2023<sup>2</sup>

ISG Meetings dates 2023	Provisional agenda items
<b>18-19 January (part joint with EMCO IG)</b>  <i>(Physical)</i>	<b>Indicators to be used in the 2024 Pension Adequacy Report (TBC)</b>  <b>Access to healthcare (ESTAT and DG SANTE)</b>  <b>Administrative data on energy poverty (tbc)</b>  <b>Joint meeting with EMCO IG</b>  Draft Joint Employment Report  Presentation on Recommendation on a Fair Transition  Presentation on Recommendation on Barcelona Targets (tbc)
<b>16 February</b>  <i>(Virtual)</i>	<b>Purchasing power indicators and timeliness</b>  <b>Review of SPC-ISG monitoring frameworks – initial discussion (tbc)</b>  <b>Update of Minimum Income Benchmarking Framework (tbc)</b>
<b>22-23 March</b>  <i>(Physical)</i>	<b>LTC Monitoring Framework (TBC)</b>  <b>Energy poverty indicators</b>  <b>SPC annual report</b>  - outline and data issues
<b>27 April</b>  <i>(Virtual)</i>	<b><u>Purchasing power indicators and timeliness</u></b>  <b><u>Follow up of October 2020 seminar findings</u></b>  <b>Child guarantee monitoring framework</b>
<b>5 May - afternoon (joint with EMCO IG)</b>	<b>Discussion on the final report of the Working Group on the Social Imbalances Procedure</b>

<sup>2</sup> As regards the planning of the revision of Portfolio of EU Social Indicators, this will require further internal Commission reflection before deciding on the appropriate timing of discussions on the various thematic areas.



<b>24 May</b> <i>(Virtual)</i>	<b>Energy poverty indicators</b> <b>Review of SPC-ISG monitoring frameworks – further discussion (tbc)</b> <b>Presentation of findings from EU Agency for Fundamental Rights 2021 survey on Roma in 10 European countries (tbc)</b>
<b>21-22 June</b> <i>(Physical)</i>	<b>SPC annual report preparation</b> (results from SPPM dashboard update, key social challenges exercise) <b>Eurostat update on flash estimates/nowcasting of social indicators</b>
<b>7 September</b> <i>(Virtual)</i>	<b>SPC annual report (finalisation)</b> <b>Child guarantee monitoring framework</b>
<b>18-19 October</b> <i>(Physical)</i>	<b>Review of indicators for monitoring of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b> <b>Indicators on transport affordability and availability (tbc)</b>
<b>16 November</b> <i>(Virtual)</i>	<b>2023 ISG Work programme – initial discussion</b> <b>Annual update by Eurostat on EU-SILC developments including progress on timelier production of EU-SILC</b> <b>Eurostat update on work on joint distributions of income, consumption and wealth and the statistical links between micro and macro perspectives</b> <b>Middle class indicators</b>
<b>11-12 December (part joint with EMCO IG)</b> <i>(Physical)</i>	<b>Joint meeting with EMCO IG (Draft JER etc.)</b> <b>2024 ISG Work programme – finalisation</b>