



Social Protection Committee Indicators Sub-group

The Secretariat

SPC/ISG/2023/1/5

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SOCIAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE INDICATORS SUB-GROUP IN 2022

The year 2022 has again 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.

Monitoring of the social situation in the EU

- In cooperation with the Employment Committee (EMCO) Indicators Group, the ISG continued to produce **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** and other more timely sources of data;
- As part of the European Semester process, the ISG **reviewed the analytical content of the draft 2022 Joint Employment Report**, and in particular the assessment of social developments based on the European Pillar of Social Rights scoreboard;
- The ISG agreed on the approach to be used under the European Semester for **monitoring progress towards national 2030 poverty and social exclusion targets**.

Contributing to the discussion on the Belgian-Spanish proposal for a Social Imbalances Procedure

- Jointly with the EMCO Indicators Group, the ISG reviewed **the Belgian-Spanish proposal for a Social Imbalances Procedure**, in order to provide feedback to the EMCO and SPC on the technical aspects of the proposal.

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

Statistical developments

- 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**;
- The group reviewed the need to **update the base year for the at-risk-of-poverty rate anchored in time** and agreed to update the base year to 2019;
- The group also worked further on the development of **indicators of energy poverty**, including producing a **summary fiche of available indicators at EU level** and exploring how to improve the timeliness and frequency of data collection in this area, and held initial discussions on new **indicators to monitor developments in purchasing power**;
- The ISG produced an **intermediate update of the Portfolio of EU Social Indicators**, bringing it up to date and making a few technical adjustments, including ensuring better consistency in the age ranges and the list of breakdowns applied to indicators.

Benchmarking and monitoring frameworks

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

- developed an initial version of a framework for **monitoring progress in implementing the European Child Guarantee Recommendation**, based on a first list of EU-level indicators;
- further developed 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;
- updated elements of the **monitoring framework for access to social protection for workers and the self-employed**, in particular the data on formal coverage and the rules governing entitlements and contributions;
- carried out **the first validation and update of the benchmarking framework on pension adequacy** approved by the SPC in February 2022, including as regards consistency with information published in the MISSOC database.

Other activities

- As mandated by the SPC, the ISG developed, with technical inputs from the Minimum Income Network, and with the support of the Commission services, a report to analyse and review the progress achieved in the **development of minimum income protection in the Member States**;
- The ISG held a **seminar to mark 20 years of existence of the group**, at which it reviewed the challenges and achievements of the last 20 years, noting the major progress made on social indicators since the start of the century, and discussed the challenges and the focus of the group's activities for the coming years. In particular, it explored the remaining gaps in coverage of indicators and the needs for improvement of existing indicators, the current and possible sources of data beyond traditional ones, and possible improvements to its working methods and the dissemination of ISG output.