



Social Protection Committee Indicators Sub-group

The Secretariat

SPC/ISG/2023/12/13

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SOCIAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE INDICATORS SUB-GROUP IN 2023

The year 2023 has once again been a very busy and productive year for the Indicators Sub-Group (ISG) of the Social Protection Committee (SPC). The main activities and achievements of the group, including its main deliverables, were as detailed below¹. In spite of the wide range of Member States' 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

- 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. It also provided evidence and analysis to monitor the **social effects of the surge in the cost of living** resulting from the Russian aggression in Ukraine, including data on the special support measures implemented to counter the effects of rising energy prices;
- As part of the European Semester process, the ISG **reviewed the analytical content of the draft 2023 Joint Employment Report**, and in particular the assessment of social developments based on the European Pillar of Social Rights scoreboard;

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 (now named the Social Convergence Framework)** and provided feedback to the EMCO and SPC on the technical aspects of the proposal.

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 also worked on additional indicators to **monitor developments in purchasing power**;

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

- The group further explored indicators relevant to monitor the **social aspects of a fair transition towards climate neutrality**, including definitions and indicators on transport poverty;
- The ISG progressed on carrying out a detailed review of the **Portfolio of EU Social Indicators**, in view of its updating and streamlining. It completed the review of the strands on social inclusion, pensions and investing in children.

Benchmarking and monitoring frameworks

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

- in collaboration with the EMCO Indicators Group, began work to **review the current monitoring frameworks** in view of the overall aim to simplify and consolidate them. In this context, it launched a **detailed review of the Joint Assessment Framework**.
- developed a first complete version of the framework for **monitoring progress in implementing the European Child Guarantee Recommendation**;
- further developed the monitoring framework for the implementation of the Council Recommendation on **access to high-quality affordable long-term care**;
- updated elements of the **monitoring framework for access to social protection for workers and the self-employed**;
- carried out **updates of the benchmarking frameworks on pension adequacy and minimum income**.

Other activities

The ISG also:

- supported **preparation of the 2024 Pension Adequacy Report** through advising on the key indicators and the list of Theoretical Replacement Rates (TRRs) to be used in the report as well as calculation and/or validation of TRR projections;
- reviewed proposed changes to the indicators for **monitoring of the EU Sustainable Development Goals**;
- carried out a **review of its working methods**.