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COVER NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Work Programme of the Social Protection Committee for 2020

Delegations will find attached the 2020 Work programme of the Social Protection Committee and its subgroup, as adopted in accordance with the Committee's rules of procedure, with a view to the meeting of the EPSCO Council on 19 March 2020 (Any Other Business item).



2020 SPC Work Programme

The Social Protection Committee (SPC) is an advisory policy Committee, established in accordance with art. 160 of the TFEU, providing a representative forum for multilateral social policy coordination, dialogue and cooperation at EU level. It brings together senior policy makers from all EU Member States and the Commission in an effort to discuss and identify the most appropriate policy measures necessary to respond to the social policy challenges across the EU. The Committee actively participates, on behalf of the Council of the European Union for employment, social affairs and health, in the European Semester process of policy coordination as per Article 2 (2b) of Council Decision (EU) 2015/773 establishing the SPC.

The Treaty-based mandate of the SPC stipulates that the Committee monitors the social situation in the EU and the development of social protection policies.¹ SPC delivers on this mandate through the use of the social open method of coordination as the main policy framework, including all major social policy strands: social inclusion, pensions, health and long-term care.

The SPC may, if necessary, prepare additional reports, formulate opinions or undertake other work within its fields of competence, at the request of the Council, the Commission or its own initiative as per Article 2(1c) of the Council Decision 2015/773, establishing the Committee.

1. Priorities for SPC work in 2020

The 2020 SPC work programme takes into account the policy priorities of the Council of the European Union, the European Commission and forthcoming Croatian and German presidencies. It focuses on two main interlinked areas of policy work – one is related to the European Semester, including its newly added link to the **UN 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, and the Europe 2020 Strategy, while the second is focused on thematic in-depth work. In delivering on these areas of work, the Committee will continue to make full use of the opportunities provided by the social **open method of coordination** and mutual learning. It will uphold the principle of **gender equality** and will seek to integrate an **Economy of Well-being** approach across all Committee activities.

As 2020 might see an important **set of Commission proposals** put forward, the Committee will stand ready to engage in the discussions, notably but not exclusively related to the *Action Plan of the European Pillar of Social Rights*; on *strengthening Social Protection Systems*; on *child poverty/child guarantee*; on *labour and social conditions of platform workers*; the *Green deal*; and on the *European Unemployment benefit reinsurance scheme*. The Committee will seek to align its activities with the forthcoming working programme of the European Commission.

¹ Art. 160 TFEU

The SPC would also follow the developments related to the Commission president's intentions for a **refocused Semester**, as well as to the next **Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)**, 2021-2027, in particular the new regulations for the **ESF+**, as well as the proposals on the establishment of the **Reform Support Programme (RDT)** and **Budgetary Instrument for Convergence and Competitiveness (BICC)**. The SPC will seek cooperation with the **Employment Committee (EMCO)** and the **Economic Policy Committee (EPC)** where relevant on these matters.

The Committee will also follow up on the **findings from the joint EMCO-SPC Assessment of the Europe 2020 Strategy**,

2. The European Semester and Europe 2020 Strategy

2.1 Contribution to the EPSCO input for the Spring European Council

SPC will contribute to the preparation of the EPSCO input to the Spring **European Council** with its assessment of the social protection issues raised in the Commission **2020 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy** and its accompanying documents, notably the **2020 Joint Employment Report**. It will, also take part in any negotiations on possible changes of the **Employment Guidelines**, and the monitoring framework(s), in particular **the Social Scoreboard** and/or to the **Joint Assessment Framework (JAF)**.

	Activities	Deliverables to the Council
1 st half 2020	Reaction to the 2020 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy (ASGS) and Joint Employment Report, offering an analysis of the relevant social protection and social inclusion issues	Contribution to the drafting of the Council Conclusions on the 2020 ASGS and JER: political guidance on employment and social policies – March EPSCO
1 st half 2020	Examination and input into the Joint Employment Report and its key messages on issues related to social protection and social inclusion, including the analysis of key employment and social indicators.	

2.2 Multilateral implementation reviews

The SPC will continue its **multilateral surveillance on the implementation of policy reforms to address the Council country-specific recommendations (CSRs)**. It will inform the Council of its views on the social protection and social inclusion aspects of the Commission Country Reports, including the in-depth reviews provided for under art. 5 of Regulation (EU) No 1176/2011. In this context, Member States will have the opportunity to report on past measures but also on intentions for future measures as a form of ex-ante discussion of social policy reforms. It will also follow-up on the implementation of the **social protection aspects of the Eurozone recommendation** in cooperation with the **Employment Committee (EMCO)** and the advisory Committees of the ECOFIN Council.

It will explore ways of further strengthening its working methods and the multilateral nature of the reviews undertaken by the Committee. It will **engage in joint reviews** with other Council advisory committees and the Working Party on Public Health at Senior Level (WPPHSL), where relevant. The Committee will make use, where appropriate, of the results of the peer review programme and successful social policy innovation projects.

	Activities	Deliverables to the Council
1 st half 2020	Multilateral examination of the implementation of the 2019 Council country-specific recommendations in the area of social protection and social inclusion and the relevant issues in the 2020 Commission Country Reports	Horizontal opinion and country-specific conclusions – June EPSCO

2.3 Review of the proposals for Council country-specific recommendations and Eurozone recommendation

The Committee will prepare the Council's adoption of the **2020 country-specific recommendations** by reviewing all Commission proposals for country-specific recommendations falling under its Treaty-based competence on issues related to social protection and social inclusion. In its assessment, it will use the conclusions of the multilateral implementation reviews carried out in the first half of the year. The SPC will adopt joint opinions with other Committees on all recommendations falling under joint competence. It will examine in the second half of the year any social protection issues which may be included in the **Commission proposal for a Eurozone recommendation**, in cooperation with the Employment Committee (EMCO) and the advisory Committees of the ECOFIN Council, and contribute to the preparation of the EPSCO views.

	Activities	Deliverables to the Council
1 st half 2020	Country-specific opinions to the Council on the 2020 Commission proposals for Council recommendations on the National Reform Programmes	Country-specific opinions – June EPSCO
2 nd half 2020	Examine social protection issues included in the Commission proposal for a Eurozone recommendation	Contribution on social protection parts of Eurozone recommendation 2021 – December 2020 EPSCO

2.4 Monitoring of the social situation and developments in social protection policies

The SPC will continue its **monitoring of the social situation in the EU**, including the progress towards the Europe 2020 poverty and social exclusion target and the development of social protection policies as per its Treaty mandate. , Based on its annual report, the Committee will propose for endorsement by the **October EPSCO key messages** on the main policy priorities in the area of social protection and social inclusion in view of the Commission's preparatory work for the **2021 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy**. An intermediate update of the SPPM dashboard will be produced by spring 2020, to take account of the availability of the full set of results from EU-SILC 2018.

	Activities	Deliverables to the Council
2 nd half 2020	Preparation of an annual report on the social situation in the EU and overview of social protection reforms on the basis of the Social Protection Performance Monitor (SPPM) and reporting by Member States	Report + Main messages on the social situation and key social policy priorities as input to the preparation of the 2021 Annual Growth Survey – October EPSCO

2.5 Follow-up from the joint SPC-EMCO assessment of the Europe 2020 Strategy

As a follow-up from its joint work with EMCO on the assessment of the Europe 2020 Strategy, the SPC will **reflect on how to adjust its working methods, reporting tools, and monitoring framework(s)** and how to achieve a wider dissemination of the Committee's outputs, which should also be streamlined. In addition, the SPC will stand ready to **reflect on a possible successor strategy**, with a view to providing its contribution to the debate on the future of social Europe post-2020. This will entail *inter alia* taking part in the broad discussion aimed at building an Action Plan for the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and launched by the Commission in its Communication on building a strong social Europe for just transitions²

3. Social OMC

3.1 Thematic work

The SPC will continue its thematic work on relevant issues related to social inclusion, pensions, health and long-term care. This will include carrying out thematic reviews, policy debates and undertaking peer reviews on specific topics. In the selection of thematic areas for discussion, it will take into account the policy priorities of the Council, the Commission and the Croatian and German Presidencies, which include thematic work **on social policy responses to demographic change (HR), implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (HR) and minimum income in the context of upward convergence (DE)**, as well as **minimum standards for work in the platform economy (DE)**. Building on successful Committees' previous joint efforts, the SPC will continue its work in the field of **inequality** and will follow-up on the efforts to implement the **Access to Social Protection Recommendation** in ISG and in the related Mutual learning activities.

² <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1487&furtherNews=yes&newsId=9524>

	Activities	Deliverables to the Council
1 st half 2019	Thematic review on social policy responses to demographic change	Input for the June EPSCO meeting
2 nd half 2019	Thematic review on minimum income in the context of upward convergence	Input for the December EPSCO meeting

To deepen its work on ageing-related issues in social protection, the SPC in close cooperation with the European Commission will start the preparation of two major reports for publication in 2021. The **2021 Pension adequacy report (PAR)** will provide a continuity to the past SPC-EC work in pension policy surveillance. The **2021 Long-term care report (LTCR)** will follow up from the 2014 joint SPC-EC work on long-term care needs in an ageing society.

3.2 Thematic social reporting

By the end of June, SPC members will submit their inputs for the annual social reporting under the *thematic*³ module whose topic will be decided in March. The underlying questionnaire will be approved by the SPC in April. In order to ensure comparability and the possibility of comprehensive analysis, all Member States will be requested to contribute.

3.3 Use of benchmarking frameworks and indicators

The SPC will continue to work, through its indicator Subgroup (SPC ISG) and in cooperation with the European Commission, on the development of benchmarking frameworks in the area of social protection and social inclusion, in line with the common approach agreed as concerns the use of benchmarking in the context of EPSCO work. In 2020, the Committee will finalise its work on developing a benchmarking framework on *pension adequacy*, and start the development of a framework on *childcare and support to children*.

Outside of the development of benchmarking frameworks, the SPC will continue improving its indicator frameworks in the areas of *inequalities, access to healthcare, long-term care and work-life balance policies* (jointly with EMCO's Indicator Group). The SPC will also work on developing a *monitoring framework on Access to Social Protection*.

4. Input from the SPC working groups

The SPC ad hoc **Pensions Adequacy working group (WG PA)** and **Long-term Care working group (WG LTC)** will be active in 2020 and will work on the preparation of the 2021 Pension Adequacy and Long-term Care Reports. The groups will utilize the expertise of the SPC Indicators' Sub-Group (ISG) and coordinate, where appropriate, with the EPC Working Group on Ageing Populations and Sustainability (WG AGE).

³ On the SPC meeting from 1 December 2017, the SPC took a decision to discontinue the permanent module of the Social Reporting, as of 2018. Member States are invited to report on the social policy aspects in their respective National Reform Programmes

The permanent **SPC Indicators' Sub-Group** will continue to provide its support to the SPC and will focus its work during 2020 on the following issues: follow-up to the assessment of the Europe 2020 Strategy as directed by the SPC - especially concerning the review of the monitoring framework(s), monitoring and analysis of the 2020 poverty and social exclusion headline target, following work on improving the timeliness of social indicators and producing the SPPM results and related analysis of the social situation in the EU for the SPC Annual Report.

The ISG will also continue working on the identification and development of indicators to assess inequality in its key dimensions and the reconciliation of private and professional lives (jointly with EMCO's indicator group). It will further develop its monitoring frameworks for health and long-term care, establish a monitoring framework for the Council Recommendation on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed, and work on a benchmarking framework for childcare and support to children.

A full overview of ISG activities is presented in the 2020 ISG work programme. (Annex 2)

5. Working methods and relations with other Committees

In its cooperation with other policy Committees (EMCO, EPC, EFC, Education Committee) and with the Working Party on Public Health at Senior Level (WPPHSL), the SPC will be guided by Council Decision (EU) 2015/773 establishing the SPC, the European Council Conclusions of 24-15 October 2013 calling for more work to strengthen cooperation between the various Council configurations in order to ensure consistency of the economic, employment and social policies in line with the common EU objectives, as well as by the EPSCO Council Conclusions on Economy of Well-being, which call on the SPC to continue fostering a close cooperation with other Council Committees and preparatory bodies. This may include joint meetings, preparation of joint papers, as well as coordination of the views on cross-cutting policy issues.

6. Cooperation with the EU social partners' organizations and social NGOs

SPC will continue its practice, consolidated in previous years, on consultation with social partners and social NGOs at key moments in the European Semester and in relation to the Committee's thematic work.

Annex 1: Tentative calendar of SPC meetings for 2020

Date	Format
January (27-28)	SPC-EMCO
February (17)	SPC
19 March	EPSCO (BE)
March (23-24)	SPC in HR
March-April (30-31/03, 1-2/04)	SPC (MIRs on day 1-3) SPC-EMCO (MLS/MIRs on day 4)
27-28 April	EPSCO (HR)
May	SPC
May (end of)	SPC-EMCO-EPC
11 June	EPSCO (LU)
June (29-30)	SPC
16-17 July	EPSCO (DE)
September (14-15)	SPC in DE
October (29-30)	SPC
November (end of)	SPC-EMCO

Note: this is an initial indication for possible meeting dates and subjects. The exact planning and duration of the meetings will depend on room availability and topics selected and will be confirmed approximately a month before the meeting date(s)

Annex 2: 2020 Work programme of the SPC Indicator's Subgroup (ISG)

1. Introduction

The ISG work programme for 2020 will be focused on contributing actively to delivering on the 2020 SPC priorities, including on Europe 2020 (and work on any possible future strategy targets/tools/indicators) and the European Semester, the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR), and on possible priorities arising from the Commission Work Programme 2020. It will also contribute as necessary to in-depth thematic work in the context of the social OMC.

In function of these priorities and on-going activities, the work of the ISG will focus on the main areas listed below. The impact of possible new activities that the SPC decides to undertake in the course of 2020, such as those arising from the 2019-2024 Strategic Agenda of the European Council and from the European Commission President-elect's political guidelines, will be assessed 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 2020.

2. Europe 2020 and the European Semester

➤ Europe 2020 and EU headline poverty and social exclusion target

Pending direction from the SPC, 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 identified regarding the Committees' monitoring and reporting frameworks. It also stands ready to contribute to any work on the social aspects of a possible future strategy, taking into account the UN 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, the planned Action plan on the European Pillar of Social Rights and the European Council's new strategic agenda for the EU for the period 2019-2024.

The ISG will continue its monitoring and analysis of the 2020 poverty and social exclusion headline target, including examining the scope for improvement of the (quasi-)jobless household indicator and better addressing the gender dimension.

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), including methodological issues, and reflect on the scope to simplify and consolidate the existing framework and tools and improve the consistency in the use of indicators. It will further examine how the monitoring framework can be adapted to include more policy lever indicators and better reflect the social investment dimension of welfare systems, and more generally, review improvements to the timeliness of indicators. Specific activities in this area will include:

○ **Review of the EPSR scoreboard in relation to existing SPC monitoring tools**

The ISG will reflect on the role of the EPSR scoreboard in relation to the other existing monitoring tools (and vice-versa), including methodological issues.

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

The ISG will follow Eurostat work on improving the timeliness of social indicators and on flash estimates of key income-based indicators, in view of including these as appropriate in SPC-ISG monitoring and related tools.

○ **Joint Assessment Framework (JAF)**

The ISG will further review the Joint Assessment Framework together with the EMCO Indicators Group and the European Commission. The ISG will also follow assessments of the JAF methodology in view of its improvement and further development. It will also examine practical ways to make results more widely available, including to external users.

○ **Benchmarking**

The ISG will support further work on benchmarking as tasked by the SPC. In particular, it will review the feasibility of establishing a benchmarking framework on childcare and support to children, and complete the work on a benchmarking framework for pensions adequacy.

○ **Assessing social impact of EU policies**

The ISG will follow developments in the field of assessing the social impact of EU policies, including the Commission methodology for assessing the social impact of economic adjustment programmes 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 and monetise the social impacts by reviewing possibilities to improve availability, accessibility and timeliness of evidence including administrative data.

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 content of the annual report, as well as the methodology for identifying the Key Social Challenges (KSCs) and Good Social Outcomes (GSOs). It will also continue collecting statistics derived from administrative data on benefit recipients in view of maintaining the current database developed in the context of the monitoring of the social impact during and following the crisis.

➤ Social Protection Performance Monitor (SPPM)

In this context, the ISG will also continue work on improving and updating the Social Protection Performance Monitor, especially regarding the set of key social indicators in view of recent statistical developments and ISG adoption of new indicators. An update of the SPPM dashboard based on the complete set of EU-SILC 2018 data will be produced by spring 2020.

Planned deliverables for 2020

Reports

- Contribution 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

- Improvement to and updating of the Social Protection Performance Monitor

4. Thematic work

➤ Social inclusion

- **Inequality**

The ISG will continue to review available indicators to assess inequality in its key dimensions, with a focus in 2020 on indicators on the inequality of opportunities, in order to identify potential improvements of such indicators for monitoring inequalities and make the monitoring framework more comprehensive.

- **Quasi-joblessness indicator**

The ISG will finalise current work on improving the indicator on quasi-jobless households and examine possible complementary indicators such as persistent low work intensity.

- **Review of Material and Social Deprivation (MSD) Indicator**

The ISG will explore options for addressing the severity of MSD.

- **Active inclusion indicators**

The ISG will follow recent work on the OECD Tax-Benefit model, the pilot project on developing a strictness indicator of activation requirements for income support beneficiaries, and EUROMOD. It will further review the links of the indicator of the impact of social transfers (excluding pensions) on poverty reduction with economic and policy developments.

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.

- **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). It will also explore the possibility of 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 a view to further development of indicators and improving the availability of data in this area. The ISG will also follow work monitoring energy poverty.

➤ **Health**

The ISG will support the further development of the OMC health work stream and conduct further work on the JAF Health framework of indicators, including considering the feasibility of new indicators to measure access to healthcare.

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 WPPH working group on Health System Performance Assessment.

➤ **Long term care**

The ISG will support the preparation of the 2021 Long-term Care Report and the further development of the OMC long-term care work stream. It will further develop the monitoring framework for LTC, including by identifying indicators that can be commonly used in the context of the OMC on long-term care. The monitoring framework will aim at including indicators on access, quality, affordability and sustainability of long-term care. The work on the quality of long-term care will be closely aligned with the work strand on common methodology and policy indicators for measuring the quality of social services.

➤ **Pensions**

The ISG will support the preparation of the 2021 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 2021 Pension Adequacy Report.

➤ **Reconciliation of private and professional life**

The ISG, in coordination with the EMCO IG, will discuss proposals developed in a joint SPC-ISG – EMCO-IG sub-working group for enhancing comparative EU-level data on the reconciliation of private and professional lives, and cooperate with EU agencies that have relevant indicators in this area. In particular, the group will propose EU-level indicators to measure the take-up and duration etc. of paternity, parental leave and carers' leave. It will also collect information on what data is available on flexible working arrangements covered in the Directive.

➤ **Access to social protection**

Following up on the recently adopted Council Recommendation on access to social protection, the ISG will explore data/indicators needed to establish a monitoring framework to assess access to social protection for workers and the self-employed, including people in new forms of employment contracts or new forms of work.

➤ **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 2020

Thematic work

- Adoption of new indicators on inequality of opportunity to make the monitoring framework in the area more comprehensive
- EU-level indicators to measure the take-up and duration of paternity, parental and carers' leave
- Review of the current monitoring framework in view of simplification and consolidation
- Further development of the monitoring frameworks for LTC and health
- Establishment of a monitoring framework for the Recommendation on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed
- Proposal to the SPC on the key indicators, including the list of Theoretical Replacement Rate cases, to be used in the 2021 Pension Adequacy Report and a progress report to SPC on further developments on the pension adequacy benchmarking

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

The ISG will follow up on issues identified in the 2018 seminar on ISG monitoring capacities. In particular, the ISG will explore how to meet the need to include more contextual information (such as on the types of national social protection systems) in order to help interpret better the available indicators. It will also explore the use of alternative data sources to the existing surveys mainly used for social indicators, such as administrative data. It will review and enhance its indicators where necessary on the basis of new data or analysis.

In the course of 2020, 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 being carried out under Net-SILC3.

The ISG will follow and advise the work Eurostat is carrying out in compiling and analysing existing data so as to better describe the joint distributions of income, 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 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 and consult 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.

It will also monitor external research of potential interest for ISG work, especially through cooperation with contacts with several services of the Commission, and collaborate with academics and international organizations developing research relevant to the activities of the group.

Provisional schedule of topics per ISG meeting in 2020

ISG Meetings dates 2020	Provisional agenda items
22-23 January	<p>Joint meeting with EMCO IG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Joint Employment Report • Regional dimension of EPSR scoreboard - reliability and relevance of regional breakdowns • Update on the work of the WG on work-life balance indicators • Final EUROFOUND report on “Upward Convergence in Europe: employment and socio-economic dimension” <p>LTC indicators</p> <p>Update of SPPM dashboard results (EU-SILC 2018)</p> <p>Improvement of the (quasi-)jobless household indicator</p> <p>Pension Adequacy Report indicators, including on the social fairness of pensions</p> <p>Monitoring framework to assess access to social protection for workers and the self-employed</p> <p>Benchmarking childcare and support to children</p> <p>State of Health Companion Report and Country Profiles - challenges in measuring access to healthcare</p>
4-5 March	<p>Europe 2020 assessment follow up – activities for 2020</p> <p>SPC annual report - outline and data issues, including review of technical content and country profiles</p> <p>LTC indicators</p> <p>Review of methodology for identifying Key Social Challenges (KSCs) and Good Social Outcomes (GSOs)</p> <p>Contextual information to support the use of indicators</p> <p>Inequality of opportunity indicators</p> <p>Further development of JAF Health</p>

	<p>Monitoring framework to assess access to social protection for workers and the self-employed</p> <p>Support in preparation of the 2021 Pension Adequacy Report</p>
13-14 May	<p>Review of current social monitoring framework, including methodological issues and the scope to simplify and consolidate</p> <p>Which documents in the ISG minutes database to allow wider access to</p> <p>Practical ways to make JAF results more widely available, including to the public</p> <p>Monitoring framework to assess access to social protection for workers and the self-employed</p> <p>Indicators of the severity of Material and Social Deprivation (MSD)</p> <p>LTC indicators</p> <p>Benchmarking framework on childcare and support to children</p> <p>Support in preparation of the 2021 Pension Adequacy Report</p> <p>WLB indicators (update on progress)</p>
24-25 June	<p>Monitoring framework to assess access to social protection for workers and the self-employed</p> <p>Inequality of opportunity indicators</p> <p>Benchmarking framework on childcare and support to children</p> <p>SPC annual report preparation (results from SPPM dashboard update, key social challenges exercise)</p> <p>Update on ESSPROS developments</p> <p>DG RTD on research projects in the social field</p>
8 September	<p>SPC annual report (finalisation)</p> <p>Monitoring framework to assess access to social protection for workers and the self-employed – finalisation</p>

	<p>LTC indicators</p> <p>Presentation of findings from 2020 ESDE review</p> <p>Pensions Adequacy Report – initial review of computed theoretical replacement rates</p> <p>WLB indicators - finalisation</p>
21-22 October	<p>Eurostat update on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - work on joint distributions of income, consumption and wealth and the statistical links between micro and macro perspectives - progress on timelier production of EU-SILC and flash estimates/nowcasting of social indicators <p>LTC indicators</p> <p>Homelessness and housing exclusion, Housing conditions – review of results of 2018 SILC ad-hoc module variables on housing difficulties</p> <p>Review of indicators for monitoring of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</p> <p>Pensions Adequacy Report – final review and adoption of computed theoretical replacement rates</p> <p>2021 ISG Work Programme</p>
8-9 December	<p>Joint meeting with EMCO IG (Draft JER etc.)</p> <p>2021 ISG Work programme</p> <p>Indicators on access to quality social services</p> <p>Annual update by Eurostat on EU-SILC developments</p>