



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 28 February 2019
(OR. en)

6986/19

SOC 175
EMPL 135
DIGIT 46

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

Subject: Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESSI): state of play
- Information from the Commission

Delegations will find in the Annex a note from the Commission on the above subject, with a view to the meeting of the Council (EPSCO) on 15 March 2019 (Any Other Business item).

Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESSI): state of play**Information from the Commission**

The Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESSI) is an IT system that helps social security institutions across the EU exchange information more rapidly and securely. At the moment most exchanges are paper-based: these are going to be replaced by electronic exchanges in the coming months, as Member States progress with connecting to EESSI.

EESSI involves 32 European Countries (EU28 plus Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland). It will connect around 15,000 social security institutions in Europe, and replace the paper forms currently used for communication between administrations regarding citizens covered by the Regulations on social security coordination.

EESSI will make it easier to combat fraud and errors, as national social security institutions will use standardised electronic documents in their own language, ensuring that the data they exchange is correct and complete. The new tool will also benefit citizens who have lived and worked in several of the participating countries, and who will see their social security benefits calculated quicker and more efficiently.

All communication between national institutions on cross-border social security files will eventually take place through EESSI: social security institutions will exchange structured electronic documents and follow commonly agreed procedures. These documents will be routed through EESSI to the correct destination in another Member State.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF EESSI

The Commission, with input from Member States, developed EESSI. Since 2014, the project progressed with the development of the IT solution by the services of the Commission in close cooperation with Member States.

The Commission made the central EESSI system available to Member States in July 2017. Following this, Member States have two years to finalise their national implementation of EESSI and to connect their social security institutions to the cross-border electronic exchanges.

The Members States have committed to finalise their national implementation of EESSI by July 2019.

The Commission is heavily involved in developing the EESSI IT system and business solutions and in supporting and coordinating the countries' efforts in their national implementation of the project.

The first exchange of an electronic message regarding a concrete case involving the social security situation of citizens, between Slovenia and Austria, took place on 10 January 2019. It was an extremely important achievement in the EESSI project, following years of intense work and efforts.

NEXT STEPS

Based on information provided by the countries in January 2019, around 60% of the 32 countries will be fully ready in July 2019, and around 20% will need a few more months to complete fully their national implementation by the end of 2019. However, the remaining 20% of the countries plan to finish their national implementation after the end of 2019. The Commission is discussing measures to support earlier national implementation of countries that are currently expecting delays, including through engaging in bilateral contacts at different levels, with the aim of better understanding problems at national level and contributing to solve them. A swift EESSI implementation is very important as the countries that will be ready by July 2019 will have to maintain parallel paper and electronic exchanges until all participating countries have finished their national implementation of EESSI.

The Commission is also currently refining its analysis on the costs and need for resources of the project in coming years, to support informed strategic decisions on the future management of EESSI.

The coming months will be of intensive work for both the countries and the Commission, as progressively the countries will switch from paper to electronic exchanges.