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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Work Programme of the Social Protection Committee 2022

Delegations will find attached the 2022 Work Programme of the Social Protection Committee and its permanent and temporary subgroups, as adopted in accordance with the Committee's rules of procedure, with a view to the meeting of the EPSCO Council on 14 March 2022 (Any Other Business item).



2022 SPC Work Programme

- Final -

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 (EPSCO), 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 The 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 on its own initiative as per Article 2(1c) of the Council Decision 2015/773, establishing the Committee. In addition, the Committee is tasked² to contribute to all aspects of the European Semester within its field of competence and report on them to the Council.

1. Priorities for SPC work in 2022

The 2022 SPC work programme takes into account the policy priorities of the Council of the European Union, the European Commission and the forthcoming French and Czech Presidencies. It focuses on three main interlinked areas of policy work, which also support the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and its Action Plan. The first area is related to the European Semester, the second is focused on thematic in-depth work, while the third is related to the Committee's monitoring and reporting activities. In delivering on these areas, the Committee will continue to make full use of the opportunities provided by the social open method of coordination, including peer reviews and other mutual learning activities.

¹ Art. 160 TFEU

² Council decision (EU) 2015/773, article 2b

2. The European Semester

2.1 Contribution to the EPSCO input for the Spring European Council

The 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 **2022 Autumn Package**. 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)**.

The SPC, in cooperation with the **Employment Committee (EMCO)**, will also discuss the proposal made by Belgium and Spain during the October 2021 EPSCO for the introduction of a **Social Imbalances Procedure** in the European Semester. The SPC stands ready to report on the relevant **national targets**, set by the Member States to achieve the new EU 2030 targets, put forward **under the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan**.

The SPC would also follow the developments related to the implementation of the **Recovery and Resilience Facility**. The SPC will seek cooperation with EMCO and the **Economic Policy Committee (EPC)** on these matters whenever relevant.

	Activities	Deliverables to the Council
1 st half 2022	Reaction to the 2022 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy (ASGS) and the Joint Employment Report (JER), offering an analysis of the relevant social protection and social inclusion issues	The SPC, together with the Employment Committee (EMCO), will prepare the draft Council Conclusions on the 2022 ASGS and JER: political guidance on employment and social /policies – March EPSCO
1 st half 2022	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.	For the March EPSCO
1 st half 2022	Discussion of the proposal made by Belgium and Spain to establish a Social Imbalances Procedure in the European Semester.	For the March/June EPSCO
1 st half 2022	Report on the relevant national targets, submitted by the Member States, under the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan	For the June EPSCO

2.2 Multilateral implementation reviews

The SPC will continue its **multilateral surveillance on the implementation of structural reforms in the Member States**, including those addressing the Council country-specific recommendations (CSRs) of 2020 and 2019, where relevant. In this context, Member States will have the opportunity to report on the measures adopted, but also on planned measures, as a form of ex-ante discussion of social policy reforms. The Committee will inform the Council of its views in each of the thematic areas of Committee competence.

To carry out this task, the SPC will apply the learnings from the 2021 cycle of the European Semester, where a **stronger horizontal element** was introduced. The Committee 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 relevant social policy innovation projects.

It will also follow-up on the implementation of the **social protection aspects of the Euro area recommendation** in cooperation with the **Employment Committee (EMCO)** and the advisory Committees of the ECOFIN Council

	Activities	Deliverables to the Council
1st half 2022	Multilateral examination, complemented by further thematic discussion, of the implementation of structural reforms in the Member States, including – where relevant - the 2020 and 2019 Council country-specific recommendations in the areas under SPC competence	Horizontal opinion and country-specific conclusions for the June EPSCO

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

The Committee will prepare the Council's adoption of the **2022 country-specific recommendations** by reviewing all Commission proposals for country-specific recommendations, falling under SPC competence. In its assessment, the Committee will use the conclusions of the multilateral implementation reviews, to be 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 and will contribute to the preparation of the EPSCO view.

In the second half of the year, the SPC will examine any social protection issues, which may be included in the **Commission proposal for a Euro area recommendation**.

It will engage in these exercises in cooperation with the **Employment Committee (EMCO)** and the advisory Committees of the ECOFIN Council.

	Activities	Deliverables to the Council
1 st half 2022	Cooperation with other Committees on 2022 CSRs of common interest	Horizontal opinion and country-specific conclusions for the June EPSCO
2 nd half 2022	Examine social protection and social inclusion issues included in the Commission proposal for a Euro area recommendation	Contribution on social protection and social inclusion parts of the 2023 Euro area recommendation– December 2022 EPSCO

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

Through its annual report, the SPC will continue its **monitoring of the social situation in the EU and of the development of social protection policies** as per its Treaty mandate. The Committee will seek to integrate in its reporting an assessment on the progress towards the **European and national poverty and social exclusion targets introduced with the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan (EPSR AP)**.

Based on the 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 **2023 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy**. An intermediate update of the SPPM dashboard will be produced by spring 2022, to take into account the availability of the full set of results from EU-SILC 2020.

	Activities	Deliverables to the Council
2 nd half 2022	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 and Key messages on the social situation and the main social policy priorities as input to the preparation of the 2023 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy – October EPSCO

3. In-depth Thematic Work

The SPC will continue its thematic work on priority issues related to social inclusion and social protection, pensions, health and long-term care. This will include carrying out thematic reviews, policy debates and mutual learning activities. In the selection of thematic areas for discussion, it will take into account the policy priorities of the Council, the Commission and the French and Czech Presidencies.

	Activities	Deliverables to the Council
March 2022	Thematic review on access to rights for vulnerable groups and the problem of non-take-up, in the context of the digital transition	Input for the June EPSCO meeting
September 2022	Thematic review on long-term care, with focus on home care and community-based services	Input for the December EPSCO meeting

The SPC Indicator Sub-group (ISG), will prepare by May 2022 a report to analyse and review the progress achieved in the **development of minimum income protection** in the Member States for SPC discussion and adoption.

In addition, preparations for the development of the **2024 edition of the Pension Adequacy Report (PAR)** will necessitate setting-up an ad hoc working group (towards the end of 2022), which will be tasked to prepare (jointly with the European Commission) the draft PAR³.

Timing	Activity	Deliverables to the Council
1 st half 2022	Finalisation of the 2022 Minimum Income Report	Key messages (2022)
2 nd half 2022	Preparatory work for the development of the 2024 Pension Adequacy Report	Key conclusions (2024)

The Committee will follow relevant developments and may provide views on policy initiatives and/ or implementation milestones related to ***Access to essential services; Access to social protection for workers and the self-employed; Action Plan on the Social Economy; Distributional impact assessment; European Care Strategy; European Child Guarantee; European Green Deal; Homelessness and housing exclusion; Labour and social conditions of platform workers; Mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities.*** The SPC will also have exchanges with the **High Level Group on the Future of Social Protection and Welfare States in Europe.**

³ The start of the preparatory work for the next **Long-term Care Report (LTCR)** would be organised in such a way as to maximise synergies with the monitoring and reporting arrangements envisaged for in the forthcoming Long-Term Care initiative.

Mutual learning activities will include peer reviews and other mutual learning events. Building on successful Committees' previous joint efforts, the SPC will continue its work in the field of **inequality**, including on the analysis of the distributional impact of reforms. In this context, following the October 2021 conference on inequalities, follow up mutual learning events will be organised on distributional impact assessment.

3.2 Thematic social reporting

Every year, the SPC Members engage in thematic social reporting on a topic chosen according to the current social policy priorities.

For 2022, the focus of Social Reporting in the SPC will be dedicated to collecting information about the practice of **distributional impact assessment (DIA)** across the Member States. The evidence gathered will be used as background for a planned exchange on the subject in the first half of the year, for further mutual learning activities, as well as inclusion in the SPC Annual Report. This exchange will also serve to inform the Commission's initiative on providing guidance to Member States on enhancing the ex-ante use of DIA in order to better take account of the impact of reforms and investments on the income of different groups, as announced in the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan.

4. Monitoring activities

The SPC will continue, through its indicator Subgroup (SPC ISG), working on the identification and development of indicators to monitor the social situation and the development of social protection policies in the Member States and the Union.

In 2022 and in cooperation with the EMCO, the SPC will **review the current monitoring frameworks** (including the EPSR scoreboard, SPPM, JAF) in view of updating them to the EPSR Action Plan context and its targets for 2030, as well as simplifying and consolidating them.

The Committee will continue its work 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.

Beyond its work on benchmarking, the SPC, through its ISG, will also seek to:

- Complete its monitoring framework for **Long-term care**;
- Develop a monitoring framework for the recently adopted **European Child Guarantee Recommendation**.
- Further develop the monitoring framework for the **Recommendation on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed**
- In the areas of **pensions**, develop key indicators, including the list of Theoretical Replacement Rate cases, to be used in the 2024 Pension Adequacy Report and, as necessary, in the next Long-Term Care Report.

In addition, the SPC will continue improving its indicator frameworks in the areas of **active inclusion, inequalities, energy poverty, situation of persons with disabilities, homelessness and housing exclusion, long-term care**. The Committee will also follow analytical work on **access to healthcare, social resilience** (including the resilience of Social Protection systems) and work on social indicators for monitoring of the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**.

4. Input from the SPC working groups

The permanent SPC **Indicators' Sub-Group (ISG)** will continue to provide support to the SPC, especially in its monitoring activities (development of **indicators**, as well as **benchmarking and monitoring frameworks** as highlighted above). The 2022 ISG Work programme Annexed to this document. The **Minimum Income Network Group (MINET)** will continue its mutual learning activities as regards minimum income policies and contribute to the preparation of the joint SPC-Commission report on minimum income. Towards the end of 2022, the SPC will re-instate its ad-hoc **Working Group on Pension Adequacy (WGPA)** in preparation for the development of the 2024 edition of the SPC Pension Adequacy Report (PAR).

5. Working methods and relations with other Committees and advisory bodies

In light of the continued uncertainties with regards to the travel and meeting arrangements under COVID-19, the **2022 Committee meetings will initially be held virtually**. Physical meetings, which continue to be seen as enabling much richer and more interactive discussions, **will be resumed as soon as it is deemed safe and feasible under relevant national restrictions**.

The SPC will monitor the progress of its work under the current restrictions and, **if necessary, adapt its work-programme in the course of 2022**.

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 the Council Decision (EU) 2015/773 establishing the SPC, the **European Council** Conclusions of 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.

The SPC is also seeking to develop co-operation with the newly established **European Platform on Combatting Homelessness**, with the **European Disability Platform** and with the **High Level Group on the future of social protection and of the welfare state in the EU**.

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

In delivering on its work programme, the SPC will seek to continue its co-operation with EU-level social partners and social NGOs.

2022 ISG Work Programme

1. Introduction

The work programme of the Indicators Sub-Group (ISG) of the Social Protection Committee (SPC) for 2022 will focus on contributing to delivering on the 2022 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 2022. 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 measuring the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic using the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC) as soon as the first harmonised data on this becomes available.

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 2022 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 2022.

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 Europe 2020 Strategy

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 related to the Committees' monitoring and reporting frameworks.

➤ Follow up to the European Pillar of Social Rights and implementation of its Action Plan, including the poverty and social exclusion target for 2030

The ISG stands ready to contribute to relevant aspects related to the implementation of the Action Plan on the European Pillar of Social Rights and the monitoring of progress towards the new poverty and social exclusion target 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 scoreboard, SPPM, JAF, etc.)⁴. It will reflect, jointly with EMCO IG, on the scope to simplify and consolidate the 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:

○ **Reflect 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.

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

Timely estimates of the social situation are essential as was highlighted by the COVID-19 crisis. The ISG will follow Eurostat work on improving the timeliness of social indicators and on flash estimates of key income-based indicators, and will reflect further on the appropriate and systematic use of flash estimates in the EU monitoring framework.

○ **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 assess 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.

○ **Assessing social impact of EU policies**

The ISG will follow developments in the field of assessing the social impact 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

⁴ European Pillar of Social Rights Scoreboard, Social Protection Performance Monitor (SPPM) and Joint Assessment Framework (JAF).

reviewing possibilities to improve availability, accessibility and timeliness of evidence (including administrative data).

Planned deliverables for 2022:

- 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.

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, as well as the methodology for identifying the Key Social Challenges (KSCs) and Good Social Outcomes (GSOs). The ISG will also continue collecting statistics derived from administrative data on benefit recipients and provide analysis and evidence on social aspects of the COVID-19 crisis. When following up this work the ISG will 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 complete set of EU-SILC 2020 data. The impact of the COVID-19 crisis will be reflected in this work.

Regular monitoring of the social situation following the COVID-19 outbreak

The ISG, as necessary and in cooperation with the EMCO Indicators Group, will produce regular updates on the social situation following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, based on the more frequent updates of the benefits recipients data collected via the ISG and possibly continued reporting on the crisis support measures implemented by Member States. Eurostat nowcasts of poverty and income inequality indicators and relevant studies on the social impact of the crisis will also be used as appropriate.

In carrying out its monitoring activities, and given the risk that the timeliness and quality of the usual data collections underpinning social indicators will be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the ISG will take into account Eurostat advice on this and discuss the greater use of nowcasting exercises.

Planned deliverables for 2022

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.
- It will provide regular updates as necessary on developments in the social situation following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Indicators and tools

- Update the Social Protection Performance Monitor

4. Thematic work

➤ **Social inclusion**

• **Inequality**

Following up on the set of indicators agreed to monitor income inequalities and inequalities of opportunities, the ISG will also explore further work in the areas of the evolution of the middle class (i.e. those around the middle of the income distribution), the assessment of the distributional impacts of public policies, the evolution of cross-country inequality as well as the evolution of purchasing power.

➤ **Active inclusion indicators**

The Council Conclusions on minimum incomes invite the Commission and the Committees (SPC with the involvement of EMCO) to prepare periodically a joint report to analyse and review the progress achieved in the development of minimum income protection in the Member States. As mandated by the SPC, the ISG will develop this report, with technical inputs from MINET (Minimum Income Network) and with the support of the Commission services, in line with the agreed report outline and in view of its finalisation in May 2022.

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.

➤ **Child poverty**

The ISG will develop a monitoring framework for the recently adopted European Child Guarantee Recommendation, building on the work carried out for the benchmarking framework on childcare and support to children.

➤ **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), 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 new Platform on Combatting Homelessness. If tasked by the SPC, it may provide support to the monitoring activities foreseen under the Platform.

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

The ISG will follow work on indicators relevant to monitor the social and labour aspects of the just transition towards climate neutrality in view of the Commission initiative for a Council Recommendation in this area, and in particular examine the need for new indicators to address the fairness of the transition.

In this context the ISG will also follow work on energy poverty and be ready to contribute to the monitoring process in this area, which has been given heightened importance following the announcement of a forthcoming Commission proposal for a Social Climate Fund to tackle energy poverty.

➤ **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, reflecting the heightened policy interest in this area and the announcement of a forthcoming European Care Strategy. It will complete the monitoring framework for LTC, including by identifying indicators that can be commonly used in the context of the OMC on long-term care. 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. It will also support as necessary the preparation of the next SPC Long-Term Care report.

➤ **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, including the list of Theoretical Replacement Rate cases, to be used in the 2024 Pension Adequacy Report.

➤ **Reconciliation of private and professional life**

Following the finalisation 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 2022

Thematic work

- Completing the monitoring framework for LTC.
- Further development of the monitoring framework for the Recommendation on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed.
- Development of a monitoring framework for the European Child Guarantee Recommendation.
- Produce by May 2022 a report to analyse and review the progress achieved in the development of minimum income protection in the Member States.
- Proposal to the SPC on the key indicators, including the list of Theoretical Replacement Rate cases, to be used in the 2024 Pension Adequacy Report and, as necessary, in the next Long-Term Care Report.

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

The ISG will explore how to include more contextual information (such as on the types of national social protection systems) in order to help users to better interpret the available indicators. It will also explore the use of alternative data sources that could possibly complement the existing surveys mainly used for social indicators, such as administrative data. It will review and enhance its indicators wherever necessary on the basis of new data or analysis.

In the course of 2022, 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 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 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 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.

The ISG will monitor research of potential interest for ISG work, especially through cooperation with several services of the Commission including the JRC, It will also collaborate with academics and international organizations, such as OECD, developing research relevant for the group.