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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: AOB for the meeting of the EPSCO Council of 10 March 2025:
Social Protection Committee work programme for 2025
- *Information from the SPC chair*

Delegations will find attached the 2025 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 EPSCO Council on 10 March 2025 (Any Other Business item).

2025 Work Programme of the Social Protection Committee

- final -

1. Context

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 to respond to the various 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 coordination¹.

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.² The SPC delivers on this mandate using the social open method of coordination (OMC), covering all major social policy strands: social inclusion and social protection, pensions, health and long-term care. The SPC further uses the OMC tools (peer reviews and mutual learning activities) to promote mutual learning and the sharing of experience and expertise among the Member States.

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.

¹ Article 2 (2b) of Council Decision (EU) 2015/773 establishing the SPC.

² Art. 160 TFEU

Every year, the Committee adopts a Work Programme to define its activities. Accordingly, this document is structured as follows: Section 2 provides the priorities identified for 2025 in accordance with the broader EU political priorities and the specific activities envisaged throughout the year, Section 3 summarises the foreseen deliverables, Section 4 indicates the working methods to be employed and Section 5 highlights the cooperation with other stakeholders. Annex 1 indicates the tentative calendar for 2025, Annex 2 and 3 present the work programme of the Committee's sub-groups and Annex 4 provides an overview of ongoing initiatives potentially in the interest of the SPC. The Work Programme was first discussed on 10 December 2024, consolidated after the submission of written comments, and adopted on 23 January. The Work Programme will be presented by the Chair to the EPSCO Ministers.

To deliver on its mandate and strategic priorities, in 2025 the SPC will be supported by the following subgroups:

- The permanent SPC **Indicators' Sub-Group (ISG)** will continue to provide technical support to the SPC, especially to its monitoring activities (including monitoring of progress towards the 2030 poverty and social exclusion targets, development of **indicators**, as well as **benchmarking and monitoring frameworks**), in accordance with its own work programme (Annex 2).
- The **Minimum Income Network Group (MINET)** will continue following up on policy developments in the field of minimum income through its mutual learning activities and support the delivery of the next joint SPC-COM report, as per its renewed mandate until the end of 2025, in accordance with its own work programme (Annex 3). It may also provide inputs to support the further development of the benchmarking framework on minimum income.

In addition:

- To prepare an SPC-Commission report on pensions and long-term care for publication in 2027, in line with the Key Conclusions of the 2024 Pension Adequacy Report, a **working group on adequate social protection in old age** is to be set up. The group would support the SPC with integrated analysis of policies affecting living standards in old age, in particular pensions and long-term care (LTC), and coordination with fiscal sustainability analysis, as called for in the Council Conclusions on pension adequacy.³ The group's mandate will be discussed in Q2 2025.

2. Policy Framework - Strategic Priorities

The SPC work programme takes into account the **EU Strategic Agenda 2024-2029** adopted by the European Council⁴, **the policy priorities of the forthcoming Polish and Danish Presidencies, the Political Guidelines for the next European Commission 2024-2029**⁵ as well as the **related Commission's annual Work Programme (CWP) that will be adopted on 11 February**. In this context, the SPC will continue focusing on the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, addressing and following up the initiatives included in its current and the new Action Plan announced for 2025, and monitoring the progress towards the 2030 EU and national targets on reduction of poverty and social exclusion⁶.

³ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-10550-2024-INIT/en/pdf>

⁴ At its meeting in Brussels on 27 June 2024, the European Council agreed on an agenda for the EU for the next five years: the "[Strategic agenda 2024-2029](#)" sets the EU's priorities and its strategic orientations for the institutional cycle 2024-2029. As such, it guides the work of the EU institutions.

⁵ On 18 July 2024, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who was elected for a second mandate, presented to the European Parliament her [Political Guidelines for the next European Commission 2024-2029](#).

⁶ The EU headline targets were welcomed by the [European Council on 24-25 June 2021](#), following the [Porto Declaration of 8 May](#). National targets were formulated by the Member States in close cooperation with the European Commission and the national target-setting process was subject of a [joint EMCO-SPC opinion](#) in 2022 (9520/22).

In view of the forthcoming **new European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan** in 2025 and the **proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034**, the Committee will **stand ready to provide input to the Commission, including by building on its previous strategic reflections, such as the *Opinion on the future EU policy priorities for the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights*⁷**, endorsed by the Council in March 2024.

In general, the Committee activities will focus 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, 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. In addition, the Committee will look into and discuss - where appropriate - the use of EU funds contributing to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, in particular through the implementation of the European Social Fund+ (ESF+), the Social Climate Fund, the Technical Support Instrument, the EU4Health Programme and the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

2.1 Multiannual outlook

Based on the main references mentioned above for setting policy priorities, in particular the European Pillar of Social Rights, the SPC follows up on various policy initiatives, with the subsequent time schedule. A table in annex 4 lists ongoing initiatives and related actions, which are relevant for SPC work in the coming years. The list is not exhaustive and does not represent equivalent activities or commitments for the SPC across the various areas.

⁷ The [EMCO-SPC Opinion on the future EU policy priorities for the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights](#) was endorsed at the EPSCO Council meeting of 11 March 2024.

In the next few years, the SPC will be focusing on the monitoring and exchange of practices related to certain initiatives, identified as main priorities, and falling under the scope of its core tasks.

- a) The Committee will fulfil its commitments under the European Semester by delivering on the respective activities in contributing to all aspects of the European Semester within its field of competence and providing support through various opinions and reports to the Council.
- b) In terms of in-depth thematic work, the Committee will focus on the following areas:

Table 1

2025	<p>Follow up the Council recommendation on minimum income, ensuring active inclusion – joint SPC-EC report to the Council</p> <p>Contribution to the preparation of the Anti -poverty strategy</p> <p>Contribution to the preparation of the new EPSR Action Plan</p> <p>Follow up the Council Recommendations on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality</p> <p>Follow up the implementation of the Commission Action Plan on Labour and skills shortages</p> <p>Follow up the implementation of the Council recommendation on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed – thematic social reporting</p> <p>Follow up the implementation of the Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-30</p> <p>Contribution to the mid-term review of the Social economy action plan</p>
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2026	Follow up on the implementation of the European Child Guarantee – report to the Council
2027	<p>Adequate social protection in old age covering pensions and long-term care - joint SPC-EC report(s) (TBC)</p> <p>Follow up Council Recommendations on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality</p> <p>Contributing to the Report on the implementation of the Council recommendation on developing social economy framework conditions</p>
2028	Follow up the Council recommendation on minimum income, ensuring active inclusion – joint SPC-EC report to the Council

In addition, the priorities of the upcoming presidencies will be considered, with the schedule of presidencies as follows:

1/2025 Poland	2/2025 Denmark
1/2026 Cyprus	2/2026 Ireland
1/2027 Lithuania	2/2027 Greece
1/2028 Italy	2/2028 Latvia

2.2 Areas for SPC work in 2025

In general, the Committee activities will focus on three main areas of policy work, as mentioned above, namely the 1) European Semester, 2) the thematic in-depth work and 3) monitoring and reporting activities. The SPC will monitor the progress of its work and, if necessary, consider **possible adaptations to its work-programme in the course of 2025.**

2.2.1 The European Semester

The European Semester is the main framework for integrated surveillance and coordination of economic and employment policies across the European Union. Since its introduction in 2011, it has become a well-established forum for discussing Member States' fiscal, economic, employment and social policy challenges under a common annual timeline. As part of its mandate⁸, the **Social Protection Committee** contributes to all aspects of the European Semester⁹ within its field of competence and provides support through various opinions and reports on them to the Council. To this end, the SPC will engage in the following activities in the course of 2025.

2.2.1.1 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 **2025 Autumn Package**¹⁰. It will also take part in any negotiations on the monitoring framework(s), in particular **the Social Scoreboard** and/or to the **Joint Assessment Framework (JAF)**.

⁸ Council decision (EU) 2015/773, article 2b

⁹ See Regulation (EU) 2024/1263 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2024 on the effective coordination of economic policies and on multilateral budgetary surveillance and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1466/97 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1263>

¹⁰ [2025 European Semester: Autumn package - European Commission](#)

	Activities	Deliverables to the Council
1 st half 2025	Reaction to the 2025 Autumn Package including 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 draft Council Conclusions : political guidance on employment and social policies for Council adoption. <i>March EPSCO</i>
1 st half 2025	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.	Adoption of the final Joint Employment Report <i>March EPSCO</i>
1 st half 2025	Examination of the Commission's proposal for a 2025 Recommendation on the economic policy of the Euro Area	The SPC, together with the Employment Committee (EMCO), will prepare proposal for the employment and social aspects of the 2025 Recommendation on the economic policy of the Euro Area for Council approval. <i>March EPSCO</i>

2.2.1.2 Multilateral implementation reviews (MIRs)

The SPC will continue its multilateral surveillance on the implementation of structural reforms in the Member States in the context of the European Semester.

To carry out this task, the Committee will engage in **country-specific reviews** of the relevant 2024 country-specific recommendations (CSRs).

In line with the practices from past years, the SPC will engage in **joint reviews with EMCO** on the CSRs of common interest and will continue seeking **cooperation with the Economic Policy Committee (EPC)** on these matters whenever relevant. Continuing the practice of the 2024 pilot, country specific reviews for Member States identified for a second stage analysis under the Social Convergence Framework will be organised jointly with EMCO, also covering the assessment of CSRs addressed to those countries. The Committee will also make use, where appropriate, of the results of the peer review programme and relevant social policy innovation projects to enhance the multilateral nature of the exercise.

The SPC will also follow the developments related to the **Recovery and Resilience Facility**, given its prominent role in the implementation of social policies in the Member States.¹¹ To this end, in the context of the SPC MIR reviews, Member States with relevant reforms, included in their National Reform and Resilience Plans (NRRP) will be invited to share the latest developments with the implementation of those reforms. Where appropriate, thematic discussions, supported by external experts could be organized, based on the Commission’s thematic analysis¹² and implementation reports¹³.

	Activities	Deliverables to the Council
1 st half 2025	Multilateral examination of the implementation of structural reforms in the Member States in response to the 2024 Council country-specific recommendations in the areas under SPC competence.	Horizontal opinion and country-specific conclusions for Council endorsement <i>June EPSCO</i>

¹¹ Based on the [RRF methodology for reporting social expenditures](#), as of 2024, Member States have dedicated around 25% of their financial allocations to supporting social objectives. The [RRF Scoreboard](#) also provides a set of common indicators related to the objectives of the RRF and the successful implementation of the measures contained in the RRP.

¹² [Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard \(europa.eu\)](#)

¹³ [Recovery and Resilience Facility Annual Report 2024 - European Commission](#)

2.2.1.3 Review of the proposals for Council country-specific recommendations, revision of the Employment Guidelines and Euro area recommendation

The Committee will prepare the Council's adoption of the **2025 country-specific recommendations (CSR)** by discussing the Commission's proposals 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 the 2026 Euro area recommendation**. It will also discuss the possible **revision of Employment Guideline 8**.

It will engage in these exercises in cooperation with the EMCO and the advisory committees of the ECOFIN Council.

	Activities	Deliverables to the Council
1st half 2025	Cooperation with other Committees on 2025 CSRs of common interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback to the 2025 Spring Package • Examination of the Commission's proposals for 2025 Country-Specific Recommendations 	Horizontal opinion and country-specific conclusions for Council endorsement <i>June EPSCO</i>
2nd half 2025	Examine the possible revision of Employment Guideline 8	The SPC, together with the Employment Committee (EMCO), will prepare the modification of the Employment Guidelines if necessary <i>October EPSCO (TBC)</i>
2nd half 2025	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 2026 Euro area recommendation . <i>December EPSCO or 2026 (TBC)</i>

2.2.1.4 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 Member States and of the development of social protection policies, including the progress towards the 2030 European and national poverty and social exclusion reduction targets introduced with the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan (EPSR AP).

Based on the report, the Committee will propose for endorsement in 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 **2026 European Semester cycle and its Autumn Package**.

	Activities	Deliverables to the Council
2 nd half 2025	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 thematic social reporting by Member States	Annual Report and Key messages on the social situation and the main social policy priorities as input to the preparation of the 2026 Autumn Package <i>October EPSCO</i>

In addition, the SPC will support the Council in preparing deliberations related to the governance of the European Semester and the coordination of employment policies, according to recent developments:

- Following the first-ever implementation of the **Social Convergence Framework**, which was introduced on a pilot basis by the Commission in the 2024 European Semester cycle¹⁴, and later assessed by EMCO and SPC¹⁵, the Committee will contribute to its implementation also in 2025.
- After the conclusion of the EU Economic Governance Review in 2024 and the adoption of Regulation 2024/1263¹⁶, the Committee will discuss the relevant aspects of the **Medium-Term Fiscal-Structural Plans** and contribute to the finalisation of Council Recommendations endorsing their content.

¹⁴ In cooperation with EMCO, between 2022 and 2023 the Committee formulated an [Opinion](#) and [Key Messages](#) on the possible introduction of a Social Convergence Framework in the European Semester. The Key Messages summarised the [technical work conducted by an EMCO-SPC working group](#) active between September 2022 and May 2023. In the 2024 European Semester cycle, the Social Convergence Framework was carried out on the basis of such technical work.

¹⁵ The [assessment of the Social Convergence Framework as implemented on a pilot basis in the 2024 European Semester cycle](#) [was presented at the EPSCO Council meeting of 2 December 2024].

¹⁶ [Regulation \(EU\) 2024/1263](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2024 on the effective coordination of economic policies and on multilateral budgetary surveillance and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1466/97. Art. 28(2) includes EMCO among the relevant Committees to be consulted where appropriate.

- Following the endorsement of the *Opinion on the value added of social investment and the role of the EPSCO Council filière in the European Semester*¹⁷ and of the *Voluntary guiding principles for EU Member States*¹⁸, the Committee will continue the work on improving the **evaluation of the economic effects of reforms and investments in the labour market, skills and social policy domains**, in line with the *Council Conclusions on the role of labour market, skills and social policies for resilient economies*.¹⁹ It will establish synergies with existing forums for discussion and support of Member States on evaluation methods²⁰, for instance via joint meetings and/or joint sessions on relevant topics, as well as the exchange of good practices.

2.2.2 Thematic Work

The SPC will continue its **thematic work on priority issues in the areas under its competence**.

The selection of topics will take into account existing Committee commitments, relevant socio-economic developments and/or EU policy initiatives, as well as the priorities of the Polish (January-June) and the Danish Presidencies (July-December). The outcomes of such thematic work could be reflected in the SPC Annual Report; they could also be transmitted to the Council as Key Messages or background information in support of Ministerial discussions. They may also be used to support the preparation of Council conclusions or provide orientation to forthcoming Commission initiatives.

¹⁷ The [Opinion on the value added of social investment and the role of the EPSCO Council filière in the European Semester](#) was endorsed at the EPSCO Council meeting of 28 November 2023.

¹⁸ The [Voluntary guiding principles for EU Member States for evaluating economic effects of reforms and investments in the labour market, skills and social policy domains](#) were endorsed at the EPSCO Council meeting of 20 June 2024.

¹⁹ The [Council Conclusions on the role of labour market, skills and social policies for resilient economies](#) were approved at the EPSCO Council meeting of 20 June 2024. The conclusions invite (i.) the Commission to consult EMCO and SPC on the design and mandate of a possible “knowledge hub” on the methods and techniques to measure the economic effects of labour market, skills and social policies; and (ii.) EMCO and SPC to continue the work on evaluating and monitoring the economic effects of labour market, skills and social policies, including by building on the above-mentioned voluntary guiding principles.

²⁰ Such as the ESF+ Evaluation Partnership and the Community of Practices on counterfactual impact evaluations (managed by DG EMPL and JRC as part of the Centre for Research on Impact Evaluation, CRIE).

2.2.2.1 Thematic areas and actions identified as priorities for 2025, based on the relevant announcements of the Political Guidelines 2024-29 and mission letters to the Commissioners, the Commission Work Programme and other ongoing initiatives

- **Minimum income:** the 2025 edition of the joint SPC-EC report, as tasked by the 2023 Council recommendation on minimum income, ensuring active inclusion. Key messages of the report to be endorsed by the Council.
- **European Anti-poverty Strategy:** reflections and input to the preparation of the EC proposal.
- **European Pillar of Social Rights:** reflections on the implementation and input to the new 2025 Action Plan.
- **Access to social protection:** thematic policy discussion and review of the progress made in implementation of the Council Recommendation on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed building on a thematic social reporting and the updated monitoring framework.
- **Fair transition towards climate neutrality:** biannual review of the implementation of the Council Recommendation on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality.
- **Action Plan on labour and skills shortages²¹:** monitoring the implementation of the COM Action Plan and following the Council Conclusions adopted under the HU Presidency via a tripartite discussion.

²¹ The [Action Plan on labour and skills shortages in the EU](#) was published by the Commission on 20 March 2024. Within the Action Plan, the Commission invited SPC to organise tripartite exchange with social partners.

- Strategy for the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (SRPD) 2021-2030: contribution to the implementation of the Strategy via thematic discussion on social services, including social services for persons with disabilities, in close cooperation with the Disability Platform.
- Contribution to the mid-term review of the **Social economy action plan**, through a policy debate.

2.2.2.2 Additional initiatives or developments to follow up

The SPC will take note and will reflect on implications for its work in the field of social policy with regards the following policy areas:

- Contribution to the preparation of the **Quality Job** Roadmap initiative to the extent of SPC competence.
- Based on the first round of the biennial national progress reports (2024), review progress on implementation of the **European Child Guarantee**, in coordination with the national Child Guarantee coordinators.
- Discussion on the possible revision of the **Voluntary European Quality Framework for Social Services**, as a follow-up to Council Conclusions on Improving access to enabling services and employment services in order to promote the social inclusion of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including Roma, by reducing territorial inequalities.
- Discussion further elements and flagship initiatives of the **Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities (2021-2030)**.
- Discussion on **pension systems**, in particular the elements concerning flexible retirement pathways.

- Discussion on **long-term care** workforce challenges, including facilitating the recognition of skills and qualifications, supporting skilling and career progression and improving working conditions.
- Follow up on the activities of the **European Platform on Combatting Homelessness**.
- Follow up the Commission's actions on the **European Affordable Housing Plan**.
- Follow up the actions concerning the implementation of the **Social Climate Fund** to support those struggling with **energy or transport poverty**.
- **Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034**: reflections and input to the future of Cohesion Policy and the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+).
- Following the developments regarding the Communication "**A comprehensive approach to mental health**".
- Following the developments regarding the Commission Communication "**Demographic change in Europe: a toolbox for action**".
- **Regular updates of the activities and joint exercises with various formations** following EU initiatives, including mutual learning exercises on distributional impact assessment (DIA) and inequalities in the framework of the Commission's Communication on better assessing the distributional impact of Member States' policies.
- In line with the potential priorities of the **Polish and Danish Presidencies** in the policy fields of the EPSCO Council, the Committee will stand ready to schedule thematic discussions.

The SPC mutual learning activities will include peer reviews and other mutual learning events, in particular in the areas of the distributional impact assessment of policies, access to social protection, access to quality long-term care, developing framework of the social economy and minimum income. Mutual learning activities would not require the presence of the national SPC members, but rather the participation of national experts/delegates in the respective fields.

2.2.2.3 Thematic social reporting

Every year, the SPC Members engage in thematic social reporting on a topic chosen according to the current social policy priorities. The outcome of such reporting serves to promote mutual learning and exchange of best practices among the Member States, including in the form of support information for dedicated SPC discussions; it may be included in the SPC annual report, and/or used to inform Ministerial discussions and relevant Commission's initiatives.

The 2025 SPC thematic social reporting would be dedicated to the implementation of the Council recommendation on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed.

The thematic social reporting will be a follow up the thematic discussion organised in the informal meeting of the SPC in February 2024 (Antwerp) under the Belgian Presidency of the Council. The debate (as well as at the Informal EPSCO in January 2024 in Namur) confirmed the support to further implementing EPSR principle 12 and the Council Recommendation, with interest in reinforced mutual learning and improved monitoring. Member States had agreed that regular stocktaking of implementation (of the Council Recommendation) is key.

A questionnaire for the thematic social reporting will seek to collect relevant information about policy and legislative measures recently proposed or enacted in the area of access to social protection, complementing as far as possible already available information, such as the forthcoming update of the EU monitoring framework, as well as policy information gathered as part of mutual learning events and recent reports by the European Social Policy Analysis Network (ESPAN).

On the basis of the thematic social reporting, a thematic discussion will be organised, examining both recent reforms enacted and their impact (to promote mutual learning and exchange of good practices) as well as remaining challenges and the possible ways forward at EU and national level.

2.2.3 Monitoring tools, benchmarking frameworks and development of indicators

The SPC will continue, **through its Indicator Sub-Group (SPC ISG)**, to work 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, including regarding the possible transition from the OECD TaxBen model to the EUROMOD Hypothetical Household Tool (HHoT). The Committee will continue its involvement in the governance and monitoring activities of the implementation of relevant recent initiatives.

In 2025, and in cooperation with the EMCO, the SPC, through the ISG, will continue **reviewing the current monitoring tools**, including the EPSR scoreboard, SPPM, JAF²². It will reflect, jointly with the EMCO Indicators Group (EMCO IG), on the scope to simplify and consolidate the existing tools and review improvements to the timeliness of indicators. (See further details in Annex 2.)

The Committee will continue its work on the development and review of **monitoring and 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 particular **the ISG will**:

- Update and further elaborate the **minimum income** benchmarking framework, in light of the preparation of the 2025 joint SPC- EC Report on minimum income and follow up of the Council Recommendation on adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion.
- Update and explore avenues for further addressing some of the remaining gaps identified in the monitoring framework for the European Child Guarantee Recommendation and update the Benchmarking Framework for Childcare and Support to Children.

²² European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR), Social Protection Performance Monitor (SPPM) and Joint Assessment Framework (JAF)

- Update and continue to contribute as necessary to the further development of the framework of indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Council Recommendation on access to high-quality affordable **long-term care**, building on the joint work on common indicators on long-term care and other monitoring frameworks. Review and agree the list of LTC indicators to be used in the 2027 SPC-EC report on pensions and LTC. (TBC)
- Provide a full update of the monitoring framework for the Recommendation on **access to social protection for workers and the self-employed**.

In addition, the SPC ISG will continue improving its **indicator frameworks in the areas of active inclusion and inequalities**. The Committee will also follow analytical work on access to healthcare, social resilience and work on social indicators for monitoring of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It will also finalise the detailed review of the Portfolio of EU Social Indicators in view of its further updating and streamlining and improving its user friendliness.

The ISG will also:

- Further explore indicators on **inequalities**, including through following up as necessary on the Council Conclusions on “Improving access to enabling services and employment services in order to reduce territorial inequalities and promote social inclusion of marginalised communities living in poverty, including Roma”.
- Review and approve the list of pension adequacy indicators, including the Theoretical Replacement Rate cases, to be used in the 2027 SPC-EC report on **pensions and LTC** (TBC).

- Develop and further improve the indicators for monitoring the situation of **persons with disabilities**.
- Work on developing and refining indicators in the area of **homelessness and housing exclusion** and deprivation, including in the context of the European Platform on Combating Homelessness.
- Follow work on **indicators relevant to monitor** the social and labour aspects of the **fair transition towards climate neutrality**, and in particular examine the use of existing indicators and the need for additional indicators to assess the fairness of the transition.
- Follow work on indicators relevant to monitor the social aspects of the **fair digital transition**.
- If tasked, explore indicators, methods and frameworks for timely analysis of the **role of social investment** in supporting sustainable and inclusive growth and socio-economic resilience.
- Increase its efforts to explore the **use of administrative data** and how this can be included in its monitoring frameworks, including by reviewing examples of national practices in the use of such data.

In line with the June 2024 Council Conclusions on the role of labour market, skills and social policies for resilient economies, the ISG will reflect, in cooperation with Eurostat, on further **improvements of the timeliness of social indicators**, in particular on the availability of flash estimates of key income-based indicators (and the possibility to extend estimates to cover other indicators).

3. Summary of deliverables

Activities	Deliverables	Time (frame)	Code	Frequency
Reaction to the 2025 Autumn Package and examination and input to the Joint Employment Report (JER)	Draft Council Conclusions Final Joint Employment Report	January – February March EPSCO	2.2.1.1	annual
Multilateral examination of the implementation of structural reforms in the Member States in response to the 2024 Council country-specific recommendations in the areas under SPC competence.	Horizontal and county specific conclusions	February – May June EPSCO	2.2.1.2	annual
Cooperation with other Committees on 2025 CSRs of common interest	CSRs Horizontal opinion	Horizontal opinion Country-specific conclusions June EPSCO	2.2.1.3	annual
Examine the possible revision of Employment Guideline 8	Revised guidelines	October EPSCO (TBC)	2.2.1.3	annual
Examine social protection and social inclusion issues included in the Commission proposal for the Euro area recommendation	Euro area recommendation	December EPSCO (TBC)	2.2.1.3	annual

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)	Annual report Key Messages endorsed	April/June-June/September October EPSCO	2.2.1.4	annual
Thematic social reporting Thematic discussions on access to social protection	Delivery of reports, synthesis, discussion with thematic conclusions Section in the Annual Report	April - September	2.2.2.1	annual
Joint SPC -EC Report on minimum income	Report adopted by SPC KMs endorsed by Council	SPC adoption June October EPSCO	2.2.2.1	triannual
Input to the preparation of the Anti-poverty Strategy	Conclusions	TBD	2.2.2.1	ad hoc
Reflections on the COM proposal for the new Action Plan of the EPSR	Conclusions	TBD	2.2.2.1	ad hoc
Thematic review on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality – discussion and conclusions	Thematic conclusions KMs endorsed by Council	June/October (TBC)	2.2.2.1	biannual
Tripartite exchange on the implementation of the Commission Action Plan on Labour and skills shortages	Conclusions, key messages	May	2.2.2.1	annual

Social services for persons with disabilities	Thematic discussion	TBD	2.2.2.1	ad hoc
Review progress on European Child Guarantee	Thematic discussion	March	2.2.2.2	ad hoc
Regular debriefs of the activities and joint exercises with various formations	Information Section in the AR	continuous	2.2.2.2	continuous

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

In 2025, the SPC meeting arrangements would include a mix between physical/in-person meetings, taking place in Brussels or the Member State holding the Presidency of the EU and virtual meetings, organized via a teleconferencing system. The organization of hybrid meetings is not foreseen. The format of the meeting will be determined close to the meeting dates and will depend on the availability of meeting rooms and an assessment on the proposed agenda items. Potentially, the provision of interpretation services will be reduced to limit the administrative workload of the Secretariat Team and ensure its ability to secure adequate conference rooms for physical meetings.

In its cooperation with other policy Committees (Employment Committee - EMCO, Economic Policy Committee - EPC, the Economic and Financial Committee -EFC, the Education Committee - EDUC 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, in particular with EPC concerning the new economic governance. The SPC will be represented by the Chair at the meetings of the EPSCO Council and the informal meetings of the Ministers of Employment and Social Affairs organised by the Presidency of the Council of the EU.

The SPC and ISG members can freely access and are invited to regularly consult documents on the [Social Protection Committee Library on CIRCABC](#).

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

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

In accordance with the Council Recommendation on strengthening social dialogue in the European Union, the SPC will contribute to the monitoring of its implementation by involving civil society organisations and social partners into selected thematic discussions. In particular, the SPC will invite social partners and civil society organisation in its thematic work on labour shortages and flexible retirement pathways or challenges concerning long term care workforce.

In addition, as traditionally, the social partners and representatives of NGOs are systematically invited to an exchange of views on the spring and autumn packages of the European Semester. In addition, NGOs are consulted on the thematic outputs of the Semester in general, while social partners are consulted on the packages prior their adoption.

The SPC will also collaborate closely with other relevant stakeholders, such as the EEA/EFTA States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway).

Annex 1: Tentative calendar for SPC meetings in 2025

Annex 2: Work Programme of the SPC Indicators Sub-group (SPC ISG)

Annex 3: Work Programme of MINET (WP for 2024-25)

Annex 4: Ongoing initiatives, potentially in the interest of the SPC

Annex 1: Tentative calendar for SPC meetings in 2025

The calendar below is provisional and subject to changes. For each physical meeting, delegates are invited to book their travel arrangements only upon receipt of the draft agenda.

Extraordinary videoconference meetings can be planned according to the needs of the group and in line with the Work Programme.

The list of main topics for each meeting mostly presents the timeline for the presentation and adoption of the regular deliverables of SPC and is not exhaustive.

An update of this rolling planning calendar will be provided by the Secretariat in every quarter.

Date	Format	Venue	Provisional Topics
23-24 January	Partially Joint with EMCO/SPC only	Brussels	EMCO-SPC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Semester: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 Autumn Package 2025 Euro Area Recommendation Medium-Term Fiscal-Structural Plans SPC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 Work Programme, including endorsement of ISG WP Discussion of multilateral surveillance activities, including the SCF and MIR format Discussion on national poverty targets
24-25 February	Joint with EMCO	Brussels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024 Joint Employment Report – Key Messages - Finalisation Council Conclusions on JER– Finalisation
4-5 March	SPC informal (PL)	Warsaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of policies supporting older persons economic activity Update on the Social and Employment situation in the EEA EFTA countries Discussion on the outline of the annual report Review progress on European Child Guarantee
10 March EPSCO Brussels			
10-11 April	SPC only	Brussels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisation of the Multilateral Implementation Reviews (MIR)
14-15 April EPSCO (informal) Warsaw			
13-14 May	Joint with EMCO	Brussels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisation of the Social Convergence Reviews

TBD May <i>Depending on Spring Package publication</i>	Partially joint with EMCO/SPC only	Brussels or virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the `2025 Spring Package <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the package - Exchange of views with Social Partners and CSOs - (poss.) State of play on the implementation of the Disability Strategy call to set up disability employment targets <p><u>SPC only:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WG on adequate social protection in old age: first discussion on mandate - Follow up on the Action Plan on labour and skills shortages
2-4 June (TBC)	Joint with EMCO	Brussels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Negotiations of the 2025 CSR package - Horizontal Opinion on the 2025 European Semester cycle
12 June EPSCO Luxembourg			
26-27 June (TBC)	SPC only	Brussels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thematic Review of the implementation of the Council Recommendation on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality (TBC) - Thematic discussion on ASP, on the basis of thematic social reporting - 2nd joint report on Minimum income, 2025 <p>Administrative points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress evaluation and adjustment of the 2025 Work programme of the SPC - Updates on the Activities of the SPC Working Groups - Information point on the ongoing and accomplished mutual learning activities - Presentation of the priorities of the Danish Presidency - WG on adequate social protection in old age: adoption of mandate
July EPSCO informal DK			
22-23 - September	Informal	Copenhagen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thematic work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PDCY priority – Social housing - Adoption of Annual Report - Update on the Social and Employment situation in the EEA EFTA countries

October EPSCO Brussels			
23-24/27-28 October TBC	SPC only	Brussels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparatory work for 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion of the 2026 Work Programme - Discussion of the 2026 Peer Review programme - Discussion on the organization of the 2026 Multilateral Implementation Reviews - Thematic work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of ESDE 2025 - (poss.) Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034 - (poss.) Discussion on social economy action plan
26-27 November	Partially joint with EMCO/SPC only	Brussels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Autumn Package <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of the package - Exchange of views with Social Partners and CSOs - Discussion on social and employment aspects of the Euro area recommendation - Presentation of the priorities of the forthcoming Presidency - 2026 Work Programme – 2nd discussion
December EPSCO Luxembourg			
8-9 December	Joint with EMCO	Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2026 Euro Area Recommendation (TBD)

2025 Indicators Sub-Group Work Programme

1. Introduction

The work programme of the Indicators Sub-Group (ISG) of the Social Protection Committee (SPC) for 2025 will focus on contributing to delivering on the 2025 SPC priorities, follow up of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR), the recently announced new Action Plan for implementation of the EPSR and EU Anti-Poverty Strategy, the European Semester, and relevant priorities arising from the Commission Work Programme 2025. 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).

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 2025 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 2025.

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 European Pillar of Social Rights and implementation of its Action Plan, including monitoring of the poverty and social exclusion target for 2030**

The ISG will contribute as necessary to relevant aspects related to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and its Action Plan and in particular the monitoring of progress towards the EU and national poverty and social exclusion targets 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 social scoreboard, SPPM, JAF, etc.)²³. It will reflect, jointly with the EMCO Indicators Group (EMCO IG), on the scope to simplify and consolidate the existing tools and review improvements to the timeliness of indicators. Specific activities in this area will include:

- **Reflection on the EPSR scoreboard**

Jointly with EMCO IG, the ISG will reflect on the EPSR scoreboard in relation to any adjustments to the action plan on the EPSR and other existing monitoring tools.

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

Timely estimates of the social situation are essential as highlighted by the COVID-19 crisis and the recent cost of living crisis. In line with the June 2024 Council Conclusions²⁴, the ISG will reflect, in cooperation with Eurostat, on further improvements of the timeliness of social indicators, in particular on the availability of flash estimates of key income-based indicators (and the possibility to extend estimates to cover other indicators) to feed into the monitoring of the social situation in the EU.

- **Joint Assessment Framework (JAF)**

The ISG will review the Joint Assessment Framework together with the EMCO Indicators Group and the European Commission. This will cover aspects such as the continuing review of the structure and content of the JAF (including the appropriate placement of green and digital transition indicators), the visualisation and dissemination of JAF outputs (including the JAF interactive dashboard tool), and the JAF methodology, in view of its improvement and further development and use to support the Social Open Method of Coordination.

²³ European Pillar of Social Rights Scoreboard, Social Protection Performance Monitor (SPPM) and Joint Assessment Framework (JAF).

²⁴ Council Conclusions on the role of labour market, skills and social policies for resilient economies, 11382/24, [pdf](#)

- **Replacement of use of the OECD TAX BEN model by Euromod HHoT**

The ISG will continue to exchange views with the EMCO IG on the considered replacement of the use of the OECD TAX BEN model by the in-house Euromod Hypothetical Household model. Through the support of the JRC and the Commission, the ISG will provide feedback on developments of the Euromod HHoT and its applications.

- **Benchmarking**

The ISG will continue the work on benchmarking as tasked by the SPC. The ISG will also, whenever called upon, review and update already existing frameworks. In 2025, this would relate in particular to the revision and further development of the benchmarking framework on minimum income.

- **Exploring the use of administrative data**

The ISG will increase its efforts to explore the use of administrative data and how this can be included in its monitoring frameworks, including by reviewing examples of national practices in the use of such data.

- **Assessing social impacts of EU policies**

The ISG will follow developments in the field of assessing the social impacts of EU policies, including distributional impact assessment, 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 efforts to quantify the social impacts by reviewing possibilities to improve availability, accessibility and timeliness of evidence (including administrative data).

Planned deliverables for 2025

- The ISG will, in collaboration with EMCO IG, review the current monitoring frameworks in view of updating them, also with the overall aim to simplify and consolidate them.
- It will review the possibilities for greater use of administrative data in its monitoring frameworks
- It will make progress on the availability and use of timelier indicators of the social situation, including the more systematic use of flash estimates.

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 and the monitoring of progress towards the EU and national poverty and social exclusion targets for 2030, 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 reflect on the schedule for its production in view of earlier availability of EU-SILC data. The ISG will also continue collecting statistics derived from administrative data on benefit recipients and provide analysis and evidence on social aspects of the cost of living crisis.

– 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 (including in the context of the JAF revision). It will produce an update of the SPPM dashboard based on the set of available EU-SILC 2024 data.

– Thorough review of the Portfolio of EU Social Indicators

Following on to the intermediate update conducted in 2022, the ISG will complete the detailed review of the Portfolio of EU Social Indicators in view of its further updating and streamlining, and improving its user friendliness. This will include revisiting the breakdowns of the indicators, to ensure they are consistent.

Planned deliverables for 2025

Reports

- The ISG will contribute to the SPC annual report through an update on the social situation in the European Union and analyses based on the EU social indicators and the SSPM dashboard and vertical assessment tool.

Indicators and tools

- Update of the Social Protection Performance Monitor
- Completion of the current review of the Portfolio of EU Social Indicators

4. Thematic work

– Social inclusion

• Inequality

The ISG will further explore indicators on inequalities. It will also follow up as necessary on the Council Conclusions on “Improving access to enabling services and employment services in order to reduce territorial inequalities and promote social inclusion of marginalised communities living in poverty, including Roma”, which invites the Committees to consider the feasibility and the added value of improving the relevant EU social indicators and to initiate and encourage, in cooperation with the Commission, knowledge sharing and exchanges of best practice between Member States, on a voluntary basis, as regards identifying, measuring and managing territorial inequalities.

- **Minimum income ensuring active inclusion**

In line with the Council Recommendation of January 2023 on adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion, the ISG will work with the Commission to revise the benchmarking framework on minimum income, reviewing existing indicators, exploring potential areas for further expansion of in different dimensions (such as eligibility criteria, access to services and labour market transitions and incentives) and resuming the exploration of indicators for measuring the quality of social services (encompassing inter alia such criteria as: accessibility, availability, affordability and coverage). Together with the Commission, the ISG will also contribute as necessary to the production of the next joint SPC EC report on minimum income due in 2025.

- **Child poverty**

In November 2023, the SPC endorsed the first version of the monitoring framework for the European Child Guarantee Recommendation, developed by the ISG, and granted a new mandate to the ISG. In line with this mandate and the strengthening of the Child Guarantee announced in the 2024-2029 Political Guidelines, the ISG will update and explore avenues for further addressing some of the remaining gaps identified in the monitoring framework. It will also update the Benchmarking Framework for Childcare and Support to Children.

– Situation of persons with disabilities

Together with the Commission, the ISG will continue to develop and further improve the indicators for monitoring the situation of persons with disabilities. This includes corroboration of LFS and EU-SILC survey results on education, activity rates, employment and NEETs. 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. The ISG, in cooperation with the EMCO IG, in the context of the revision of the Pillar Action Plan will discuss how to best assess employment of persons with disabilities, whether the disability employment gap should be measured through LFS or whether it should remain with EU-SILC and whether additional components (such as prevalence, activity rate, and employment levels) are needed. Moreover, the indicator groups will take stock of the EU Member States' progress on setting up disability employment targets and discuss potential EU level and national indicators for further monitoring of progress.

The ISG may also follow up on the Council Conclusions on fostering social inclusion of persons with disabilities through employment, reasonable accommodation and rehabilitation adopted in December 2024, in particular with regard to promoting the collection of comparable data on the living and working conditions of persons with disabilities while further developing EU indicators.

– Homelessness and housing exclusion, Housing conditions

The ISG will look into the area of homelessness and housing exclusion with the aim to further refine indicators (e.g. concerning the way housing benefits are treated in the housing cost overburden rate indicator) and discuss possible ways to monitor housing deprivation on a more regular basis. It will contribute as relevant to the analytical projects under the umbrella of the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness, in particular the EU-funded project carried out by the OECD on data mapping and monitoring systems and the pilot project on a European Homelessness Count.

– Indicators on Social and Labour Aspects of the Fair Digital Transition

The ISG will follow work on indicators relevant to monitor the social aspects of the fair digital transition, and in particular examine the use of existing indicators and the need for additional indicators in this area. In this context, the ISG will focus in particular on further developing a set of indicators related to access to and affordability of digital services and contribute to the monitoring process in this area.

– Indicators on Social and Labour Aspects of the Fair Transition towards Climate Neutrality

The ISG will follow work on indicators relevant to monitor the social aspects of the fair transition towards climate neutrality, and in particular examine the use of existing indicators and the need for additional indicators to assess the fairness of the transition. In this context the ISG will reflect in particular on indicators related to energy poverty, transport poverty and carbon and environmental footprint inequality and contribute to the monitoring process in this area.

The ISG will update the fiche on energy poverty indicators and further reflect on the introduction of SILC-based energy poverty indicators in the JAF. It will also follow the work on indicators of transport poverty (focusing on affordability in particular, but also, to the extent possible, on accessibility and availability of transport) and on strengthening data availability and indicators on carbon and environmental footprint inequality based on the ongoing work by EMPL-JRC on *“Distributional assessment of the consumption footprint of households in the EU: addressing carbon and other environmental footprints.”*

– Health

The ISG will support the further development of the OMC health work stream and follow closely the work of DG SANTE on measuring inequality in access to healthcare, including considering the feasibility of new indicators for future work on the JAF Health framework of indicators. It will review the results of the EU4Health project on the impact of in-kind health benefits on poverty reduction with a view to possible development of further indicators on 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 Working Party on Public Health (WPPH) working group on Health System Performance Assessment.

– **Pensions and long term care**

The ISG will support the preparation of the 2027 SPC-Commission report on pensions and long-term care (subject to SPC confirmation). In particular, it will review and approve the list of indicators, including the Theoretical Replacement Rate cases, to be used in the report. It will also review a Eurostat proposal for revision of the gender pension gap indicator.

The ISG will support the further development of the OMC long-term care work stream. In particular, it will continue to contribute as necessary to the further development of the framework of indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Council Recommendation on access to high-quality affordable long-term care, building on the joint work on common indicators on long-term care and other monitoring frameworks. In addition, the ISG will complete the dedicated LTC strand of its Portfolio of EU Social Indicators and follow the work of the EUROSTAT Task Force on LTC in order to improve the availability and quality of indicators relating to LTC.

– **Reconciliation of private and professional life**

On the basis 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 prepare in 2025 a full update of the monitoring framework for the Recommendation on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed. It will cover all chapters and indicators agreed until now, as well as reflecting adaptations and methodological improvements agreed since 2020.

Moreover, the ISG will keep on working on further development of the indicator framework, notably as regards adequacy indicators as well as exploring possible outcome indicators and policy lever information for the transparency/simplification dimension.

– **Social investment and resilience, especially regarding social protection systems**

Following the Jumbo EPSCO-ECOFIN Council, organised under the Belgian Presidency on 12 March 2024, to discuss the interplay between social investment, economic growth, and fiscal sustainability and the approval by the EPSCO Council in June 2024 of the Council Conclusions prepared by EMCO and SPC on the role of labour market, skills and social policies for resilient economies, the ISG stands ready to carry out any work to be mandated by the SPC as a follow up to the Council Conclusions, including to support the evaluation of the economic effects of reforms and investments in these domains.

– **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 2025

Thematic work

- Ongoing further development of the initial version of the monitoring framework for the Recommendation on access to high quality and affordable long-term care.
- Prepare a full update of the monitoring framework for the Recommendation on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed and further develop the monitoring framework in some specific areas.
- Review of the benchmarking framework on minimum income and identification of potential areas for further expansion.
- Support the production of the 2025 joint SPC-EC report on minimum income.
- Development of additional indicators on ensuring a fair Digital Transition and a Fair Transition towards Climate Neutrality.
- Update and explore avenues for further developing the monitoring framework for the European Child Guarantee Recommendation.
- Update the benchmarking framework for Childcare and Support to Children
- Review and agree list of indicators to be used in 2027 report on pensions and long-term care

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

The ISG will follow up on issues identified in the 2022 seminar to mark 20 years of the existence of the group. In particular, the ISG will:

- explore addressing some of the remaining priority gaps identified in coverage of indicators. The ISG will also explore how to include more contextual information in order to help users to better interpret the available indicators;
- further explore the use of alternative data sources that could complement the traditional ones, such as administrative data and Eurostat data on the joint distribution on income, consumption and wealth;
- further reflect on practical improvements to working methods and organisation, and on the dissemination of ISG outputs.

The ISG will follow up on the implementation of the framework regulation for Integrated European Social Statistics (IESS). It will also review and enhance its indicators wherever necessary on the basis of new data or analysis. For example, 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 continue to explore potential methodological improvements to the calculation of tax-benefit indicators through the recent extension of the EUROMOD Hypothetical Household Tool (HHoT).

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, 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 and explore strengthening the ability to analyse the link between social policy and economic policy.

It will continue to follow developments regarding the European data strategy developed by the Commission and 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 Groups on Public Health Statistics and on Income and Living Conditions, 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, further development of the JAF, and the review of the current social monitoring framework.

The ISG will monitor research of potential interest for ISG work, especially through cooperation with services of the Commission including the JRC and will liaise where needed with the MISSOC network and the SPC MINET Working Group. It will also collaborate with academics and international organizations, such as OECD, developing research relevant for the group's activities.

Provisional schedule of topics per ISG meeting in 2025

ISG Meetings dates 2025	Provisional agenda items
10 January <i>(Virtual)</i>	Joint meeting with EMCO IG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation by the Commission of the Proposal for a Joint Employment Report (2025)
11-12 February <i>(Physical)</i>	Minimum Income Benchmarking Framework - First discussion on possible revisions Access to social protection monitoring framework ECG monitoring framework and Benchmarking framework on childcare and support to children Update on ESSPROS developments, including timeliness improvements Revision of Portfolio of EU Social Indicators – LTC strand – second discussion Summary of ISG activities/accomplishments in 2024 Joint meeting with EMCO IG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Joint Employment Report 2025 - National targets for increasing the employment rate of persons with disabilities: Presentation by the Commission of synthesis report - Proposal for the introduction of one/two new policy areas in JAF on the fair green and digital transitions
24-25 March <i>(Physical)</i>	SPC annual report - outline and data issues, including SPPM Minimum Income Benchmarking Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2nd discussion on possible revisions Joint SPC-EC report on minimum income <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - discussion on 1st draft of Part I Environmental inequalities Revision of the gender pension gap indicator Presentation of the EU4Health project on the impact of in-kind health benefits on poverty reduction Revision of Portfolio of EU Social Indicators – Health strand – second discussion Housing indicators (<i>tbc</i>) Transport poverty (<i>tbc</i>)

23 April <i>(Virtual)</i>	Access to social protection monitoring framework Joint SPC-EC report on minimum income - discussion on 2 nd draft of Part I
22 May <i>(Virtual)</i>	Joint SPC-EC report on minimum income - discussion of final draft Revision of Portfolio of EU Social Indicators – Overarching strand – first discussion Minimum Income Benchmarking Framework (tbc) - agreement on possible revisions to be adopted in June
18-19 June <i>(Physical)</i>	SPC annual report preparation (results from SPPM dashboard update, key social challenges exercise) Eurostat update on flash estimates/nowcasting of social indicators Revision of Portfolio of EU Social Indicators – Overarching strand – second discussion Indicators to be used in the 2027 report on pensions and LTC (discussion) Indicators of affordability aspects of the digital transition
17 September <i>(Virtual)</i>	SPC annual report (finalisation) Access to social protection monitoring framework Indicators to be used in the 2027 report on pensions and LTC (finalisation)
21-22 October <i>(Physical)</i>	Review of indicators for monitoring of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Revision of Portfolio of EU Social Indicators – finalisation and revisit of breakdowns ECG monitoring framework Pension monitoring framework (update) Carbon and environmental footprint inequality

21 November <i>(Virtual)</i>	2026 ISG Work programme – initial discussion Annual update by Eurostat on EU-SILC developments including progress on timelier production of EU-SILC Eurostat update on work on joint distributions of income, consumption and wealth and the statistical links between micro and macro perspectives
11-12 December (part joint with EMCO IG) <i>(Physical)</i>	Joint meeting with EMCO IG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Joint Employment Report - EUROMOD Hypothetical Household Tool (HHOT) - tbc 2026 ISG Work programme – finalisation

Note: The activities for 2025 will include a proposal for the access to the social protection strand of the indicators portfolio. The timing is to be decided, but it may be addressed in conjunction with the items on the monitoring framework on access to social protection.

2024 – 2025 Work Programme

1. Introduction

In November 2022, the SPC decided on extending the mandate for its working group: the Minimum Income Network (MINET) for the time beyond the original timeframe until 31 December 2022. The Terms of reference (ToR) as approved by the SPC are applicable until end 2025, and are provided in Annex 1.

The purpose of the MINET is to “strengthen the exchange of best practices, the networking of national contact points for cross-country assistance and the mutual learning in further developing minimum income” schemes in the Member States, with the aim of supporting the implementation of principle 14 of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

In accordance with the ToR, the work programme of the MINET for 2024 – 2025 will focus on contributing to delivering on the 2024 – 2025 SPC priorities, continuously improving the understanding of national minimum income schemes and the identification of common challenges through in-depth structured knowledge exchanges. The mutual learning exercises will be delivered in the context of the open method of coordination for social protection and social inclusion (social OMC). The activities will cover for exploring areas in line with the Council recommendation on adequate minimum income, ensuring active inclusion²⁵, with the view of supporting the follow up of its provisions. In addition, the activities will take into account the priorities of the upcoming presidencies of the Council and relevant priorities arising from the Commission Work Programme 2024 - 2025.

25 Publications Office (europa.eu)

Given these priorities, the 2024 – 2025 work programme of the MINET will focus on the main areas listed below. The impact of new activities that the SPC would decide to undertake in the course of 2024 – 2025 will be assessed on an ongoing basis, and this work programme may therefore be adjusted as necessary.

2. Mutual learning activities

To exchange experience and good practice in the field of minimum income and to facilitate mutual learning and enhance cooperation among Member States' experts, peer-to-peer or topical exchanges will be physically organised at least twice in 2024 and in 2025, with the possibility of complementing these with ad-hoc smaller virtual events or meetings²⁶, based on participant's initiative.

The topical discussions will aim at the continuous improvement of the understanding of national minimum income schemes and the identification of common challenges and similarities of national design. It will be supported by exploring and discussing relevant research results and policy measures. Relevant academic experts and other stakeholders will be invited, where necessary.

Mutual learning activities are supported by the dedicated [SharePoint](#) collaborative platform, aimed at facilitating the interactions among the group's members. The platform is used for dissemination and storage of discussion documents and other relevant papers (studies, research papers, reports, etc.), as well as the group's outputs (meeting minutes, conclusions or other relevant documents). Members are encouraged to upload relevant documents and initiate virtual exchanges in between meetings.

²⁶ Such as peer reviews, country visits, specific events with involving lower (regional or local) level stakeholders etc,

2.1. Activities in 2024

The 2024 activities will explore specific topics relevant to the provisions of the Council recommendation. The particular areas of interest (as expressed in replies to a questionnaire circulated to MINET in December 2023) would be: (i) **take-up** of minimum income benefits; (ii) **adequacy** of income support; (iii) **transition to the labour market** (incentives and disincentives to work).

MINET will also meet with the promoters of nine **projects financed by the Employment and Social Innovation Programme (EasI)**²⁷. The projects, launched in 2020, aimed to establish and test integrated interventions to support people in vulnerable situations, in line with the active inclusion approach. The lessons learnt from the implementation of the projects are highly relevant for the work of MINET.

Lastly, MINET will contribute, by inputs for the SPC ISG (particularly on the country specific information), to the **next joint report** of the Social Protection Committee and the Commission on minimum income, due in 2025.

²⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=629&langId=en&callId=603&furtherCalls=yes>

Planned meetings/activities in 2024

- **Virtual meeting in February** to discuss the **2024 - 2025 work programme** and welcome the new MINET Chair and Vice-Chair.
- **Physical meeting in Brussels on 24 – 25 April** – on 24 April, **MINET will meet the project promoters of nine projects financed with EaSI**. The meeting will serve as an opportunity to exchange experiences and practices from the implementation of the projects. On 25 April, there will be a regular MINET meeting dedicated to the **transition of minimum income recipients to the labour market** (incentives and disincentives to work).
- **Physical meeting in Q3-Q4** (exact date and location TBC)²⁸, with a particular **focus on the take-up of minimum income**. The meeting will serve as an opportunity to have a deepened discussion on the topic, supported by the presentation of the results of an upcoming German study on the take-up, a Commission research note using Belgium and Italy as case studies, and other relevant initiatives.
- **Virtual meeting in December in Q4** to discuss the draft **outline of the next joint report** of the Social Protection Committee and the Commission on minimum income.
- In light of the peer review programme of the SPC for 2024, complementary activities can be planned (**in particular relevant to the proposal from Latvia to host a peer review on adequacy of minimum income**).

Planned deliverables

- Oral reporting to SPC about the mutual learning activities
- Minutes of the meetings
- Inputs to various initiatives, reports, discussions and opinions at the request of the SPC
- Dissemination of information on activities through the SPC website

²⁸ Based on indicative information, the meeting could take place in Germany (Berlin).

2.2. Activities in 2025

The 2025 activities will continue exploring specific topics of the Council recommendation. The particular areas of interest will include: (i) **individualised support** to minimum income recipients (needs assessment, inclusion plan, active labour market policy measures); (ii) **provision of enabling services**; (iii) **monitoring and governance** mechanisms.

Planned meetings/activities in 2025

- **Virtual meeting in February** to kick-off the 2025 work programme.
- **Physical meeting in Brussels in Q2 (TBC)** – possibly a joint meeting with the network of the Public Employment Services (PES)²⁹ to explore synergies and complementarities in offering individualised support to minimum income recipients and those furthest away from the labour market, including conditionality and sanctions.
- **Physical meeting in Q3-Q4** (exact location and date TBC) dedicated to the provision of enabling services, with the participation of the European Social Network³⁰ and presentation of some projects about the integrated services delivery.
- **Virtual meeting in Q3 – Q4** dedicated to governance and monitoring aspects, with a possible presentation of projects financed by the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and/or the Technical Support Instrument (TSI) .
- In line of the planned **SPC 2025 peer review programme**, complementary activities can be planned.

²⁹ Subject to agreement with the PES network.

³⁰ <https://www.esn-eu.org/about/mission-values-and-vision>

3. Inputs in 2024 to the continuous follow up of policy developments of minimum income schemes

In order to keep track of policy developments in the Member States and facilitate mutual learning, MINET participants are invited to share information on policy reforms relevant to minimum income support. Exchange on planned and introduced policy reforms can contribute to follow up the national level implementation of the Council recommendation. Fulfilling this objective, the country profiles annexed to the 2022 joint report of the **Social Protection Committee** and the Commission on minimum income will be updated in 2024 (and continue to be updated in 2025 – see section below). These will serve as key source of information for the drafting of the 2025 edition of the report. In case requested, dedicated events can be organised for such thematic or country specific reviews.

Planned activities and procedures:

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuous update of information among participants and on the CIRCABC collaborative space. |
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Planned deliverables:

- | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular exchange of information on national policy design, by means of updated 27 country profiles. |
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4. Inputs in 2025 to the preparation of the second joint SPC-Commission report on minimum income

The preparation of the joint report foresees a timeline of drafting between January – June 2025, with the adoption planned in SPC in June.

MINET will deliver country specific information to the report, in particular through its country profiles to be annexed to volume 2 of the report. The update of the country profiles will already be initiated in 2024, as per section above, but it may continue over 2025 notably to allow for updates in case of reforms being implemented, or planned, in Member States.

Planned meetings and procedures:

- **Virtual meeting in May** on the final version of the country profiles to be annexed to the report

Planned deliverables:

- 27 final country profiles fiches for Volume 2 of the joint SPC-COM report on minimum income

Minimum Income Network (MINET)

- Terms of Reference -

Following the Council Conclusions on Strengthening Minimum Income Protection to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion in the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond and subsequent SPC deliberations, such as the 2022 joint SPC-EC report on minimum income, the SPC adopts the terms of reference for its working group: the Minimum Income Network (MINET):

A. Objective and tasks

Based on the Council Conclusions, the objective of the MINET is to “strengthen the exchange of best practices, the networking of national contact points for cross-country assistance and the mutual learning in further developing minimum income” schemes in the Member States with the aim to support the implementation of principle 14 of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

In particular, the tasks of MINET will be:

1. To facilitate mutual learning and enhance cooperation among Member States’ experts in the field of minimum incomes, through exchange of experience and good practices, peer-to-peer or topical feedback exchanges and networking to explore similarities and differences of national schemes and specific design elements thereby stimulating policy reforms and developments at national and EU levels.
2. To contribute to the continuous improvement of the understanding of national minimum income schemes and identification of common challenges through in-depth structured knowledge exchange. This will be achieved through:
 - a) exploring and discussing relevant results of research, literature, innovative practices and policy measures with a view to building a better understanding the various forms of minimum income provision.

- b) development and implementation of evidence-based bench learning to compare the design and achievements of specific areas and/or measures and stimulate innovative and effective approaches.
 - c) dedicated meetings with stakeholders, actively engaged in the work on minimum income, such as various levels of administration, third sector representatives, international organisations, academia, Network of Public Employment Services (PES), etc.
3. To provide country specific inputs to various initiatives, reports, discussions and opinions at the request of the SPC (in cooperation with the SPC Indicator Sub-Group, as relevant), in particular to the further work on the benchmarking framework and future editions of the Minimum Income Report.
 4. To support possible future activities of the SPC in the area of minimum income, such as those related to the implementation of the proposed Council Recommendation on adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion, in particular through contribution to regular progress reports prepared as a follow up of the 2020 Council Conclusions.
 5. Organize exchange seminars with third country representatives to discuss practices from outside the EU.

B. The composition of the MINET

1. The MINET working group is being established as a working group under the SPC and consists of representatives from the EU Member States' and the Commission.
2. Member States are invited to nominate representatives (not more than two core members and 1 alternate member) These should be national experts with a broad expertise in policy areas related to minimum income, in particular knowledge of their national systems, awareness of developments in policy processes and discussions at EU level, and experience in setting/analysing national minimum income policies. The members shall ensure appropriate exchange of information and collaboration with their national SPC and ISG delegation, as well as with relevant government bodies.

3. The Commission will be represented in the group by DG EMPL Unit D1 “Social Policies, Child Guarantee, SPC”. Other Commission services with interest in the forum’s work may attend its proceedings.
4. The SPC will appoint a Chair and a Vice-chair from among the members or alternate members of the MINET and the SPC, following submission of applications. The term of office will be two years, renewable once.

C. Organisation of work

1. The group would meet regularly (approximately twice a year) to discuss specific issues related to minimum income policies. Written consultations may be used, as appropriate.
2. The MINET will set up its annual work plan for mutual learning and technical input (reflecting the tasks requested by the SPC or the ISG), which will be presented to the SPC for agreement and annexed to the Committee’s own work programme.
3. MINET will regularly report back to the SPC and the ISG, as relevant.
4. The Commission shall provide analytical and organizational support for the group and its Chair, including:
 - i) Preparation of discussion documents, through arranging external expert’s papers or contributions prepared by individual members, the secretariat or ad-hoc teams (on a voluntary basis) of members of the MINET;
 - ii) Preparing the outcome of the meetings (minutes, conclusions or output documents, such as reports or opinions) for approval by the Chair and the MINET Members;

- iii) Maintaining a dedicated SharePoint collaborative platform, aimed at facilitating the interactions among the group's members. The platform shall be used for dissemination and storage of discussion documents and other relevant papers (studies, research papers, reports, etc.), as well as the group's outputs (meeting minutes, conclusions or other relevant documents). Members will be invited to upload relevant documents and initiate virtual exchanges in between meetings.
 - iv) Sharing of expertise through the SPC and/or ISG websites for dissemination of information on its activities.
5. To support thematic discussions, external experts, including representatives of the civil society reflecting the plurality of opinions and approaches on the issue of minimum income, could be invited to the meetings and provide discussion notes/papers, present relevant works (studies, researches, etc.).
6. In case of interest, ad hoc smaller events or meetings could be organised, such as peer reviews, country visits, specific events with involving lower (regional or local) level stakeholders etc.

D. Duration of mandate

These terms of reference will be reviewed by the SPC at the end of 2025.

Annex 4: ongoing initiatives, potentially in the interest of the SPC

Initiative	Related action
Council recommendation on access to social protection	<p>Further developing the indicator-based monitoring framework in SPC ISG (based on Council mandate and also following recent EPSCO Council Conclusions of 9 October 2023 on social protection for the self-employed).</p> <p>Organisation of specific mutual learning activities (and potential thematic peer reviews) to support the implementation of the Recommendation.</p> <p>Dedicated thematic discussions and policy exchanges on the different dimensions of the Council recommendation (eg adequacy, effective access) and in relation to specific target groups (eg self-employed, specific categories of people in non-standard forms of employment).</p>
Council recommendation on European Child Guarantee	<p>Further review and develop the monitoring framework in SPC ISG.</p> <p>Organisation of mutual learning activities, including with the ECG coordinators.</p> <p>Based on the first round of the biennial national progress reports (2024), review progress on implementation and initiate reflection on the structure of the report to the Council due in 2026.</p>
Council recommendation on early childhood education and care : the Barcelona targets for 2030	Potentially the Commission will <i>“explore the possibility to develop further indicators in cooperation with the EMCO and the SPC...”</i> .
Council recommendation on adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion	<p>Triennial report on adequate minimum income (next edition in 2025).</p> <p>Organisation of mutual learning activities in MINET.</p>
Council recommendation on access to affordable high-quality long-term care	<p>Organisation of mutual learning activities and thematic peer reviews to support the implementation of the Recommendation.</p> <p>Commission report to the Council on the implementation (by end 2027).</p>

European Platform on Combatting Homelessness	<p>Development of a policy toolkit and monitoring framework with OECD (2024).</p> <p>European Homelessness Count pilot project (starting in 2024).</p>
<p>Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SRPD) 2021-2030</p> <p>European Disability Card</p>	<p>Guidance on independent living and inclusion in the community.</p> <p>Framework for Social Services of Excellence for persons with disabilities (2024-25).</p> <p>European Disability Card: follow up.</p>
Commission Action Plan on Labour and skills shortages	<p>Invitation to the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee to have regular tripartite exchanges on this issue, with the participation of European and national social partners.</p>
Council Conclusions on the role of labour market, skills and social policies for resilient economies	<p>Committee works jointly with EMCO on improving the evaluation of the economic effects of reforms and investments in the labour market, skills and social policy domains.</p>
Council recommendation on developing social economy framework conditions	<p>Reporting to the Commission 4 years following the adoption (2027) and 5 years after that (2032).</p> <p>The first reporting will be aligned with the reporting to be done under the OECD Recommendation on the Social and Solidarity Economy and Social Innovation.</p> <p>Based on MS' reporting, the Commission will prepare a report evaluating the actions taken and submit it to SPC and EMCO.</p>
Council Recommendations on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality (FT)	<p>Biennial review completed in SPC and EMCO, in accordance with the specific arrangement proposed by the European Commission (second review in 2025).</p>

Communication: A comprehensive approach to mental health	Following up on the Commission package and organisation of thematic discussion
Communication “ Demographic change in Europe: a toolbox for action	Following up on the Commission package and organisation of thematic discussion
A Voluntary European Quality Framework for Social Services	Following up and potentially review the framework
