

SECRETARIAT GENERAL

DIRECTORATE GENERAL I - HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW /
DIRECTION GENERALE I - DROITS HUMAINS ET ETAT DE DROIT

DIRECTORATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS / DIRECTION DES DROITS HUMAINS

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL RIGHTS
SERVICE DES DROITS SOCIAUX

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 07 November 2023

MISSCEO (2023)3

**MUTUAL INFORMATION SYSTEM ON SOCIAL PROTECTION
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
(MISSCEO)**

24th Meeting

22 June 2023 (Strasbourg and online)

MEETING REPORT

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

Mr Jan Malinowski, Head of Social Rights Department, opened the meeting and welcomed the MISSCEO correspondents.

He pointed out that social security is about social rights and social rights are human rights. Consequently, the work carried out by the network is part and parcel of the general work and purpose of the Council of Europe in respect of human rights. In addition, social rights are a factor in the sustainability of democracy and consequently the contribution of the network is also directed to that. In addition, the work done by the network contributes to the monitoring system under the European Social Charter. He pointed out that the work conducted by the network is useful in the context of policy making, sharing, inspiring, in the context of cross border collaboration between states.

Mr Malinowski also stressed the importance of the [final declaration on democracy principles](#), adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the Council of Europe Summit in Reykjavik, Iceland, on 17 May 2023. In the declaration, Council of Europe Heads of State and Government point out that social justice is crucial for democratic stability and security and in this regard, they reaffirm their full commitment to the protection and implementation of social rights as guaranteed by the European Social Charter system.

Mr Malinowski wished the MISSCEO correspondents a fruitful meeting and invited them to continue their excellent work.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda (see Appendix I; document MISSCEO(2023)1) was adopted.

III. INFORMATION FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Ms Amaya Ubada De Torres, Secretary of the Governmental Committee of the European Social Charter and the European Code of Social Security (hereafter, Governmental Committee), also welcomed the participants. She also praised the work carried out by the network and underlined that it is regularly used by the Secretariat and the European Committee of Social Rights when examining the provisions of the Charter relating to social security.

The network was also informed about the main aspects concerning the reform of the European Social Charter system, adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 27 September 2022 ([CM\(2022\)114-final](#)). The reform package aims at modernising the European Social Charter system and to assist States Parties in ensuring respect for social rights in line with their commitments. For this purpose, emphasis is placed on the need for enhanced dialogue between the Charter organs (European Committee of Social Rights and Governmental Committee) and States Parties as well as all relevant stakeholders (national human rights institutions, national equality bodies, trade unions and other civil society organisations). As part of the reform, the Governmental Committee will strengthen the follow-up given to conclusions adopted by the European Committee of Social Rights by proposing reasoned recommendations for adoption by the Committee of Ministers with a view to triggering changes at the national level and bringing situations in line with the European Social Charter. In addition, the Governmental Committee has to participate in the development of training activities aiming at implementing the adopted by the Committee of Ministers recommendations.

In operational terms, several aspects of the monitoring process are evolving with a view to increasing the effectiveness the European Social Charter system as a whole ([Reform of the European Social Charter system - Social Rights \(coe.int\)](#)).

Moreover, the network was informed that, in accordance with the decision of the Ministers' Deputies adopted on 27 September 2022, the European Committee of Social Rights and the Governmental Committee have decided to request an *ad hoc* report on the [cost-of-living crisis](#) to all State parties to the Charter.

Ms Ubeda provided information following the meeting of the Governmental Committee (9-12 May 2023), during which Conclusions 2022 of the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR) relating to labour rights were discussed. She also informed the participants about the adoption of several recommendations on the implementation of the European Social Charter following Conclusions 2021 on "health, social security and social protection".

Finally, she invited the members of the network to engage in further dialogue and discussions in order to better assist them where necessary to fulfil their obligations under the European Code of Social Security.

IV. DEVELOPMENTS IN MISSOC

Ms Francesca Liberati, MISSOC Secretariat, presented information on recent developments in [MISSOC](#) (Mutual Information System on Social Protection of the European Union). Explanations were provided concerning the revised Guidelines relating to Table X on Unemployment. The objectives of this revision were to ensure completeness and coherence between tables and countries, reorganise categories where needed and clarify points/questions which could cause confusion. Table X was approved by MISSOC in November 2022 and introduced in the database in January 2023 (with a further clarification needed on the category 'Redundancy compensation' (X-33) which was conducted at the MISSOC meeting which took place in Göteborg in May 2023).

Ms Liberati's PowerPoint presentation can be consulted by opening the PDF document below.



MISSCEO_22.06.23_
Francesca_Liberati.p

V. GENERAL COMMENTS CONCERNING THE MISSCEO TABLES

Mr Lauri Leppik, Council of Europe consultant, gave an overview of the state of play relating to the submission of the updated MISSCEO tables for 2023. He informed the network that all tables had been submitted, except those from Albania and Ukraine.

Mr Leppik also provided general comments concerning the update of the MISSCEO tables:

- The general aim of the tables is to enable a broad comparison of social protection systems between countries, rather than to provide an exhaustive, detailed description of the national legislation. The text should therefore be updated taking a generalised approach so as to present a broad picture and to enable a good comparison between countries;
- The information in the tables should provide the general principles and rules. Although exceptions to the general rules can be referred to, it is not necessary to provide all the technical details;
- A key challenge is to ensure consistency between the different branches of social security and between different countries;
- When updating the entries in tables, correspondents were reminded to indicate significant changes in the legislation, update values (e.g. benefit amounts, thresholds, etc.) and to delete outdated information;
- The tables must be updated in track changes so as to allow the Secretariat to introduce

- easily the changes;
- The dates must be indicated in a harmonised manner throughout the text (please refer to the latest table published);
- With regard to currencies, it is preferable to use ISO codes (e.g. AMD, AZN, RUB, GEL, MDL, UAH, etc) and to harmonise the way in which the national currency is presented throughout the text.

Mr Leppik also referred to the differences between the MISSOC et MISSCEO tables. MISSCEO tables are updated once a year (situation as of 1 January) and MISSOC tables twice a year (situation as of 1 January and 1 July). Some differences remain also in the structure of the tables. He referred to the recent changes made by MISSOC to Table X on Unemployment and informed the network that the MISSCEO tables will be updated following the changes made to the MISSOC database.

Finally, correspondents agreed that the tables should provide information on the situation in the country as of 1 January of each year. The deadline for submitting the updated tables remains at the end of May each year.

Mr Leppik's PowerPoint presentation can be viewed by opening the PDF document below.



MISSCEO_22.06.23_
Lauri_Leppik.pdf

VI. EVOLUTION OF NATIONAL SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS

Mr Leppik presented the document on recent trends and developments in social protection systems in MISSCEO countries, based on information provided by 8 of them: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye. Respective information from Albania, Moldova and Ukraine was not provided.

While in 2020 and 2021 several MISSCEO countries applied some extraordinary social protection measures to mitigate the economic and social consequences of the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the new challenges emerging in 2022 were the speeding up of inflation, in particular due to increasing energy prices, escalated by the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. Several countries responded by increasing minimum wages or benefit rates. Several MISSCEO countries adopted some parametric changes of their social security systems relating to some key elements of these schemes. The full report can be consulted at www.coe.int/socialcharter/missceo.

Moreover, correspondents were invited to give a brief overview of the latest developments regarding social protection in their respective countries. The information concerned the adoption of new legislation on social security in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the positive developments in the pension branch in Serbia or the adoption in November 2022 of the Law on Financial Support of Vulnerable Categories of Citizens for Dealing with the Energy Crisis in North Macedonia. Significant progress in the fight against poverty has been made in Azerbaijan in recent years through increases in the minimum wage, median wage and pensions. In Türkiye, a significant increase in pensions and the minimum wage was introduced in early 2023 to protect pensioners and employees against the negative effects of inflation. The government of Armenia has been working on the introduction of the new needs assessment system in social protection, which will make the social assistance programs more targeted. Montenegro created a National Register for people with autism in order to protect and improve the mental health of persons with autism. Among other developments, Georgia has been drafting a new law on minimum wages and on housing. In addition, Georgia is developing a Single Window Service (SWS) concept which will

allow citizens to seek all social protection services at one single place. Further advances have been made in 2023 with regard to development of social services for persons with disabilities (Homecare, personal assistant for persons with disabilities). The new reform on shifting to biopsychosocial model of assessment of disability status is underway. Moreover, the country is at the final stage of deinstitutionalizing large boarding homes for persons with disabilities and developing respective alternative care service system to prevent institutionalization. The old age pension and the social package for persons with disabilities have been subject to indexation since 2022, which implies an annual increase in cash benefits for target groups.

The Secretariat thanked the correspondents for their presentations and asked them to send all the information by e-mail to enable the consultant to prepare this year's document on the evolution of social protection systems.

VII. PLANNING OF THE 2023 AND 2024 EDITIONS

The following time schedule shall apply to the remaining work for the 2023 edition:

- By end September 2023: Submission of remaining updated tables by correspondents
- By end September 2023: Submission of remaining information on evolution of social protection systems by correspondents
- By end November 2023: Finalisation of the updated tables after review by the consultant
- By end December 2023: Translation and publication of updated MISSCEO database

Provisional planning of the 2024 Edition

- January/February 2024: Secretariat sends comparative tables for updating
- By end May 2024: Correspondents submit updated tables and information on recent developments in social protection in their countries
- 11 or 13 June 2024: 25th MISSCEO meeting, Strasbourg (date to be confirmed)
- October/November 2024: Finalisation of the updated tables after review by the consultant
- December 2024 Translation and publication of updated MISSCEO database

VIII. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It is proposed to hold the 25th meeting of MISSCEO in Strasbourg on Tuesday 11 June or Thursday 13 June 2024 (to be confirmed).

APPENDIX I

AGENDA

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

Mr Jan Malinowski, Head of Department of Social Rights, Council of Europe

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

III. INFORMATION FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Ms Amaya Ubeda De Torres, Secretary of the Governmental Committee of the European Social Charter and the European Code of Social Security, Council of Europe

IV. DEVELOPMENTS IN MISSOC

Ms Francesca Liberati, MISSOC Secretariat

After the information provided by MISSOC, participants are invited to a short coffee break (10:30-10:45)

V. GENERAL COMMENTS CONCERNING THE MISSCEO TABLES

Mr Lauri Leppik, Council of Europe Consultant

VI. EVOLUTION OF NATIONAL SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS

Mr Lauri Leppik, Council of Europe Consultant

Correspondents in the MISSCEO network

VII. PLANNING OF 2023 AND 2024 EDITIONS OF MISSCEO

VIII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

IX. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

APPENDIX II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ALBANIA

Absent

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Ms Svetlana POPOVA (*online*)
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Ministry of Labour and Social Protection

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Directorate of Strategic Planning, Coordination of Policy and European Integration
Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine

Mr Bohdan VOLIANIUK (*online*)

State Expert, Expert Group for International Analytics on Social Issues
Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine

MISSOC (Mutual Information System on Social Protection)

Ms Francesca LIBERATI (*online*)

MISSOC Secretariat

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSULTANT

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE SECRETARIAT

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Coordinator of MISSCEO

Ms Isabelle ESCOBAR

Finance and administration

Web: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/european-social-charter/missceo-database>