European Semester Reference Group Meeting
Brussels, 27-28 June 2019
Cross-country issues for social services in 2019

European Social Observatory:

Bart Vanhercke – Director

Sebastiano Sabato – Senior Researcher
ESN’s Reference Group on the European Semester
2019 meeting

Brussels, 27-28 June 2019

Preliminary findings from the cross-country analysis

Sebastiano Sabato and Bart Vanhercke
European Social Observatory
Outline of the talk

1. Why scrutinizing the European Semester?

2. Methodology

3. Poverty and social protection

4. Quality of social services

5. Housing and homelessness
Why scrutinizing the European Semester?

Semester process continues to evolve

• Discourse:
  – Continued « socialisation » of messages: improved economic context;
    « new » Commission; EPSR and its Social Scoreboard
  – Provided legitimacy for a more « social » approach
  – 2019 cycle: « Investment » appears in AGS and CSRs
  – Gaps in social protection remain on the agenda
Why scrutinizing the European Semester?

Semester process continues to evolve

- **Governance:**
  - Involvement of stakeholders
    - Increased over year, but great deal of variation across Commission DG’s and MS (e.g. INVOTUNES project);
  - Internal COM coordination:
    - « Core DG’s » changed over years
    - Coordination evolves (SECGEN; shared ECFIN/SECGEN; SECGEN)
  - Institutional changes:
    - Creation of « Structural Reform Support Service » (SRSS) in « SECGEN » and ongoing extension of its mandate + budget
    - “Growth-sustaining reforms” in the context of Semester or Economic Adjustment Programmes (but what type of reforms?): pensions, healthcare, LTC, education...
Why scrutinizing the European Semester?

• But « socialisation »:
  – Constrained by
    • The EU’s macroeconomic framework
    • The absence of key stakeholders (e.g. health Ministers; regional & local author.)
  – Falls short on key dimensions
    • Eco-social policies (environment); housing and homelessness; etc.
    • Long-term care: financial sustainability approach dominates
  – Is insufficiently reflected in ambitions of MFF
  – Depends on political choices of next COM/EP
    • EPSR and scoreboard sufficiently institutionalised to survive Juncker?
    • Absence of implementation roadmap
Why scrutinizing the European Semester?

Proposal to launch a “Social Imbalances procedure”

- Countries displaying “critical situations” on key social indicators would (a) receive technical support to underpin national reform; (b) receive additional EU financial support; and (c) could apply a “silver rule”, exempting key human capital social investments from the Stability and Growth Pact rules.
Methodology (1)

Analysis of 21 questionnaires from 21 countries:

BE; HR; CZ; DK; EE; FI; FR; DE; EL; IE; IT; LT; LV; MT; NL; RO; PL; ES; SE; SK; UK (England and Scotland)

* Totals in the tables = 22 (England and Scotland are considered separately)

Aim of the analysis: To provide an assessment of the national situations and trends in relation to three policy areas
Methodology (2)

3 key policy areas (ESN survey in February 2019)

1. Poverty and social protection

2. Quality of social services

3. Housing and homelessness
Poverty and social protection (1)

Adequacy of the social protection system with a special focus on the quality of the integration of benefits and social services for different target groups:

- young people
- children and families
- people with disabilities
- older people
- migrants and refugees
## Poverty and social protection (2)

**Overall assessment of adequacy and benefits/services integration**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trends</th>
<th>Overall positive</th>
<th>Mixed</th>
<th>Overall negative</th>
<th>Limited information</th>
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Note: in red countries in a ‘critical situation’ in relation to the rate of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion. In orange countries ‘to watch’ in relation to the same indicator (source: JER 2019)
## Poverty and social protection (3)

### Trends by target group

<table>
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<th>Trends /target groups</th>
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<td>People with disabilities</td>
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<td>Migrants and refugees</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
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Poverty and social protection (4)

Main problems emerging from the analysis:

• Limited access to and/or adequacy of (some) social benefits (e.g., HR; EL; IT; LT)

• Distribution of competences (overlaps) (e.g., CZ; FR; LT; UK)

• Fragmented welfare models (e.g., EL; IT; PL)

• Quality of social services
Quality of social services (1)

5 dimensions

• Accessibility and coverage
• Integration with other services
• Workforce (training; numbers; wages, workload)
• Funding (adequacy/predictability)
• Quality standards and monitoring system
## Quality of social services (2)

### Quality of social services: overall assessment

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<th>Situation/assessment</th>
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## Quality of social services (3)

### Accessibility and coverage

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Quality of social services (4)

Integration with other services

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Quality of social services (5)

Quality, coverage and integration of social services often affected by:

- **Distribution of competences/coordination between different levels of government** (e.g., BE; CZ; EE; DE; ES; RO; UK)

- **Variation across the national territory** in terms of quality, availability and funding of social services (e.g., HR; CZ; EE; FI; FR; DE; EL; IT; LV; ES; SE; LT; PL)
Quality of social services (6)

Workforce (training; numbers; wages, workload)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation/assessment</th>
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<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
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Quality of social services (7)

Main issues related to the workforce

- **Shortage** of social workers (e.g., HR; EE; FI; IT; LV; ES; SK; RO; PL; UK)

- Lack of **adequate skills** (e.g., HR; IT; LV; LT; RO; PL)

- Low **wages** (e.g., EE; FR; SK; PL)

- Excessive **workload**, including excessive administrative burdens (e.g., HR; CZ; ES; LT)
Quality of social services (8)

Funding (adequacy/predictability)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation/assessment</th>
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## Quality of social services (9)

### Quality standards and monitoring system

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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Quality of social services (10)

Summing up, the main problems affecting the quality of social services are related to:

• Funding
• Accessibility and coverage
• Workforce
Housing and homelessness (1)

2 aspects considered

• Number of homeless people (trends)
• Access to social housing for vulnerable groups
### Housing and homelessness (2)

#### Number of homeless (trends)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trend</th>
<th>Stable</th>
<th>Increasing</th>
<th>Decreasing</th>
<th>Lack of systematic/recent data</th>
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Housing and homelessness (3)

Access to social housing for vulnerable groups

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<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
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Housing and homelessness (4)

Summing up, the main problems affecting the situation of housing and homelessness are related to:

• High/rising **housing prices** (e.g., BE; CZ; EE; LT; RO; SE; SK)

• Limited **availability of social housing**/lack of **social housing strategies** (e.g., BE; HR; EE; EL; IT; LV; ES; UK; MT; SK; PL)

• **Problems in dealing with immigrants** (e.g., BE; EL; FR)

• **Lack of (updated) data** (e.g., BE; EE; EL; IT; RO; SK)
Thank you for your attention
Policy Discussion

- **Jiri Svarc**, Head of Unit “Social Investment Strategy”, DG EMPL
- **Ana Carla Pereira**, Head of Unit “Modernisation of Social Protection Systems”, DG EMPL
The European Semester in 2019 and measures to improve cohesion in Europe

Jiri SVARC
Head of Unit, DG EMPL, Social Investment Strategy

Meeting of ESN's Reference Group on the European Semester
Brussels, 27 June 2019
In this presentation:

1. Social services: from the recommendation on Active Inclusion to the European Pillar of Social Rights

2. Social services: focus on access and quality

3. Social services: focus on coverage in the 2019 Semester/ CSR
The 2008 Recommendation on Active Inclusion

Three strands of active inclusion:

- adequate income support
- inclusive labour markets
- access to quality services

Enabling services (housing support, childcare, long-term care, health services, other social services)

Confirmed in the Employment Guidelines, which are the legal basis for adopting CSRs
The Social Investment Package, 2013

*Further efforts to improve outreach and take up of services and measures*

*Activation should be targeted and sequenced*

*Access to quality services*

Services should be delivered in a personalised and integrated way through putting in place:

- case-handlers and one-stop shops

**Empowering and supporting people in all stages of their lives**
7 out of the 20 Pillar principles refer to social services explicitly

3. Equal opportunities
9. Work-life balance
14. Minimum income
17. Inclusion of people with disabilities
18. Long-term care
19. Housing and assistance for the homeless
20. Access to essential services

BUT

Social services fulfill an important role in facilitating access to the mainstream services
• Voluntary Quality Framework (2010)

Quality principles

Availability
Accessibility
Affordability
Person-centeredness
Integrated approach
Continuity
Orientation towards outcomes
Respect for users' rights
Participation and empowerment
Partnership
Good governance
Good working conditions
Adequate physical infrastructure
Social services in the Semester

Relevant in order to

• **tackle poverty** *(EU 2020 target)*
• **support the integration into the labour market**
• **face demographic challenges**
• **new job opportunities**
• **reduce inequalities**

but difficult to measure, compare, assess!
Social services in the 2019 CSRs

Social services: BG, EE, ES, FI, HR, IE, IT, RO
+ 3 compared to 2018 (IE, IT, RO)

Childcare services: AT, CY, CZ, IE, IT, PL, SK
+2 (AT, CY)

Long-term care services: IT, PL, SK
+3 (2018 CSRs were on sustainability only)

+ social inclusion in EL, HU, LT, LV, PT, SK
Thank you!
Long-term care in the EU and in the Semester

Ana Carla Pereira
Head of Unit, European Commission, DG EMPL

Brussels, 27 June 2019
BETWEEN 2016 AND 2070...

- The total population of the EU is set to grow by 9 million
- The number of people aged 65+ will increase by over 50 million
- The working age population will shrink by over 40 million
- The fertility rate will increase slightly but remain low
Types of services & assistance

Formal care services

*Home care*
- Nursing care
- Assistance in bathing, dressing, eating, shopping, cooking
- Social counselling

*Semi-residential care*
- Sheltered housing
- Day or night care
- Short stay

*Residential care*
- Nursing homes
- Centres for social rehabilitation and integration
- Care in foster families
Prioritisation of home-based care?

- A clear **split** between European countries:
  
  ✓ Home and community-based services most developed in all the Nordic countries (DK, FI, SE) and some ‘Continental’ countries (e.g. BE, DE, FR)

  ✓ Insufficient availability of home care provision in Southern (e.g. CY, EL, ES, MT, PT) and especially Eastern European countries (e.g. BG, CZ, EE, LV, LT, PL, RO, SI, SK) but also underdeveloped residential care (e.g. BG, EE, EL, HR, HU, PL, RO)
Informal care
‘The invisible social welfare scheme’

➢ Spouses and children of the care-dependent person
  ➢ Women
  ➢ Neighbours and voluntary organisations

➢ High incidence in most of the countries (e.g. AT, BE, CY, CZ, EE, EL, ES, HU, HR, IE, IT, LT, LV, PL, SE, SI, SK, UK)

➢ Family responsibilities for children and parents are enshrined in law (e.g. HU, LV, LT)
Marketisation of LTC

➢ Long-term trend towards the privatisation and marketisation of LTC (e.g. BE, DE, FI, LT, UK)

➢ Private for-profit care institutions qualify for public funding (e.g. BE, DE, DK, EL, ES, FI, FR, SI, SE, UK) or public authorities contract a number of beds in private homes (e.g. MT)
Interinstitutional and territorial fragmentation

Healthcare system
- Care provided by health professionals
- Governance at national level

Social care
- Assistance in activities of daily life
- Governance at national/regional or local level
Expenditure

Ageing Report 2018 – Projections 2016-2070 (Base scenario)

Impact of ageing population and GDP growth
Expenditure


Impact of ageing population and GDP growth + convergence in LTC coverage and standards to EU average
Despite increasing LTC needs, supply of workers has been stable in most countries

Number of LTC workers per 100 individuals aged 65 and over, in 2011 and 2016 (or nearest year)

Source: OECD
Future employment growth (in %) in health & social care sector across Member States in 2018-2030
The range of LTC workers across the health/social care and formal/informal divides

Source: Ilinca et al., 2018: 616.
**Active Ageing Index**

The Active Ageing Index (AAI) is a tool to measure the untapped potential of older people for active and healthy ageing across countries. It measures the level to which older people live independent lives, participate in paid employment and social activities as well as their capacity to actively age.

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**Employment**
- Employment Rate 55-59
- Employment Rate 60-64
- Employment Rate 65-69
- Employment Rate 70-74

**Participation in Society**
- Voluntary activities
- Care to children and grand children
- Care to older adults
- Political participation

**Independent, Healthy and Secure Living**
- Physical exercise
- Access to health services
- Independent living
- Financial security (three indicators)
- Physical safety
- Lifelong learning

**Capacity and Enabling Environment for Active Ageing**
- Remaining life expectancy at age 55
- Share of healthy life expectancy at age 55
- Mental well-being
- Use of ICT
- Social connectedness
- Educational attainment

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**Actual experiences of active ageing**

**Capacity to actively age**
Active Ageing

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Map showing AAI values for different European countries.
Policy principles

- **Employment Guidelines**
  "Member States should improve the quality, accessibility, efficiency and effectiveness of health and long-term care systems, while safeguarding sustainability."

- **Annual Growth Survey 2018**
  "Reforms of health care and long-term care systems need to be pursued to enhance their cost-effectiveness, ensure their fiscal sustainability and ensure quality, affordable access."

- **Joint Employment Report 2018**
  "Equal and timely access to quality health and long term care, as well as effective health promotion and disease prevention, are key to foster a healthy and active population and achieve economic prosperity. [...] Moreover, the sufficient provision of formal accessible, high-quality and sustainable long-term care services remains a challenge in several Member States."
Policy principles

• 2017 European Pillar of Social Rights

**Principle 9 on Work-life balance:**

"Parents and people with caring responsibilities have the right to suitable leave, flexible working arrangements and access to care services. Women and men shall have equal access to special leaves of absence in order to fulfil their caring responsibilities and be encouraged to use them in a balanced way."

**Principle 18 on LTC care:**

"Everyone has the right to affordable long-term care services of good quality, in particular home-care and community-based services."
LTC in the country reports (CR)

The topic is mentioned in 24 country reports

Depending on the maturity and the set-up of LTC systems, CR deal with

- Increasing demand due to ageing
- Need for a comprehensive policy framework
- Access to LTC (waiting lists)
- Lack of workforce / role of informal care
- Need for better integration of services
- Role of homecare and community-based services
## European Semester – CSR 2019

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<th>Country</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
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<td>AT</td>
<td>Ensure the sustainability of the health, long-term care, and pension systems, including by adjusting the statutory retirement age in view of expected gains in life expectancy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BE</td>
<td>Continue reforms to ensure the fiscal sustainability of the long-term care and pension systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Support women’s participation in the labour market through a comprehensive strategy, including through access to quality childcare and long-term care.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PL</td>
<td>Take steps to increase labour market participation, including by improving access to childcare and long-term care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SK</td>
<td>Enhance access to affordable and quality childcare and long-term care.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SI</td>
<td>Adopt and implement reforms in healthcare and long-term care that ensure quality, accessibility and long-term fiscal sustainability.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>