

EP OFFICE OF
TAMÁS MESZERICS

Establishing a common framework for European Statistics relating to persons
and households

May 6, 2018

Accurate and comparable statistical data and social indicators are essential for responsible policy-making. Growth and job creation, the reduction of poverty and social exclusion are all priorities for the European Union. To achieve these goals set out in the European Pillar of Social Rights and to provide reliable information for the European Semester process, high quality social statistics are crucial.

Currently statistics on persons and households are collected on the basis of several legislative acts, and mainly gathered from administrative sources, but some data are also gathered from business surveys. The proposed legislation would create a common framework for social statistics and enable the further integration of statistical data into the European Semester process. Better quality and more detailed data recording and processing will contribute to better social policies both on the European and on the national level.

The common framework will be applicable to European statistics relating to persons and households, based on data at individual level collected from samples. The seven domains of data collection (labour market, income and living conditions, health, education and training, use of information and communication technologies, time use and consumption) will offer a comprehensive picture on social indicators for policy-makers, researchers and students.

The European Commission made its proposal for a common framework in August 2016. Since then, both the Council's and the Parliament's working groups have added their insights and proposed several amendments to modify the Commission's version. It is the Parliament's priority to ensure high-quality, gender-segregated and age-segregated data collection. In addition, data shall take into account different territorial levels (such as NUTS2) and shall aim to provide information about the population difficult to reach. The Parliament's working group also stressed the importance of giving a precise account of poverty and disability. Timeliness and punctuality are essential when publishing data - the Parliament recognizes the user's needs for fresh information.

Tamás Meszerics is the rapporteur of the file, appointed by the European Parliament Committee on Employment and Social Affairs. The rapporteur represents the European Parliament in the negotiations with the European Council and the European Commission - currently the three EU institutions are

engaged in trilogue negotiations on the proposed regulation. Depending on the success of the ongoing trilogue negotiations, the new legislation may be adopted this summer.