



International
Labour
Office



THE STATE OF APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS
FOR SOCIAL SECURITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL
TREATIES ON SOCIAL RIGHTS RATIFIED BY

Iceland

ILO
TECHNICAL
NOTE

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Outline

CHAPTER I. Country profile: adequacy of social security benefits, income and poverty indicators. Determination of the Standard Reference Wage used for calculating the replacement level of benefits

CHAPTER II. Integrated Management of compliance and reporting obligations of Iceland under social security provisions of the ratified international treaties on social rights

CHAPTER III. Concluding observations of the supervisory bodies concerning provisions of the ratified international treaties on social rights and statements of other international bodies reviewing national economic and social policy

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The information and data contained in the Technical Note is taken from the Government reports, on-line databases of the National Statistical office, official web-sites of the government departments, MISSCEO, MISSOC, SSI, ILOSTAT and EUROSTAT.

List of international abbreviations:

CAS	Committee on the Application of Standards, International Labour Conference
CEACR	Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
COE	Council of Europe
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
ECSR	European Committee of Social Rights
ECSS	European Code of Social Security
ESC	European Social Charter
EU	European Union
EUROSTAT	Statistical Office of the European Union
GC	Governmental Committee of the European Social Charter and European Code of Social Security
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ILS	International Labour Standards
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MISSEO	Mutual Information System on Social Protection of the Council of Europe
MISSOC	Mutual Information System on Social Protection
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SSI	Social Security Inquiry

CHAPTER I. Country profile: adequacy of social security benefits, income and poverty indicators. Determination of the Standard Reference Wage used for calculating the replacement level of benefits

- [Country profile by national indicators and minimum standards of social security](#)
- [Table. 1. Eurostat indicators](#)
- [Table 2. MISSOC indicators](#)
- [Table 3. ISSA indicators](#)
- [Fig. 1. Article 65: Type of social security schemes and method of benefit calculation](#)
- [Fig. 2. Article 66: Type of social security schemes and method of benefit calculation](#)
- [Fig. 3. Article 67: Type of social security schemes and method of benefit calculation](#)
- [Table 4. Calculation of the reference wage under all options permitted by Articles 65-66 of the C102](#)
- [ILO assessment of the options offered by Articles 65-66](#)
- [Fig. 4. Share of males in paid employment by economic activity in total number of males in paid employment](#)
- [Fig. 5. The average wages of a typical skilled/unskilled manual male employee determined by cross-tabulating of the two classifications](#)
- [Fig.6. Comparison of the reported reference wage to other wage indicators in Iceland](#)

Country profile by national indicators and minimum standards of social security

Table 1. Eurostat indicators	2006	2010	2013	2014
At-risk-of-poverty threshold (40%, single person)	€11,383	€7,328	€8,493	€8,995
At-risk-of-poverty threshold (50%, single person)	€14,229	€9,160	€10,617	€11,243
At-risk-of-poverty threshold (60%, single person)	€17,075	€10,992	€12,740	€13,492
At-risk-of-poverty rate –(40%, of median equivalised income)	2.8%	3.0%	3.0%	2.2%
At-risk-of-poverty rate –(50%, of median equivalised income)	5.2%	5.4%	4.9%	3.9%
At-risk-of-poverty rate after social transfers–(60%, of median equivalised income)	9.6%	9.8%	9.3%	7.9%
At-risk-of-poverty rate before social transfers, pensions excluded –(60%, of median equivalised income)	18.5%	22.8%	22.7%	21.2%
Persistent at-risk-of-poverty rate –(60%, of median equivalised income)		3.4%	2.4%	
Aggregate replacement ratio	0.46	0.48	0.49	0.49
Severe material deprivation (% of total population)	2.1%	1.8%	1.9%	1.4%
Gini coefficient	26.3	25.7	24.0	22.7

Table 2. MISSOC (2015)

<i>Social Security branch</i>	Compensation rate/Level of benefit	Qualifying period
Sickness benefit	Statutory continuation of payment of salaries for at least 1 month after 12 months of consecutive employment. Per diem sickness cash benefits for persons who have to give up full-time gainful employment: ISK 1,414 (€9.57), payable as of the 15th day of certified work incapacity (provided no wages/sick pay are received and the work incapacity has lasted longer than 21 days.	2 months of work prior to illness and 6 months of residency for new residents.
Unemployment benefit	70% of average earnings during a 6-month period ending 2 months before becoming unemployed.	12 months of consecutive work on the domestic labour market for entitlement to maximum benefits. 3 months of work during the last 12 months for entitlement to minimum benefits.
Old-age benefit	Pension rights are calculated pro rata according to periods of residence. Old-age pension for a single person after 40 years of residence: full basic pension of ISK 436,044 (€2,951) per year, full pension supplement of ISK 1,376,040 (€9,312).	At least three years of residence in Iceland between the ages of 16-66 inclusive.
Employment injury benefit	Invalidity of 75% or more: full injuries insurance pension of ISK 436,044 (€2,951) per year. Invalidity of 50% or more: ½ of full pension rate, increasing by 2% for each additional degree of invalidity up to a level of invalidity of 75%. If the loss of capacity is less than 50%, the pension will be paid as a lump sum invalidity benefit equivalent to a pension for the person concerned for a given number of years.	
Family benefit	Benefits are income-tested and calculated on the basis of taxable income according to the tax-return in August each year.	Based on residency
Maternity benefit	80% of average wages earned.	Active participation in the domestic labour market for 6 consecutive months prior to birth or adoption.
Invalidity benefit	No reference earnings. Flat-rate benefits depending on degree of invalidity, age, residence and income.	At least 3 years of residence prior to submitting the claim. The pension fund member must have contributed to a pension fund for at least 2 years.
Survivor's benefit	Benefits are calculated as a percentage of the pension rights of the deceased person as described in the statutes of each individual pension fund. Flat-rate child pension ISK 26,863 (€182) per month, double amount if both parents are deceased.	The deceased insured person, the surviving spouse or the surviving child must have been resident in Iceland for at least three years immediately prior to application

Table 3. ISSA (2014)

Social Security branch	Min amount of benefits	Qualifying conditions
Sickness benefit	At least 1,275 kronur a day is paid for persons who no longer receive wages or employer-paid sickness benefits due to illness; 638 kronur a day is paid for persons who receive 50% of their income due to illness. The benefit is paid after a 14-day waiting period for 52 weeks in any one 24-month period.	Must be aged 18 or older, incapable of work as the result of a sickness for at least 21 days, not receiving old-age or disability benefits, and not receiving wages or employer-paid sickness benefits due to illness. A partial benefit is paid for those who receive 50% of their income due to illness.
Unemployment benefit	Up to 8,630 kronur a day is paid for 10 days; at least 1,725 kronur a day with 10 weeks of full-time employment.	Aged 16 to 69, a resident of Iceland, and has at least 10 weeks of employment in the previous 12 months.
Old-age benefit	423,348 kronur a year is paid to an unmarried person (different amounts for married or cohabiting couples) with annual income of up to 2,575,220 kronur. A reduced benefit is paid with annual income from 2,575,220 to 4,268,612 kronur.	Age 67, a resident of Iceland for at least 40 years from ages 16 to 67, and has annual income below 4,268,612 kronur.
Family benefit	Benefits are awarded as a tax reduction to families with children and income below a certain level. The benefit is based on the previous year's income. The annual child benefit is 100,000 kronur for children younger than age 7 at the end of the 2008 income year.	The child must be younger than age 18 and be supported by a parent or guardian who is ordinarily resident in Iceland.
Maternity benefit	80% of the insured's average wage or income during the last two years before the year of the child's birth is paid. If the insured is employed part time (from 25% to 49%), the minimum benefit is 97,786 kronur a month; if employed from 50% to 100%, the minimum benefit is 135,525 kronur a month.	Both parents must have been working in Iceland for at least six consecutive months before the first day of parental leave.
Employment Injury benefit	1,619 kronur a day is paid if the incapacity for work lasts for at least 10 days. The benefit is paid after a seven-day waiting period for up to 52 weeks.	There is no minimum qualifying period.
Invalidity benefit	423,348 kronur a year is paid to an unmarried person (different amounts for married or cohabiting couples) with at least a 75% assessed degree of disability and annual income of up to 2,575,220 kronur. A reduced benefit is paid with annual income from 2,575,220 to 4,268,612 kronur.	Age 16 to 67 and a resident of Iceland for at least three years before the claim is made. Must have an assessed loss of earning capacity of at least 75% as a result of a medically recognized disease or disability and have annual income below a certain ceiling.
Survivor's benefit	24,230 kronur a month is paid to each orphan younger than age 18; the pension is doubled for full orphans. 37,498 kronur a month is paid to the widow(er) for up to six months; 28,090 kronur for an additional six months if the widow(er) has a dependent child younger than age 18.	The deceased and the survivors must have been residents of Iceland for at least three years before the claim is made.

Exchange rate: US\$1.00 = 115.03 kronur

Fig. 1. Article 65: Type of social security schemes and method of benefit calculation

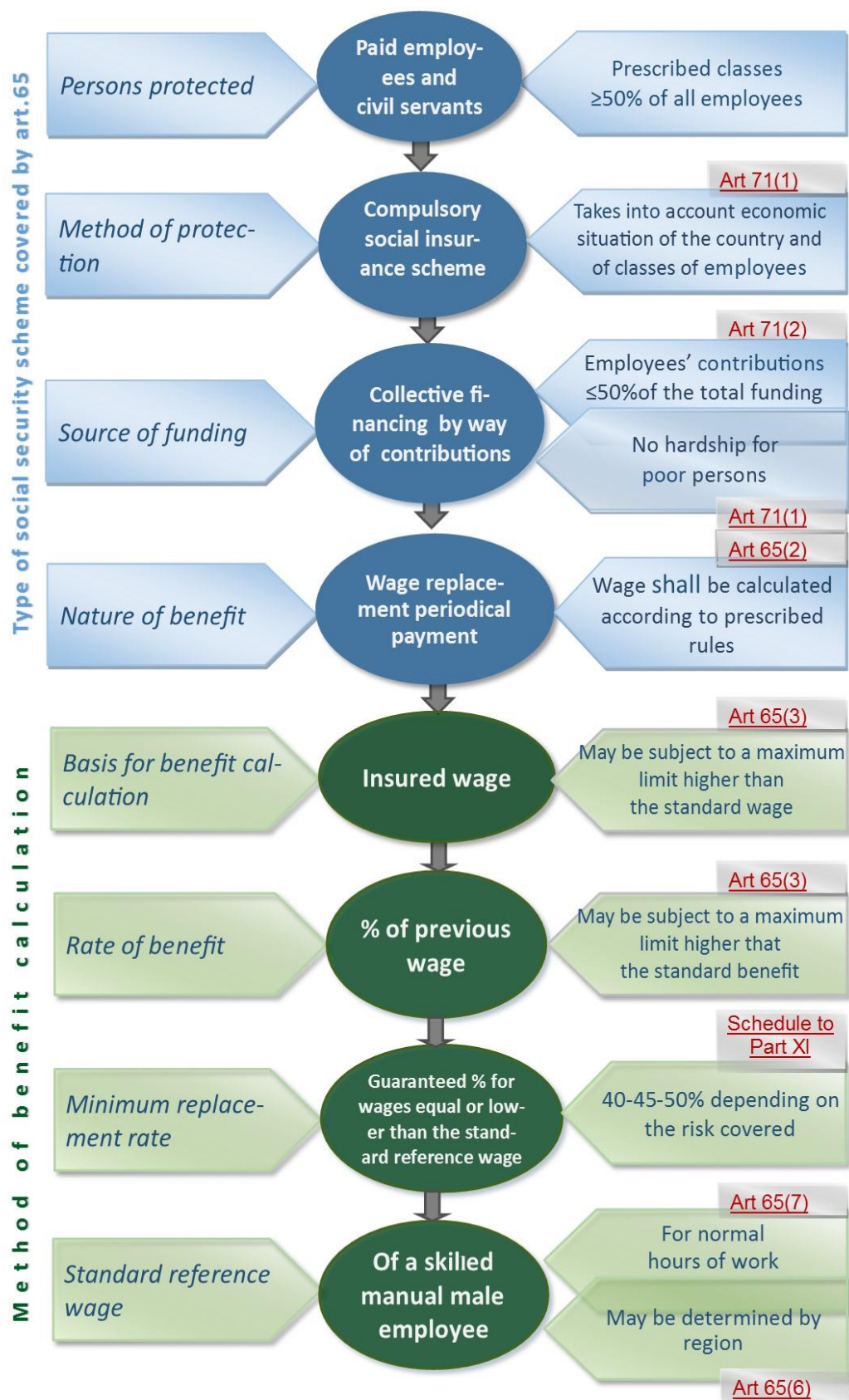


Fig. 2. Article 66: Type of social security schemes and method of benefit calculation

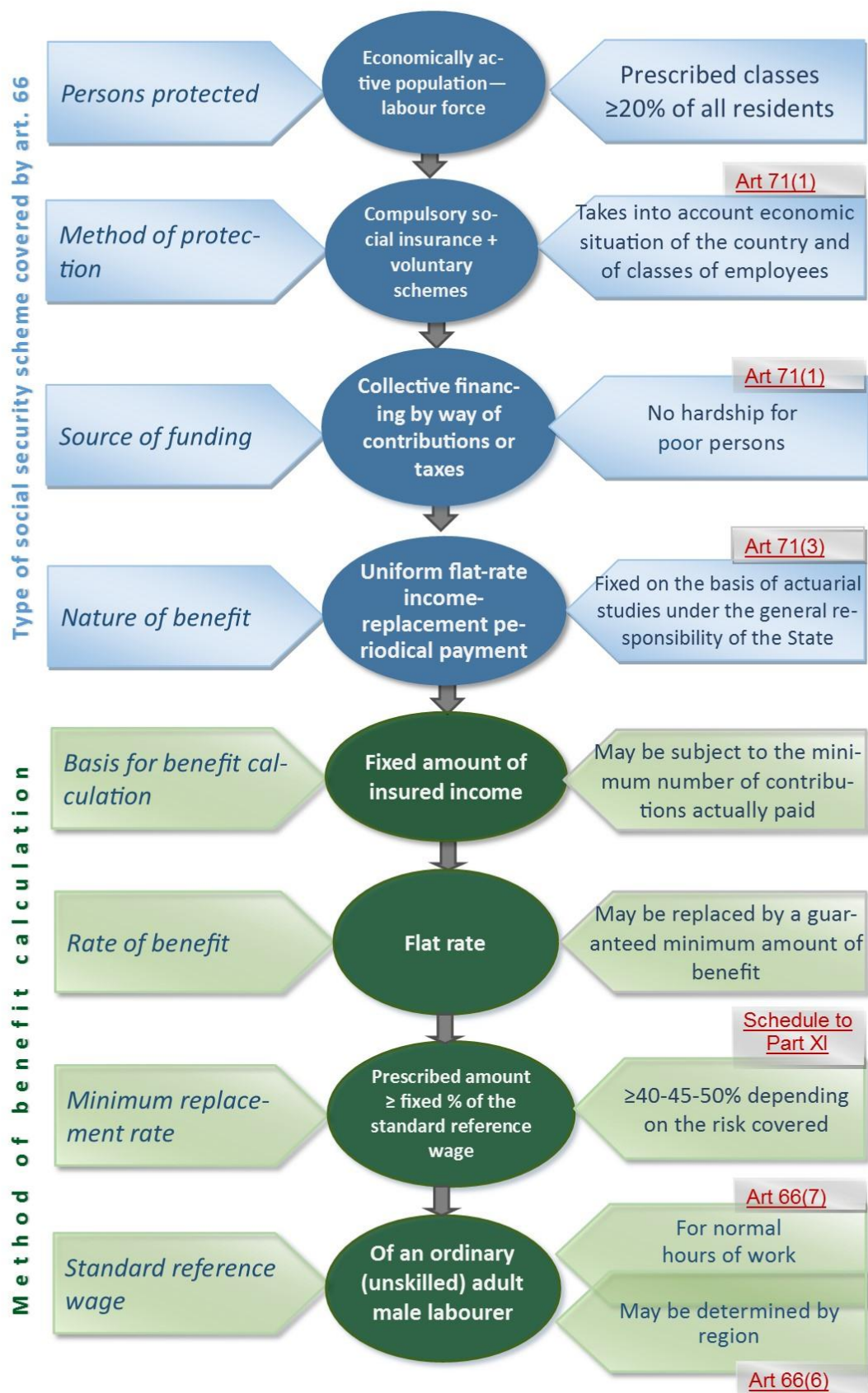


Fig. 3. Article 67: Type of social security schemes and method of benefit calculation

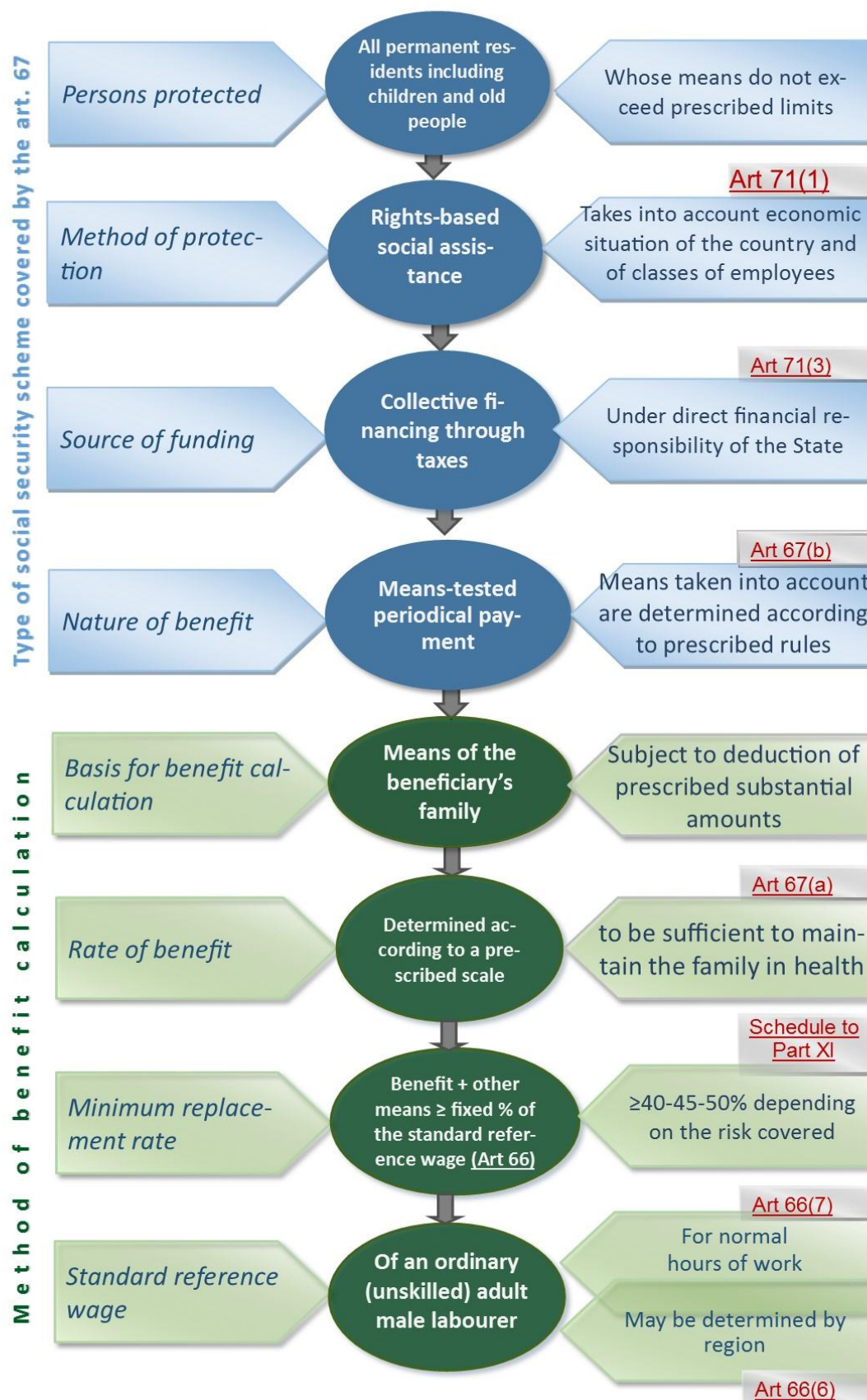


Table 4. Calculation of the reference wage under all options permitted by Articles 65-66 of the C102

Articles in the ECSS/C.102		Comments	Reference wage: amount	
			ILO calculations ¹ -2010	Government ²
Article 65 (para 6): a skilled manual male employee				
Option 1	Art.65 (6)a: a fitter or turner in the manufacture of machinery other than electrical machinery	occupations of fitter and turner can be found among skilled employees of ISCO 08 ³ (group 7)	N/A	
Option 2	Art.65 (6)b: a person deemed typical of skilled labour	a skilled employee of the ISIC rev.4 ⁴ group with the highest number of male employees: typical skilled male worker in manufacturing	2215 euros	
Option 3	Art.65 (6)c: a person whose earnings are equal to 125 per cent of the average earnings of all the persons protected	in countries where all employees are protected average wage is normally used	2528 euros	
Article 66 (para 4): an ordinary manual male labourer				
Option 4	Art.66 (4)a: a person deemed typical of unskilled labour in the manufacture of machinery other than electrical machinery	an employee of the ISIC rev.4 Manufacture of machinery (2-digit level of the classification: ISIC Rev.4 Section C. Manufacturing, code 28)	N/A	
Option 5	Art.66 (4)b: a person deemed typical of unskilled labour	an unskilled employee of the ISIC rev.4 group with the highest number of male employees: typical unskilled male worker in manufacturing	1556 euros	

* Gross wages are used unless stated otherwise

¹ ILO calculations based on EUROSTAT data from Labour Force Survey - LFS-2013 and SES-2010 (see detailed information further)

² Reference wage reported by the Government on the application of ECSS and C.102

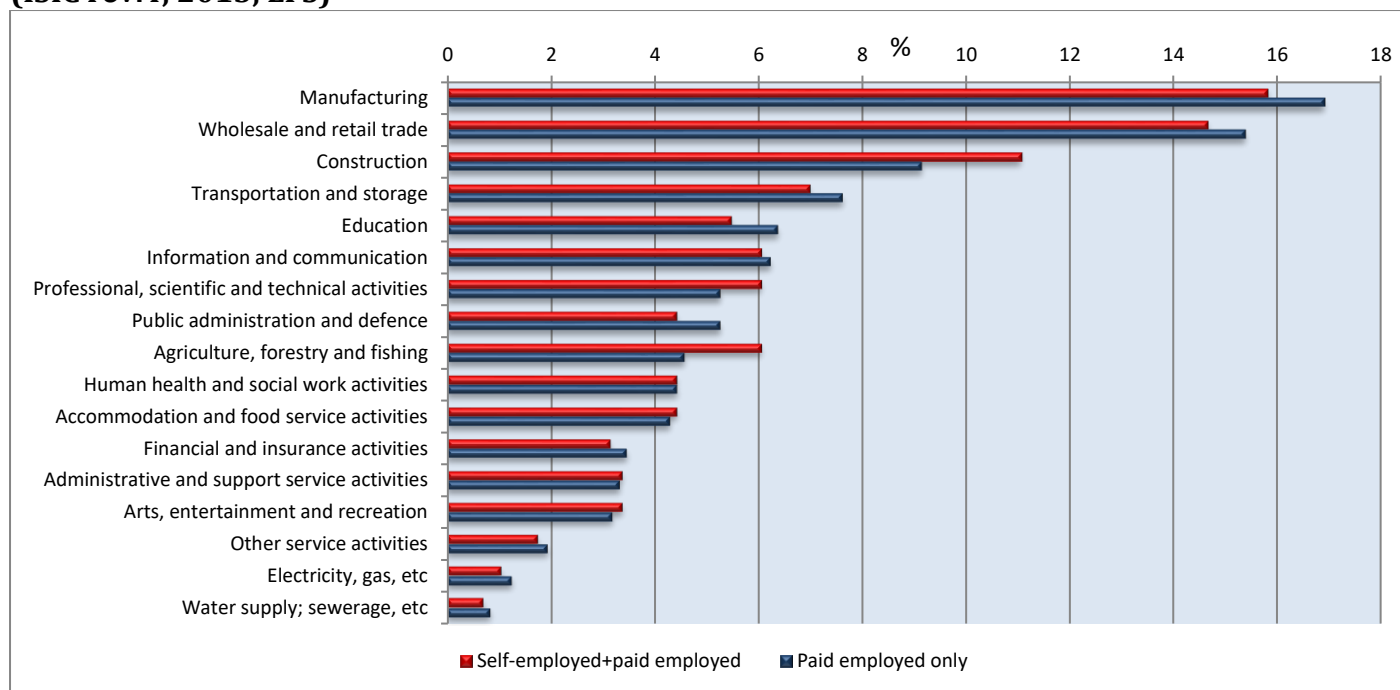
³ ISCO 08 – International Standard Classification of Occupations 2008 (detailed explanation to follow) <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/isco/isco08/>

⁴ ISIC rev.4 - International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Rev.4, 2008
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/cr/registry/iscic-4.asp>

ILO assessment of the options offered by articles 65-66:

OPTION 2 - a typical manual male employee is found in the sector with the highest number of employed males = Manufacturing

Fig. 4. Share of employed males by economic activity in total male employment and share of males in paid employment by economic activity in total number of males in paid employment (ISIC rev.4, 2013, LFS)



Source: Eurostat LFS - http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=lfsa_egaps&lang=en

Fig. 5. The average wages of a typical skilled/unskilled manual male employee are determined by cross-tabulating of the two classifications:

- ISCO 08 – International Standard Classification of Occupations (group 7- skilled and 9 – ordinary)
- ISIC rev.4 - International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Rev.4, 2008

		ISCO 08	
ISIC rev.4	ISCO 08	Total	7. Craft and related trades workers
	ISIC rev.4		9. Elementary occupations
	Total		
	...		
	C. Manufacturing		skilled
	...		unskilled

ISCO 08:

ISCO 08: Major group 7

Craft and related trades workers apply their specific knowledge and skills to produce or process goods. The tasks call for an understanding of all stages of the production process, the materials and tools used and the nature and purpose of the final product. Most occupations in this group require skills at the second ISCO level.

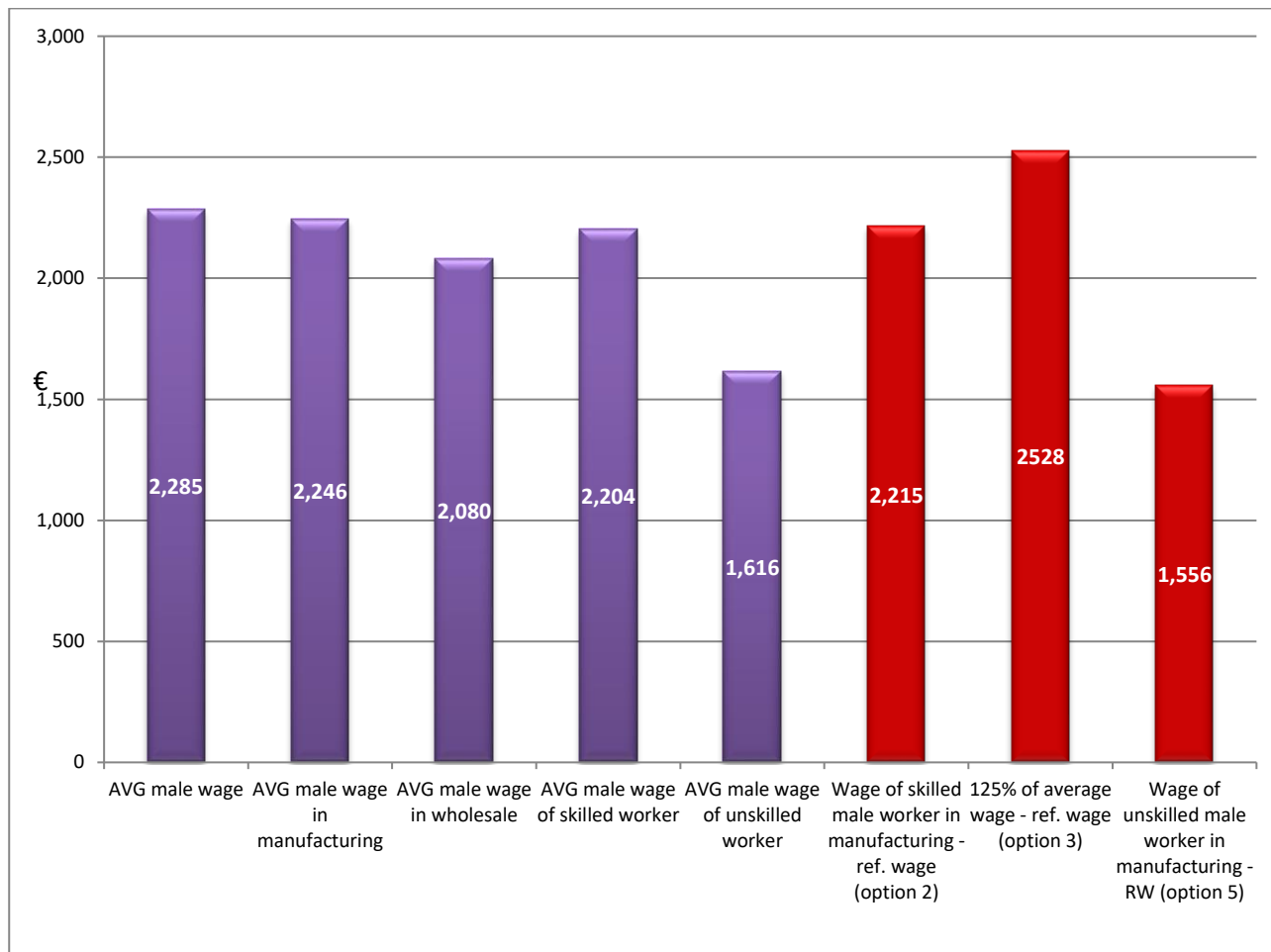
The work is carried out by hand and by hand-powered and other tools.

ISCO 08: Major group 9

Elementary occupations involve the performance of simple and routine tasks which may require the use of hand-held tools and considerable physical effort.

Most occupations in this major group require skills at first level of ISCO (involve physical and manual tasks, require only primary education at most)

Fig. 6. Comparison of the reported reference wage to other wage indicators in Iceland, 2010, euros



Source: Eurostat SES - http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=earn_ses10_48&lang=en and http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=earn_ses_monthly&lang=en for option 3 – 125% of average wage (include both full-time and part-time employees)

CHAPTER II. Integrated Management of compliance and reporting obligations of Iceland under social security provisions of the ratified international treaties on social rights

- [Table 1. Up-to-date social security standards in force](#)
- [Table 2. Pending comments of the supervisory bodies](#)
- [Table 3. Up-to-date standards on which reports are due in 2017](#)
- [Table 4. Up-to-date standards on which reports are due in 2018](#)
- [Parts of Convention No.102 no longer applicable following ratification of more advanced standards](#)
- [Fig. 1. Example of time management of the 5 years reporting cycle on international and European social security standards](#)
- [Fig. 2. Example of time management for reporting on social security standards](#)

Table 1. Up-to-date social security standards in force

<div>Social Human Rights</div> <div>International treaties</div>	Right to health		Right to work		Right to just conditions of work	Right of the family and children to protection	Right of mothers to protection	Rights of persons with disabilities		Right to an adequate standard of living	Financing & Organization
ICESCR	Right to Social Security Art.9										
	Art.12		Art.6		Art.7§b	Art.10§1§3	Art.10§2			Art.7§a §ii, 11§1	Art.2§1, 4, 5
UN Conventions					CRPD	CRC	CEDAW	CRPD			
ESC (1961)	Art.11, 13§1		Art.1§1§3	Art.23	Art.3, Art. 15§2	Art.16 Art.27§1b,c	Art.8§1	Art.15		Art. 4 §1, Art.13§1§2§3 Art.14	
	Right to Social Security Art.12§1§2§3										
Protocol	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	Schedule to XI	
ECSS	Medical care Part II	Sickness benefit Part III	Unemployment benefit Part IV	Old-age benefit Part V	Employment injury benefit Part VI	Family benefit Part VII	Maternity benefit Part VIII	Invalidity benefit Part IX	Survivor's benefit Part X	Level of benefits Part XI	Financing & Organization Part XII
C102	Part II	Part III	Part IV	Part V	Part VI	Part VII	Part VIII	Part IX	Part X	Part XI	Part XIII
Advanced ILO Conventions	C130 Part II	C130 Part III	C168	C128 Part III	C121		C183 Art.6,7	C128 Part II	C128 Part IV	C121 Art.19-21 C128 Part V, C130 Part III, C168 Art.15,16	C121 Art.22-26 C128 Part VI, C130 Part IV, C168 Part VIII
First generation ILO Conventions		C024 C025 C056	C044	C035 C036	C012 C017 C018 C042		C003 C103	C037 C038	C039 C040		C44 Art.10, C35Art.8-11, C37Art.11-12, C39, Art.13-14 C24 Art.6-8, C25 Art.6-8



Social Security Standards in force for Iceland



Social Security Standards not in force

Table 2. Pending comments of the supervisory bodies

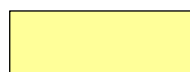
Social Human Rights	Right to health		Right to work		Right to just conditions of work	Right of the family and children to protection	Right of mothers to protection	Rights of persons with disabilities		Right to an adequate standard of living	Financing & Organization
International treaties											
ICESCR	Right to Social Security Art.9										
	Art.12		Art.6		Art.7§b	Art.10§1§3	Art.10§2			Art.7§a §ii, 11§1	Art.2§1, 4, 5
UN Conventions					CRPD	CRC	CEDAW	CRPD			
ESC (1961)	Art.11, 13§1		Art.1§1§3	Art.23	Art.3 Art. 15§2	Art.16 Art.27§1b,c	Art.8§1	Art.15§1		Art. 4 §1, Art.13§1§2§3 Art.14	
	Right to Social Security Art.12§1§2§3										
Protocol	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	Schedule to XI	
ECSS	Medical care Part II	Sickness benefit Part III	Unemployment benefit Part IV	Old-age benefit Part V	Employment injury benefit Part VI	Family benefit Part VII	Maternity benefit Part VIII	Invalidity benefit Part IX	Survivor's benefit Part X	Level of benefits Part XI	Financing & Organization Part XII
C102	Part II	Part III	Part IV	Part V	Part VI	Part VII	Part VIII	Part IX	Part X	Part XI	Part XIII
Advanced ILO Conventions	C130 Part II	C130 Part III	C168	C128 Part III	C121		C183 Art.6,7	C128 Part II	C128 Part IV	C121 Art.19-21 C128 Part V, C130 Part III, C168 Art.15,16	C121 Art.22-26 C128 Part VI, C130 Part IV, C168 Part VIII
First generation ILO Conventions		C024 C025 C056	C044	C035 C036	C012 C017 C018 C042		C003 C103	C037 C038	C039 C040		C44 Art.10, C35 Art.8-11, C37 Art.11-12, C39, Art.13-14 C24 Art.6-8, C25 Art.6-8



Social Security Standards in force for Iceland



Social Security Standards not in force



Pending comments of the supervisory bodies



Critical comments or non-compliance

Table 3. Up-to-date standards on which reports are due in 2017

Social Human Rights	Right to health		Right to work		Right to just conditions of work	Right of the family and children to protection	Right of mothers to protection	Rights of persons with disabilities		Right to an adequate standard of living	Financing & Organization
International treaties											
ICESCR	Right to Social Security Art.9										
	Art.12		Art.6		Art.7§b	Art.10§1§3	Art.10§2			Art.7§a §ii, 11§1	Art.2§1, 4, 5
UN Conventions					CRPD	CRC	CEDAW	CRPD			
ESC (1961)	Art.11, 13§1		Art.1§1§3	Art.23	Art.3, Art. 15§2	Art.16 Art.27§1b,c	Art.8§1	Art.15		Art. 4 §1 Art.13§1§2§3 Art.14	
	Right to Social Security Art.12§1§2§3										
Protocol	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	Schedule to XI	
ECSS	Medical care Part II	Sickness benefit Part III	Unemployment benefit Part IV	Old-age benefit Part V	Employment injury benefit Part VI	Family benefit Part VII	Maternity benefit Part VIII	Invalidity benefit Part IX	Survivor's benefit Part X	Level of benefits Part XI	Financing & Organization Part XII
C102	Part II	Part III	Part IV	Part V	Part VI	Part VII	Part VIII	Part IX	Part X	Part XI	Part XIII
Advanced ILO Conventions	C130 Part II	C130 Part III	C168	C128 Part III	C121		C183 Art.6,7	C128 Part II	C128 Part IV	C121 Art.19-21 C128 Part V, C130 Part III, C168 Art.15,16	C121 Art.22-26 C128 Part VI, C130 Part IV, C168 Part VIII
First generation ILO Conventions		C024 C025 C056	C044	C035 C036	C012 C017 C018 C042		C003 C103	C037 C038	C039 C040		C44 Art.10, C35Art.8-11, C37Art.11-12, C39, Art.13-14 C24 Art.6-8, C25 Art.6-8



Social Security Standards in force for Iceland



Social Security Standards not in force



Report in 2017

Table 4. Up-to-date standards on which reports are due in 2018

Social Human Rights	Right to health		Right to work		Right to just conditions of work	Right of the family and children to protection	Right of mothers to protection	Rights of persons with disabilities		Right to an adequate standard of living	Financing & Organization
International treaties											
ICESCR	Right to Social Security Art.9										
	Art.12		Art.6		Art.7§b	Art.10§1§3	Art.10§2			Art.7§a §ii, 11§1	Art.2§1, 4, 5
UN Conventions					CRPD	CRC	CEDAW	CRPD			
ESC (1961)	Art.11, 13§1		Art.1§1§3	Art.23	Art.3, Art. 15§2	Art.16 Art.27§1b,c	Art.8§1	Art.15		Art. 4 §1, Art.13§1§2§3 Art.14	
	Right to Social Security Art.12§1§2§3										
Protocol	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	Schedule to XI	
ECSS	Medical care Part II	Sickness benefit Part III	Unemployment benefit Part IV	Old-age benefit Part V	Employment injury benefit Part VI	Family benefit Part VII	Maternity benefit Part VIII	Invalidity benefit Part IX	Survivor's benefit Part X	Level of benefits Part XI	Financing & Organization Part XII
C102	Part II	Part III	Part IV	Part V	Part VI	Part VII	Part VIII	Part IX	Part X	Part XI	Part XIII
Advanced ILO Conventions	C130 Part II	C130 Part III	C168	C128 Part III	C121		C183 Art.6,7	C128 Part II	C128 Part IV	C121 Art.19-21 C128 Part V, C130 Part III, C168 Art.15,16	C121 Art.22-26 C128 Part VI, C130 Part IV, C168 Part VIII
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Social Security Standards in force for Iceland



Social Security Standards not in force



Report in 2018

Parts of Convention No.102 no longer applicable following ratification of more advanced standards

C102 - Social Security (Minimum Standards)

Article 75

If any Convention which may be adopted subsequently by the Conference concerning any subject or subjects dealt with in this Convention so provides, such provisions of this Convention as may be specified in the said Convention shall cease to apply to any Member having ratified the said Convention as from the date at which the said Convention comes into force for that Member.

C121 - Employment Injury Benefits → C102, Part IV

Article 29

In conformity with Article 75 of the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952, Part VI of that Convention and the relevant provisions of other Parts thereof shall cease to apply to any Member having ratified this Convention as from the date at which this Convention comes into force for that Member, but acceptance of the obligations of this Convention shall be deemed to constitute acceptance of the obligations of Part VI of the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952, and the relevant provisions of other Parts thereof, for the purpose of Article 2 of the said Convention

C128 - Invalidity, Old-Age and Survivors' Benefits → C102, Parts V, IX, X

Article 45

1. In conformity with the provisions of Article 75 of the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952, the following Parts of that Convention and the relevant provisions of other Parts thereof shall cease to apply to any Member having ratified this Convention as from the date at which this Convention is binding on that Member and no declaration under Article 38 is in force:

- (a) Part IX where the Member has accepted the obligations of this Convention in respect of Part II;
- (b) Part V where the Member has accepted the obligations of this Convention in respect of Part III;
- (c) Part X where the Member has accepted the obligations of this Convention in respect of Part IV.

2. Acceptance of the obligations of this Convention shall, on condition that no declaration under Article 38 is in force, be deemed to constitute acceptance of the obligations of the following parts of the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952, and the relevant provisions of other Parts thereof, for the purpose of Article 2 of the said Convention:

- (a) Part IX where the Member has accepted the obligations of this Convention in respect of Part II;
- (b) Part V where the Member has accepted the obligations of this Convention in respect of Part III;
- (c) Part X where the Member has accepted the obligations of this Convention in respect of Part IV.

C130 - Medical Care and Sickness Benefits → C102, Part III

Article 36

1. In conformity with the provisions of Article 75 of the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952, Part III of that Convention and the relevant provisions of other Parts thereof shall cease to apply to any Member having ratified this Convention as from the date at which this Convention is binding on that Member and no declaration under Article 3 is in force.
2. Acceptance of the obligations of this Convention shall, on condition that no declaration under Article 3 is in force, be deemed to constitute acceptance of the obligations of Part III of the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952, and the relevant provisions of other Parts thereof, for the purpose of Article 2 of the said Convention.

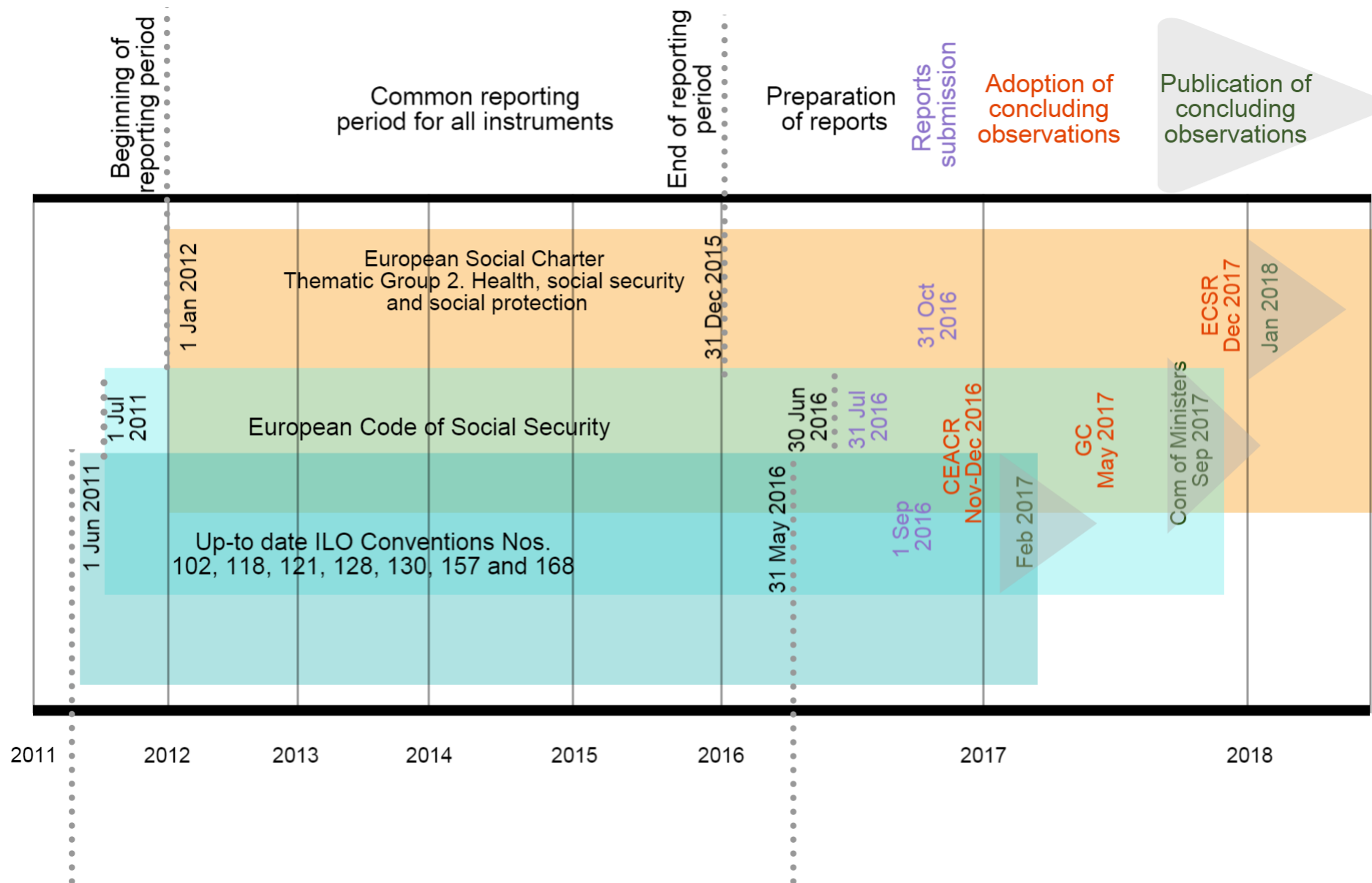
C130, Part II → C102, Part II

N.B! For information and reporting purposes, more advanced provisions on medical care contained in C130 include all those contained in Part II of C102.

C168 → C102, Part IV

N.B! For information and reporting purposes, more advanced provisions on unemployment benefit of C168 include those contained in Part IV of C102.

Fig. 1. Example of time management of the 5 years reporting cycle on international and European social security standards



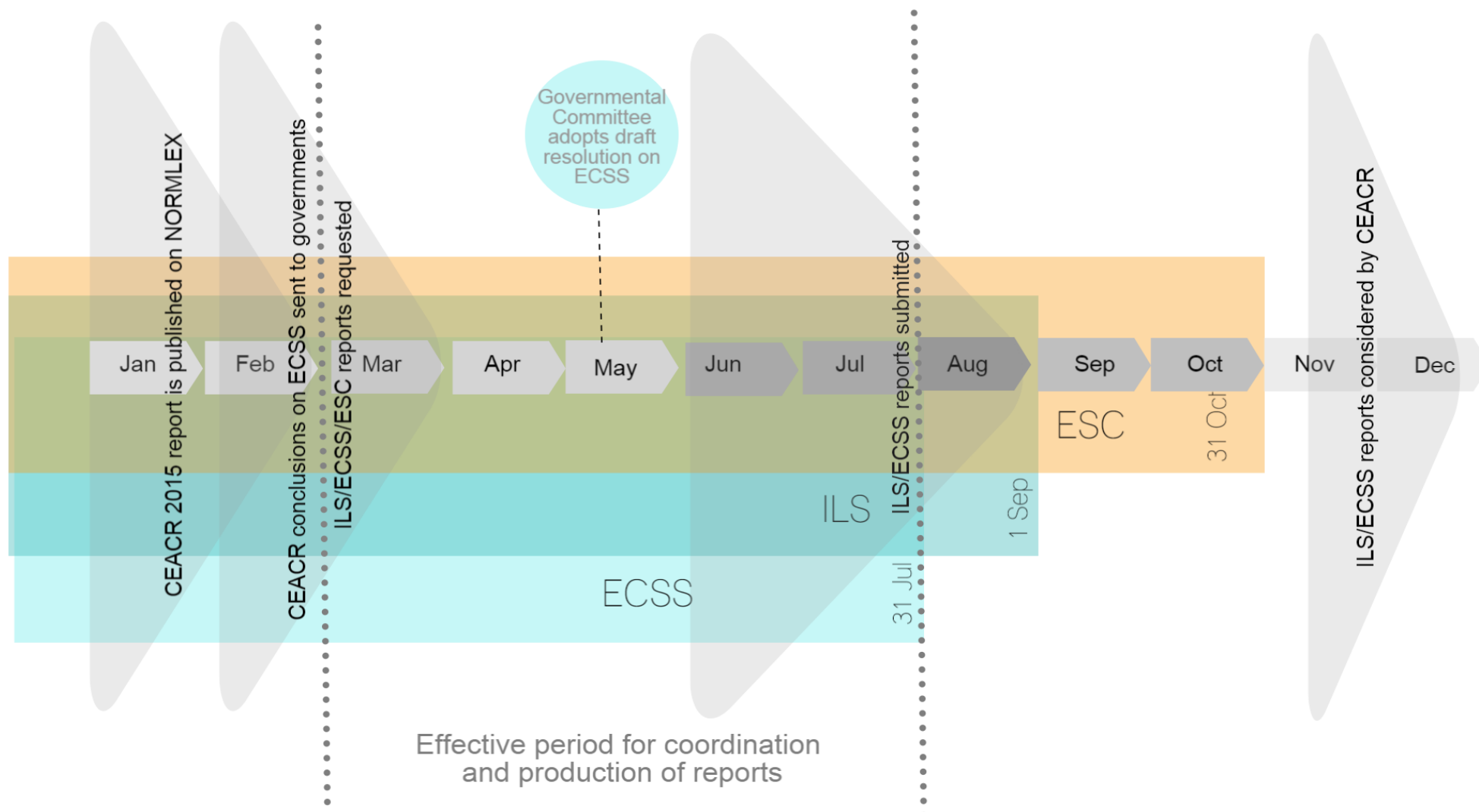


Fig. 2. Example of time management for reporting on social security standards

Chapter III. Concluding observations of the supervisory bodies concerning provisions of the ratified international treaties on social rights and statements of other international bodies reviewing national economic and social policy

- [Table 1. International treaties on social rights ratified by Iceland](#)
- [Table 2. Monitoring Mechanisms of State Party Compliance and Reporting Obligations](#)

1. **United Nations**

- [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#)
- [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)
- [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#)
- [Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities](#)

2. **Council of Europe**

- [European Social Charter](#)

3. **International Labour Organization**

Table 1. In force international treaties on social rights ratified by Iceland

Body	International Treaty	Entry into force for Iceland	Next report due on
United Nations	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	22 Aug 1979	30 Nov 2017
	Convention on the Rights of the Child	28 Oct 1992	26 May 2018
	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	18 Jun 1985	March 2020
	Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities	23 Sep 2016	September 2018
Council of Europe	European Code of Social Security		
	European Social Charter	15 Jan 1976	31 Oct 2016
International Labour Organization	Convention 102	20 Feb 1961	1 Jun - 1 Sep 2017
	Convention 103		
	Convention 121		
	Convention 128		
	Convention 130		
	Convention 168		
	Convention 183		

Table 2. Monitoring Mechanisms of State Party Compliance and Reporting Obligations

Instrument	Supervisory body	Type of a State party report/Reporting cycle	Comments of a supervisory body
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)	Periodic reports – every 5 years; initial report – within one year after the entry into force (Art.17)	Concluding observations of the CESCR
Convention on the Rights of the Child	Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	Periodic reports – every 5 years; initial report – within two years after the entry into force (Art.44)	Concluding observations of the CRC
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	Periodic reports – every 4 years; initial report – within one year after the entry into force (Art.18)	Concluding observations of the CEDAW
Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities	Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	Periodic reports – every 4 years; initial report – within two years after the entry into force (Art.35)	Concluding observations of the CRPD
European Code of Social Security (ECSS)	ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) ; European Committee on Social Rights (ECSR) ; Governmental Committee of the European Social Charter and the European Code of Social Security; Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.	Full reports – every five years in conjunction with the ILO Convention 102; Annual reports every year (Art.74).	Conclusions of the CEACR; Report and recommendations of the GC; Resolutions of the Committee of Ministers.
European Social Charter/ Revised European Social Charter (ESC)	European Committee on Social Rights (ECSR) ; Governmental Committee (GC) of the European Social Charter and the European Code of Social Security; Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.	Normal reports – annually on one of four thematic groups; simplified reports – every two years in case of acceptance of the collective complaints procedure.	Conclusions (national reports) and decisions (collective complaints) of the ECSR; Report and recommendations of the GC; Resolutions of the Committee of Ministers.
ILO Conventions (C102, C121, C128, C130, C168, C183)	Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) ; Conference Committee on the Application of Standards (CAS) .	Five-year cycle – simplified reports under the ILO technical conventions; detailed report – one year following the entry into force.	Observations and direct requests of the CEACR; Conclusions of the CAS.

1. United Nations

UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – Concluding observations 2012

[*UN OHCHR website link. Treaty bodies database*](#)

C. Principal subjects of concern and recommendations

6. The Committee is concerned that, despite measures taken by the State party, the national financial and economic crisis has had a negative impact on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, in particular with regard to the rights to work, social security, housing and education.

The Committee reminds the State party of its obligation under the Covenant to respect, protect and fulfil economic, social and cultural rights progressively, using their maximum available resources. While realizing that some adjustments in the implementation of some of the Covenant rights are at times inevitable, such as during economic crises, it recommends that any proposed policy change or adjustment by the State party in reaction to the economic crisis (a) be of a temporary nature; (b) be necessary and proportionate; (c) not be discriminatory and comprise all possible measures, including tax measures, to support social transfers to mitigate inequalities and to ensure that the rights of the disadvantaged and marginalized individuals and groups are not disproportionately affected; and (d) identify a social protection floor and the minimum core content of rights, ensuring the protection of this core content of rights at all times. The Committee draws the attention of the State party to its open letter on economic, social and cultural rights, and economic and financial crisis, dated 16 May 2012.

9. The Committee is concerned that the unemployment rate is still high compared to the rate before the 2008 crisis, and that young people and immigrants are especially at risk from long-term unemployment (art. 6).

The Committee recommends that the State party intensify its efforts to address the high unemployment rate, including through a comprehensive employment policy, with a special focus on groups at risk of long-term unemployment, such as young people and immigrants.

11. The Committee is concerned that the State party has not yet introduced a national minimum wage (art. 7).

The Committee recommends that the State party take legislative and other measures to introduce a national minimum wage. It also recommends that the State party ensure that the national minimum wage is periodically reviewed and set at a level sufficient to provide all workers and their families with a decent standard of living.

13. The Committee is concerned that, despite efforts undertaken since the economic and financial crisis, the social benefits system does not provide for levels of benefits sufficient to ensure a decent living for certain groups, in particular single-parent families (art. 9).

The Committee recommends that the State party take measures to ensure that the social benefits system provides for a minimum essential level of benefits, ensuring a decent living for all beneficiaries, including single-parent families. It also recommends that the State party ensure that levels are monitored regularly and adjusted according to the cost of living.

14. The Committee is concerned that the enjoyment of unemployment insurance according to Act No.54/2006 remains too restrictive (art. 9).

The Committee recommends that the State party expand the coverage of unemployment insurance to all unemployed persons, especially the vulnerable and underprivileged groups.

16. The Committee is concerned that, despite the State party's efforts to combat poverty, the financial and economic crisis since 2008 has led to an increase in the rate of persons that live below the low-income threshold, in particular families with children and single parent families. The Committee is also concerned that persons with disabilities face difficulties in realizing their right to an adequate standard of living, in particular access to adequate food (art. 11).

The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to combat poverty and social exclusion, in particular of families with children, single parent families, and persons with disabilities. The Committee draws the attention of the State party to its statement on poverty and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and reminds the State party of its obligation, even under severe resource constraints, to protect vulnerable groups of society, as stated in paragraph 12 of its general comment N o.3 (1990) on the nature of States parties' obligations.

17. The Committee is concerned that the extensive cuts to the health sector budget since 2008 have resulted in a reduction of the quality and availability of public health-care services, including the closure of facilities and reduction in the number of personnel. The Committee is also concerned that there are financial constraints for families with children with disabilities in accessing required health-care services, such as dentists or speech therapists, as well as language barriers for immigrants in accessing health care (art. 12).

The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to address the negative impact of the financial crisis on the health sector, including through increasing its public health - care budget. It also recommends that the State party take steps to ensure that required health - care services are fully accessible for all, including for immigrants and children with disabilities. In this respect, the Committee draws the attention of the State party to its general comment N o.14 (2000) on the right to the highest attainable standard of health.

19. The Committee recommends that the State party take steps to ensure that all disadvantaged and marginalized groups and individuals, including persons with disabilities , as well as children from low-income families and migrant children, and older persons can fully enjoy their right to take part in cultural life. It recommends that this also include steps to ensure access to cultural events for persons with disabilities through sufficient and timely availability of their transport facilities. The Committee requests that the State party include in its next periodic report information on measures taken to guarantee the right of everyone to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications, in conformity with article 15, paragraph 1 (b) of the Covenant.

Convention on the Rights of the Child – Concluding observations 2012

[*UN OHCHR website link, Treaty bodies database*](#)

III. Factors and difficulties impeding the implementation of the Convention

6. The Committee takes note of the deep financial crisis undergone by the State party since the crash of its banking system in 2008, which had a severe impact on its ability to maintain the level of public investment and employment, which in turn impacted on children and their families, especially on lower income families. However, the Committee notes with appreciation the State party's fiscal efforts to protect the rights of children, especially regarding special protection measures, and that it intends to redress the budget cuts to social investment, including education and health, as its financial and economic situation steadily continues to improve.

IV. Main areas of concern and recommendations

A. General measures of implementation (arts. 4, 42 and 44, paragraph 6, of the Convention)

The Committee's previous recommendations

7. The Committee welcomes efforts by the State party to implement the Committee's concluding observations on the State party's second periodic report. Nevertheless, the Committee notes that some of those concluding observations have not been sufficiently addressed.

8. The Committee urges the State party to take all necessary measures to address those recommendations from the concluding observations of the second periodic report that have not yet been implemented or sufficiently implemented, including the remaining declaration on article 37, lack of a data collection system, high dropout rate of immigrant children from school, and existence of the double criminality requirement, and to provide adequate follow-up to the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations.

National Plan of Action

14. The Committee notes the Action Plan to improve children's and young people's situation 2007–2011, providing for the establishment of the consultative committee mentioned in paragraph 12 above. The Committee also notes that there has been a decision to develop a new plan of action for the years to come, but regrets that such a plan has not yet been adopted.

15. The Committee encourages the State party to adopt as soon as possible a new national plan of action on children that covers all provisions enshrined in the Convention on the basis of evaluation of the 2007 – 2011 plan. The Committee also recommends that the State party provide a specific budget allocation and adequate follow-up mechanisms for full implementation of the Plan and ensure that it is equipped with an evaluation and monitoring mechanism to regularly assess progress achieved and identify possible deficiencies.

Allocation of resources

18. The Committee recognizes the difficult financial and economic situation faced by the State party since 2008 and appreciates the efforts made to avoid direct effects on services protecting

children and families in situations of vulnerability. The Committee, however, expresses its concern at extensive budget cuts to the education and health sectors and that, despite efforts, the rate of families with children below the low-income threshold, in particular single parent families, has increased.

19. The Committee recommends that, with economic and financial recovery as experienced since 2010, the State party reverse cuts to the education and health sectors and increase its investment in job creation, especially for single heads of household, social security and special protection in a sustained manner. It further recommends that the State party introduce budget tracking from a child right's perspective with a view to monitoring and evaluating budget allocations for children and take into account the Committee's recommendations resulting from its 2007 day of general discussion on resources for the rights of the child - responsibility of States.

Data collection

20. The Committee notes with appreciation the data provided by the State party on various areas concerning children. However, it regrets that the system of data collection does not cover all areas of the Convention, and that there are insufficient mechanisms for the processing, evaluation and assessment of such data.

21. The Committee encourages the State party to develop a comprehensive system for collecting, processing and analysing data as a basis for assessing progress achieved in the realization of child rights. The data should be disaggregated by age, sex, geographic location, ethnicity and socioeconomic background to facilitate analysis of the situation of all children.

C. Family environment and alternative care (arts. 5, 18, paras. 1-2, 9-11, 19-21, 25, 27, para. 4, and 39 of the Convention)

Family environment

30. The Committee takes note of the adoption in 2007 of a four-year action plan which includes child-rearing counselling and parent-management training and welcomes the measures to support parents in nurturing their children. The Committee, however, remains concerned that social benefits aimed at families in poverty, including single-headed families, are inadequate and that this has a negative impact on the development of children in such families. It is also concerned that in cases of family disputes, there is insufficient funding for mediation services to parents.

31. The Committee encourages the State party to continue the measures supporting the family and provide training to professionals involved in those measures. The Committee recommends that the State party revise its social benefits programmes with the aim of providing adequate assistance to families in vulnerable situations and increasing its funding to mediation services to parents in dispute. It further recommends that the State party ratify the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Decisions relating to Maintenance Obligations, the Convention on the Law Applicable to Maintenance Obligations and the Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children.

Children without parental care

32. The Committee welcomes efforts by the Governmental Agency for Child Protection to monitor service and placement contracts and ensure that homes and institutions fulfil professional requirements, by establishing quality standards for placement of children outside the homes as well as regular supervision. The Committee also notes that Act No. 26/2007 established a committee to examine the activities of institutions and treatment homes for children. However, the Committee regrets lack of information on the measures taken to integrate children in the society after leaving alternative care settings.

33. The Committee recommends that the State party conduct a study on the integration and success rate of children after leaving alternative care settings, which should also include recommendations regarding the measures to be taken to ensure their full integration.

D. Disability, basic health and welfare (arts. 6, 18, para. 3, 23, 24, 26, 27, paras. 1–3, of the Convention)

Children with disabilities

34. The Committee welcomes Act No. 22/2006 and the 2007 amendments thereto, providing payment to parents of chronically ill or severely disabled children, and its efforts to integrate children with disabilities into regular schools. However, the Committee is concerned that access to services by children with disabilities may be limited by public allocations. The Committee also regrets lack of data on children with disabilities disaggregated by types of disabilities, age and gender.

35. In light of its general comment No. 9 (2006) on the rights of children with disabilities, the Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Continue and strengthen measures to include children with disabilities in all areas of life;

(b) Ensure that children with disabilities are provided with all necessary support and services without undue delay and financial constraints should not be an obstacle in accessing services;

(c) Ensure that data collected on persons with disabilities is disaggregated also by the nature of the disability, age and gender; and

(d) Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol without delay.

Health and access to health services

36. The Committee welcomes the regulation by the Ministry of Health and Social Security in 2008 exempting children below the age of 18 from health-care and hospital fees. The Committee also welcomes the Health Policy Action Plan from 2008 which emphasizes mental health, nutrition and exercise. Further, the Committee appreciates that obesity among children and young people has decreased, but is concerned that it remains a problem. The Committee is also concerned that, owing to a growing number of immigrants in the State party, children of immigrants may be not be covered by child health-care services, particularly with regard to access to educational materials and general information about health services, due to language problems.

37. The Committee recommends that the State party continue educating the public about healthy nutrition and negative impacts of obesity on a child's health and development. It

also urges the State party to take necessary measures to integrate children of immigrants into its health system and provide children of immigrants with health information, if possible, in their native languages.

Mental health

38. The Committee is concerned that there is a growing number of children in the State party who are being diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder or related conditions, leading to an increase in the prescription of psychostimulant drugs. It is also concerned that the waiting lists for mental health diagnosis and treatment are long.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party:

(a) Improve the accuracy of the diagnosis of children with such problems and strengthen mental health services for children and guarantee access to examinations and treatment needed, including by improving the capacity of treatment and diagnostic centres;

(b) Monitor the prescription of psychostimulants to children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, including with an assessment of the increasing numbers of such children who are on medication as the first line of treatment;

(c) Pay greater attention to other kinds of treatment, including psychological, educational and social measures, and strengthen the support to parents and teachers; and

(d) Consider undertaking the collection and analysis of data disaggregated according to substance and age with a view to monitoring the potential abuse of psychostimulant drugs by children.

Breastfeeding

40. While noting that a high percentage of children are exclusively breastfed from birth and for the first few days, the Committee is concerned with the decline to 50 per cent of infants at 4 months of age and 12 per cent of infants at 6 months of age.

41. The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen its efforts to promote exclusive and continued breastfeeding until six months of age by raising the awareness of the public and enforcing and monitoring the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.

Adolescent health

42. The Committee is concerned that the number of pregnancies and abortions among girls under the age of 18 is relatively high, which may be attributed to a general lack of knowledge of reproductive health, access to contraceptives and counselling services on reproductive health.

43. The Committee recommends that the State party raise awareness among adolescents about reproductive health and negative impacts of early pregnancies and abortions, and provide access to contraceptives and counselling services on reproductive health, including psychological counselling.

Drug and substance abuse

44. The Committee, while noting with appreciation that statistics show a decrease in the use of some types of drugs and alcohol by young people, regrets that the use of alcohol remains a problem.

45. The Committee recommends that the State party continue to take all appropriate measures, including administrative, social and educational measures, in particular life-skills education, to protect children from illicit use of narcotic drugs and alcohol as well as provide rehabilitation, reintegration and recovery programmes specifically designed for child victims of drug and substance abuse.

H. Cooperation with regional and international bodies

60. The Committee recommends that the State party cooperate with the Council of Europe for the implementation of the Convention and other human rights instruments, both in the State party and in other Council of Europe member States.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women – Concluding observations 2016

[*UN OHCHR website link, Treaty bodies database*](#)

C. Principal areas of concern and recommendations

Violence against women

21. The Committee welcomes the signing of an agreement between the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing and the Women's Refuge in December 2014, providing for emergency shelter, and the recruitment of two psychologists providing assistance to women who are victims of violence. The Committee emphasizes the need for shelters in addition to the system put in place through the Exclusion Orders and Ejections Act (No. 85/2011). The Committee nevertheless remains concerned:

- (a) That there is only one women's shelter, in Reykjavik, which is not easily accessible by women living outside the capital and women with disabilities;
- (b) That the number of services, several of which have been established and are operated by non-governmental organizations, is insufficient and the service providers are inadequately funded to meet the needs of women who are victims of violence;
- (c) That there are only two hospitals in the country, which provide specialized treatment and services for women who are victims of sexual violence;
- (d) That there is very limited support for women who are victims of violence in rural areas, in particular with regard to access to health and psychosocial services.

22. The Committee urges the State party:

- (a) To ensure that, in addition to the Exclusion Orders and Ejections Act (No. 85/2011), sufficient shelters with qualified personnel and adequate financial resources are available to women who are victims of violence, including migrant women, rural women and women with disabilities;**
- (b) To open rape crisis centres, walk-in centres and 24-hour free-of-charge helplines that provide assistance to women who are victims of violence, including migrant women and women with disabilities;**
- (c) To ensure that medical and psychosocial services are available to women who are victims of violence in rural areas and that non-governmental organizations providing such services outside the capital receive adequate funding.**

Employment

31. The Committee notes that the Action Group on Equal Pay has been asked to submit a plan of action on the reconciliation of family and work life and that the draft Family Policy for 2015-2020 envisages measures to balance parents' work and family life.

However, the Committee is concerned about:

- (a) The lack of guaranteed childcare for children aged 9 months to 2 years;
- (b) The lowering of the ceiling for the Parental Leave Fund, which resulted in a decrease of the parental leave days taken by fathers between 2008 and 2012.

32. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take measures to reduce the gap between the end of the parental leave and the minimum age of eligibility for guaranteed childcare by extending parental leave from 9 to 12 months, accepting children into playschools directly after the end of parental**

leave, and by providing adequate human and financial resources to the municipalities to enable them to meet the demand for places in playschools; and

(b) Provide adequate funding for the Parental Leave Fund and raise the amount of maximum disbursements from the Fund.

33. The Committee welcomes the State party's efforts aimed at improving the position of single parents, including through the payment of income-related child benefits. The Committee nevertheless remains concerned that women account for the large majority of single parents and often suffer from economic difficulties.

34. The Committee recommends that the State party adopt targeted measures to facilitate access by single mothers to the labour market and support them in having a better balance between family and working life.

Health

35. The Committee notes that the State party legalized abortion in 1975 (Act No. 25/1975), but is concerned that some health and social workers who implement aspects of the law such as counselling do so in a way that women seeking an abortion experience as judgmental and humiliating.

36. The Committee recommends that the State party institutionalize gender-sensitive training programmes for health and social workers to enable them to carry out their responsibilities under the law in a way that does not discourage women seeking an abortion. The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that all women, including young women and rural women, have access to modern contraceptives and information about their sexual and reproductive health and rights, including family planning, to avoid unwanted pregnancies.

37. The Committee regrets the lack of information on alcohol addiction and of any study on mental health issues and the scope and causes of suicide among women in the State party.

38. The Committee recommends that the State party collect data and provide in its next periodic report information on alcohol addiction, suicide and mental health issues among women in the State party.

Economic and social benefits

39. The Committee is concerned that the funding for female artists in the film and music industry remains low and that the majority of the boards of associations and regulatory bodies responsible for funding are composed of men.

40. The Committee recommends that the State party review its regulations on government funding bodies for culture and explore options to ensure that public funds for culture are divided equally between women and men.

41. The Committee is concerned about the further role of women in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the related climate change issues.

42. The Committee recommends that the State party continue to strengthen the role of women in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in related climate change issues.

Disadvantaged groups of women

Migrant women

43. The Committee is concerned about the difficulties encountered by migrant women in employment and health care and about their exposure to violence. It notes that the Multicultural and Information Centre provides migrant women with various types of information, including on new forms of family and divorce procedures, and that the Icelandic Human Rights Centre provides legal counselling to migrant women. The Committee is also concerned that the Multicultural and Information Centre is located outside the capital and not easily accessible. The Committee is further concerned at the lack of disaggregated data and studies on the status of migrant women in the State party, who may encounter difficulties in gaining access to social and protection services for fear of losing their residence permit or of being deported if they are in an irregular situation.

44. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Collect disaggregated data and conduct comprehensive studies on migrant women 's access to employment and health care and on the forms of violence that they may experience, identify gaps and establish policies addressing intersecting forms of discrimination against migrant women;**
- (b) Provide adequate funding for the Multicultural and Information Centre and increase the accessibility of its services;**
- (c) Develop targeted programmes and strategies to increase the awareness of migrant women of their rights, free legal aid and effective remedies if their rights have been violated.**

Rural women, women with disabilities and women in prison

45. The Committee is concerned:

- (a) That rural women have limited access to social and protection services and shelter, including those relating to domestic violence, owing to the poor road infrastructure, which is compounded by weather-related problems in the winter;**
- (b) That women with disabilities have limited access to services and the shelter for women, which lacks the infrastructure for their physical access;**
- (c) That the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) are not fully implemented in the State party and prison facilities lack appropriate spaces for women and family meetings;**
- (d) That there is a lack of disaggregated data and studies on the social and protection gaps and intersecting forms of discrimination faced by rural women, women with disabilities and women in prison.**

46. The Committee recommends that the State party:

- (a) Take all measures necessary to improve access to social and protection services and shelters for rural women, by improving the infrastructure and providing those services in remote rural areas;**
- (b) Make services and the shelter for women accessible to women with disabilities in accordance with their special needs;**
- (c) Fully implement the Bangkok Rules and provide spaces in prison appropriate for women and family meetings;**
- (d) Collect disaggregated data and conduct comprehensive studies on the access to employment and health care of rural women, women with disabilities and women in**

prison, and on the forms of violence that they may experience, with a view to identifying gaps and establishing policies addressing intersecting forms of discrimination.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

No Concluding Observations yet. Initial State party report is to be submitted two years after entry into force of the Convention. Ratification date: 23 September 2016.

2. Council of Europe

European Social Charter

[*Official website of the Council of Europe, link to conclusions*](#)

Article 1 - Right to work – Conclusions 2012

Paragraph 1 - Policy of full employment

Employment situation

The Committee notes from Eurostat that the GDP growth rate in Iceland fell from 6.0% in 2007 to -4.0% in 2010, below the EU-27 average (2.0% in 2010). During the reference period Iceland plunged into its deepest economic recession in decades after succumbing to a widespread financing crisis and the collapse of its main banks in October 2008. The country is slowly emerging from the recession, the economy stopped contracting by late 2010 and recovery is projected to gather momentum, lifting economic growth to 3% by 2012.

As regards the employment rate, despite the crisis Iceland continued to perform well in comparison to other European countries, the rate standing at 78.2% in 2010.

Whilst unemployment was as low as 1.0% in 2007, after the Icelandic economy went into recession in 2008, registered unemployment started to rise very rapidly, reaching a peak of 9.1% in April 2009. A slight decrease was noted in 2010, when the rate fell to 8.0%.

Approximately 34% of those registered as unemployed in 2010 were in the 16–29 age bracket, a slight decrease from 36% in 2009.

Long-term unemployment among those who have been registered as unemployed for six months or more increased steadily since the crisis. The rate was 17% in 2008, rising to 54% in 2010.

The above statistical information shows a different picture from the one in the last assessment of the situation (Conclusions XIX-1), where Iceland was going through sustained economic growth, with very low unemployment and very high participation. The Committee notes that unemployment increased during most part of the reference period. This being said, a fall of the unemployment rate was observed in 2010, in line with the economic recovery, and participation in the labour market still continues at a high level.

Employment policy

On 6 October 2008, the Icelandic Parliament passed a so-called emergency law. Pursuant to this legislation all banking deposits were made priority claims and the Financial Supervisory Authority was given far-reaching powers to intervene in the banking sector. That same month the Government requested a Stand-by-Arrangement to the International Monetary Fund. One of the main objectives of the subsequent stabilization program was to contain the negative impact of the crisis on the economy by restoring confidence.

Companies facing temporary difficulties were urged to consider the possibility of reducing the working time of their employees rather than laying off staff, since it was regarded as important that workers should remain active on the labour market to some extent.

A regulation was issued in January 2009 regarding the participation in labour-market measures by job-seekers. It laid down the conditions for participation in individual labour-market measures. The report mentions some of the measures introduced, such as the Starfsorka project, enabling jobseekers to work in companies embarking in new business ideas for up to six months, with a possible extension for an additional six months. Job-seekers were also referred to various courses held by Impra (Innovation Centre Iceland) or assisted in developing their own business ideas.

In January 2010, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Security (now the Ministry of Welfare) presented the objective that no one should be unemployed for longer than three months without being offered employment or an opportunity to be active. This goal was mainly directed at young people. The report mentions the project Youth in action aimed at 16-30 years olds, for activating them with education and training, job-training and voluntary work.

The Committee takes note of the different active measures mentioned in the report, but asks what is the overall activation rate, i.e. the average number of participants in active measures as a percentage of total unemployed.

As regards expenditure on active employment measures, the Committee notes there has been a substantial increase from 0.02% of GDP in 2007 to 0.10% in 2010. This amount however still remains below the EU-27 average, which stood at 0.78% in 2010.

Finally, the Committee recalls that labour market measures should be targeted, effective and regularly monitored. It asks in this respect whether the employment policies in place are monitored and how their effectiveness is evaluated.

Conclusion

Pending receipt of the information requested, the Committee defers its conclusion.

The Committee considers that the absence of the information required amounts to a breach of the reporting obligation entered into by Iceland under the 1961 Charter. The Government consequently has an obligation to provide the requested information in the next report on this provision.

Paragraph 3 - Free placement services

The Committee takes note of the information contained in the report submitted by Iceland. It notes that there have been no major changes to the situation which it has previously considered to be in conformity with the Charter.

The report recalls that services provided by the Directorate of Labour aim at encouraging those who have for some reason left the labour market to remain active job seekers, as well as at striking a balance between supply and demand for labour. The services provided to both job seekers and employers are free of charge (Section 16 of the Act on Labour Market Measures).

In 2007, a total of 4,834 vacancies were reported to the public labour exchanges; the number decreased to 3,348 in 2010. The number of job placements through the public labour exchanges was 791 in 2007, and grew to 2,193 in 2010. Placements are only recorded as such where it is known with certainty that the individual concerned accepted the position; it is also assumed that some people receive jobs through the public employment services without this being reported to the latter.

Section 19 of the Act on Labour Market Measures permits the operation of private labour exchanges, stating that enterprises, individuals and non-governmental organisations may act as intermediaries regarding employment placements, provided that this is done at the employer's expense. The Committee asks how the work of private agencies is supervised.

Conclusion

The Committee concludes that the situation in Iceland is in conformity with Article 1§3 of the 1961 Charter.

Article 3 - Right to safe and healthy working conditions – Conclusions 2013

Paragraph 1 - Safety and health regulations

Content of the regulations on health and safety at work

The reference text is Act No. 46/1980 on Working Environment, Health and Safety in Workplaces, as amended.

During the reference period, a regulation concerning the safety in use of machines and technical equipment in workplaces was adopted, in accordance with the above-mentioned Act. According to the report, during the same period, several texts were adopted to regulate the following matters: prevention of the pollution in workplaces and protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to chemical, physical and biological agents; control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances; protection against the exposure from artificial radiation at the workplace; safety managements of ships; coastal stations and vessel traffic monitoring; flight and working hours limits and resting periods of aircraft crews.

The Committee considers that the general obligation under 3§1 of the 1961 Charter that health and safety regulations specifically cover most of the risks listed in the General Introduction of Conclusions XIV-2 (1998) has been met.

Conclusion

Pending receipt of the information requested, the Committee concludes that the situation in Iceland is in conformity with Article 3§1 of the 1961 Charter.

Paragraph 2 - Enforcement of safety and health regulations

Occupational accidents and diseases

The report indicates that, during the reference period, the total number of accidents at work on land dropped from 1 849 in 2008 to 1 329 in 2010, but rose again up to 1 521 in 2011. The number of call-outs due to such accidents decreased over 50% in 2009. According to the report, these evolutions are due to the sharp decline of the construction industry during 2008 and 2009, where the greatest number of accidents was registered in the past. The report also provides figures on the number of workers injured by economic sector. These figures show that most workers were injured in the construction and maintenance industries, with a large number of injured also in metal working, machine work, shipbuilding and ship repairs, as well as fish-processing and freezing.

As regards fatal accidents, the following figures are provided: three in 2008, 2009, 2010 and five in 2011. The report points out that this number is close to the number registered in the period 2001-2004 and that the Administration of Occupational Health and Safety (AOHS) will continue its work to reduce the number of fatal accidents and occupational accidents in general. As regards seafarers, the report provides the following figures: 65 accidents in 2008, 57 in 2009, 62 in 2010 and 69 in 2011 (two fatal accidents in 2009 and one in 2010). More generally, the report indicates that 50% of occupational accidents involve uneducated workers. Competent authorities therefore focus on training activities and the improvement of the working environment.

In reply to the questions asked by the Committee (Conclusions XIX-2 (2009)), the report indicates that: during the period 2007-2010 reported work accidents in the construction and maintenance sector declined of about 80% (599 work accidents in 2007; 380 in 2008; 162 in 2009; 129 in 2010 and 86 in 2011) and that construction enterprises were repeatedly inspected throughout the country during 2008 with a focus on security and safety issues. No record is kept of the rate of work accidents involving a three days absence. In September 2008, following the increase of fatalities in work accidents, AOSH sent a letter to all representatives of the construction industry and other sectors employing foreign workers, by which the representatives were encouraged to organise dynamic training and education programmes for

the workers, with a special emphasis on beginners and foreign workers. In 2009, AOSH participated in a Nordic project management and a Nordic meeting on fatal accidents in the Nordic countries in 2003–2008.

The number of cases of occupational disease on land notified was 11 in 2008, four in 2009, seven in 2010 and eight in 2011. The causes of these diseases were as follows: acute toxicity, long-term toxicity, severe infection, humidity and mold damage in workplaces, dust pollution, work related attack, asthma and hypersensitivity, psychosocial work environment, infectious disease.

Conclusion

The Committee concludes that the situation in Iceland is in conformity with Article 3§2 of the 1961 Charter.

Paragraph 3 - Consultation with employers' and workers' organisations on safety and health issues

It previously concluded (Conclusions XIX-2 (2009)) that the situation was in conformity with Article 3§3 of the 1961 Charter. It asked that any changes of the consultation with employers' and workers' organisations on occupational safety and health issues occurred during the reference period be indicated in the next report.

The report states that the situation on this matter has not been subject to change.

The Committee asks that the next report provide full and updated information on this point.

Conclusion

Pending receipt of the information requested, the Committee concludes that the situation in Iceland is in conformity with Article 3§3 of the 1961 Charter.

Article 4 - Right to a fair remuneration – Conclusions 2014

Paragraph 1 - Decent remuneration

It previously concluded (Conclusions XIX-3 (2010)) that the situation in Iceland was not in conformity with Article 4§1 of the 1961 Charter, on the ground that the minimum wage was not fair. It asked for explanation of the variations in the minimum wage compared to the average salary and for information on the method used to calculate net wages.

The report states that, under section 1 of the Working Conditions and Compulsory Old Age Insurance Act No. 55 of 9 June 1980, minimum wages are set by means of collective agreements. Following the reduction in pay provided for in the stability pact of 25 June 2009, the collective agreements for the private sector concluded on 5 May 2011 increased the minimum wage for adults working full-time to 182 000 Icelandic crowns (ISK) as from 1 June 2011, and to ISK 193 000 as from 1 February 2012. It also provided for special bonus payments of ISK 63 800 on 1 June 2011 and ISK 36 900 on 1 December 2011. The collective agreements in the state and municipal public sector were prolonged until 31 November 2010 and thereafter replaced by new agreements in June 2011.

The report indicates for 2012 (table 2) a monthly minimum wage for unskilled full-time workers of ISK 180 752 gross, not including bonuses and overtime payments. The corresponding minimum wage net of old age contributions and tax deductions at source (table 3) was ISK 162 628; the average net wage was ISK 295 608; and the average net total wage (bonuses and overtime included) was ISK 345 520.

In reply to the questions put forward by the Committee, the report states that the minimum wage for full-time work increased by 71% between 2008 and 2014, whereas the general

increase in wages was 28% over the same period. In 2012, the at risk of poverty threshold for a single-person household was ISK 156 000 (60% of the median equivalised disposable income) and affected 7.9% of the population, while 12.7% of the population lived under the poverty threshold or at risk of poverty or social exclusion. The holiday bonus was set at ISK 50 500 and the December bonus at ISK 27 800.

The Government Representative informed the Governmental Committee (Report concerning Conclusions XIX-3 (2010), §§92-93) that the data provided in the previous report concerned only the private sector and that Statistics Iceland would shortly publish data on the public and parapublic sector. She said that the previous report gave the minimum starting wage guaranteed by the collective agreements, which was slightly lower than the minimum wage given in the tables, which was the minimum wage of employees who had worked for four consecutive months. She also said that the forthcoming incorporation of data concerning the public and quasi-public sector, which was less well paid than the private sector, would lower the average net wage indicated in the report.

According to Statistics Iceland data for 2012, the average monthly wage (table "earnings for the private and public sector") was ISK 369 000 gross, not including bonuses and overtime payments, which was ISK 390 000 in the private sector and ISK 351 000 in the public sector. The low-pay sectors (table "earnings by economic activity") included education (ISK 328 000); health and social activities (ISK 341 000); the wholesale and retail trade (ISK 342 000); and water supply, sewerage, and waste management (ISK 344 000). Low-paid occupations (table "earnings in the private sector by occupational group") included employees in services and trade (ISK 286 000) as well as general and skilled blue-collar workers (ISK 287 000). The Committee notes that the adjusted pay of part-time workers was, as a rule, lower than that of full time-workers.

According to EUROSTAT data for 2012, the average annual wage for single workers without children (table "earn_nt_net") (100% of an average worker; not including bonuses and overtime payments) was €37 821.23 (which was ISK 484 888 per month) gross and €26 696.09 (which was ISK 342 258 per month) net of old age contributions and tax deductions.

The Committee points out that, in order to ensure a decent standard of living within the meaning of Article 4§1 of the 1961 Charter, wages must be no lower than the poverty threshold, which is set at 50% of the net average wage. This is the case when the net minimum wage is more than 60% of the net average wage. When the net minimum wage lies between 50 and 60% of the net average wage, it is for the state to establish whether this wage is sufficient to ensure a decent standard of living (Conclusions XIV-2 (1998), Statement of Interpretation on Article 4§1). The Committee notes in the present case that, the minimum wage applicable to unskilled workers who are employed full-time, not including bonuses and overtime payments, net of old age contributions and tax deductions (ISK 162 628) represents 55.01% of the average wage net of bonuses and supplementary payments (ISK 295 608), which is close to the poverty threshold set at 50% of the net average wage and lower than 60% of the net average wage. However, it notes from the report that a number of transfers and benefits were in force in 2012:

- A tax-free income ceiling of ISK 129 810 per month applied to earnings net of old age contributions;
- A non-refundable tax credit based on the residual income of ISK 558 276 (which is ISK 46 523 per month);
- Earnings-related child benefits of a maximum of ISK 61 191 for all children younger than 7 years of age, ISK 152 331 for the first child up to 18 years of age and ISK 181 323 for each additional child;

- Child benefits for single parents of ISK 253 716 for the first child and ISK 260 262 for each additional child;
- A refundable tax credit of ISK 400 000 based on interest on loans to finance the main residence;
- Housing benefits with a basic amount fixed at ISK 13 500 per month, which increases in relation to the number of dependent children, and an additional 15% paid for the part of the rent lying between ISK 20 000 and ISK 50 000.

The Committee noted that after the addition of cash transfers and benefits, bonuses and overtime payments, the net wage of full-time unskilled workers (ISK 215 153), and by extension the minimum agreed wage level in the private sector, represents a proportion of the net average wage which is adequate to ensure a decent standard of living within the meaning of Article 4§1 of the 1961 Charter. This is also the case for the minimum agreed wage level in the public sector, as Statistics Iceland data shows that the low wages paid in the municipal public sector are slightly above those paid in the private sector.

The Committee nevertheless notes that in 2012, 7.9% of the population faced the risk of poverty and 12.7% the risk of poverty or social exclusion, with an average wage (ISK 156 000) that was significantly lower than the minimum agreed wage level. To be able to examine whether the lowest wages paid are adequate to ensure a decent standard of living, it asks that the next report contain information on the coverage rate of collective agreements in the private and public sectors and on pay in branches or trades not governed by collective agreements. It also asks for information on the level of contributions to cover the risks of sickness and maternity leave as well as on social benefits in kind. It requests that the next report distinguishes between the absolute minimum wage and that paid after four months' experience.

Conclusion

Pending receipt of the requested information, the Committee defers its conclusion.

Article 11 - Right to protection of health – Conclusions 2013

Paragraph 1 - Removal of the causes of ill-health

Right to the highest possible standard of health

Life expectancy at birth continued to increase during the reference period reaching 79.9 years for males and 83.6 years for females in 2011. Life expectancy is thus slightly above the average in other European countries (for example, the EU-27 average life expectancy for both sexes was 79.0 in 2009).

The death rate (death/1 000 population) was low at 6.27 in 2009. The Committee asks the next report to provide updated information on the main causes of death.

The infant mortality rate decreased significantly from 2.5 per 1 000 live births in 2008 to 0.9 in 2011, standing as one of the lowest rates among European countries (for example, the EU-27 rate in 2010 was 4.1 per 1 000).

According to the WHO European health for all database maternal mortality in Iceland was 0 per 100 000 births between 2008-2010.

Overall, the above health indicators are better in Iceland compared to other European countries, namely with a high life expectancy and low mortality rates.

Right of access to health care

The report indicates the legislative amendments that took place in the field of healthcare services during the reference period (changes were introduced to the Act on Dental Care, No. 38/1985, the Healthcare Services Act No. 40/2007 and the Chief Medical Officer and Public Health Act No. 41/2007). However, the main development resulted from the Act on Health Insurance No. 112/2008, passed on 16 September 2008. The objective of the Act is to ensure access of health-insured persons to the most advanced medical care regardless of their financial status. The Act defines who has health insurance in Iceland, and defines the right itself, i.e. what services and benefits individuals are entitled to. The content of the rights are unchanged, but set out in a clearer and more accessible way for the public.

Everyone who has been legally resident in Iceland for six months automatically becomes a member of the Icelandic social insurance system, regardless of nationality. A fee to be paid for each consultation and other services is fixed by regulations. The extent of patient participation in the costs of health care services varies according to the service in question. The insured individual pays a minimum fee for the services of a general practitioner or a specialist outside of a hospital, while the remaining cost is covered by the insurance. The fee is decided in a regulation issued by the ministry of health. This applies to most services. Old age pensioners, invalidity pensioners and children with disabilities pay a lower fee.

With respect to waiting times the report indicates that the Directorate of Health collects, monitors and disseminates information on waiting times with special emphasis on monitoring the number of patients waiting three months or longer for services, as well as estimated waiting time. This is done three times a year. It refers to the Directorate of Health website for updated information on waiting lists.

As regards healthcare professionals and facilities, the report indicates that in 2011 there were 3.5 practising physicians per 1 000 population, compared with an average of 3.2 in OECD countries. Iceland also had 14.8 nurses per 1 000 population, compared with an OECD average of 8.7. The number of CT and MRI scanners, more than doubled between 2000 and 2011, rising from 6 CT scanners to 13, and 3 MRI scanners to 7.

The report underlines that in the aftermath of the financial crisis, the Government emphasised the importance of ensuring effective universal health care services, the promotion of healthier lifestyles, and a strong insurance system. A healthy welfare system and the protection of children, families, and other vulnerable persons in the community, has been a guiding principle. In 2011, total health expenditure as a share of GDP was 9.0% (80.4% of health spending was funded by public sources). The Committee notes that public health spending has been stable since the last reference period (9.3% in 2006).

In its last examination of this provision, the Committee adopted a general question addressed to all States on the availability of rehabilitation facilities for drug addicts, and the range of facilities and treatments. The Committee requests that information be included on this issue in the next report.

Conclusion

The Committee concludes that the situation in Iceland is in conformity with Article 11§1 of the 1961 Charter.

Paragraph 2 - Advisory and educational facilities

Education and awareness raising

The report mentions that in 2011 the Public Health Institute and the Directorate of Health were merged into a new institution, i.e. the Directorate of Health. The latter carries out

activities in the field of alcohol and drug abuse prevention, mental health, nutrition, dentistry, and violence and accident prevention. The Directorate of Health produces educational materials, undertakes research and develops projects and programmes in these fields. The Committee asks the next report to include examples of concrete activities and campaigns undertaken by the Directorate of Health, or other bodies, to promote health and prevent diseases.

As regards health education in schools, the report indicates in reply to a question by the Committee, that education on sexual and reproductive health is a compulsory subject in schools under the Act on Counseling and Education Regarding Sex and Childbirth and on Abortion and Sterilization Procedures No. 25/1975. Sex education is a part of the national curriculum with the aim of providing students with comprehensive sex education. The subject matter is adjusted to the students' age and maturity. The education is among other things aimed to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, unplanned pregnancies and sexual violence.

Counselling and screening

The Committee has previously noted that infant healthcare services and health services in school are available (Conclusions XIX-2 (2009)). The present report provides information on the counselling and screening services for pregnant women. Clinical guidelines on antenatal care recommend that a primiparous healthy pregnant woman in a normal pregnancy has 10, and a multiparous woman 7, antenatal care appointments during pregnancy. In general, the antenatal care follows a midwife and GP led model of care, with the opportunity to seek counsel from an obstetrician. A midwife follow up is offered 6–8 weeks after birth in association with the 6-week examination of the child.

As regards counselling and screening for the population at large, every patient has the right to information regarding his or her state of health, including medical information on his or her condition and prognosis, the proposed treatment, as well as information on its course, risks and benefits. Health care centres are open for everyone, thus playing a role in prevention and counselling in individual cases and in general.

Cancer screenings take place across the country. Nation-wide screening programs for cervical cancer since 1964 have resulted in a marked decrease in incidence and death from the disease. Women between the ages 40–69 are sent a letter every two years inviting them to come in for breast cancer screening via mammography. Although the incidence of breast cancer continues rising, the death rate is going down, with >90% survival after 5 years. The Committee asks if other counseling and screenings are available.

Conclusion

The Committee concludes that the situation in Iceland is in conformity with Article 11§2 of the 1961 Charter.

Paragraph 3 - Prevention of diseases

Healthy environment

The Committee takes note of the different pieces of legislation and regulations adopted by Iceland during the reference period for the reduction of environmental risks, in particular in the field of air quality, noise pollution and food safety. A joint committee of the Ministries of Health and the Environment was established in 2010 to provide a forum for cooperation in the field of air quality. The committee was inter alia assigned the tasks of collecting information about air quality, providing an assessment of the effects of air pollution on public health and creating a plan of action with measurable steps and a defined time-schedule to improve air

quality and reduce the effects of air pollution. The report mentions also that several legal texts on environmental noise have been adopted to implement EU legislation in this area.

The Committee asks the next report to provide updated information on the levels of air pollution, contamination of drinking water and food intoxication during the reference period, namely whether the latter have increased or declined.

Immunisation and epidemiological monitoring

The report recalls that vaccination coverage rates of children continues to be high. The coverage of the primary vaccination against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, HIB, polio and pneumococcus is almost 95% while the coverage of the vaccination against mumps, measles and rubella is around 90–95%.

As regards epidemiological monitoring, the report states that physicians are obliged to report certain communicable diseases to the health authorities. Diseases, pathogens and events which are covered by the Act on Health Security and Communicable Disease Control are subject to notification (notifiable diseases) and, should they pose a threat to public health, they are also subject to the reporting of personally identifiable data (reportable diseases).

Conclusion

The Committee concludes that the situation in Iceland is in conformity with Article 11§3 of the 1961 Charter.

Article 12 - Right to social security - Conclusions 2013

Paragraph 1 - Existence of a social security system

Risks covered, financing of benefits and personal coverage

In its previous conclusions (Conclusions XIX-2 (2009)) the Committee held that the personal coverage of social security risks was satisfactory and requested updated information in the next report.

The Committee notes from the report that under the Social Security Act No. 100/2007 as amended, six months domicile in Iceland confers the right of medical insurance and three years domicile confers the right to pension insurance. The Committee takes note of the information regarding the number of domiciled persons as well as the numbers of those in receipt of different social security benefits.

The Committee recalls that in order to assess whether the personal coverage is adequate it requires the following information: as regards healthcare, the report should provide the number of insured persons out of the total population. As regards income-replacement benefits (unemployed, pension, sickness), information should be provided on the number of insured persons out of the total active population.

The Committee requests that the next report provide this information.

Adequacy of the benefits

In its previous conclusion the Committee held that the level of income-replacement benefits was adequate.

The Committee notes that 50% of the median equivalised income stood at €791 in 2011.

As regards sickness benefit, in its previous conclusion the Committee asked whether persons entitled to sickness benefit for having given up full time employment were also entitled to other benefits. In reply the Committee notes from the report that the sickness cash benefits from the Icelandic Health Insurance, which are flat-rate per diem benefits, are only paid after

wages from the employer have ceased. The Icelandic Health Insurance pays per diem sickness benefits if an insured individual gets neither old age nor invalidity pension. They are paid to persons unable to work. In the vast majority of cases these per diem benefits are not the only payments individuals are entitled to.

The Committee notes that if the employer's duty to pay wages expires before the employee is able to return to work, the employee is entitled to sickness benefits from his/her union's sickness benefit fund, which amounts to 80-100% of the last year's average wage and lasts from 270 to 360 days. These payments are additions to governmental sickness benefits. Payments from sickness benefits funds are thus supplementary to per diem payments made by the Icelandic Health Insurance.

The Committee notes from MISSOC that per diem sickness cash benefits (sjúkradagpeningar) for persons who have to give up full-time gainful employment stood at ISK1 325 (€8.21). According to the report, per diem sickness benefit amounted to ISK 1 232 (€7.8) in 2011. The Committee understands that these health insurance sickness payments are topped up from the employee's union funds. It asks what is the minimum amount of the overall sickness benefit.

As regards old-age pension, according to MISSOC the national pension (lífeyrir almannatrygginga) rights are calculated pro rata according to periods of residence. Full basic pension amounted to ISK408 636 (€2 533) per year. Full pension supplement to ISK1 289 528 (€7 995). According to the report in 2011 the basic pension stood at ISK 30 678 and a pension supplement at ISK 96 809 per month (together around €810).

The Committee considers that the level of old-age pension is adequate.

As regards unemployment benefit, according to MISSOC flat-rate benefits are paid for the first 2 weeks after the person concerned becomes unemployed. After that period the unemployed person receives earnings-related benefits for a maximum of 3 months. This benefit can amount to up to 70% of average earnings (maximum amount is fixed at ISK 272 113 (€1 687). After having received earnings-related benefits for the maximum period of 3 months, unemployed persons are entitled to a continued payment of the flat-rate benefits. The maximum flat-rate amount is ISK172 609 (€1 070) per month.

The Committee notes from the report that the basic unemployment benefit paid to the unemployed who had been in full employment last twelve months stood at ISK 161 523 (€1 028) in 2011, while the maximum income-linked benefit was ISK 254 636 (€1 621).

The Committee considers that the minimum level of unemployment benefit is adequate. It asks however the next report to indicate the minimum level of income-linked unemployment benefit.

In reply to the Committee's question, the report states that Section 57 of Act No 54/2006 stipulates an obligation for an unemployment benefit beneficiary not to refuse a job offer after the first four weeks. The responsibility to impose a penalty in cases where a job-seeker turns down an offer is with the Directorate of Labour. The decision may be appealed with the independent administrative Complaints Committee.

The Committee understands that in principle, the initial period during which an unsuitable job offer can be refused is four weeks. However, the Directorate of Labour who examines the case, may give consideration to the insured person's domestic (distance from the home) and personal (e.g. reduced working capacity) as well as other social circumstances. Furthermore, the Complaints Committee may overturn the decision of the Labour Directorate.

The Committee also understands that after the expiry of the initial period the job offers are not distinguished by nature, but a job refusal can be justifiable on grounds of individual circumstances. It asks under what circumstances a job refusal may be justified, other than distance from home and reduced physical capacity.

Conclusion

Pending receipt of the information requested, the Committee defers its conclusion.

The Committee considers that the absence of the information required amounts to a breach of the reporting obligation entered into by Iceland under the 1961 Charter. The Government consequently has an obligation to provide the requested information in the next report on this provision.

Paragraph 2 - Maintenance of a social security system at a satisfactory level at least equal to that necessary for the ratification of the International Labour Convention No. 102

Iceland ratified the International Labour Convention No. 102 on 20 February 1961 and accepted its Parts V, VII et IX.

The Committee recalls that in order to assess whether the social security system stands at a level at least equal to that necessary for the ratification of the ILO Convention No 102, it has to be provided with a thorough information regarding the branches covered, the personal scope and the level of benefits offered. The Committee refers to its previous conclusions under Article 12§1 and notes that the system of social security of Iceland covers all traditional branches and provides benefits to all domiciled persons.

Conclusion

The Committee concludes that the situation in Iceland is in conformity with Article 12§2 of the 1961 Charter.

Paragraph 3 - Development of the social security system

In reply to the Committee's question regarding the results of the amendments introduced to the Act No. 100/2007, the report states that after the financial crisis the main emphasis was made on protecting the lowest income pensioners and on raising benefit supplements for them. According to the report, a regulation came into force in September 2008 which guaranteed the minimum amount of payments to pensioners. ISK 150 000 (€955) per month was paid as the minimum allowance to single pensioners. This amount was raised to ISK 180 000 in 2009. This minimum, according to the report, was guaranteed in law in the reference period and has been an important measure to alleviate poverty amongst pensioners in general. Progressive cuts in pensions were introduced in 2009 and the maximum income levels in the social security system were lowered, except for the maximum income level regarding income from work of persons with disabilities.

In 2011 all social security benefits were raised by 8.1% and furthermore the minimum income of pensioners was raised to ISK 196 140. Special lump sum of ISK 50 000 was paid out to all pensioners.

The Committee considers that the nature of the amendments, as well as reasons given for them are not contrary to the Charter as long as they have not endangered the existence of the pensions branch of the social security system and they have served the aim to consolidate public finances, in order to prevent deficits and debt interest from increasing, as one way of safeguarding the social security system (Statement of Interpretation, Conclusions XIV-1 (1998)). Moreover, the cumulative effect of these amendments has not been disproportionate for the most vulnerable groups of population.

The Committee asks what measures were taken to minimise the negative effects of the financial crisis on other branches of social security, such as healthcare, unemployment and sickness.

Conclusion

The Committee concludes that the situation in Iceland is in conformity with Article 12§3 of the 1961 Charter.

Article 13 - Right to social and medical assistance – Conclusions 2013

Paragraph 1 - Adequate assistance for every person in need

Types of benefits and eligibility criteria

The Committee previously noted (Conclusions XVIII-1 (2006)) that under the Municipalities' Social Services Act No. 40/1991, people who cannot support themselves or their children by other means can obtain a financial support by the local authorities. The financial assistance is at the discretion of the municipalities, but the authorities are encouraged to follow the guidelines of the Ministry of Welfare in accordance with which the amounts are fixed. In addition, the Social Assistance Act No. 99/2007 provides specific additional assistance, (either of a differential or a fixed amount), within the limit set by the law, to specific categories of the population in particular situations, including the elderly. The benefits are paid as long as the claimants continue to fulfil the conditions. The Ministry of Welfare recommends to the municipalities adjustments once a year in accordance with the national consumer price index. The report indicates that the number of households receiving financial assistance increased from 5 029 in 2008 to 7 715 in 2011, while the average payment per month increased in the same period from ISK 86 490 (€543) to ISK 103 517 (€650).

As regards medical assistance, the Committee previously noted that there is a universal health care system covering all residents. In this respect, the report indicates that a new Act on Health Insurance (Act No. 112/2008) was adopted in 2008, establishing an Icelandic Health Insurance Institution and clarifying certain definitions, but not affecting the general principles of the system, already assessed by the Committee.

Level of benefits

To assess the situation during the reference period, the Committee takes account of the following information:

- Basic benefit: according to the recommendations of the Ministry of Welfare, the monthly amounts of the benefits granted under the Municipalities' Social Services Act, not including the housing allowance, should not be lower than the monthly unemployment benefits. According to the report, the basic financial assistance provided by the City of Reykjavik could amount up to ISK 149 000 in 2011 (€ 935) per month. The report presents also examples of two other municipalities, where the basic financial assistance amounted respectively up to ISK 135 000 (€848) and € 131 617 (€826) in 2011.
- Supplementary benefits: according to MISSOC and the report, means-tested renting allowances are available from the municipalities up to ISK 46 000 (€290) per month, depending on family size, income and cost of housing. The report states that the rent benefit can never exceed 50% of the rent and that in 2011, the highest possible rent for a tenant living alone with no children was ISK 18 000 (€113). Some municipalities grant special rent benefits to those who live under difficult financial and/or social circumstances. Other supplementary benefits are mentioned in the report, for which however it is not possible to indicate any average amount of supplementary benefits

paid to a single person in receipt of financial assistance provided by municipality social services.

- Medical assistance: see above.
- Poverty threshold, defined as 50% of the median disposable equivalised income and as calculated on the basis of the Eurostat at-risk-of-poverty rate: estimated at €791 in 2011.

In the light of the above information, the Committee considers that the level of social assistance is adequate on the basis that the minimum assistance that can be obtained is compatible with the poverty threshold.

Right of appeal and legal aid

The Committee refers to its previous conclusion (Conclusions XIX-2 (2009)) for a description of the appeal system, which it considered to be in conformity with the Charter, and notes from the report that, following some legislative amendments in 2010 (Act No. 66/2010 and Act No. 152/2010) the authority responsible to deal with appeals in this field is the Social Services and Housing Complaints Committee and that the time limit to challenge a decision of this body has been extended from four weeks to three months.

The Committee considers that the situation in Iceland continues to be in conformity with the Charter concerning the right of appeal.

Personal scope

The Committee refers to its previous conclusion (Conclusions XIX-2 (2009)) and notes that there have been no changes to the situation which it has considered to be in conformity with the Charter both for medical and social assistance.

Conclusion

The Committee concludes that the situation in Iceland is in conformity with Article 13§1 of the 1961 Charter.

Paragraph 2 - Non-discrimination in the exercise of social and political rights

The Committee takes note of the information contained in the report submitted by Iceland and notes that during the reference period there have been no changes to the situation which it had previously found to be in conformity with the 1961 Charter (Conclusions XIX-2 (2009)). It asks nevertheless the next report to confirm explicitly that, both in law and in practice, beneficiaries of social and medical assistance do not suffer, for that reason, from any restriction to their political and social rights.

Conclusion

Pending receipt of the requested information, the Committee concludes that the situation in Iceland is in conformity with Article 13§2 of the 1961 Charter.

Paragraph 3 - Prevention, abolition or alleviation of need

It refers to its previous conclusions XV-1 (2000) and XVI-1 (2003) for a description of the social services relevant to Article 13§3 of the 1961 Charter and notes from the report that during the reference period there have been no changes to the situation which it has previously considered to be in conformity with this provision.

In response to the Committee's request (see Conclusions XIX-2 (2009)) for more specific information concerning those social services which are responsible for providing personal

advice and information to persons without resources, the report stresses that all state and municipal administration employees have a legal duty to provide assistance and guidance (under Section 14§2 of the Government Employees Act No. 70/1996 and Section 7 of the Administrative Procedure Act), and this obligation is also widely reiterated in the legislation on social and medical assistance.

In particular, under the Municipalities' Social Services Act, municipalities are responsible for guaranteeing the financial and social security of their inhabitants. The social services provided by the municipalities consist of service, assistance and counselling in connection with social counselling; financial assistance; home assistance; children, teen-agers and young persons; the elderly; disabled persons; housing; alcohol and drug addicts; unemployment. The report also refers to the duty of information and guidance provided by other relevant laws in the field of social and medical assistance (Act on Health Insurance of 16 September 2008, Social Security Act, Social Assistance Act No. 99/2007, Patient Insurance Act, Chief Medical Officer and Public Health Act, Patients' Rights Act). Furthermore, information on rights to social and medical assistance and how to exercise those rights is available on the Ministry of Welfare's website and on the websites of most of the municipalities.

The Committee takes note of this information. It refers to its finding of conformity as regards Article 14§1, where it noted that all social services are provided free of charge and evenly distributed across the country. It recalls that although, in comparison to Article 14§1, Article 13§3 is a special and more precise provision, concerning only advisory services for persons without or liable to be without adequate resources, it does not require specific services separate from the social welfare services of Article 14, so long as persons without adequate resources receive, free of charge, benefits and services adapted to their needs. The Committee understands the information provided in the report as meaning that people without resources or of at risk of becoming so can address the municipal social services as well as the other public institutions involved in the provision of social and medical assistance and obtain there, free of charge, all information and guidance needed to exercise their rights to social and medical assistance. It asks the next report to indicate whether this interpretation is right and what services, if any, address in particular people without resources.

Conclusion

Pending receipt of the requested information, the Committee concludes that the situation in Iceland is in conformity with Article 13§3 of the 1961 Charter.

Article 14 - The right to benefit from social services – Conclusions 2013

Paragraph 1 - Promotion or provision of social services

Organisation of the social services

The Committee refers to its previous conclusions (Conclusions XVII-2 (2005) and XV-2 (2001)) for a description of the organisation and functioning of Iceland's social services.

In respect of the financial crisis in October 2008, the current report states that the Minister of Social Affairs and Social Security appointed a steering committee, called the Well-Being Watch, to monitor welfare issues in accordance with a resolution made on 10 February 2009 by the Government. The steering committee is in charge of monitoring systematically the social and financial consequences of the economic situation for families and individuals and proposing measures to be taken to meet the needs of households.

Effective and equal access

The Committee refers to its previous conclusion where it noted that all social services were free.

In its last conclusion, the Committee asked whether social services were evenly distributed across the country. In response, the report indicates that municipalities are in charge of ensuring the well-being of their inhabitants. In this regard, local authorities' social services are regulated by the Local Authorities' Social Services Act No. 40/1991 and its subsequent amendments. The purpose of these services is to offer assistance to inhabitants in order to enable them to lead an independent life as possible. The report stresses that access to social services provided by the municipalities is possible for everyone, without discrimination. After the crisis, funds have been directed to a greater extent to most of the municipalities.

Quality of services

The report points out that the regulation and inspection of the quality of welfare services is split between health and social services. Within the Ministry of Welfare there is a Working Group that elaborates proposals for the coordination of health and social services' regulating bodies. More specifically, the Directorate of Health is responsible of supervisory procedures and inspection in the health care system. By contrast, the monitoring of the social care system is not centralised, but run mainly by the municipalities.

In view of the silence of the report on the criteria public and private providers must fulfil to provide these services, the Committee wishes the next report to provide information on these criteria.

The report indicates that the total expenditure for social protection in 2011 amounted to 189 739 million ISK (€1.2 million), which represented 24.6% of the total general government expenditure.

The Committee asks whether there is any legislation on personal data protection.

Conclusion

Pending receipt of the information requested, the Committee concludes that the situation in Iceland is in conformity with Article 14§1 of the 1961 Charter.

Paragraph 2 - Public participation in the establishment and maintenance of social services

According to the report, in 2011 the state allocated a total of 414 million ISK (€2.6 million) to voluntary organisations.

Concerning effective and equal access to social services offered by non-public providers, the report indicates that the special agreement between the Government or municipalities with non-public providers offering social services stipulates that effective and equal access to social services should be guaranteed without discrimination on the grounds of ethnic origin, gender, colour, nationality, religion, political conviction etc.

In respect of the consultation of voluntary organisations in the policy-making process, the report states that the Government puts great emphasis on having a good cooperation and consultation with NGOs. The report notably mentions the Well Being Watch (see Article 14§1) that is composed of representatives of social partners, ministers, NGOs and municipalities. The role of the committee is to gather information on the social and financial consequences of the economic crisis on individuals.

Conclusion

The Committee concludes that the situation in Iceland is in conformity with Article 14§2 of the 1961 Charter.

Article 15 - Right of physically or mentally disabled persons to vocational training, rehabilitation and social resettlement – Conclusions 2012

Paragraph 1 - Education and training for persons with disabilities

Iceland signed on 30 March 2007 the UN Convention on rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol but has not ratified them yet. The Committee asks to be kept informed of any development in this respect.

Although no precise data are available on the number of people with disabilities, the report indicates that the proportion of recipients of disability benefits and rehabilitation grants rose slightly from 2007 to 2010: in 2007, they were 7.2% (15,226 people) of the population aged 16-66 years, in 2008 they were 7.4% (15,891 people) and in 2009 and 2010 they were 7.7% (16,466 and 16,509 people respectively). In particular, the number of people with disability level of 75% or more increased from 13,616 in 2007 to 14,714 in 2010 (+8%); the number of people with disability level between 50 and 74% increased from 668 in 2007 to 719 in 2010 (+7.6%); the number of people getting rehabilitation grants increased from 942 in 2007 to 1,082 in 2010 (+15%). In the same period (2007-2010), the public expense for people with disabilities increased by 48%. The increase mainly concerns disability pensions, which increased by almost 53%. The report also indicates that in 2010 care benefits were paid for 1,662 children with disabilities.

The Committee recalls that where it is known that a certain category of persons is, or might be, discriminated against, it is the national authorities' duty to collect data to assess the extent of the problem (*European Roma Rights Centre v. Greece*, Complaint No. 15/2003, decision on the merits of 8 December 2004, §27). The gathering and analysis of such data (with due safeguards for privacy and against other abuses) is indispensable to the formulation of rational policy (*European Roma Rights Centre v. Italy*, Complaint No. 27/2004, decision on the merits of 7 December 2005, §23). The Committee accordingly reiterates its request for data on the total number of people with disabilities and the total number of children with disabilities, as well as the number of disabled children attending respectively mainstream and special schools and training facilities.

Definition of disability

The Disabled People Act No. 59/1992 states that "Those who are entitled to services according to this Act are the mentally or physically disabled who need special services and support for this reason. This refers to mental retardation, psychiatric illness, physical disability, blindness and / or deafness. [...] disabilities can also be the consequence of chronic illness as well as of accidents".

The report indicates that, in June 2012 (outside the reference period), the Parliament approved a motion for a resolution concerning an action plan (2012-2020) on disability policies, focusing on human rights and prohibition of discrimination and stating that "the term "disability" is a concept undergoing evolution and change, and it should be recognised that disability arises in the interaction between people with reduced function, their environment and attitudes which prevent full and active participation in society on an equal basis with others".

The Committee asks to be kept informed of the steps taken to move away from the medical definition of disability towards a more social definition such as that endorsed by the WHO in its International Classification of Functioning (ICF 2001).

Anti-discrimination legislation

In its previous conclusion (Conclusions XIX-1), the Committee concluded that the situation in Iceland was not in conformity with Article 15§1 of the Charter on the ground that there was no legislation explicitly protecting persons with disabilities from discrimination in education and training. In fact, while Article 65 of the Constitution guarantees equal rights for all citizens, including people with disabilities, there is no anti-discrimination legislation to combat disability-related discrimination in all fields of public life. The report indicates in this respect that a new bill, aimed at prohibiting discrimination, inter alia on grounds of disability, in conformity with the EU directives 2000/43/EC and 2000/78/EC, is expected to be submitted to Parliament end 2012.

The report indicates that the Disabled People Act No. 59/1992 was amended in December 2010 (Act No. 152/2010), decentralising certain competences, acknowledging equality of rights and granting a consultative role to relevant NGOs and associations in policy making and decisions regarding disabled people. Reference to equality of rights and prohibition of discrimination are furthermore included in the parliamentary motion of June 2012 mentioned above.

The Committee recalls that, under Article 15§1 it considers necessary the existence of non-discrimination legislation as an important tool for the advancement of the inclusion of children with disabilities into general or mainstream educational schemes. Such legislation should, as a minimum, require compelling justification for special or segregated education and confer an effective remedy on those who are found to have been unlawfully excluded or segregated or otherwise denied an effective right to education. Legislation may be general anti-discrimination legislation, specific legislation concerning education or a combination of the two (Conclusions 2007, General Introduction, Statement of Interpretation on Article 15§1). In the light thereof, the Committee acknowledges the developments reported but notes that, although a bill prohibiting discrimination is currently being prepared, no such legislation was in force in Iceland during the reference period. Accordingly, the Committee finds that the situation in Iceland is not in conformity with Article 15§1 of the 1961 Charter.

Vocational training

According to the ANED report on equality of education and training opportunities for young disabled people, there is no specific governmental or legal policy framework that concerns the rights and needs of young disabled people pursuing technical or vocational training. One educational and training option for disabled people is to take short-term courses in subjects such as computer skills and accounting, often through disabled people's organisations. Under a new law adopted in 2010, such training can now be valued as upper-secondary school credits.

At adult education level, an independent institution, Hríngsjá, a state-financed vocational and educational centre, offers job training and preparation for further learning to people with disabilities over the age of 18 as rehabilitation, with the aim to enter mainstream work or continue studies. In 2008 the programme offered training to approximately 60 people. The training programme consists of courses in basic skills as well as social studies and social skills, but the main emphasis is on teaching and training in skills important for office and service work. The centre also runs short courses for about 150 individuals a year.

While there is no state level legal framework that ensures that the rights and needs of disabled students are met with regard to higher education, some institutions do have internally developed policies and regulations, for example the University of Iceland, which also has a committee that meets to address issues concerning access, resources, technical matters and any issues that arise concerning the needs of disabled students. The needs of disabled students are however not equally addressed in all the other higher education institutions.

Conclusion

The Committee concludes that the situation in Iceland is not in conformity with Article 15§1 of the 1961 Charter on the ground that there is no legislation explicitly prohibiting discrimination in education and training on the ground of disability.

Paragraph 2 - Employment of persons with disabilities

Although no precise data are available on the number of people with disabilities, the report indicates that the proportion of recipients of disability benefits and rehabilitation grants rose slightly from 2007 to 2010: in 2007, they were 7.2% (15,226 people) of the population aged 16-66 years, in 2008 they were 7.4% (15,891 people) and in 2009 and 2010 they were 7.7% (16,466 and 16,509 people respectively). In particular, the number of people with disability level of 75% or more increased from 13,616 in 2007 to 14,714 in 2010 (+8%); the number of people with disability level between 50 and 74% increased from 668 in 2007 to 719 in 2010 (+7.6%); the number of people getting rehabilitation grants increased from 942 in 2007 to 1,082 in 2010 (+15%). In the same period (2007-2010), the public expense for people with disabilities increased by 48%. The increase mainly concerns disability pensions, which increased by almost 53%.

The report explains that no information is available on the number of people with disabilities actively participating in the labour market. However, based on the data of the Social Insurance Administration, the number of people registered as disabled or qualifying for disability grants but receiving no payments on account of their employment earnings increased from 710 in 2008 to 1,057 in 2010.

The ANED country profile 2012 indicates that 8,400 disabled individuals were categorised as inactive on the labour market in the 2nd quarter of 2012 (outside the reference period). This represents 21.8% of the overall reported inactivity rate in the Icelandic labour market, which includes a number of other categories such as senior citizens, students, the unemployed and those on maternity/paternity leave. The same report indicates that, according to a survey of 2010, while 96% of respondents had at one point been active in the labour market, only 29% were still employed. In comparison, 84% of the general population was active in the labour market during the same time frame and within the same age range.

Anti-discrimination legislation

Although Article 65 of the Constitution guarantees equal rights for all citizens, including for persons with disabilities, there is no comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation in Iceland to combat disability related discrimination in all fields of public life. The report indicates in this respect that a new bill, aimed at implementing the EU directives on discrimination (2000/43/EC and 2000/78/EC), is expected to be submitted to Parliament end 2012 and will include prohibition of discrimination on grounds of disability in employment.

The report furthermore indicates that Disabled People Act No. 59/1992 was amended in December 2010 (Act No. 152/2010), decentralising certain competences concerning disabled people and acknowledging them equal rights, although no explicit prohibition of discrimination or setting up of specific remedies against it are provided. In addition, in June 2012 (outside the reference period), the Parliament approved a motion for a parliamentary resolution concerning an action plan (2012-2020) on disability policies, which refers to equality of rights and the prohibition of discrimination and acknowledges the role of employment in promoting autonomy and development of disabled people. Better workplace accessibility and promotion of disabled people's employment are among the goals set by the action plan, which plans to

achieve by end 2014 that 85% of disabled people of working age should be employed, involved in activation policies or in a study programme.

The Committee acknowledges the developments reported but notes that, although a bill prohibiting discrimination is currently being prepared, no such legislation was in force in Iceland during the reference period. Accordingly, the Committee finds that the situation in Iceland is not in conformity with Article 15§2 of the 1961 Charter.

Measures to encourage the employment of persons with disabilities

The main legislation concerning the measures to support employment of disabled people are the Labour Market Measures Act No. 55/2006, as amended by Act No. 88/2008 (see for details previous Conclusions XIX-1), which aims at providing individuals with the appropriate assistance to enable them to become active participants in the labour market, and the Disabled People Act No. 59/1992, providing for special personal support as well as for the possibility to conclude special agreements with private companies or public institutions, defining the training period and the contribution to the costs. The Committee requests more detailed information on whether the law provides for an obligation to ensure reasonable accommodation in the workplace, what measures are concretely available, what criteria are applied to assess whether the support requested is "reasonable" and what remedies are available as regards reasonable accommodation requirements, together with any relevant example of case law.

The report indicates that the disability assessment schemes are being reviewed with the aim of focusing on the employment ability of individuals and strengthening employment-related rehabilitation in view of further encouraging disabled people to seek employment, while granting disability benefits to the extent they are unable to work. The report highlights the efforts made in this respect: the state contribution to vocational rehabilitation centres increased by over three times between 2007 and 2010; a specific dedicated fund was launched in 2008; following a Government declaration in 2011, a new law No. 60/2012 containing further measures in favour of vocational rehabilitation was adopted in June 2012 (outside the reference period).

A special agreement was also concluded as from 2002 to ensure some education and training to people with disabilities aged 20 and over who do not have access to vocational training in other specialised institutions. Another successful rehabilitation programme operated by SN Rehabilitation Centre and presented in detail in the report was launched in 2003 in the framework of the European Year for People with Disabilities. The report mentions some other programmes that have been particularly successful in integrating disabled people into labour market, such as the Supported employment programmes and the assessment and training programmes of vocational training/rehabilitation centres. According to the report, these centres in general do not lead to employment in the ordinary labour market. The agencies engaged in the employment of disabled people in the ordinary labour market, under the principles of Supported Employment, aim at finding appropriate jobs for each individual and offering personal training to the person and assistance to the employers. The state social security contributes to the salary to an extent depending on the level of assistance needed. Under the Disabled People Act, sheltered employment should be made available either by providing reasonable accommodation or in sheltered workshops, providing regular jobs for disabled people or remunerated training with a view to enabling them to join the ordinary labour market. Disabled people are furthermore given priority in public employment, when they are at least as qualified as other applicants.

According to the report, some 914 disabled people benefit from specific assistance for habilitation (340 people), sheltered work (204 people) and supported work (370 people). 730

people are reported to be in sheltered employment facilities. The ANED 2009 report on employment of disabled people, indicates that according to data of 28 sheltered workshops and habilitation centres in 2008, 777 people were working in sheltered workshops, vocational rehabilitation or job training centres. In total, 1032 disabled individuals received some form of supported employment, job training or employment in a sheltered workshop in 2008, i.e. approximately 6% of the total number of disability pensioners in 2008.

Conclusion

The Committee concludes that the situation in Iceland is not in conformity with Article 15§2 of the 1961 Charter on the ground that there is no legislation explicitly prohibiting discrimination in employment on the ground of disability.

Article 16 - Right of the family to social, legal and economic protection – Conclusions 2011

As the notion of the “family” is variable, the Charter applies to every family according to the definition of this notion in domestic law. The Committee asks that the next report indicate how the “family” is defined in domestic law.

Economic protection of families

Family benefits

Family benefits comprise child allowances, payments during maternity/paternity leave (under Act No. 95/2000) and single-parent allowances.

According to the report and to MISSOC3, child allowance is a fixed annual sum paid in respect of all children under seven years of age irrespective of income. It amounted to ISK 61 191 (€343) in 2009. In 2009 maximum child allowance for married or cohabiting parents was ISK 152 331 (€853) for the first child and ISK 181 323 (€1 016) for each subsequent child. Single parents are paid a larger amount than married or cohabiting parents. If recipients' incomes exceed a certain upper limit, the amounts paid are reduced.

The Committee considers that, in order to comply with Article 16, child allowances must constitute an adequate income supplement, which is the case when they represent a significant percentage of median equivalised income. The Committee notes that in 2009, child allowances amounted to some 19% of the aforementioned income. In view of the fact that child allowances increased during the reference period and there are other family benefits available (maternity/paternity benefits, single-parent allowances, childcare allowances and adoption allowances), the Committee considers that the situation is in conformity with the 1961 Charter on this point.

Vulnerable families

According to the report, a single-parent allowance is paid to single parents with two or more dependent children under the age of 18. The annual allowance for 2009 came to ISK 75 228 (€421) for two children and ISK 195 600 (€1 096) for three or more children.

Equal treatment of foreign nationals and stateless persons with regard to family benefits

The Committee notes that according to the report, single-parent allowance is paid to persons residing in Iceland for at least three years prior to the application. The Committee asks for information to be provided in the next report on the legislation establishing this length-of-residence requirement so that it can assess whether equal treatment is guaranteed for

nationals of other States parties to the 1961 Charter and the Charter with regard to the award of family benefits. The Committee emphasises that if the next report does not provide the necessary information, there will be nothing to show that the situation in Iceland is in conformity with Article 16 of the 1961 Charter.

Conclusion

Pending receipt of the information requested, the Committee defers its conclusion.

3. ILO Conventions

No pending comments