



Call for experts

Provision of external expertise to conduct comparative analysis within the framework of the European Social Services Index

Budget: €6,300

Deadline for submissions: 20 July 2025 (applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis)

Selection criteria: Best price-quality ratio

Contact:

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ESN Policy and Project Officer

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1) About the European Social Network

The European Social Network (ESN) represents the voice of public social services as employers, managers, funders, planners, deliverers, and inspectors of social services in Europe.

ESN inspires social services leaders to improve the lives of people in the community through the development and exchange of knowledge to improve policy and practice in public social services, including all support and community-based services fighting poverty, promoting social inclusion and autonomy, child protection, protection of people with disabilities, care and support for older people, homeless people, as well as people and families in disadvantaged socio-economic situations.

2) About the European Social Services Index

The [European Social Services Index](#) (SSI) is an initiative launched by ESN in 2023 to better understand and compare the situation of social services in different European Union (EU) Member States.

Each year, with the support of our SSI Working Group, we gather national data about several countries' social services legislation, expenditure, and coverage. In 2025, we collected data from 17 countries: Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden.

The data collected helps us provide evidence for the European Commission to formulate its recommendations to national governments within the framework of the [European Semester](#) – an annual review of national economic, social, and budgetary policies aimed at identifying socio-economic challenges in EU Member States and formulating proposals on how they could address these. ESN gets involved in this process to ensure that the European Commission fully knows the situation of social services and that its recommendations meet social services' needs.

On 14-15 October 2025, the members of our SSI Working Group and European Commission officials will meet in Brussels, Belgium, to discuss the evidence we gathered and assess how this can be used to feed into the European Semester.

3) Subject and tasks

As part of the SSI initiative, ESN collects data through a questionnaire completed by the members of our SSI Working Group, comprised mostly of social services professionals, national authorities, and experts. We then analyse this data and draft country-specific factsheets, highlighting our findings.

The expert we are seeking will be required to compare the collected data and draft a cross-country analysis. The final output will be a report similar to those produced in [2023](#) and [2024](#). Both factsheets and the final report will be drafted in English.

The expert's tasks will consist of the following and are estimated to require **10 days** of work for completion:

- Cross-analyse 17 country-specific factsheets and draft a report outlining comparisons and formulating recommendations for both national governments and the European Commission. The report should be structured similarly to the 2024 report and cover key findings concerning social services legislation, expenditure, and coverage. The latter will focus on long-term care services for older people and adults with disabilities, child protection, domestic violence support services, minimum income schemes, and housing and homelessness support.
- Present the main findings of the cross-country analysis at the in-person meeting in Brussels, accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation.
- Implement the feedback provided by ESN and finalise the report, emphasising key issues for social services in the framework of the European Semester.

4) Deliverables

Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility
Draft 17 country-specific factsheets	June-August	ESN
Cross-analyse the 17 country-specific factsheets and draft a report outlining comparisons and formulating recommendations at both national and EU levels	September	Expert
Provide a first draft of the report, for ESN to review	03/10/2025	Expert
Prepare a PowerPoint presentation outlining the main findings of the cross-country analysis	10/10/2025	Expert
Attend the in-person meeting in Brussels and present the main findings of the cross-country analysis	14-15/10/2025	Expert
Implement the feedback provided by ESN and provide a final draft of the report	31/10/2025	Expert, based on ESN feedback

5) Required expertise

In their application, the external expert must be able to demonstrate the following:

- Strong knowledge of social policies in individual EU Member States and at the EU level.
- Strong knowledge of the European Semester.
- Experience in both quantitative and qualitative research and the ability to analyse complex statistical data and draw comparisons.
- Excellent writing and communication skills, with the ability to convey complex ideas clearly and concisely.
- Fluency in English, both written and orally.

6) Remuneration

Experts are requested to submit a financial proposal for the work outlined above. The **maximum remuneration available is €6,300**. Payment will be made upon delivery and approval of the agreed deliverables and submission of an invoice.

7) Applications

Applicants should provide the following information:

- 1) CV
- 2) Cover letter describing how they meet the required expertise
- 3) Relevant samples of work (especially comparative analysis)
- 4) Quote

8) Selection

Applications will be reviewed on a **rolling basis**; therefore, early submissions are strongly encouraged.

Applications must be sent by email to ESN Policy and Project Officer Adriana Masgras at adriana.masgras@esn-eu.org.

Applications must be sent at the latest **by 23:59 on 20 July 2025**.