

Social Security in Small Jurisdictions – Size Does Matter?

EISS Conference 2022

22-23 September 2022
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Tiensestraat 41, Leuven
Belgium

Introduction

Small states have been ignored in the literature of the welfare regime, though it is likely that they are confronted with specific issues or problems when dealing with social security. Of course, small jurisdictions are very diverse: they can be rich or poor, reflect different legal traditions, and may have many other differences. We will focus on questions that can bring them together, which are explicitly linked to the small nature of the jurisdictions, such as scale disadvantages, limited human resources and infrastructure, the importance of immigration and/or emigration and the difficulties to conclude balanced social security coordination agreements with major emigration and/or immigration countries Can we identify problems unique to social security in small jurisdictions as well as ways of dealing with these problems?

With this conference we have the ambition to highlight the challenges small jurisdictions face in their social security systems.

Draft Programme

DAY 1 – 22 September 2022

9.30-10.00 *Opening*

President of the EISS
Dean Law Faculty

10.00-13.00 **Small jurisdictions and social security – introduction of the topic**

10.00-10.45 *Small jurisdictions and social security - a comparative overview*

10.45-11.00 *Questions*

11.00-11.30 *Coffee break*

11.30-12.15 *Panel 1: Developing social security systems in small nations*

Introduction by 2 countries
Panel discussion with representatives of small nations

12.15-13.00 *Panel 2 : Developing social security in small systems (i.e. decentralized, defederalized and professional)*

Introduction by 2 systems

Panel discussion with representatives of small systems

13.00-14.30 *Lunch*

14.30-16.00 **Addressing minimum requirements and challenges**

14.30-15.00 *Economic minimum requirements for running social security systems*

15.00-15.30 *Integration requirements: connecting smaller systems – issues of national coordination/harmonization*

15.30-16.00 *Guaranteeing effective access in multilingual surroundings*

16.00-16.45 **Questions and discussion**

16.45-17.00 *Coffee break*

17.00-17.45 **EISS General Assembly**

19.00 *Evening programme*

DAY 2 – 23 September 2022

9.30-10.30 **Young Researchers Forum**

10.30-10.45 *Coffee break*

10.45-12.45 **Small jurisdictions in an international framework**

10.45-11.15 *Addressing international social security obligations by small nations*

11.15-11.45 *Addressing the challenges for small jurisdictions: a vision from the ISSA (tbc)*

11.45-12.15 *Addressing the challenges for small jurisdictions: a vision from the Commonwealth (tbc)*

12.15-12.45 *Questions and discussion*

12.45 **Conclusions – does size matter after all?**