

## Social Security in Small Jurisdictions – Size Does Matter?

EISS Conference 2022

*22-23 September 2022  
Aula Zeger Van Hee  
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, the European Institute of Social Security and the Institute for Social Law of KU Leuven's Faculty of Law and Criminology 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*

Prof. Dr. Franz Marhold, President of the EISS

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

*10.00-10.45 Small states – key challenges introduced*

Dr. Caroline Morris, Queen Mary University of London

*10.45-11.00 Questions*

*11.00-11.30 Coffee break*

11.30-13.00 *Small jurisdictions and social security – a comparison*  
Prof. Dr. Danny Pieters, KU Leuven

*Panel session: Developing social security systems in small nations or systems (i.e. decentralized, defederalized, professional)*

Moderated by Prof. Dr. Franz Marhold, Vienna University of Economics and Business

Panelists:

- Ms. Ainocha Barreiro, Legal Advisor Caixa Andorrana Seguretat Social
- Sir Joe Bossano; Minister for Economic Development, Enterprise, Telecommunications & the Gibraltar Savings Bank; HM Government of Gibraltar
- Ms. Sue Duhamel, Associate Director of Social Security, Population and Housing Policy Government of Jersey
- Dr. Marcello Forcellini, Administrative Director Istituto Sicurezza Sociale San Marino
- Mr. Andreas Heck, Ministry of the German-speaking Community Belgium
- Dr. Mark Simpson, University of Ulster

13.00-14.30 *Lunch*

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

14.30-15.00 *Social security in small jurisdictions: the economic context*  
Dr. Robert Read, Lancaster University

15.00-15.30 *Challenges for public administration in small states*  
Prof. Dr. Marlene Jugl, Bocconi University

15.30-16.00 *Challenges for majorities: inclusive access to social security and services in multilingual postcolonial small states*  
Dr. Eric Mijts, University of Aruba

16.00-16.45 **Questions and discussion**

16.45-17.00 *Coffee break*

17.00-17.45 **EISS General Assembly**

19.30 *Evening programme – conference dinner at [De Hoorn](#) (Sluisstraat 79, Leuven)*

## DAY 2 – 23 September 2022

9.30-09.45 *Opening day 2*

### 9.45-10.45 **Young Researchers Forum**

9.45-10.05 *An Introduction to the Concept of the 'Internal Coordination' of Professional Social Security Systems within the EU*  
Thanos Bourlos, KU Leuven

10.05-10.25 *Digital transformation as a tool to solve social security puzzles: small states as laboratories for innovation*  
Johanna Vallistu, Ragnar Nurkse School of Governance and Innovation, TalTech

10.25-10.45 *Intrastate coordination of regionalized social security schemes in light of EU law*  
Niel Laenen, KU Leuven

10.45-11.00 *Coffee break*

### 11.00-12.00 **Small jurisdictions in an international framework**

11.00-11.30 *Addressing international social security obligations by small nations*  
Ms. Karen Farrugia, Malta Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights

11.30-12.00 *Questions and discussion*

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