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ISPA tools and their role to support countries to produce well-informed, rapid diagnostics of their social protection systems
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ISPA Tools Webinar Series

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9th March 2017

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Alternatively, submit your questions via social media (Facebook and Twitter), using #SPorgWebinar
Ms Veronika Wodsak works for the ILO Social Protection Department since 2007 in various functions, including Health Policy Officer, Social Protection Floor Officer and Social Security Expert amongst other responsibilities, she was part of the team that supported the development and follow-up of the Social Protection Floors Recommendation (R.202). Currently, she is leading the ILO work on the ISPA tools, and, jointly with the World Bank, the ISPA Coordination Team. She participated in all the working groups developing ISPA tools and is responsible for the work on the Social Protection Policy Options (SPPOT) tool.

Ms Wodsak holds a B.A. in International Relations from the University of Kent at Canterbury and an M.A. in International Relations from Queen's University (Ontario); She has worked as a Researcher on Global Social Policy at Bielefeld University as well as a Research Assistant at the World Bank Social Development Department.
Inter-Agency Social Protection Assessment tools
www.ispatools.org

Veronika Wodsak, ILO
ISPA Coordination Team
Webinar 9 March
socialprotection.org
WHAT ARE ISPA TOOLS?

A set of practical tools to analyze the performance of social protection **SYSTEMS, PROGRAMS** or **DELIVERY MECHANISMS**

- **SYSTEM**
  - Analyze countries’ social protection system & policies

- **PROGRAM**
  - Deeper analysis on the different types of social protection programs and branches

- **DELIVERY**
  - In-depth analysis of different delivery aspects
THE ISPA TOOLS

Finalized tools – available at www.ispatools.org

Tools under development
WHAT DOES A TOOL INCLUDE?

1. “What Matters” Guidance
   - Lays technical foundation for assessment
   - Provides good practices from international experience
   - Provides instructions to gather information
   - Describes how the assessment is organized

2. Questionnaire
   - Gathers qualitative and quantitative information

3. Assessment Matrix
   - Assesses against the agreed criteria on a four point scale

   - Presents the findings
   - Highlights strengths and weaknesses in relation to good international practice
   - Summarizes complex landscape of policies and institutions
   - Provides policy options to be used as jumping off point for future dialogue between stakeholders

Implementation Guidelines
Outlines the process of application of ISPA tools from start to completion
WHY USE ISPA TOOLS?

COUNTRIES
ISPA supports the building of cohesive social protection systems

GOVERNMENTS
ISPA provides consistent, reliable & technically sound evidence on improving the effectiveness & efficiency of a social protection system

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS
ISPA helps to coordinate advice & resources & facilitates the sharing of information and good practices

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS
EXPERIENCE
Better access to goods & services, improved adequacy of social protection benefits, and more coordinated & integrated provision of government benefits & services
WHO USES ISPA TOOLS?

• Potentially everyone: Tools are open access – free and available for download on www.ispatools.org

• Target group: Social Protection Experts from
  – Government institutions
  – International development agencies
  – Academic/research institutions

• Assessment team: min. 2-4 experts with inputs from relevant stakeholders
WHEN TO USE ISPA TOOLS?

- **Governments**: whenever engaging in the design, evaluation, analysis, assessment, reform plans, policy decisions regarding social protection the application of the related relevant ISPA tool is useful.

- **International agencies**: upon government request for analytical work regarding social protection (sector reviews, programme evaluation, reforms, poverty expenditure reviews, etc.)
Where to use ISPA tools?

ISPA tools are flexible tools that can be applied in any context - the tailoring of the tool to the country context is part of the implementation process.
HOW? – The ISPA tool application process

**Request for the assessment and preparatory phase:**
- Inception meeting
- Stakeholder analysis and coordination of development partners

**Getting started:**
- Formation of the assessment team and steering committee
- Training on tool application and adaptation of the tool to country context

**Launch of the assessment:**
- Orientation meeting: agree on objectives and process

**Data collection:**
- Desk review, pre-population of the questionnaire
- Stakeholder consultations, site visits, focus groups discussions

**Assessment:**
- Completion of assessment matrix and drafting of country report

**Finalization:**
- Consultative workshop
- Revision of matrix and report, delivery to stakeholders
HOW?

Guidance for tool application

• Country ownership
• Tailoring the tool to the country context
• Identifying the right entry points and lead agency
• Broad stakeholder participation (across sectors, administrative levels, non-government actors etc.)
• Interagency cooperation
• Training for the assessment team and stakeholders as needed (ensuring effective participation)
• Careful planning (committing necessary time and resources), allowing for a certain degree of flexibility
• Periodic applications of the tools (3-5 years)
Preparatory Phase

- Importance of clarity on **objectives** and roles and responsibilities in the assessment
- Managing **expectations** – clear explanation of the strengths and limitations of the ISPA tool
- Agree on the ToRs/ **scope** of the assessment
- Need for **adaptation** of the questionnaire and country context
Getting started

• Setting up the assessment team
• Training on tool application (if needed)
• Tailoring the tool to the country context
• Start desk review and pre-population of the questionnaire
• Prepare multi-stakeholder orientation meeting / launch
• Plan appointments for bilateral consultations, field visits, focus group discussions etc.
Launch of the assessment

- Multi-stakeholder launching meeting
- Reach consensus on the scope and objectives of the assessment
- Agreement on the process, implementation arrangements and timelines
- Discuss data requirements
- Prepare minutes of the meeting and circulate them
• Finalize desk review
• Organize the questionnaire for each stakeholder consultation
• Bi-lateral stakeholder consultations to validate pre-populated questionnaire and fill gaps
• Important to identify the right persons within each institution (different departments)
• Site visits, expert interviews, focus group discussions
Assessment

• Data consolidation, make explicit how contradictions are addressed
• Based on information collected through the questionnaire, consultations and interviews: Filling in of assessment matrix (by assessment team or through stakeholder workshop)
• Draft zero-version of the assessment report
Finalization of the report

- Circulation of the draft report for comments to stakeholders
- Presentation and discussion of the report and preliminary findings at a multistakeholder workshop
- Revision and finalization of the assessment matrix and report based on the feedback received
- Dissemination of the report / findings
Time and resources required for carrying out an ISPA assessment varies depending on

- the scope of the exercise (e.g. complexity of the SP system, number of programmes selected)
- country context (size, complexity of the administration, heterogeneity of the population etc.)
- data availability

=> Can take between 3-15 months and a minimum of 25,000 USD
NEXT STEPS
FOR YOU TO ENGAGE WITH ISPA:

Ready to get involved with the ISPA tools? Here are some easy next steps to support the ISPA initiative!

**Want to learn more about ISPA?**
Participate in an e-learning session at ISPATools.org

**Know a country where it could be appropriate to apply one of the ISPA tools?**
Reach out to the ISPA Coordination Team for advice on how to perform an assessment!

**Have expertise in one of the areas proposed by the ISPA constellation of tools?**
Contact the Coordination Team and let them know how you can contribute to develop a new ISPA tool!
LEARN MORE:

ISPATools.org

Please navigate to the ISPA website, where you can learn more about the ISPA initiative, the ISPA tools, and how to get involved with improving social protection for all.
Questions and Answers

Veronika Wodsak

Submit your questions!
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