Evaluation of SGEI rules applicable to health and social services and the SGEI de minimis Regulation - Public consultation

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The European Commission is carrying out an evaluation of the 2012 SGEI package as regards health and social services and of the SGEI de minimis Regulation. More information can be found <u>here.</u>

You are kindly invited to reply to a set of 18 questions. Please make sure you use the save button as you proceed with the questionnaire to avoid losing information that was already inserted - especially in the case of questions with open replies. At the end of the survey you will have an opportunity to provide broader, more general comments and to upload documents, which you consider as relevant.

The questionnaire will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

A summary report of the public consultation will also be published in Q1 2020 on the European Commission' s public consultations page of the better regulation portal.

About you

- *1 Language of my contribution
 - Bulgarian
 - Croatian
 - Czech
 - Danish
 - Dutch
 - English
 - Estonian
 - Finnish
 - French
 - Gaelic
 - German
 - Greek
 - Hungarian
 - Italian
 - Latvian
 - Lithuanian
 - Maltese
 - Polish

- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Slovak
- Slovenian
- Spanish
- Swedish
- *2 I am giving my contribution as
 - Academic/research institution
 - Business association
 - Company/business organisation
 - Consumer organisation
 - EU citizen
 - Environmental organisation
 - Non-EU citizen
 - Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
 - Public authority
 - Trade union
 - Other
- *3 First name

*4 Surname

*5 Email (this won't be published)

sbk@em.dk

*6 Scope

- International
- Local
- 🔵 National
- Regional

*7 Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

Danish Government response

*8 Organisation size

- Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- Small (10 to 49 employees)
- Medium (50 to 249 employees)

Large (250 or more)

9 Transparency register number

255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the transparency register. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decisionmaking.

*10 Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

Please add your country of origin, Afghanistan	or that of your organisation.	Libya	Saint Martin
Åland Islands	 Dominica 	Liechtenstein	 Saint Pierre
			and Miquelon
Albania	Dominican	Lithuania	Saint Vincent
	Republic		and the
Alexania	E	I I	Grenadines
Algeria	Ecuador	Luxembourg	Samoa
American Samoa	Egypt	Macau	San Marino
Andorra	El Salvador	Madagascar	São Tomé and
		• Madagastai	Príncipe
Angola	Equatorial	Malawi	Saudi Arabia
U	Guinea		
Anguilla	Eritrea	Malaysia	Senegal
Antarctica	Estonia	Maldives	Serbia
Antigua and	Eswatini	Mali	Seychelles
Barbuda			
Argentina	Ethiopia	Malta	Sierra Leone
Armenia	Falkland Islands	Marshall	Singapore
Aruba	Faroe Islands	Islands Mortinique	Sint Maarten
 Aruba Australia 	 Faite Islands Fiji 	 Martinique Mauritania 	 Sint Maanen Slovakia
 Austria Austria 	Finland	 Mauritius 	 Slovania Slovenia
 Austria Azerbaijan 	 France 	 Mayotte 	 Solomon
			Islands
Bahamas	French Guiana	Mexico	Somalia
Bahrain	French	Micronesia	South Africa
	Polynesia		
Bangladesh	French	Moldova	South Georgia
	Southern and		and the South
	Antarctic Lands		Sandwich
Barbados	Gabon	Monaco	Islands South Korea
 Belarus 	 Gabon Georgia 	 Mongolia 	South Korea South Sudan
 Belgium 	 Germany 	 Mongolia Montenegro 	 Spain
 Belize 	 Ghana 	 Montserrat 	Sri Lanka
Benin	 Gibraltar 	Morocco	Sudan
-			

BermudaBhutan	GreeceGreenland	 Mozambique Myanmar /Burma 	 Suriname Svalbard and Jan Mayen
 Bolivia Bonaire Saint Eustatius and Saba 	GrenadaGuadeloupe	 Namibia Nauru 	 Sweden Switzerland
 Bosnia and Herzegovina 	Guam	Nepal	Syria
 Botswana Bouvet Island Brazil British Indian Ocean Territory 	 Guatemala Guernsey Guinea Guinea-Bissau 	 Netherlands New Caledonia New Zealand Nicaragua 	 Taiwan Tajikistan Tanzania Thailand
 British Virgin Islands 	Guyana	Niger	The Gambia
BruneiBulgaria	 Haiti Heard Island and McDonald Islands 	NigeriaNiue	Timor-LesteTogo
 Burkina Faso Burundi 	HondurasHong Kong	 Norfolk Island Northern Mariana Islands 	TokelauTonga
Cambodia	Hungary	North Korea	Trinidad and Tobago
Cameroon	Iceland	North Macedonia	Tunisia
Canada	India	Norway	Turkey
Cape Verde	Indonesia	Oman Oman	Turkmenistan
Cayman Islands	Iran	Pakistan	Turks and Caicos Islands
Central African Republic	Iraq	Palau	Tuvalu
Chad	Ireland	Palestine	Uganda
Chile	Isle of Man	Panama	Ukraine
China	Israel	Papua New	United Arab
Christmas Island	Italy	Guinea Paraguay	Emirates United Kingdom
_	Jamaica	Peru	Kingdom United States
 Clipperton Cocos (Keeling) Islands 	 Japan 	 Philippines 	 United States United States Minor Outlying Islands
ColombiaComoros	JerseyJordan	 Pitcairn Islands Poland 	 Uruguay US Virgin Islands
CongoCook Islands	KazakhstanKenya	PortugalPuerto Rico	 Uzbekistan Vanuatu

 Costa Rica Côte d'Ivoire Croatia Cuba 	 Kiribati Kosovo Kuwait Kyrgyzstan 	 Qatar Réunion Romania Russia 	 Vatican City Venezuela Vietnam Wallis and
Curaçao	Laos	Rwanda	Futuna Western Sahara
Cyprus	Latvia	Saint Barthélemy	Yemen
Czechia	Lebanon	Saint Helena Ascension and Tristan da Cunha	Zambia
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Lesotho	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Zimbabwe
😑 Denmark	Liberia	Saint Lucia	

*11 Publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

Anonymous

Only your type of respondent, country of origin and contribution will be published. All other personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number) will not be published.

Public

Your personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number, country of origin) will be published with your contribution.

12 I agree with the personal data protection provisions

General questions

13 Please describe the relevance of State aid rules for you

1500 character(s) maximum

The Danish Government responce is coordinated by the central state aid division. General questions are responded below. Denmark has limited experiences with SGEI in this field as

health and social services in Denmark are as a main rule regarded as non-economic in nature. 14 How would you best describe the nature of your understanding and involvement in matters related to State aid rules?

1500 character(s) maximum

N/A

15 Are you familiar with the SGEI package?

	Very familiar, I use this document often	Familiar, I have heard about it and use it sometimes	Neutral, I have heard about it, but do not use it	Not familiar at all, I do not know this document
* <u>2012 SGEI</u> Decision	0	0	۲	۲
* 2012 SGEL Communication	0	0	۲	۲
* <u>2012 SGEI</u> <u>Framework</u>	0	0	۲	۲
* <u>SGEI de</u> <u>minimis</u> <u>Regulation</u>	0	O	©	۲

16 How often do you grant compensation under the different documents that are part of the SGEI package?

	More than 12 times per year	Less than 12 times per year	Never	l do not know	This document is not relevant for me / I do not use it
* <u>2012 SGEI</u> <u>Decision</u>	0	O	O	0	0
* <u>2012 SGEI</u> <u>Framework</u>	0	0	0	0	0
* <u>SGEI de</u> <u>minimis</u> <u>Regulation</u>	0	O	O	0	0

Specific questions - Effectiveness (Have the objectives been met?)

In this section, we would like to have your opinion on the extent to which the SGEI rules for health and social services met their objectives, notably:

- Clarifying the basic concepts relevant for the application of the State aid rules to health and social SGEIs; and
- Providing a more diversified and proportionate approach for a large variety of health and social SGEIs, taking into account their nature and scope and the extent to which they posed a serious risk of competition distortions in the internal market

*17 Based on your experience, has the 2012 SGEI package in so far as applicable to health and social services overall led to a clearer and more simple set of rules?

1000 character(s) maximum

Yes, the SGEI package has overall met its purpose in respect to clarifying the rules and reduce administrative burdens.

18 Based on your experience, did the factors below facilitate the compliance with the SGEI rules applicable to health and social services?

To help you answering this question, please find <u>here</u> the SGEI communication and <u>here</u> the SGEI Decision.

	Fully agree	Partially agree	Neutral	Partially disagree	Fully disagree	l do not know / no opinion
 Guidance in the 2012 SGEI Communication on when the SGEI rules apply 	0	0	O	0	O	0
 Guidance in the 2012 SGEI Communication on the definition of a genuine SGEI 	0	0	0	0	0	0
 Guidance in the 2012 SGEI Communication on the concept of 'market failure' 	0	0	۲	0	0	0
* The scope of social services as laid down in the 2012 SGEI Decision (Article 2(1)(c) and recital 11 of the preamble)	0	0	0	0	0	0
* The definition of social housing as laid down in the 2012 SGEI Decision (recital 11 of the preamble)	0	0	0	0	0	0
 Publication by Member States or regional and local authorities of a Member State of aid awards above EUR 15 million on the internet 	0	0	۲	O	0	0

19 Please explain your answers

3000 character(s) maximum

Overall the SGEI-package has facilitated compliance. However, definitions in the SGEIcommunication could be more elaborate and should be updated according to ECJ-practice.

20 Based on your experience, which other specific elements, besides the elements listed in the previous question, could be clarified to improve the implementation of the SGEI rules applicable to health and social services.

2000 character(s) maximum

Based on developments in ECJ-case law more guidance is needed on: Health and social services of non-economic vs. economic nature, market faliure in case of competitiors on the market and the existence of a genuine SGEI. Also need for coherence with NoA in respect to tender procedures.

21 Based on your experience, have the SGEI rules applicable to health and social services achieved the objectives listed below while maintaining a competitive internal market?

	To a large extent	To some extent	Neutral	Not at all	l do not know / no opinion
 * To clarify basic concepts relevant for the application of the State aid rules to health and social SGEIs 	0	O	O	۲	۲
* To make a more diversified and proportionate approach for health and social SGEIs possible, taking into account their nature and scope and the extent to which they posed a serious risk of competition distortions in the internal market.	0	۲	0	0	۲
* To simplify the state aid rules applicable to health and social services/SGEIs compared to the 2005 Package by exempting them from notification to the Commission?	0	0	0	0	0
 To make it possible for Member States to provide health and social services to the (vulnerable part of the) population at affordable conditions. 	0	0	0	0	O

22 Please explain your answers

3000 character(s) maximum

Genereally the SGEI-package has worked well and has been fit for purpose.

*23 Based on your experience, has the 2012 SGEI package with regard to health and social services had any **positive impacts** that were not expected or not intended?

- Yes
- No

I do not know / no opinion

24 Please explain your answer

1000 character(s) maximum

No data/evidence available

*25 Based on your experience, has the 2012 SGEI package with regard to health and social services had any <u>negative impacts</u> that were not expected or not intended?



26 Please explain your answer

1000 character(s) maximum

No data/evidence available

27 The content of the act assigning an SGEI to a beneficiary ('the entrustment act') and the amount granted to the company benefiting from the SGEI compensation and falling under the SGEI Decision, when exceeding EUR 15 million, have to be published by the Member State or its regional and local authorities on the internet, also with regard to health and social services defined as an SGEI (Article 7 of the $\frac{2}{012}$ SGEI Decision).

Based on your experience, did the publication on the internet or by other means of SGEI compensation for health and social services above EUR 15 million make it easier to check the entrustment acts, possibly to challenge them and did it make aid transparent for you, (other) stakeholders and companies and the general public?

	To a large extent	To some extent	Neutral	Not at all	l do not know / no opinion
 To increase transparency of SGEI compensation towards stakeholders, companies and the general public 	O	O	0	0	
 To enable companies and other interested parties to check whether aid was granted in line with the SGEI rules 	O	0	0	0	O

28 Please explain your answers

1500 character(s) maximum

There is a suspected low awareness of the publication obligation among stakeholders, companies and the general public.

Specific questions - Efficiency (Were the costs involved proportionate to the benefits?)

In this section, we would like to have your view concerning the efficiency of the SGEI rules for health and social services analysed under this evaluation. Were the costs involved in complying with the rules proportionate to the benefits of having such rules?

29 To the best of your knowledge, has the 2012 SGEI package reduced the administrative burden with regard to health and social services compared to the rules in force under the 2005 package?

	Fully agree	Partially agree	Neutral	Partially disagree	Fully disagree	l do not know / this is not relevant for me
* For the public authorities	0	0	0	0	0	0
 For the beneficiaries (health and social service providers entrusted with an SGEI) 	0	0	0	0	0	O

30 Please explain your answers

2000 character(s) maximum

N/A

*31 To what extend did the amount of resources (for example money and personnel) you spent on administrative activities with regard to health and social services change, compared to the period 2005-2012 when the 2005 SGEI package was still in force

If you have never used the 2005 SGEI package, please tick 'I do not know / not applicable'

- Strong increase
- Limited increase
- No change
- Limited decrease
- Strong decrease
- I do not know / not applicable
- *32 To what extend did the amount of resources (for example money and personnel) you spent on administrative activities with regard to health and social services change, since 2012 when the 2012 SGEI package entered into force
 - Strong increase
 - Limited increase
 - No change
 - Limited decrease
 - Strong decrease
 - I do not know / not applicable

33 Please support your answer with reference to statistics if possible and also explain if you believe the change in amount of resources spent on administrative activities has changed for reasons unrelated to the SGEI rules, 3000 characters maximum.

You can upload one file at the end of the questionnaire

Specific questions - Relevance (is EU action still necessary?)

In this section, we would like to understand if the SGEI rules for health and social services are still relevant considering , in particular new market developments.

*34 Based on your experience, how well do the objectives of the 2012 SGEI package as applied to health and social services still correspond to today's (EU internal) market situation?

Objectives as applied to health and social services: simplifying compatibility criteria and reducing the administrative burden for Member States which compensate undertakings entrusted to provide such services to the (vulnerable part of the) population at affordable conditions.

- To a large extent
- To some extent
- Neutral
- Not at all
- I do not know / no opinion

35 Please explain your answer

1000 character(s) maximum

The objective is still relevant today.

36 Based on your experience, to what extent does each separate element of the 2012 SGEI Decision below correspond to the (EU internal) market developments in the field of health and social services that have occurred since 2012? In other words, do these elements still serve a purpose?

	To a large extent	To some extent	Neutral	Not at all	l do not know / this is not relevant for me
 The requirement to define the nature and duration of the SGEI in the entrustment act 	0	O	O	0	0
* The requirement to define the territory concerned in the entrustment act	0	0	0	0	0
 The requirement to include exclusive or special rights assigned to the company in the entrustment act 	0	0	0	0	0

* The requirement to define the parameters for calculating, controlling and reviewing the compensation in the entrustment act	0	0	0	0	0
 The requirement to include the arrangements for avoiding and repaying any overcompensation in the entrustment act 	0	0	0	0	0
* The requirement to refer to the 2012 SGEI Decision in the entrustment act	0	0	0	0	O
 The requirement that the amount of compensation shall not exceed what is necessary to cover the net cost incurred in discharging the public service obligations, including a reasonable profit 	0	0	0	0	0
* The requirement that the company does not receive more compensation than the amount determined in accordance with the requirements outlined above and in case this would happen that it can be recovered (recovery of overcompensation).	0	0	0	٢	۲

37 Please explain your answers

3000 character(s) maximum

The basic principles and criteria set out in the current framework are fundamental for a transperent application of the rules in cases of no prior notification to the Commission in order to limit distortion of competition

limit distortion of competition.
 * 38 Have you experienced difficulties in calculating and applying the 'reasonable profit' requirement as explained in <u>Article 5 of the 2012 SGEI Decision</u>?

'Reasonable profit' means the rate of return on capital that would be required by a typical undertaking considering whether or not to provide the service of general economic interest for the whole period of entrustment, taking into account the level of risk.

- A lot of difficulties
- Few difficulties
- No difficulties
- I do not know / this rule is not relevant for me

39 Please explain your answer

1000 character(s) maximum

More guideance would be welcome.

40 Based on your experience, compared to 2012, when the SGEI package entered into force, do you consider that the risk of distortion of competition in the health and social services sector is still lower than in other sectors?

	Fully agree	Partially agree	Neutral	Partially disagree	Fullly disagree	I do not know / this sector is not relevant for me
* Health sector	0	0	0	0	0	0
* Social housing	0	0	0	0	0	0
* Long-term care	0	0	0	0	0	0
* Childcare	0	0	0	0	0	0
 Access and reintegration into the labour market 	۲	0	۲	0	۲	۲
* Care and social inclusion of vulnerable groups	0	0	0	0	0	0

41 Please explain your answers

3000 character(s) maximum

In genereal the Danish health and social sector is non-economic in nature. However, the development of new markets in this field makes the SGEI-rules more relevant.

Specific questions - Coherence (Does the policy complement other actions or are there contradictions?)

In this section, we would like to understand the extent to which the State aid rules for health and social services are coherent with each other and with other EU rules.

*42 Based on your experience, are the SGEI rules (the SGEI Decision, SGEI Framework, the SGEI Communication and the SGEI de minimis Regulation) insofar as they are applicable to health and social services coherent with each other?

- Yes, fully coherent
- Yes, partially coherent
- Neutral
- No, partially incoherent
- No, fully incohorent
- I do not know / no opinion

43 Please explain your answer

1000 character(s) maximum

To our knowlegde the SGEI-rules are coherent with each other. However, there is a need for stronger coherence between the SGEI Comminucation and the Notion of Aid Communication.

Specific questions - EU added value (Did EU action provide clear added value?)

In this section, we would like to have your view concerning the EU added value of the SGEI rules for health and social services subject to the current evaluation.

*44 To the extent you are in a position to answer this question, has the 2012 SGEI package, with regard to health and social services, allowed for a better task allocation between the Commission and Member States?

- Yes, fully agree
- Yes, partially agree
- Neutral
- No, partially disagree
- No, fully disagree
- I do not know / no opinion

45 Please explain your answer

1000 character(s) maximum

In our view the SGEI-package is in line with the Commission's approach to be big on big cases and small on small cases.

Specific questions - SGEI de minimis Regulation

*46 Is the amount of de minimis aid that can be granted under the <u>SGEI de minimis</u> <u>Regulation</u>, i.e. up to EUR 500 000 over any period of three fiscal years, still appropriate?

- Yes
- No, it is too high
- Neutral
- No, it is too low
- I do not know
- The SGEI de minimis Regulation is not relevant for me

47 Please explain your answer

3000 character(s) maximum

We find that the current SGEI-de minimis threshold is appropriate.

48 Do you have any additional comments on the application of the SGEI de minimis Regulation?

3000 character(s) maximum

More guidance is needed i respect to compliance with the 4th Altmark criterium (efficient undertaking) in cases where tender procedure is not possible and no proxi exists for determination

of cost for an average well run undertaking.

Final comments and document upload

49 Is there anything else with regard to the 2012 SGEI package that you would like to add?

3000 character(s) maximum

We would recomend the Commission to adopt a Notice on the Notion of SGEI as a supplement to the Notice on the Notion of Aid.

50 You may upload a file that further explains your position in more detail or further details the answers you have given

The maximum file size is 1 MB Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed

*51 Please indicate whether the Commission services may contact you for further details on the information submitted, if required.

- Yes
- No

THANK YOU FOR RESPONDING TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.