TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1. Introduction to the review	7
Background to the review	9
Terms of reference and focus of the report	9
·	13
Chapter 2. The social policy context	
Recent economic and social trends	13
Macroeconomic indicators	14
Labour market indicators	14
Social expenditure	17
The national social protection systems	19
Belgium	20
The Czech Republic	21
The Netherlands	23
Norway	24
Trends in the social assistance caseload	25
Overall number of claimants	25
Client groups	27
Poverty	31
Levels of financial poverty	31
Policy implications	35
Chapter 3. Adequacy of safety net provisions	41
Structure of social assistance	41
Operationalising the provision of a decent income	43
Setting the "basic allowance"	43
Child benefits	47
Housing benefits	51
Cash payments to social assistance recipients	53
Equivalence scales	54
Additional support	55
Service provision	56
Conclusions	57
Chapter 4. Institutional responsibilities and incentives in social assistance	
policy-making and delivery	59
Introduction	59
The delivery of social assistance	60
Setting of benefit levels	60
octains of deficit levels	

Reflecting local preferences The pros and cons of local rate-setting autonomy Local rate-setting autonomy in practice Efficient administration of social assistance The theoretical trade-offs between local financial autonomy and centralised administration Local administration of social assistance in practice Co-ordination of policy-making and execution Policy development Conclusions Chapter 5. Avoiding long-term dependency Introduction Financial incentives to work Replacement rates Benefit levels and low earnings Part-time work Traps and trade-offs Enforcing job search Administrative arrangements Workfare Strategies for the long-term unemployed Labour market strategies Young people Refugees/immigrants Policy options in Belgium Policy options in the Czech Republic Policy options in the Netherlands Policy options in Norway Annex Chapter 6. Conclusions Structure of finance Bibliography Characteristics of social assistance claimants Annex II. The Czech system of social subsidies Annex III. Net benefit rates for social assistance recipients in Belgium, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands and Norway

Financial responsibility for expenditure
Size and number of municipalities

13

List of Tables Economic conditions and recent economic trends

The tax/benefit position of single persons	17
Public social expenditure for the non-elderly as a percentage of GDP	18
Type of social protection to selected target-groups	20
Historical series on social assistance recipients, as a percentage	
of the working-age population	26
Significant client-groups of social assistance benefits	31
Impact of social security transfers on poverty rates by age of persons	32
Poverty rates by household type	33
Poverty rates by age of head of household	34
Overview of means-tested and income-tested benefits	42
The social minimum in the Czech Republic, July 1997	45
Examples of local rates and actual payments to single social assistance	
claimants in Norway, 1995	47
Child benefit rates in Belgium	49
Shares of individual SSS-benefits in total SSS expenditure, December 1996	50
Net benefits for social assistance recipients, 1997	53
Equivalence elasticities for additional household members related to base	
amount	55
Setting of benefit levels	61
Percentage of funds for the basic amount of social assistance provided	
by different tiers of government	64
Number and average size of municipalities	65
Target groups for social housing in the Netherlands	71
Structure of the housing market in Norway	72
Decisions by social workers faced with hypothetical cases	73
Supplementary social assistance	75
Financing Article 60(7) in Belgium	88
Replacement rates for benefit recipients	101
Social assistance (or similar) recipients who are exempted from job-search	
requirements	111
Expenditure on labour market policies in the review countries, as a percentage	
of GDP	116
Employment creation in Norway	126
The rise in the number of lone-parent households	128
Employment characteristics of mothers	129
Income support arrangements for lone parents	130
Causes of exit from Norwegian transitional allowance	132
Expenditure on child care and related family services (1992-93)	133
Unemployment rates and labour force participation rates of the 15-24 year-old	
age group	135
Proportion of young persons not in education or employment, by sex,	
for 20-24 year-olds, 1994	135
Benefits available to young people	137
Monthly incomes in guilders available to young people in the Netherlands, 1996	138

Tables	of Annex to Chapter 5
A. I	Labour market expenditure in Belgium
A.2	Number of people in active labour market policies: Belgium
A.3	Labour market expenditure in the Czech Republic
A.4	Number of people in active labour market policies: Czech Republic
A .5	Labour market expenditure in the Netherlands
A.6	Number of people in active labour market policies: Netherlands
A.7	Labour market expenditure in Norway
A.8	Number of people in active labour market policies: Norway
Tables	of Annexes
A1.1	Characteristics of social assistance claimants in the Netherlands
A2.1	The state social subsidy system in the Czech Republic
A3.1	Benefit rates in Belgium
A3.2	Benefit rates in the Czech Republic
A3.3	Benefit rates in the Netherlands
A3.4	Benefit rates in Norway
A3.5	Examples of monthly "local rates" in Norway, by family composition
	List of Charts
2.1	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
2.1 2.2	GDP per capita, at constant prices.
	in 1983 and 1993-96
2.3	Unemployment rates and employment/population ratios for women aged 25-54 in 1983 and 1992-96
4.1	Social assistance arrangements in Belgium
4.2	Social assistance arrangements in the Czech Republic
4.3	Social assistance arrangements in the Netherlands
4.4	Social assistance arrangements in Norway
5.1	Minimum wages relative to average wages
A2.1	Effect of MLS revaluation on state social subsidies
	List of Boxes
2.1	Inflow and outflow of Dutch social assistance recipients
2.2	Poverty of social assistance claimants in the Netherlands
2.3	Belgian and Dutch anti-poverty initiatives
3.1	Alimony and social assistance payments
4.1	Relations between PES and SAO
5.1	Plan d'accompagnement des chômeurs
5.2	Reductions in social security contributions in Belgium.
5.3	Refittegration in Helmond
5.4	Local employment policies in Norway
5.5	The new Norwegian lone-parent benefit
5.6	The co-ordinated policy for ethnic and cultural minorities in Flanders