

from the financial burden of a number of risks or needs, made through collectively-organised schemes, or outside such schemes by government units and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISHs) (See the box in [section 5 of PART I](#) for more detailed information).

The "contributory" and "means-tested" definitions are the same as applied in ESSPROS.

Contributory schemes are social protection schemes that require the payment of contributions, by the protected persons or by other parties on their behalf, in order to secure individual entitlement to benefits.

Contributory schemes are sometimes referred to as social insurance schemes. By convention, all non-autonomous schemes that employers run in favour of their employees, former employees and their dependants are classified as contributory schemes.

Means-tested social benefits are social benefits which are explicitly or implicitly conditional on the beneficiary's income and/or wealth falling below a specified level.