



Comparative table: State of play in the European Union regarding Minimum Income schemes

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Introduction

This table aims to give an overview of the situation across Member States and Norway, in terms of the basic information related to minimum income schemes. It illustrates clearly the fact that existing schemes are extremely diverse, and as such very difficult to compare. This highlights the need for more official comparative information. It shows clearly some of the big holes in the safety nets. It also shows that in a number of cases, even if there is a safety net, the support given to people experiencing poverty is concretely extremely limited. It also highlights that in most Member States strong conditionality underpins the provision of benefits through these safety nets.

The table, however, does not attempt to reflect the changing complexity of these schemes nor the concrete reality of their implementation on the ground in a comprehensive way.

What the table shows

The table presents information on all EU Member States and Norway:

1/ In the first column: we highlight first the poverty rate after social transfers¹ for each country, i.e. the proportion of people living under the poverty line, defined as 60 % of the median income. It is the poverty rate 'after social transfer', i.e. it takes into account what people get from social protection systems. We also give the amount of this poverty line in each country for a single adult and for a family of two adults and two children.

2/ In the other columns: we provide information on national non-contributory minimum income schemes.

There are no comprehensive minimum income schemes in Greece, Hungary, Italy nor in Norway,

- The information is drawn from the latest statistics available on the Eurostat and Missoc database to date (July 2009). However this data

¹ At-risk-of-poverty rate after social transfer: The share of persons with an equivalised disposable income below the risk-of-poverty threshold. Household income is "equivalised" in order to take account of the differing needs of households of different size and composition so as to better reflect household living standards. Thus equivalised median income is defined as the household's total disposable income divided by its "equivalent size" to take account of the size and composition of the household and is attributed to each household member (including children)

suffers from some serious shortcomings: some data has not been recently updated, neither does the data reflect the most recent developments linked to the economic crisis and government's responses. The situation in terms of the poverty rate is likely to be even worse today. Some recent reforms related to minimum income schemes may also not have been taken in account yet in this database. (For France we have made the choice not to use the out of date Missoc information but to reflect the current situation as an important reform is just being implemented). The Missoc data is provided by Member States. This means that some data may not be comprehensive nor reflect the reality of the implementation on the ground,

- The levels of the poverty thresholds presented here are difficult to compare as they reflect the general standard of living in each country. From one country to another, especially after enlargement, the purchasing power of for example 10 euros is far from being the same.... Eurostat also make available poverty thresholds expressed in these Purchasing Power Parities (PPP). This data allows comparison between the purchasing power of people living on the poverty line in the various countries².
- It was not possible to capture all the data related to the Minimum Income schemes in a single table. Notably, there are differences in the way in which the resources are taken into account for assessing the situation of claimants, in terms of the rate of taxation on the minimum income benefits, the rules regarding recovery of the benefits, as well as in the regulations concerning eligibility and activation of claimants. One important difference is also the rights that may be associated with minimum income regarding health, housing and heating. In some Member States, a free sickness insurance is directly linked to the minimum income schemes. Some countries (UK, Ireland, Spain) provide health care which is free at the point of entry. In some others measures aiming at facilitating access to health services to people in need are not so comprehensive. There are also huge differences in the way housing costs are taken into account: for example in Spain there is no associated right, whereas in Germany 'costs for adequate housing and heating are completely covered'.

²See:

http://eurostat.europa/portal/page/portal/employment_and_social_policy_indicators/omc_social_inclusion_and_social_protection/social_inclusion_strand, then choose at risk of poverty data, new user interface logo, select data, currency, PPP.

Sources

The data presented in this template have been taken from:

1/ Eurostat web site for the poverty rate and poverty threshold³.

The year of reference is 2007. Some data followed with a (p) are only provisional.

These poverty thresholds are in Euros, and are monthly amount (the yearly amounts data presented in the Eurostat tables have been divided by 12). Poverty rate :see

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&plugin=1&language=en&pcode=tsisc030>

Poverty thresholds:

http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product_details/dataset?product_code=ILC_LI01

2/ The Mutual Information System on Social Protection (MISSOC)⁴ database for comparative data on social protection

See:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/missoc/db/public/compareTables.do

These date reflect the situation on 1/7/08. They have been given by Member States.

³ See above. The at risk of poverty threshold is set at 60 % of the national median equivalised disposable income (after social transfers In the EU people falling below 60% of median income are said to be "at-risk-of poverty". Household income is the money available to spend within a household taking into account how many adults and children are included. Median is the middle point of the income range from the lowest to the highest income.

⁴ The Mutual Information System on Social Protection (MISSOC) was established in 1990 to promote a continuous exchange of information on social protection among the EU Member States. MISSOC has become a central information source on social protection legislation, benefits and financing in the European countries that take part in MISSOC.

Basic data on Member State	Benefit designation and basic principles	Duration and eligibility conditions (Age, Nationality and residence, availability to work)	How rates are fixed	Guaranteed amounts (examples)
<p>AUSTRIA</p> <p>Poverty rate: 12%</p> <p>Poverty threshold per month:</p> <p>* For one single adult:912</p> <p>* For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 1915</p>	<p>Designation/Title Social assistance (<i>Sozialhilfe</i>).</p> <p>Basic Principles To enable those persons to lead a decent life who need the help of society. Differential amount (principle of subsidiarity). Benefit within the framework of covering one's livelihood including entitlement.</p>	<p>Duration Unlimited.</p> <p>Eligibility No age conditions apply.</p> <p>Nationality requirements differs between the <i>Länder</i>. In principle, social assistance (<i>Sozialhilfe</i>) including entitlement is only granted to Austrian residents, refugees under the Geneva Convention, nationals from states with which Austria has concluded mutual agreements, and to those foreigners who are assimilated on the grounds of state treaties. The legal situation differs in the individual <i>Länder</i> with regard to non-assimilated foreigners.</p> <p>Persons capable of work must be willing to perform reasonable work.</p> <p>Exceptions: with respect to age (men over the age of 65 and women over the age of 60), with respect to care obligations or current training (studies excepted).</p>	<p>Basic rates are fixed by the <i>Länder</i>.</p> <p>Basic rates are fixed for food, maintenance of clothes, personal hygiene, heating and lighting, smaller household appliances and personal needs of an appropriate education and the participation in social life. The need which is not covered by the basic rate (accommodation, clothing, etc.) is covered by supplementary cash benefits or benefits in kind.</p>	<p>Different amounts provided in the individual Federal States (without family allowances):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Single persons: € 439.00 to € 542.30 * Couple without children: € 644.30 to € 804.00 * Single parent: € 376.80 to € 492.50 * Partner: € 246.50 to € 367.50 <p>Examples including family allowances and siblings supplements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Couple, 1 child (10): € 914.90 to € 1085.90 * Couple, 2 children (8 and 12): € 1160.90 to € 1372.40 * Couple, 3 children (8, 10 and 12): € 1,447.30 to € 1699.30 * Single parent, 1 child (10): € 642.60 to € 816.90 * Single parent, 2 children (8 and 10): € 901.90 to € 1089.40.

<p>BULGARIA</p> <p>Poverty rate: 14%</p> <p>* Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <p>* For one single adult: 99</p> <p>For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 207</p>	<p>Designation/Title Monthly social allowance.</p> <p>Basic Principles A discretionary entitlement to a non-contributory benefit that aims to support citizens who cannot satisfy their basic needs.</p>	<p>Duration Unlimited</p> <p>Eligibility Unemployed persons in active age can receive monthly social allowance for 18 months without interruption. The entitlement to monthly social assistance is then restored 12 months after the expiry of this 18 month period. (Exemptions: pregnant women, persons with long term disability...)</p> <p>Some categories of persons are not entitled to monthly social allowances: * Adults up to 30 years of age, living with their parents, whose income per capita exceeds three times the amount of the guaranteed minimum income -unless these adults or/and their parents are not disabled-. * Persons whose relatives are obliged by law to maintain them * Persons studying in regular or evening form of education, persons who have refused cultivating state or municipality land given to them * Persons who have traveled abroad during the last 12 months except for medical reasons or because of the death of a family member).</p> <p>The allowances are also withdrawn when the unemployed have refused to participate in programmes organized by the municipal administration for providing social services, ecological programmes for urbanization and hygienic work in the populated areas where the duration of the employment is not shorter than 5 days.</p> <p>No age requirements.</p> <p>No nationality requirements. Permanent legal residence.</p>	<p>By decree of the Council of Ministers.</p>	<p>Under the assumption that the beneficiary is in active age, registered as unemployed, not a disabled person and does not have any income, the following hypothetical examples can be given for the monthly allowance:</p> <p>* Single, aged 25: € 19 * Couple, no children: € 37 * Couple, child of 10: € 63 * Couple, two children 8 and 12: € 88 * Couple, three children 8, 10 and 12: € 114 * Lone parent, aged 18+, child 10:€ 54 * Lone parent, aged 18+,two children 8 and 10: € 79</p>
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		An unemployed person must have been registered in the Employment Office for at least 9 months before the submission of the claim and not have rejected any jobs offered or qualification courses organised by the Employment Offices (with some exceptions)		
<p>BELGIUM</p> <p>Poverty rate:15%</p> <p>Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <p>* For one single adult: 878</p> <p>* For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 1844</p>	<p>Designation/Title Right to social integration, including Integration Income</p> <p>Basic Principles Guaranteeing a right to social integration through a job or an integration income coupled or not to an integration project. The integration income must ensure a minimum income to persons not disposing of sufficient resources and who are unable to procure them by personal effort or other means. Differential amount provided. Subjective right, non-discretionary.</p>	<p>Duration Unlimited</p> <p>Eligibility With effect from 18 years of age (civil majority), with following exceptions: * Nationals, stateless persons with residence permit. * Refugees and persons of a foreign nationality registered at the population office. * EU citizens with a residence permit of more than 3 months.</p> <p>Prove willingness to work, unless impossible for equity or health reasons. The person concerned may be asked to assert his/her rights with regard to persons obliged to pay maintenance.</p> <p>A beneficiary under the age of 25, is entitled to social integration through employment within 3 months of the claim. If not, he can access the integration income for which he must have signed and fulfilled the terms of a contract relating to an individual social integration plan within three months of the initial claim, unless this is impossible for health or equity reasons.</p>	<p>Determination at the national level. No regional differentiation.</p> <p>Automatic readjustment of 2% of the allowance occurs when the Consumer Price Index varies by 2% in relation to the previous pivot index. The King can increase the basic amount, link them to the standard of living through the adjustment coefficient.</p>	<p>Monthly amounts without family allowances:</p> <p>* Person living alone: € 697.61 * Couple with or without children: € 930.14 * Single parent family: € 930.14 * Cohabitant: € 465.07</p> <p>Amounts incl. family allowances:</p> <p>* Couple with one child (10 years): € 1,135.01 * Couple with 2 children (8, 12 years): € 1,429.81 * Couple with three children (8-10-12 years): € 1,741.71 * Single parent with one child (10 years): € 1,135.01 * Single parent family with 2 children (8, 10 years): € 1,393.48</p> <p>Specific amounts in the salary of the employer for beneficiaries working in a back-to-work programme.</p>

CYPRUS

Poverty rate: 16%

Poverty Threshold per month:

* For one single adult: 799

* For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 1, 678

Designation/Title

Public Assistance

Basic Principles

The aim is to ensure a minimum standard of living for persons (and families) whose financial resources are insufficient to meet their basic and special needs provided they fulfill eligibility criteria. This is done through a subjective right to a differential amount.

Duration

Unlimited

Eligibility

No age limits. Except for the case of children with disabilities. In practice, Public Assistance is seldom given directly to children under 18 years of age because it is their parents' responsibility to support them.

No nationality requirements, but in some cases, the Law makes a distinction based on nationality, with regard to a special needs allowance. Available to all residents.

Taking into account personal and family circumstances, healthy persons of working age are expected to seek "any job" or accept a training offer that will lead to employment.

The beneficiaries are obliged to co-operate with social workers in order to overcome their situation. Compulsory fulfillment of all social obligations (providing information, personal attendance, participation in measures promoting employment, acceptance of medical examination, participation in medical and social rehabilitation) is required.

The guaranteed minimum is based on a survey conducted by the Social Welfare Services in collaboration with the Statistical Service using statistical indicators from the Family Budget Survey 1996/97 (Statistical Service, 1999).

The public assistance rates for basic needs are based on the revised OECD indicators and are reviewed annually taking into consideration the rise in the cost of living.

Parliament sets the minimum based on a proposal made by the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance and approved by the Council of Ministers.

The guaranteed minimum level varies according to:

- * number of dependants,
- * age of dependant children,
- * disability,
- * claimant's (and family's) basic and special needs.

As of 1/7/2007, the monthly allowances for basic needs are:

- * Claimant: € 425
- * Dependant adult or child of 14 years of age or above: € 212.50
- * Dependant child under the age of 14 years: € 127.50

The additional monthly allowances for special needs include:

- * Rent allowance up to the actual amount of the rent.
- * An amount of up to 50% of the allowance for basic needs with a maximum of € 598. In exceptional cases, a higher than the maximum amount can be allocated.
- * Care allowance: € 43 to € 342
- * Special diet allowance: € 17 to € 26
- * Public Assistance in the form of services:
 - * Day-care for children, persons with disabilities and older persons,
 - * Residential care for persons with disabilities and older persons,
 - * Home care.

<p>CZECH REPUBLIC</p> <p>Poverty rate: 10%</p> <p>Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * For one single adult: 271 * For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 569 	<p>Designation/Title Benefits for Material Need.</p> <p>Basic Principles Ensuring basic needs for living and housing for people who can not improve their low income by own effort (work, use of property and other priority claims).</p>	<p>Duration Unlimited</p> <p>Eligibility No age requirement.</p> <p>No nationality requirements. Permanent residents, persons who obtained asylum, migrant workers and their family members, EU citizens after 3 month of residence.</p> <p>Willingness to work is subject to assessment. Certain persons are excluded from this testing due to age or health status (65+, pensioners, disabled, parents taking care of small children, careers of care-dependent person, dependent children and persons who are temporary sick).</p>	<p>Determined by law. Fixed by Central Government.</p> <p>Three benefits based on the Living minimum and Subsistence minimum: Allowance for Living, Supplement for Housing, Extraordinary Immediate Assistance</p>	<p>Monthly amounts:</p> <p>Living minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * single: € 131 * first person in household: € 121 * second and other persons who are not a dependent child: € 109 </p> <p>Dependent child <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * under 6 years: € 67 * 6-15 years: € 82 * 15-26 years: € 94 </p> <p>Subsistence minimum : € 85</p> <p>Since 01/01/2007, the costs of housing are not included in the sums of living minimum and subsistence minimum.</p>
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<p>DENMARK</p> <p>Poverty rate: 12%</p> <p>Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <p>* For one single adult: 1167</p> <p>* For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 2 450</p>	<p>Designation/Title Social assistance, Settlement benefit.</p> <p>Basic Principles Activation measures and/or benefits in kind are offered when a person is, due to particular circumstances (sickness, unemployment), temporarily, for a shorter or longer period, without sufficient means to meet his/her requirements or those of his/her family. Differential amount. Subjective right, with a discretionary element.</p>	<p>Duration Unlimited</p> <p>Eligibility No conditions relating to age (in practice, however, assistance is seldom given to children under 18 years of age because they are deemed to be supported by their parents).</p> <p>Benefits of more than 6 months paid only to Danish nationals, persons enjoying the same status as Danish nationals, or foreign citizens living in Denmark for more than 7 years. Otherwise: Settlement Benefit paid</p> <p>Beneficiaries with no other problem than unemployment must actively look for a job. If the beneficiary or his/her partner (who has no other problem than unemployment) performs a job in the framework of activation measures and stays away from his/her working place without any justified reason, the benefit is reduced in proportion to the hours and days of absence. The local authority can decide to reduce the aid if the beneficiaries have other problems. Acceptance of an appropriate offer to participate in an activation measure or in any measure aimed at improving the possibilities of the beneficiary or his/her partner to integrate in the labour market is required.</p> <p>Payment of aid is suspended as long as the offer is valid, if the beneficiary or his/her partner refuses without sufficient reason to participate in an activation measure or repeatedly fails to report to a job opportunity in the framework of the activation process.</p>	<p>The starting point of the assessment of the guarantee of resources amount is 80% of the maximum unemployment benefit for parents with children living in Denmark and 60% of this maximum for persons without children.</p> <p>Special rate for young people under 25 years of age and for the settlement benefit.</p>	<p>Monthly amounts not including housing allowance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Persons supporting at least one child: € 1,643; * Single person over 25 years: € 1,236; * Under 25 years of age, living with parents: € 384; * Under 25 years, living separately: € 797. <p>Case examples including Child benefit) (monthly amounts):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Couple (>25) without children: € 2472; * Couple with 1 child (10 years): € 3398; * Couple with 2 children (8+12):€ 3510; * Couple with 3 children (8+10+12): € 3623; * Single parent, 1 child (10 years): € 2162; * Single parent, 2 children (8+10): € 1868. <p>For persons receiving assistance for 6 continuous months, the assistance will be limited by the following monthly maximum amounts including housing allowance and special benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Persons (married or cohabiting) supporting at least one child: € 1643 * Persons (married or cohabiting) with no children: € 1236 * Single persons supporting at least one child: € 2049 * Single persons with no children: € 1643 <p>Settlement benefit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Married (or cohabiting) persons (>25): € 661. * Single person (>25): € 793 * Under 25 years, living separately: € 661
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				<p>* Under 25 years of age, living with parents: € 328.</p> <p>Supplements for supporting a family (with one or more children):€ 199 for single persons and € 165 for married or cohabiting persons. Maximum two supplements per household.</p>
<p>ESTONIA</p> <p>Poverty rate: 19%</p> <p>Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <p>* For one single adult: 222</p> <p>* For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 466</p>	<p>Designation/Title Subsistence benefit</p> <p>Basic Principles Differential amount guaranteeing a minimum income to all residents, taking into account housing expenses within established limits.</p>	<p>Duration Granted and renewed on a monthly basis.</p> <p>Eligibility No age requirements.</p> <p>No nationality requirements. Permanent residents eligible.</p> <p>The local municipality may refuse to grant the benefit to those capable of work and aged between 18 and pensionable age, who are neither working nor studying and have repeatedly refused, without due cause, offers of suitable work or participation in rehabilitation or education programmes arranged by the local municipality. All sources of income must be exhausted.</p>	<p>Parliament establishes the coping line.</p>	<p>Case examples, monthly amounts of Subsistence benefit for households with no other income:</p> <p>* Single person: € 64, * Couple without children: € 115, * Couple with 1 child: € 166, * Couple with 2 children:€ 217, * Couple with 3 children: € 268, * Single parent, 1 child: € 128, * Single parent, 2 children: € 179.</p>

<p>FINLAND</p> <p>Poverty rate: 13%</p> <p>Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * For one single adult: 935 * For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 1 963 	<p>Designation/Title Social Assistance</p> <p>Basic Principles Social assistance is a form of last resort social assistance. The assistance is given when a person (family) is temporarily, for a shorter or longer period without sufficient means to meet the necessary costs of living.</p>	<p>Duration Unlimited</p> <p>Eligibility No age condition (in practice, social assistance is seldom given individually to children under 18 years of age because parents are meant to support their children).</p> <p>No nationality requirements. All residents are eligible</p> <p>Everybody is expected to support him/herself in the first instance, and must try to get a job with a sufficient salary at all times, as long as he/she is able to work.</p>	<p>Set by law at national level.</p>	<p>Monthly amounts of the basic social assistance benefit according to regional differentiation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Single person and single parent: € 399.10 * Couple: € 678.48 * Child over 17 years of age living with parents: € 291.34 * Child 10-17 years of age: € 279.37 * Child below 10 years of age: € 251.43 <p>Case Study examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Single person: € 399.10 * Couple without children: € 678.48 * Couple with 1 child (10 years): € 957.85 * Couple with 2 children (8, 12 y.): € 1,189.33 * Couple with 3 children (8/10/12 y.): € 1,428.79 * Single parent, 1 child (10 years): € 678.47 * Single parent, 2 children (8, 10 y.): € 909.95 <p>Other expenses for which additional social assistance may be granted include 100% of reasonable housing costs, substantial medical expenses, child day care costs and other costs which are considered to be essential.</p>
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<p>FRANCE⁵</p> <p>Poverty rate: 13%</p> <p>Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <p>* For one single adult: 828</p> <p>* For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 1 739</p>	<p>Designation/Title Active Solidarity Income</p> <p>Basic Principles: The objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - complement income deriving from work when necessary; - Give incentives to work; - Fight against Social Exclusion; - Simplification of the benefits system. <p>The Active Solidarity Income (RSI) is provided in addition to the salary. The amount of this Income diminishes as the salary increase.</p>	<p>Duration Unlimited.</p> <p>Eligibility For people over 25 years, unless they have children or have worked for 2 years in the last 3 years (August 2009)</p> <p>For people unemployed or living on a low salary.</p> <p>No nationality requirement.</p> <p>Stability of (legal) residence required.</p> <p>Being available for work.</p>	<p>By decree at national level. No regional differentiation.</p> <p>After local experimentation, these new schemes have been extended nationally from 1st June 2009.</p>	<p>Monthly amount of the guaranteed minimum income:</p> <p>Single adult: € 454,63 Single parent, one child: € 681,95 Single parent, 2 children: € 818,34 Single parent, 3 children: € 1000,18 Additional child: € 181,84</p> <p>Couple: € 681,95 Couple, one child: € 818,34 Couple, 2 children: € 954,72 Couple, 3 children: € 1136,56 Additional child: € 181,84</p> <p>When a beneficiary is working, he/she would keep 62% of his/her salary on top of the guaranteed minimum income. Housing benefits are taken into account for calculating the income of the household.</p> <p>Benefit = (Guaranteed minimum income + 62% of salary) - (income of the household)</p>
<p>GREECE</p> <p>Poverty rate: 20%</p> <p>Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <p>* For one single adult: 510</p> <p>* For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 1071</p>	<p>No comprehensive minimum income scheme</p>			

⁵ For France, as the Missoc data do not take into account the reform applied from 1 June 2009 yet, information on new Minimum Income scheme has been included for completing this template.

<p>GERMANY</p> <p>Poverty rate: 15%(p)</p> <p>Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <p>* For one single adult: 885</p> <p>* For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 1 859</p>	<p>Designation/Title Social assistance (<i>Sozialhilfe</i>)</p> <p>Basic Principles To enable the recipients who are unable to support themselves to enjoy a decent standard of living and to place them in a position to live independently of social assistance. Differential amount. Subjective right, non-discretionary.</p>	<p>Duration Unlimited.</p> <p>Eligibility No age condition; minors can claim in their own right. As of the age of 65 the benefit under the law on guaranteeing basic resources is claimed instead of the assistance for subsistence resources.</p> <p>Nationals, citizens of the signatory countries to the Social Security agreement (e.g. all EU Member States), persons granted political asylum; other foreigners (with restrictions). Rules for benefits for asylum seekers, civil war refugees and foreigners with enforceable need to emigrate determined according to the Asylum Seeker Benefits Act Residing in the country.</p> <p>Where entitled persons can be reasonably expected to do a job despite their restricted capacity, they are obliged to do so and to take part in the necessary preparations. The assistance also includes the offer of a job, the preparation and the guidance of the entitled person.</p>	<p>The assistance towards living expenses (<i>Hilfe zum Lebensunterhalt</i>) includes food, accommodation, clothes, personal hygiene, household equipment, heating and expenses to cover normal personal needs of daily life. The overall need for necessary subsistence benefits is granted in the form of standard rates (<i>Regelsätze</i>) and the full coverage of the costs of accommodation and heating. Supplementary benefits are provided in cases of special need.</p> <p>The standard rates (<i>Regelsätze</i>) are set by the <i>Länder</i>. Since 1 July 2008 the single standard rate of € 351 has applied in principle everywhere in Germany.</p>	<p>Average needs payments within the framework of assistance towards living expenses and basic standard rate one-time benefits supplement for special need for single parents are the same everywhere in Germany (as of 1 July 2008), without taking account of the cost for housing.</p> <p>Single person: € 351 Couple without children: € 632 Couple with one child (10 years old): € 843 Couple with 2 children (8 and 12 years old): € 1,054 Couple with 3 children (8, 10 and 12 years old):€ 1,265 Single parent family with one child (10 years old) € 604 Single parent family with 2 children (8 and 10 years) € 899</p> <p>In addition social assistance provides, as a rule, for the real costs of housing and heating. Average additional amounts (as of 1 July 2008) are from € 342 for 1 person to:€ 660 for 5 persons.</p>
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<p>HUNGARY</p> <p>Poverty rate: 12%</p> <p>Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <p>* For one single adult: 196</p> <p>* For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 413</p>	<p>No comprehensive minimum income scheme.</p>			
<p>IRELAND</p> <p>Poverty rate: 18%</p> <p>Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <p>* For one single adult: 1 107</p> <p>* For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 2 325</p>	<p>Designation/Title Supplementary Welfare Allowance</p> <p>Basic Principles Basic weekly income paid to people who have little or no means. In addition, weekly supplements for rent or mortgage interest costs may be payable and certain other lump-sum payments can be made to meet urgent or exceptional circumstances.</p>	<p>Duration Unlimited.</p> <p>Eligibility Normally paid from 18 years of age.</p> <p>No nationality conditions. Condition of habitual residence in the State (except for a person with the status of a 'worker' within the meaning of EU legislation and for one-off exceptional and urgent needs payments).</p> <p>Jobseekers will normally be entitled to a jobseeker's payment as distinct from a supplementary welfare allowance.</p>	<p>The level of the basic rate is centrally determined at the national level by the Government.</p> <p>No regional differentiation. Local Community Welfare Officers have a certain degree of discretion in relation to individual cases, particularly in the case of clients with special needs.</p>	<p>Basic minimum allowance (monthly rates):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Single person: € 857 * Couple without children: € 1,426 * Couple with one child: € 1,530 * Couple with 2 children: € 1,634 * Couple with 3 children: € 1,738 * Single parent family with one child: € 961 * Single parent family with two children: € 1,065 <p>All child dependants are treated the same. € 24 per week, regardless of age.</p> <p>Case Examples including family benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Couple with one child: € 1,696 * Couple with 2 children: € 1,966 * Couple with 3 children: € 2,169 * Single parent family with one child: € 1,127 * Single parent family with two children: € 1,397

<p>ITALY</p> <p>Poverty rate: 20%</p> <p>Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <p>* For one single adult:750</p> <p>* For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 1 575</p>	<p>No comprehensive national minimum income scheme</p> <p>Responsibility of the regions.</p> <p>Regions with a specific regulation concerning this subject: Umbria, Aosta Valley and the autonomous province of Bolzano.</p>	<p>Duration Limited, in some regions, with possibility of renewal depending on duration of the situation of need</p> <p>Eligibility No age limit.</p> <p>Nationals, foreign residents and political refugees. Residence in the regional or municipal territory (according to the authority administering the service).</p> <p>The beneficiary must be prepared to participate in activities in an effort to improve his/her situation. With this intention communities or the region organise special professional courses in certain cases.</p>	<p>Determined by the regions. Considerable regional differentiation: the amount for a single person varies between € 232 and € 269.</p>	<p>The amounts vary from region to region and are differentiated only according to the number of family members and not according to its composition. Figures are given here as examples and only apply to levels below and above benefit amounts. Levels set by the regions (no information exists on the benefits granted by municipalities and local Health Centres):</p> <p>* Persons living alone: min. € 232, max. € 269 * 2 persons: min. € 338, max. € 542 * 3 persons: min. € 440, max. € 697 * 4 persons: min. € 542, max. € 852 * 5 persons: min. € 594, max. € 914.</p> <p>In the Aoste Valley and in the autonomous province of Trento, these amounts are supplemented by allowances for rent, heating and other general costs.</p>
<p>LATVIA</p> <p>Poverty rate: 21%</p> <p>Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <p>* For one single adult:167</p> <p>* For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 351</p>	<p>Designation/Title Guaranteed Minimum Income Benefit</p> <p>Basic Principles To ensure a minimum level of income for each family member of families in need.</p> <p>The benefit is granted in cash or in kind. Maximum benefit amount is set by the Cabinet of Ministers. Differential amount.</p>	<p>Duration Granted for a period of 3 months and renewable for a period no longer than 9 months per year.</p> <p>Eligibility No age requirements. No nationality requirement. Residence in administrative territory of respective local authority.</p> <p>Unemployed beneficiaries capable of work are obliged to register at the State Employment Service, seek work and accept suitable offers of work.</p> <p>In cases of refusing to fulfill social duties total amount of benefit reduces by part for the person who has refused.</p>	<p>Minimum level of the Guaranteed Minimum Income Benefit for needy families is set by the central government (Cabinet of Ministers).</p> <p>The municipality can pay other additional benefits if all claims for the guaranteed minimum income benefit are satisfied and as far as the budget of a particular local authority allows.</p> <p>The Cabinet of Ministers adjusts the amount according to the possibilities of the annual budget.</p>	<p>Maximum amounts (for beneficiaries with no income except Family Benefit):</p> <p>Single: person: €38</p> <p>Couple: no child: € 77 one child: € 104 2 children: € 128 3 children: € 148 Single parent family: one child: € 65 two children: € 90</p>

<p>LITHUANIA</p> <p>Poverty rate:19%</p> <p>Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <p>* For one single adult: 164</p> <p>* For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 344</p>	<p>Designation/Title - Social Benefit - Reimbursement for Cost of House Heating and Hot and Cold Water</p> <p>Basic Principles Means tested. Differential amount.</p>	<p>Duration Granted for three months. Social Benefit may be renewed (unlimited number of renewals) if the circumstances have not changed.</p> <p>Eligibility No age requirements.</p> <p>No nationality requirements.</p> <p>Persons of working age who are without a job must be registered at the local office of Lithuanian Labour Exchange and should be willing to work, train or retrain. Refusal of job, training, public duties or works supported by Employment Fund may lead to the suspension or refusal of granting Social Benefit.</p>	<p>Set by Central Government. Based on the price of basket of goods.</p>	<p>Case examples: monthly amounts for households with no other income:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Single person: € 74 * Couple without children: € 149 * Couple with 1 child: € 209 * Couple with 2 children: € 270 * Couple with 3 children: € 331 * Single parent, 1 child: € 135 * Single parent, 2 children: €196
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<p>LUXEMBOURG</p> <p>Poverty rate:14%</p> <p>Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <p>* For one single adult: 1 494</p> <p>* For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 3 137</p>	<p>Designation/Title Guaranteed Minimum Income (<i>Revenu Minimum Garanti</i>)</p> <p>Basic Principles To ensure sufficient means for a decent standard of living and measures to support professional and social integration.</p> <p>The guaranteed minimum income can be either an integration allowance or a supplementary allowance aimed at compensating the difference between the highest amounts of the guaranteed minimum income and the sum of the household resources. Subjective right, non-discretionary.</p>	<p>Duration Unlimited.</p> <p>Eligibility From 25; exceptions for persons unable to work, those who are raising a child or looking after a disabled person. No nationality requirement. Persons resident in Luxembourg and having resided in the country for at least 5 years during the last 20 years. This residence condition is not required for EU or EEA citizens nor for refugees and stateless persons.</p> <p>Not having willingly abandoned or reduced work without valid justification or not having been dismissed for serious reasons.</p> <p>To be ready to participate in activation measures.</p> <p>An integration allowance (<i>indemnité d'insertion</i>) is granted when the beneficiary signs an integration contract (<i>contrat d'insertion</i>), and takes part in an integration activity and accepts any job assigned by the employment administration.</p>	<p>The minimum income levels have been fixed through political decision-making comparing the social minimum wage and minimum pension.</p> <p>Mechanism of automatic indexation of allowances according to the evolution of consumer prices when the index varies by 2.5% in relation to the figure triggering the previous adjustment; until 2009 fixed adjustments.</p>	<p>Amounts excluding family allowances to which are additional entitlements.</p> <p>* Person living alone:€ 1,146.50 * Couple without children:€ 1,719.78 * Couple with 1 child (10 years):€1,824.07 * Couple with 2 children (10 and 12 years) : € 1,928.36 * Couple with 3 children (8, 10 and 12 years): € 2,032.65 * Single parent family with one child (10 years): € 1,250.79 * Single parent family with 2 children (10 and 12 years): € 1,355.08</p> <p>Amounts including family allowances:</p> <p>* Couple with one child (10 years): € 2,025.84 * Couple with 2 children (10 and 12 years): € 2,433.77 * Couple with 3 children (8, 10 and 12 years): € 2,916.25 * Single parent family with one child (10 years): € 1,452.56 * Single parent family with two children (8 and 10 years): € 1,828.14</p>
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<p>MALTA</p> <p>Poverty rate:14%</p> <p>Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * For one single adult: 456 * For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 958 	<p>Designation/Title Social Assistance</p> <p>Basic Principles A subjective right to a non-contributory differential benefit that aims to ensure a minimum income for those unable to maintain themselves. Differential amount.</p>	<p>Duration Unlimited.</p> <p>Eligibility From 18 to 60.</p> <p>Nationality required Permanent residents.</p> <p>Recipients are obliged to seek suitable work.</p> <p>Other Social Security benefits may be combined such as Unemployment Benefit (and Special Unemployment Benefit) but Special Unemployment Benefit may be awarded after satisfying capital assets and income means tests.</p>	<p>Fixed by Parliament. Based on the minimum wage.</p>	<p>Case examples, monthly amounts for households with no other income:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Single person: € 369.11, * Couple without children: € 404.52, * Couple with 1 child: € 439.93, * Couple with 2 children: € 475.34, * Couple with 3 children: € 510.75, * Single parent, 1 child: € 404.52, * Single parent, 2 children: € 439.93. <p>Family benefits are not classified as income for the purpose of means testing..</p>
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<p>THE NETHERLANDS</p> <p>Poverty rate: 10%</p> <p>Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <p>* For one single adult: 910</p> <p>* For two adults with two children younger than 14 years:1, 911</p>	<p>Designation/Title General assistance (<i>Algemene Bijstand</i>)</p> <p>Basic Principles In principle, an individual right; household assistance applied for and received by one of the partners as a family assistance; upon request half of the amount of the assistance can be received by each of the partners. Social assistance is supplementary to all other subsistence allowances and is provided as a last resort (safety net). If a person receives alimony (social benefits, income from work), then it is topped up to the relevant assistance level.</p>	<p>Duration Unlimited.</p> <p>Eligibility AsFrom 18. The level for young persons under 21 is based on child allowance figures. If these young persons are facing higher living costs, then their parents are responsible for them. If parental assistance is impossible, a supplementary allowance can be claimed under the special assistance scheme. People aged 21 or 22 may receive less if the municipalities find that full benefit makes employment financially unattractive.</p> <p>Every recipient must try to get work, accept a suitable employment and be registered at the Centre for Work and Income (CWI). The partners of unemployed people should, if possible, also look for work. Medical and social circumstances are taken into account. If a person is taking care of one or more children aged under 5, there is no obligation to look for work. If the children are aged 5 or older, cases are examined individually to determine the exemption from this obligation. Unemployed who were aged 57.5 or more on 1 May 1999 are not obliged to look for work. People who attain this age after that date are not required to attend job interviews, but must accept suitable employment if it is offered and must be registered at the Centre for Work and Income (CWI). If all attempts are unsuccessful, the social services will help to find work or training. If the claimant refuses to co-operate with an action plan, the social services can impose sanctions (cut or complete suspension of the benefit).</p>	<p>Laid down in the National Social Assistance Act which specifies standard rates to be paid per month. The standard rates are linked to the net minimum wage. Benefits are adjusted annually by Government through the budget and are linked to the minimum wage.</p>	<p>Monthly net standard rates (excluding family benefits) for persons aged 21 to 65:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Married couples/cohabitants with or without children: € 1,214.79 * Lone parents: € 850.36 * Single persons: € 607.50 <p>In addition, a holiday allowance is paid of 8% of these rates. Lone parents and single persons can get an additional allowance of up to € 242.96 from the municipality.</p> <p>General family allowances are granted in addition to social assistance.</p> <p>Earning exemptions: part of the earnings from (part-time) employment is not taken into account in order to stimulate finding employment.</p>
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<p>POLAND</p> <p>Poverty rate: 17%</p> <p>Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <p>* For one single adult: 175</p> <p>* For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 367</p>	<p>Designation/Title Social Assistance</p> <p>Basic Principles Permanent Allowance (subjective right) or Periodic Allowance (discretionary right).</p> <p>The aim is to enable people and families to deal with problems which they are not able to overcome with their own resources. Subjective right and discretionary entitlement (other benefits). Differential and fixed amount.</p>	<p>Duration Permanent Allowance can be awarded for people entirely unfit for employment due to age or disability providing his/her income is lower than the income criterion. Periodic Allowance can be awarded in case of financial problems due to for example unemployment, chronic illness or disability.</p> <p>Eligibility No nationality requirement Permanent residents All those capable of work must be available for work, training or socio-professional integration and be registered with the labour office, except for persons entitled to a Permanent allowance for the care of an handicapped child.</p>	<p>Set at national level by the Government. Linked to the consumer prices index and adjusted once a year.</p> <p>Family allowance is considered as family income.</p>	<p>Monthly amount of Periodic Allowance for households with no other income is € 124.</p>
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<p>PORTUGAL</p> <p>Poverty rate: 18 %</p> <p>Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * For one single adult: 379 * For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 795 	<p>Designation/Title Social insertion income</p> <p>Basic Principles Non-contributory benefit scheme, part of social integration programme with aim of ensuring that individuals and their family have sufficient resources to cover their basic needs, while favoring at the same time their gradual social and professional integration. Differential amount. Subjective right.</p>	<p>Duration 12 months, extended if fulfilment of the legal conditions is proved.</p> <p>Eligibility Persons 18 years of age or older, or under certain conditions also persons less than 18 years of age.</p> <p>Legal residency in Portugal</p> <p>Availability for employment, as well as occupational training and integration activities. Persons between 18 and 30 years of age must register at the competent employment centre.</p>	<p>Fixed at national level. No regional differentiation. The monthly benefit payment corresponds to the difference between the amount of all family earnings together and the social integration income amount for this same family. The minimum income is calculated in reference to a basic value of € 181.91:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * for each adult, up to the second person: 100% of this value; * for adult, from the third person on: 70% of this value; * for each minor: 50% of this value; * for each minor as from the 3rd child: 60% of this value. 	<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Single person: € 181.91 * Couple: € 363.82 * Household with 3 adults: € 491.16 * Single parent family, one child: € 272.87 * Single parent family, two children: € 363.82 * Couple with one child: € 454.78 * Couple with 2 children: € 545.73 * Couple with 3 children: € 654.88 <p>The amount of family allowances is not taken into consideration when calculating eligibility for the social integration income.</p>
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<p>ROMANIA</p> <p>Poverty Rate: 19%(p)</p> <p>Poverty threshold not available</p>	<p>Designation/Title Social Aid</p> <p>Basic Principles Universal social assistance scheme, financed by local budgets, providing a differential benefit i.e. Social Aid.</p> <p>Social Aid is aimed at covering the basic needs by guaranteeing a minimum income support according to the solidarity principle.</p>	<p>Duration Unlimited</p> <p>Eligibility Individual: Minimum 18 years of age. No nationality requirements. Permanent or temporary residence in Romania. Family members must live together.</p> <p>Willingness to work required solely for the family member or individual meeting the following conditions: between 16 years and retirement age, able to work, lack of wage or other income, not attending a form of education.</p>	<p>Guaranteed Minimum Income is set by Government at national level. The Guaranteed Minimum Income is annually adjusted, according to the development of consumer price index, by Government Decisions.</p>	<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Single aged 25: € 27. * Couple, no children: € 50. * Couple, child of 10: Social Aid: € 58. * Couple, two children 8 and 12: € 64. * Couple, three children 8, 10 and 12: € 69. * Lone parent, child of 10: € 39. * Lone parent, two children 8 and 10: € 47. * State Allowance for Children € 11 <p>Social Aid is increased by 15% in cases where at least one family member is employed.</p>
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<p>SLOVAKIA</p> <p>Poverty rate: 11%</p> <p>Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * For one single adult: 198 * For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 417 	<p>Designation/Title Benefit for Material Needs</p> <p>Basic Principles Non-contributory benefit that aims to ensure a minimum income for those unable to maintain their basic living conditions. Differential amount according to the number of household members. Subjective right, non-discretionary.</p>	<p>Duration The benefit is provided primarily by the State for the duration of 24 months, after that (from 1 January 2009) the benefit is provided by the municipalities.</p> <p>Eligibility No nationality requirements. No age requirements. All residents.</p> <p>Able-bodied applicants of working age must be willing to accept offers of suitable work, training or carry out community services or voluntary work and be registered at the Office of Labour, Social Affairs and Family in order to receive a higher amount of the Benefit for material needs.</p>	<p>The Subsistence Minimum is the income line, below which the person is deemed to have fallen into material need. Monthly amounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * First adult: € 179, * every further adult: € 125, * non-maintained child (or maintained child under the age of 18):€ 81. <p>The amount of Benefit for Material Needs is calculated as the difference between the nominal sums agreed and the actual income. Subsistence Minimum: was set at national level by Parliament, the adjustment is carried out by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family on 1st July. Benefit for Material Needs was set at national level by Parliament, the adjustment is carried out by the Government on 1st September.</p>	<p>Case examples, monthly maximum amounts including child allowance for households with no other income:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Single person: € 182 * Couple without children: € 316 * Couple with 1 child (10 years): € 372 * Couple with 2 children (8, 12): € 392 * Couple with 3 children (8,10,12):€ 412 * Single parent, 1 child (10 years): € 268 * Single parent, 2 children (8, 10): € 287
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<p>SLOVENIA</p> <p>Poverty rate: 12%</p> <p>Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * For one single adult: 495 * For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 1040 	<p>Designation/Title Financial Social Assistance.</p> <p>Basic Principles To provide financial assistance to individuals and families who, for reasons beyond their control, are temporarily unable to secure sufficient funds for basic subsistence according to statutory criteria. Social Work Centre may grant Financial Social Assistance to help alleviate temporary material hardship of those without sufficient subsistence means. Social Assistance is primarily given to the family as a whole, or to adults over 18 who are single. Differential amount. The monthly amount of Financial Social Assistance is defined as the difference between Basic Minimum Income and total income of family (family members).</p>	<p>Duration: The duration of Financial Social Assistance may not exceed a period of 3 months when granted for the first time or 6 months if circumstances remain unchanged. In special cases (persons above 60 years and other relevant circumstances) benefit may be granted for a maximum of 12 months. Permanent assistance for those whose social status is not likely to improve.</p> <p>Eligibility No conditions relating to age. No nationality requirement. Permanent residence.</p> <p>In principle everyone is obliged to support him or herself through work. There is no entitlement for the voluntarily unemployed. Participation in an active employment programme must be considered before granting assistance benefit. Entitlement maybe linked to signing a contract with the Social Work Centre, which places obligations on the beneficiary to resolve his/her social problems (rehabilitation, health treatment, etc.).</p>	<p>At national level (no regional differentiation).</p> <p>Adjustments are made once a year in January with respect to the price index for basic necessities in the period from January to December of the previous year compared to the year before.</p> <p>Families are entitled if their total monthly income does not exceed the following thresholds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * first adult and single person: 100% of the Basic Minimum Income = € 212.97; * every next adult: 70% of the Basic Minimum Income = € 149.08; * child up to 18 years of age or over: 30% of the Basic Minimum Income = € 63.89; * for a single-parent family the level of minimum income is additionally increased by 30% of the Minimum Income. 	<p>Case examples, monthly amounts of Financial Social Assistance for households with no other income:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Single person: € 212.97 * Couple without children: € 362.05 * Couple with 1 child: € 425.94 * Couple with 2 children: € 489.83 * Couple with 3 children: € 553.72 * Single parent, 1 child: € 340.75 * Single parent, 2 children: € 404.64
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<p>SPAIN</p> <p>Poverty rate: 20%</p> <p>Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <p>* For one single adult: 600</p> <p>* For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 1260</p>	<p>No uniform, national minimum income scheme</p> <p>Some minimum income scheme provided in the 17 Autonomous Regions and in the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla.</p> <p>Basic Principles Combat poverty by means of cash benefits, to cover basic living needs. Differential amount.</p> <p>Subjective right, non-discretionary, sometimes subject to budget available.</p>	<p>Duration: Generally 12 months; possibility to be extended.</p> <p>Eligibility Generally up to 65 years of age. Special rules for disabled people. No nationality requirement But claimants need to have been a resident of the Autonomous Regions for a certain period (usually between 3 and 5 years).</p> <p>Must be capable of working. The beneficiary has to participate in an individually tailored reintegration programme.</p>	<p>Accumulation with other public social benefits not allowed.</p> <p>Minimum determined by the Autonomous Regions and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla.</p> <p>As a general rule the guaranteed minimum will be increased for each dependent family member. The supplements vary in the different Autonomous Communities and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla.</p> <p>Adjustments made generally every year by provisions from the Autonomous Regions and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla, linked to the economic situation.</p>	<p>The amount depends on several criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Autonomous Regions * The existence of dependent relatives. * Budgetary availability.
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<p>SWEDEN</p> <p>Poverty rate: 11%</p> <p>Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * For one single adult: 927 * For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 1948 	<p>Designation/Title Social Assistance</p> <p>Basic Principles Social assistance is a form of last resort assistance. The assistance is given when a person (or a family) is temporarily (for a shorter or longer period) without sufficient means to meet the necessary costs of living.</p>	<p>Duration Unlimited, until circumstances no longer require it.</p> <p>Eligibility Assistance is given to the family as a whole, as long as parents are obliged to support their children. No other condition relating to age. No nationality requirements. Permanent residence.</p> <p>Everybody is bound to support him or herself first, and must try to get a job with a sufficient salary at all times, as long as he/she is able to work. Social Assistance for people at the disposal of the labour market is connected to active measures in order to achieve gainful employment.</p>	<p>For some items of expenditure the Government and Parliament decide the amount yearly. For other items the municipalities ought to pay the real costs if they are reasonable.</p> <p>Monthly amounts covering expenditures on food, clothing and footwear, play and leisure, disposable articles, health and hygiene, daily newspaper, telephone and television fee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Single person: € 285 * Couple: € 515 * Children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 - 1 year € 168 1 - 2 years € 191 3 years € 156 4 - 6 years € 191 7 -10 years € 214 11 -14 years € 245 15 -18 years € 276 <p>For common expenditures in the household a special amount is added depending on the size of the household:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 person: € 90 2 persons: € 100 3 persons: € 126 4 persons: € 145 5persons: € 165 6 persons: € 188 7 persons: € 206 	<p>Case Study examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Single person: € 375 * Couple without children: € 615 * Couple with 1 child (10 years): € 854 * Couple with 2 children (8, 12 y.): € 1,119 * Couple with 3 children (8/10/12 y.): € 1,352 * Single parent, 1 child (10 years): € 600 * Single parent, 2 children (8, 10 y.): € 838 <p>On top of the above amounts, support can also be provided for reasonable expenditures on housing, domestic electricity supply, journeys to and from work, household insurance, and membership of a trade union and an unemployment insurance fund.</p>
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<p>UK</p> <p>Poverty rate: 19%</p> <p>Poverty Threshold per month:</p> <p>* For one single adult:1048</p> <p>* For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 2200</p>	<p>Designation/Title Income Support</p> <p>Basic Principles Non contributory, tax- financed scheme providing financial help for people who are not in full time work (16 hours or more a week for the claimant, 24 hours or more for claimant's partner), who are not required to register as unemployed and whose income from all sources is below a set minimum level.</p> <p>Differential amount.</p>	<p>Duration Unlimited.</p> <p>Eligibility From 16 years of age. No nationality requirement but claimants who have lived outside the UK during the period of 2 years before the date of claim must satisfy the habitual residence test.</p> <p>Willingness to work is not a condition for Income Support. Personal Advisers meetings are compulsory Persons capable of working are entitled to claim income-based Jobseekers' Allowance rather than Income Support.</p>	<p>At the national level. No regional differentiation.</p>	<p>Examples: Monthly amounts (converted weekly rates) including family benefits when appropriate. Full Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit are included in respect of the average local authority charges for family type and size: these entitlements would generally be higher if private rents used; lower if there are non-dependants in household. Value of additional benefits not quantified.</p> <p>* Single aged 25: € 649 * Couple: no children: € 856 * Couple, child of 3: € 1 249 * Couple, two children 4 and 6: € 1 570 * Couple, three children 3, 8 and 11: € 1 843 * Lone parent, aged 18 to 43, child of 3: € 1 044 * Lone parent, aged 18 to 43, two children of 4 of 6: € 1 359</p>
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<p>NORWAY (not member of the EU)</p> <p>Poverty rate: 12 %</p> <p>Poverty Threshold:</p> <p>* For one single adult: 1438</p> <p>* For two adults with two children younger than 14 years: 3014</p>	<p>No obligatory, comprehensive national minimum income scheme.</p> <p>Designation/Title Subsistence allowance</p> <p>Basic Principles The general objective is to secure the subsistence of persons who do not have sufficient economic means to cover basic needs through work or by filing economic claims.</p> <p>Differential amount. Subjective right, discretionary. Complementary, provisional support. Municipalities are legally obliged to provide social financial assistance.</p>	<p>Duration Unlimited</p> <p>Eligibility No age condition. (In practice, however, allowance is seldom given individually to children under 18 years of age due to the parents' responsibility for maintaining their children). No nationality requirements. All persons legally resident in the country.</p> <p>Each person who claims social financial assistance is obliged to support him-/herself by work if work is available and the person in question is able to work.</p> <p>Social Services have the authority to set conditions for receiving social financial assistance. As a basic guideline, the requirements cannot be an unreasonable burden to the claimant. The terms have to be linked to the claimants need for help, and be aimed at making him or her better able to manage on their own. Examples of conditions: if unemployed, the claimant must work with the Public Employment Services to find work, participate in training courses, etc. Another requirement may be that the claimant has to work for the municipality.</p>	<p>No fixed amount of the minimum level of the benefit is set by law. The benefit has to be set at a level which secures the claimant "a dignified life" or a "decent minimum". Central guidelines are provided on how to interpret the Social Services Act with respect to the term "secure subsistence". They point out the expenses for which support should be given. The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs gave in 2001 guidelines on reasonable amounts. "Local rates" guidelines are set by municipalities.</p> <p>Family allowances are taken into account as income of the family when determining the amount of social assistance.</p>	<p>Monthly amounts recommended by the Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion, excluding housing allowance, electricity, housing insurance etc.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Single person: € 590 * Married couple/couples cohabiting: € 980 * Persons living in common households: € 490 * Children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 0 - 5 years : € 225 * 6 -10 years: € 299 * 11-17 years : € 375
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