



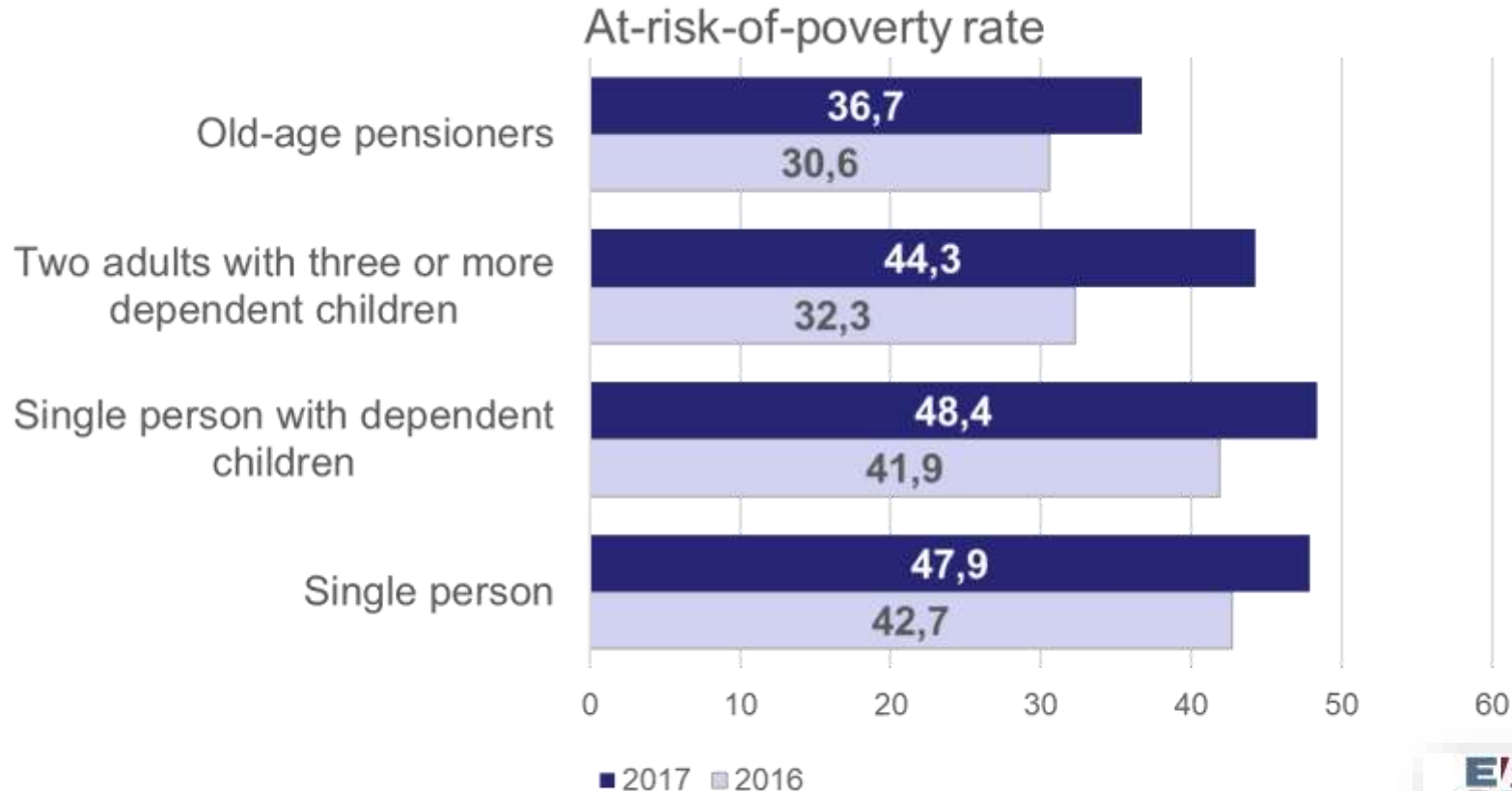
EP Intergroup Fighting Against Poverty meeting – 29 January



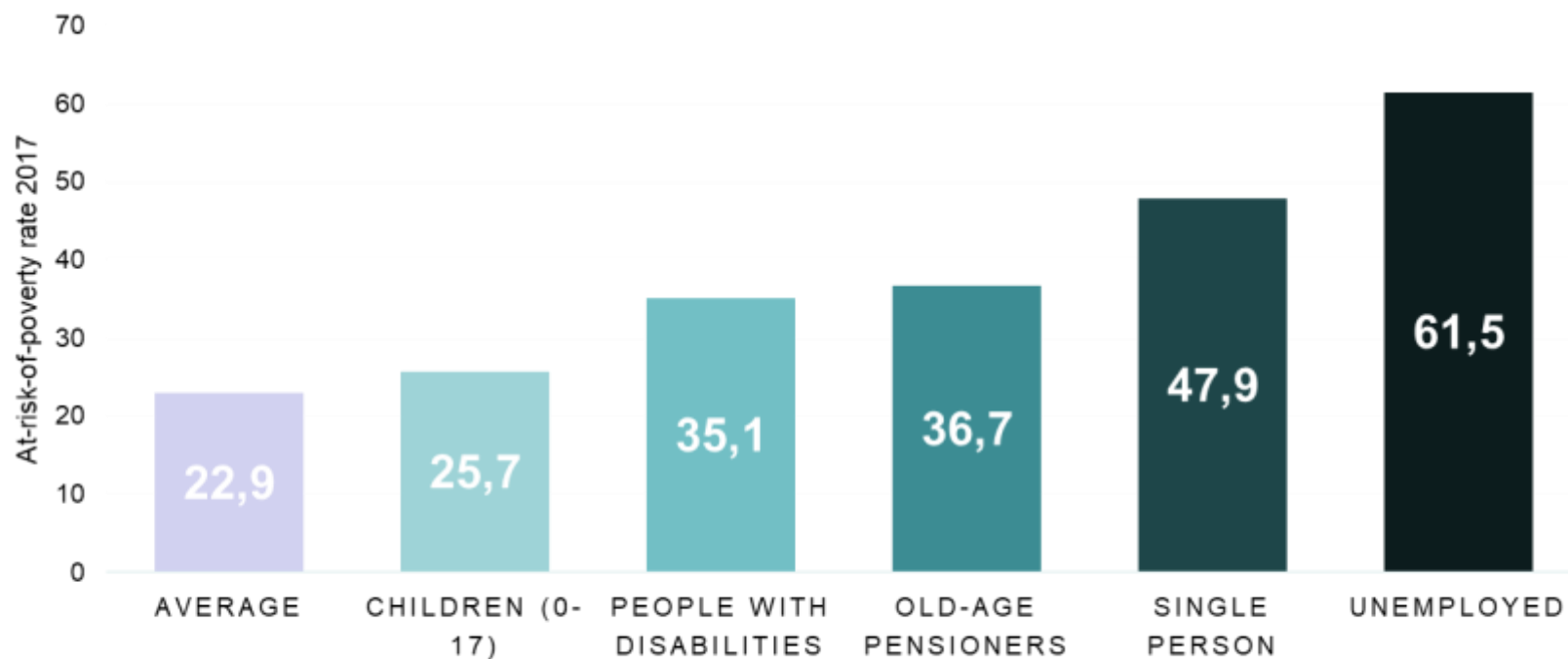
THE REALITY OF POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN LITHUANIA

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GROUPS WITH SIGNIFICANT POVERTY INCREASE IN 2017



MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS IN LITHUANIA



MAIN TOPICS

- Minimum income schemes
- Education Inequalities
- Over-indebtedness



MINIMUM INCOME: ADEQUACY

- Maximum MI amount €122;
- Average amount for one person €81.1 (2018);
- Social indicators linked with the amount of minimum consumption needs (245€ in 2018). Can not be less than 50 % of this amount.

"You can't really survive from the support [minimum income] alone. Of course it is not enough."

"I would be on the street if my relatives wouldn't have helped me."

[Former] recipients of the minimum income



MINIMUM INCOME: AVAILABILITY

- Number of people on MI drops every year (2,7% of population in 2018).
- Municipalities can use unspent funds at their own discretion.
- In 2017 **63,1%** of the funds allocated for cash social assistance were **not used**.
- Since 2018, the unspent funds must be used for other social necessities.

"<...> my husband's parents gave us a car. Therefore, they considered us as a very rich family. They said we are not entitled to a benefit even though we didn't have any income at all. "

A woman who didn't get MI



MINIMUM INCOME: ENABLING

- "Socially useful activities" : enabling or demeaning?

"If I work, why I can't get a salary? There is a work to do. Therefore, there should be a workplace. If a man sweeps the streets, why he can't be employed? He would feel completely differently. Now he just has to work for the benefit."

Former recipient of the minimum income



EDUCATION INEQUALITIES

- The achievements of the pupils attending smaller schools in the rural areas are much lower than in urban areas;
- Socio-economic status is strongly associated with significant differences in student performance.
- 30% of the audited schools in Lithuania had joint classes.

"Everything depends on the person's education. If I had a better education, I think I would have more opportunities."

A person experiencing poverty



DEBTS WHICH LEAD TO THE POVERTY TRAP

- Almost 10% of the total population of Lithuania are over indebted.
- Until this year, it was allowed to deduct up to 50 % of the minimum wage, and 70 % of the amount exceeding the minimum wage.

"It's hard to get out. I worked in a one workplace but the salary was very small. Now I've gone to another, so I hope I can pay the debt soon. But I cannot have my own place... I cannot pay for the rent or services as bailiffs deduct half of my salary."



Person who has debts



DEBTS WHICH LEAD TO THE POVERTY TRAP

- It is now allowed to deduct up to 30 % of the minimum wage, and 50 % of the amount exceeding the minimum wage.

"I heard that they are planning to mitigate the deductions. Finally, there is some hope for me. Now I am considering to start working officially. But of course, it is still a lot."

Person who has debts



Thank you for your attention!

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