



European Parliament

EP Intergroup Fighting Against Poverty meeting – 29 January



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SOME GOOD NEWS BUT NOT FOR ALL

Share of population at risk of poverty - EU

2017= 22.5%

Share of population at risk of poverty - Italy

2017= 28.9%

Incidence of absolute poverty

2016 = 6.3%

2017 = 6.9% (5 million and 58 thousand persons)



ONE COUNTRY ? NO, TWO ... MAYBE THREE

The risk of poverty is three times higher for people living in the South

- **Unemployment rate = 19.4% in the South; 10% in the Centre; 6.9% in the North**
- **Half of Italy's poor live in the South**



INCOME INEQUALITY

“I’m just as smart as you but my father makes less money than yours, you get a better education. I may end up poor, you’ll end up with a good job.” (inequality as described by a young student during the 2018 National PEP meeting)

72% of the national wealth in Italy is the hands of the richest 20% of the population



INCOME INEQUALITY – 1980-2016

Differences in income have a serious impact on our societies: poor health, crime and poverty rise while citizens' wellbeing and trust in the democratic institutions diminish



THE HOMELESS

“I work off-the-books and make €350 per month, more or less. I am a squatter. Cannot afford anything else” (homeless, Rome, 2018)

2011

47,648

2014

**50,724 (14.3%
women)**

2018 (CARITAS)

**14,000 in Rome
alone**



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WHEN A JOB IS NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE ENDS MEET

“There is no such a thing as an undignified job. It is the conditions you are forced to accept that are undignified.” (2017 national PEP meeting, woman working in a call centre for €650 a month)

The proportion of employed persons at risk of poverty in the EU has risen continually in recent years, from 8.3% in 2010 to 9.6% in 2016

In Italy today the working poor number approximately 5 million



WHEN A JOB IS NOT ENOUGH TO MAKE ENDS MEET

The 2016 European Quality of Life Survey reports that to be a working poor person means:

- **Feeling excluded from society (12%)**
- **Compared to the general working population, being nearly twice as likely to live in an overcrowded household**
- **Suffering from poor health because of inadequate housing and psychological stress**
- **Living in neighborhoods with more crime, violence or vandalism, more pollution and more noise**



THE YOUNG

“I’m going away. I’ve had it with unpaid stages and working off-the-books 3 years after earning my university degree” (National PEP meeting, 2018)

- **Unemployed = 31.9% (55.6% in Calabria but 10.2% in the Province of Bolzano)**
- **NEET = 25.7% (17.4% in the North against 34.2 in the South and 20.4 in the Centre)**



THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY CAN COUNT ON ...

- **The family**
- **The third and voluntary sector**
- **ESF – with problems in making use of its resources**
- **National Social Policies Fund**
- **Local authorities**
- **Universal health system**
- **REI – INCLUSION INCOME**



...BUT THESE ARE NOT ENOUGH. IT NEEDS:

- *A statutory minimum wage that provides a decent standard of living*
- *A fairer and more progressive tax system*
- *A multi-annual anti-poverty strategy linked with the labor market but recognizing that not everybody can work and that there aren't jobs for everyone!*
- *Better services*



Respect for people in poverty!



FOR A EU WORTH FIGHTING FOR

Workers have the right to fair wages that provide for a decent standard of living (EPSR – principle 6)

Everyone has the right to access essential services of good quality (EPSR – principle 20)

Everyone lacking sufficient resources has the right to adequate minimum income benefits ensuring a life in dignity at all stages of life, and effective access to enabling goods and services. For those who can work, minimum income benefits should be combined with incentives to (re)integrate into the labour market (EPSR – principle

14)



