

POVERTY WATCH 2020

"Covid-19 supercharging poverty"

data and experiences from the ground

29 January 2021

Online conference

14.00-16.30

With MEPs

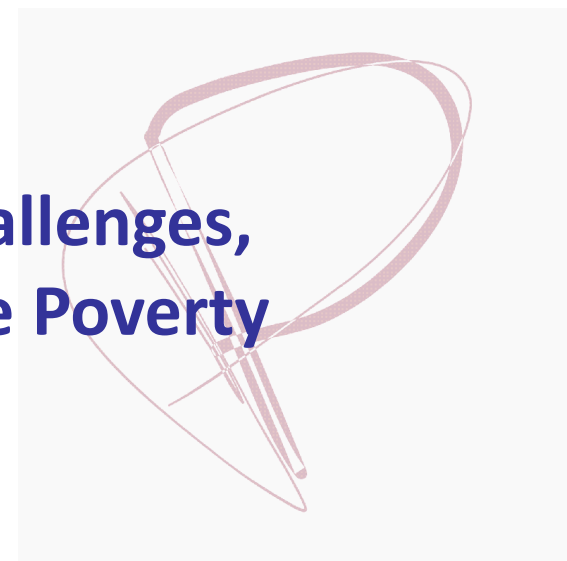
Cindy Franssen & Marisa Matias





Presentation of EAPN Slovenia by Ms. Danijela Marcola and dr. Živa Humer

- In the first part of the presentation: about personal experience with poverty (systemic errors and (non)solutions)
- In the second part of the presentation: main challenges, affected groups, key recommendations from the Poverty Watch Slovenia





Ms. Danijela Marcola's testimony:

**Systemic (non)solutions and errors pushing people
down the spiral of poverty**





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EAPN Slovenia:

- Informal network
- Established in 2019
- Currently composed by 19 organizations and coordinated by national NGO umbrella network (CNVOS).

Poverty Watch Report Slovenia:

- Member's inputs
- Discussion group – central part of the report.





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Context:

In Slovenia every eighth inhabitant lives below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold (Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, 2020).

The minimum income is 402,18 Eur and at-risk-of-poverty threshold is 703 Eur!

Among the most vulnerable groups are:

- women (especially those over 65 years of age),
- single-member households,
- single-parent families with school-age children,
- the unemployed and workers with low income and
- workers in precarious jobs.





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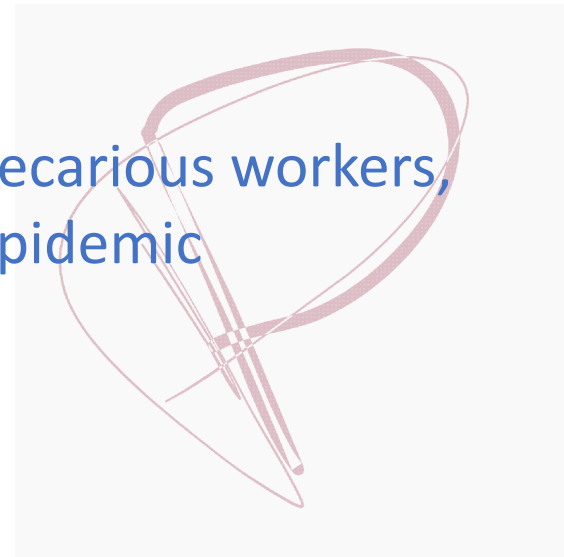
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Main affected groups, main challenges and Covid-19

Due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic inequalities exacerbated, poverty and social exclusion increased.

An increase in support needed among preexisting beneficiaries (elderly people, people with health problems, people with disabilities, families with home schooling children).

Among new beneficiaries are people, who lost their jobs, precarious workers, people, with low income, who are directly affected due to epidemic preventive measures .





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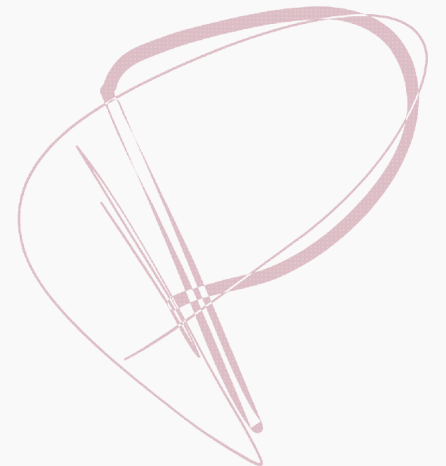
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Main affected groups, main challenges and Covid-19

Children and young people living in inadequate or less encouraging conditions – multigenerational poverty.

Poverty of elderly people – almost every third woman over 75 years lives below the poverty threshold.

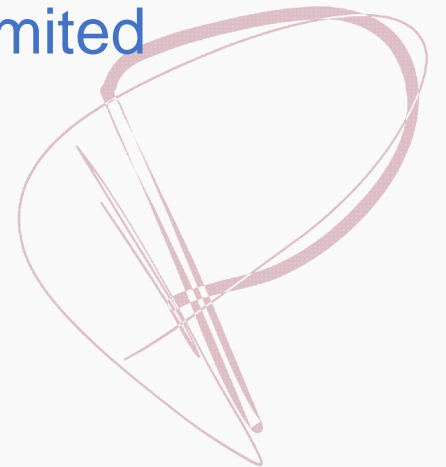
Feminization of poverty.





Main challenges and key recommendations

- Problem of long-term poverty and distress of people with minimum income and their resulting social exclusion – the minimum income does not ensure neither subsistence of the beneficiaries nor their active inclusion in society and in the labor market; long-term dependence on social benefits and limited opportunities to exit poverty and enter the labor market;





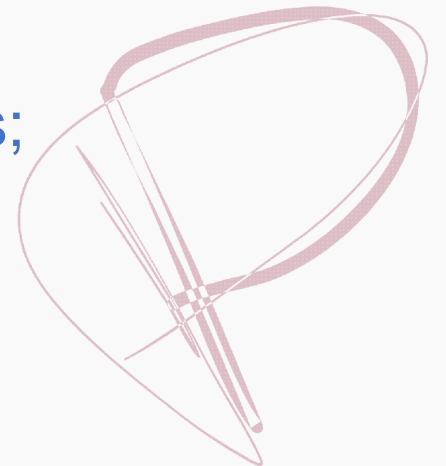
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Main challenges and key recommendations

- Measures to reduce negative effects of the Covid-19 crisis on poverty and unemployment, and measures against the worsening of mental health of children, young people and adults;
- Violence is also a growing problem during lockdowns;





Main challenges and key recommendations

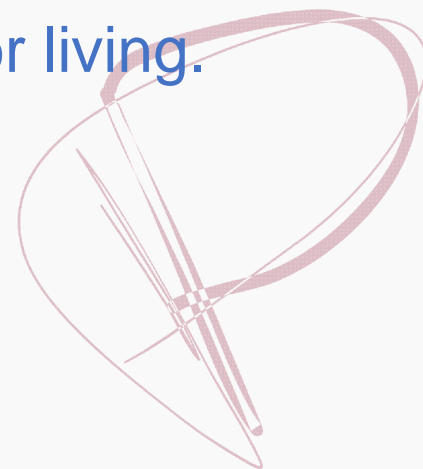
- The role of Centers for Social Work – accessibility, to simplify assistance procedures, immediate resolutions of decisions. Emergency Financial Social Assistance must be accessible quicker in case of urgent situations.
- Provision should be made for the possibility of deferring the payment of loans, leases or debts for the duration of the extreme circumstances and without disproportionately high costs.





Main challenges and key recommendations

- To provide support to all those who have dropped out from the social system and above all, to expand the circle of beneficiaries, entitled unemployment benefits during Corona crisis, and to provide support to precarious workers and workers in culture and arts, and students who have been left without the student work, which is the main source for living.
- Solidarity and the work of NGOs.





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Thank you for your attention!

