



EUROPEAN ANTI POVERTY NETWORK

BUILDING BACK
BETTER WITHOUT
POVERTY!

#BuildingBackBetter

EAPN POLICY CONFERENCE

TUESDAY 29 JUNE 2021

9:00-13:00 Online

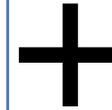
Interpretation EN - ES - EL - FR

Poverty in pre-COVID times

1. ***Territorialized*** (present in all MS, but geographically concentrated in some MS and regions)
 2. ***Chronified*** (persistent through time and not flexible regarding the economic cycle)
 3. ***Feminized*** (higher incidence among women than men),
 4. ***Familiarized*** (having children is "a risk of poverty factor" in many countries; 1 out of 2 single-parent households are poor),
 5. ***Ethnicized*** (higher spread among non-EU and ethnic minorities),
- Higher incidence in the ***juvenile population*** (children and youth) and in ***people with disabilities***.

Causes of Income Poverty

1. A sharp increase in income inequality, affecting labour share in national income (and within the labour share, with the highest earners capturing an increasingly large portion, while those at the bottom having their shares decline significantly)
2. Exclusion from the labour market, long-term unemployment and precarious employment (Active / in-work Poverty)
3. Low/inadequate pensions for the elderly (37% less for women)
4. Low/inadequate non-contributory benefits
5. Inefficient/insufficient protection systems, social services and transfers that cannot lift enough people out of poverty, even during the economic recovery from the crisis.
6. High/disproportionate share of housing expenses on the household income.
7. Unfair/regressive taxation



Cross-cutting determinants

- a. Gender
- b. Age group
- c. Educational attainment
- d. Digital attainment
- e. Ethnic origin
- f. Nationality
- g. Health status
- h. Disability status
- i. Financial security
- j. Housing status
- k. Area of residence / region

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The “new profiles”: People who fell into poverty during the 2008 crisis, had recovered and now "return" to being poor + People who became poor and / or materially deprived for the first time + People who are not protected

1. **Incomeless workers due to layoffs and/or due to the cease of their main economic activity as self-employed worker or small business owner.**
2. **Young people / students who survived on atypical / part-time Jobs which are no longer available.**
3. **Women working in the domestic and care services, often with informal contract arrangements.**
4. **Women who “voluntarily” had to leave their Jobs to take care of the dependent children and relatives, so are not entitled to unemployment insurance.**
5. **Applicants to income benefits whose applications were rejected or do not qualify for the available means-tested schemes**
6. **Irregular migrants, who cannot access neither the formal, nor the informal labour market.**
7. **Frontline workers infected with COVID-19 (i.e. hospital cleaners or public transport drivers), as COVID is not recognised as a work-related disease and are not entitled to (full) social protection.**

COVID-19 virus provokes lower mortality in women than in men, but the consequences of the pandemic and the measures adopted meant an **increase in gender inequality**

1. Before the pandemic, women were already at a higher risk of poverty than men
2. Women form the bulk of the health and social care workers, family caregivers and low-paid workers such as cleaners.
3. Women are the lowest paid. This group is more likely to have jobs with the biggest health risks and economic risks during the crisis.
4. Are full time caregivers
5. Single-parent families are very vulnerable and nearly half are at risk of poverty and social exclusion in the EU.
6. Older women are more affected by the risk of isolation as there are more older women living alone than men.
7. Gender-based violence grew under lockdown and/or quarantine.
8. Some groups of women face intersectional inequality, due to their sexuality, gender, class, race, ethnicity, and physical or mental ableness.

5 Lessons learnt - Poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon that:

1. Acts as a major social and health determinant factor linked to higher prevalence of many health conditions, including chronic disease, injury, deprived infant development, stress, anxiety, depression, and premature death. Any society with high levels of poverty is not only unjust, unequal and unethical, it is also unhealthy and weak in the face of epidemic or economic crises.
2. Cannot be addressed by simplistic measures, such as a mere rise in the employment rates or the alleged “trickling down” effect of the economic growth;
3. Requires a strategic approach, with overall targets, cross-cutting measures, and an adequate economic investment to revert the abovementioned inequalities and prevent furthermore. The first is mainstreaming gender in order to tackle the greatest inequality, that affects women and girls among the EU.
4. Demands political commitment (and therefore hard legislation) and funding from those leaders who are responsible for the population wellbeing and human development;
5. Commands an increase of purposeful actions in times of crisis.



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EAPN proposes a new 2030 European Strategy against Poverty, with an ‘integrated, person-centred approach’, linking the Green Deal, Digital Europe and the Social Pillar Implementation Plan to ensure an equal commitment to achieve ecological, digital and social goals.

1. Adequate Wages, MI schemes and Pensions. *Tackling gender, long-term, and youth unemployment with jobs for all, profiting from the green and digital transitions.*
2. Universal Child Benefits. *Providing Income support for single-parent families*
3. Universal and high-quality Healthcare. *Including Mental Health and Long-term care*
4. Adequate and affordable Housing. *Fighting and ending homelessness (ETHOS)*
5. Universal and High-quality Education and Vocational Training. *Fighting the digital divide.*

Mainstream: Equality of Treatment. Guaranteeing that there is no direct or indirect discrimination based on racial or ethnic origin, sex, religion, disability, economic status, age, sexual orientation.

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