

Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion: a European perspective

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Y Theatre, 7 East Street, Leicester LE1 6EY



My role in the European Anti-Poverty Network and the UK Social Policy Task Force

- European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN) Europe www.eapn.org
- EAPN is a network of 26 national networks and 12 European organisations
- Chair of Social Inclusion Working Group
- EAPN England Committee member
- UK Chair of Social Policy Task Force (SPTF)
- SPTF is NGOs following up the National Action Plans on Inclusion
- Before: EU programme - Poverty 3 evaluator and Director of Council of Europe project - Human Dignity and Social Inclusion



What I will talk about

- Some theory about poverty and social exclusion!
- Some evidence about poverty and exclusion in Europe
- Updates on the European processes to combat poverty and social exclusion
- Focus on 2010 European Year Against Poverty



Poverty and social exclusion: Concept overlap and differences

Difference: core concept

- Poverty: material
- Exclusion: relational

Similarity: values

- Normative concept
- Count and/ or account?



Three concepts about the social exclusion of individuals and groups

Exclusion from

1. Administrative structures of the state (Lenoir, Rodgers)
2. Labour markets (Paugam)
3. Biographical "break off" (Pieretti)

(example: long term unemployed people)



Processes, dynamics, policy

- Role of different types of state – Silver's 3 models
- up or down, in or out, zones (de Castillo, Touraine, Castel)
- Dynamics - Xiberras
- Europe – the "welfare triangle" state, markets and civil society – 3 poles of integration
- Impact of "system turbulence": the importance of the conceptual distinction between risk and uncertainty
- Impact of "neoliberal" thinking on welfare reform and risk transfer
- Risks of exclusion – who is at risk and where is at risk?
- Different perspectives on causes - by the poor and the "not-poor"



Issues in contention

- Condition / process
- Overlap of area of interest, poverty and exclusion
- Measurement of poverty and social exclusion
- Target group: the “2”% or the “2/3”?
- Space/ location – “desertification”, “banlieue”
- Financial crisis, costs of poverty and social exclusion and of combating them / social peace

Employment and poverty

EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND RISK

- Unemployed: 40%
- In work: 8%
- Retired: 17%
- Not at work: 23%

But: in *absolute numbers* more adults who are at-risk-of-poverty are

- at work (28%)
 - retired (27%)
 - otherwise inactive (29%)
- than are unemployed (15%)

The UK has one of the lower rates of unemployment but also

- One of the highest rates of “*in work poverty*”.
- One of the lowest rates of unemployment benefit compared to average wages

Which people are most at risk of poverty?

- Children (0-17): 19%
- Single parents with one child: 33%
- Young people (18-24): 18%
- Older people (65+): 19%
 - (F 21%; M 16%)
- **Some minority ethnic groups**, especially Roma; immigrants; undocumented migrants; homeless people; people living in or leaving institutions, etc.

Which EU states have the least and most risk of poverty? (2005)

LEAST RISK

- Between 9% and 12% of the population are at risk of poverty in
- Sweden, the Czech Republic, Netherlands, Denmark, Austria, Slovenia and Finland

MOST RISK

- 20% or over are at risk in
- Lithuania, Poland, Ireland, Greece, Spain and Portugal
- 19% are at risk in the UK

Rising income inequality

Gini coefficient

- EU25 (2005) is 31; up from 29 in 2000

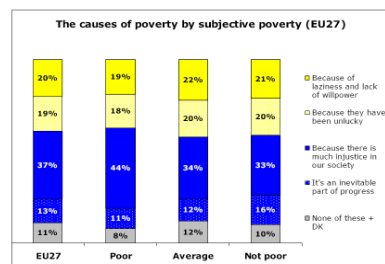
LEAST INEQUALITY

- Denmark, Slovenia, Hungary, Sweden, Austria and Finland (23 to 26)

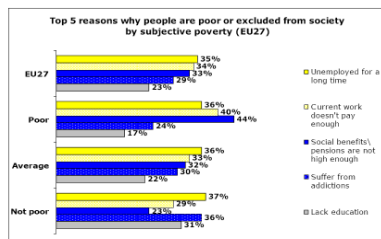
MOST INEQUALITY

- Portugal (41), Latvia, Lithuania, Poland (36)
- The UK is 35

Causes of poverty? Special Eurobarometer survey (no. 279) September 2007



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Exclusion proofing benchmarking concepts – the “4 As” (Duffy 97, 98)

- **Adequacy** (income, services, quality)
- **Accessibility** (universality, equalities, rights and entitlements)
- **Affordability** (marketisation, co-payments)
- **Accountability** (governance, affiliation, participation)

Current European Union initiatives

- **Financial instrument:** *Structural Funds for Cohesion*
- **Innovation and good practice:** *Progress programme*
- **Policy exchange and development:** *the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) in the social field: the National Strategic Reports including the National Action Plans on Social Inclusion*
- **Active Inclusion Recommendation 2009** (*adequate income; access to services; active labour market integration*)
- **Awareness raising:** *2010: the European Year against poverty and social exclusion*

EY2010 in the UK

- The inclusion team in the Area Communities and Initiatives Division at the DWP leads the **National implementing Body (civil servants): NIB**
- There is a **NIB Advisory body of stakeholders**
- EAPN and other SPTF participants are on the Advisory body
- **The UK aims of EY2010 are poverty awareness; stakeholder engagement including grassroots; lasting legacy**
- **Priority themes: child poverty; working age; socially excluded adults; older people**

EY2010 UK budget and programme

- **The UK budget to kick start 2010 activities – £1.2m (total)**
- **Bid Guidance August 2009; Call for proposals September 2009; decisions UK November 2009; EU February 2010 to start April 2010**
- **2009**
 - Autumn 2009: regional roadshows (awareness)
 - Call for some technical support for communication and coordination in run up to 2010
- **2010**
 - 12 regional events: 9 English regions; 3 nations
 - Local activity programme under 4 priority themes
 - Grassroots/ awareness/ good practice/ legacy
 - Communication (myth busting)
- **Other activities that are not funded can be badged as 2010**
- **SPTF are lobbying also for 'bending' of mainstream budgets to the goals of EY2010**

Thank you for listening and contributing

Sign up to EAPN manifesto on adequate income

- For further information from EAPN
- See www.eapn.org
- For further information on EY2010
- k.b.duffy@talktalk.net
- For further information from UK government
- tricia.griffiths@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

UK National Action Plan website

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2008/socialprotection/uknationalstrategyreport>

Questions/ views?

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