

INCLUDING ALL CHILDREN IN QUALITY LEARNING.
CLOSING EQUITY GAPS IN EDUCATION
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Multidimensional monitoring of child well being in the EU: lessons and suggestions

Session 9 Strategies to good governance – enhancing education financing and coordination across sectors

Three basic questions

- How can we compare policies affecting child well being across countries?
- What are the main lessons from these cross country policy comparisons?
- How the monitoring can be developed/improved?



Dimensions of well-being: a suggestion for a complex and integrated child well-being indicator portfolio to monitor child well-being (within the EU)

| Dimensions | Child age groups | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| | 0-5 | 6-11 | 12-17 |
| A1: Income | At-risk-of-poverty rate | | |
| | Relative median poverty risk gap | | |
| | Persistent at-risk-of-poverty rate (Dispersion around the poverty threshold) | | |
| A2: Material deprivation | Primary indicator of mat. depr. | | |
| | (Secondary indicator of mat. deprivation) | | |
| | Severe material deprivation | | |
| A3: Housing | Housing costs, Overcrowding | | |
| A4: LM attachment | Share of children in jobless households (Share of children in low work- intensity (including jobless) households) | | |
| | Childcare use | | |
| B1: Education | Participation in pre-primary education | (Low) Reading lit. perf. - 10y Educational deprivation | (Low) Reading lit. perf. - 15y Educational deprivation Early school-leavers (18-24) |
| | (Life expectancy) (Perinatal mortality) Infant mortality Vaccination Low birth weight Breastfeeding | Oral health Fruit daily Breakfast every school day (Overweight) | General life satisfaction Physical activity (Self-perceived general health) |
| B3: Risk behaviour | | | Teenage births Daily smoking Regular alcohol use; Heavy episodic drinking Illicit drug use; Tranquill. use |
| B4: Social part., fam. env. | (Share in single-parent households) | | |
| B5: Local environment | (Crime in the area is a problem), (Pollution or dirt is a problem in the area) | | |

Presentation of countries' relative policy performance in a policy marker report card (in EU context)

Main indicators

EU-27 max

EU-27 min

Lead indicators

HIGH performance: the value of that specific indicator differs from the EU-average in the 'good' direction (by at least 1 SE)

LOW performance: the value of that specific indicator differs from the EU-average in the 'bad' direction (by at least 1 SE)

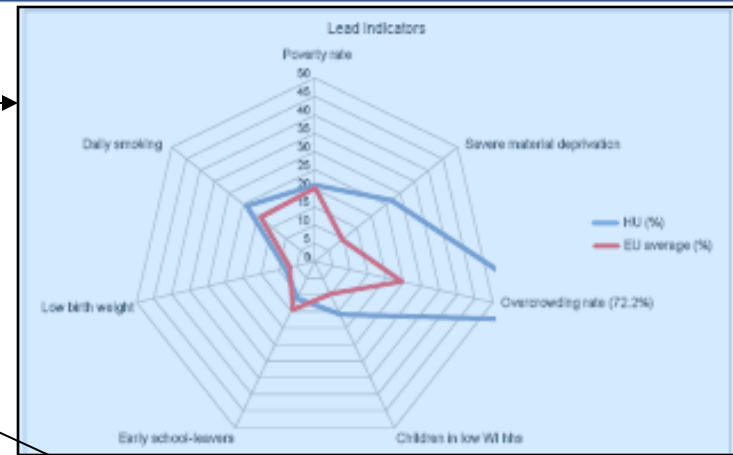
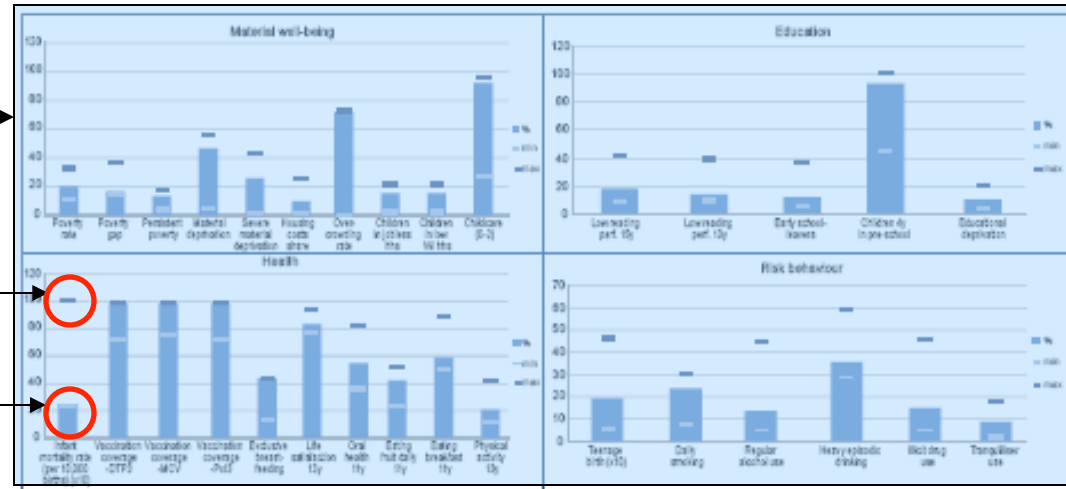
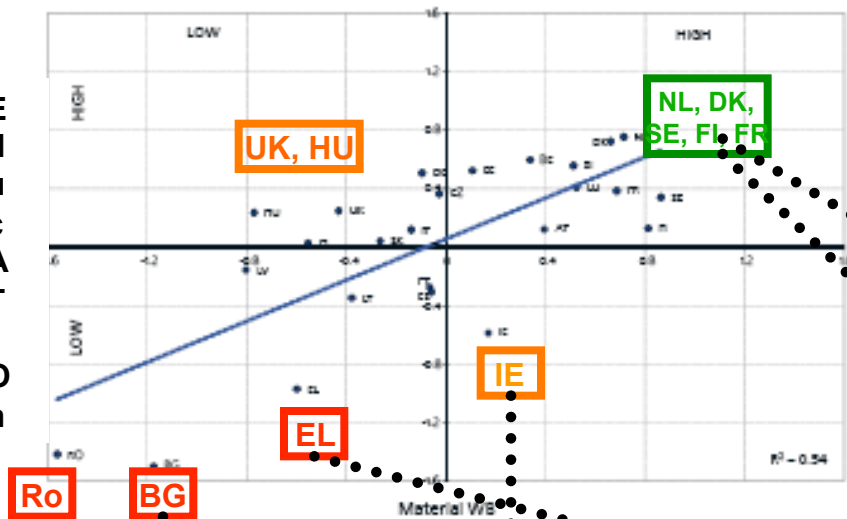


Table 3.3: Relative performance and country-specific data notes

| | Low performance | High performance | Country-specific data notes |
|--|-----------------|--|--|
| Material deprivation | | Exclusive breastfeeding rate (% of children aged 6 months) | The SILC survey started in 2005 in Hungary. 2008 was the first year Hungary participated in the SILC longitudinal database. At-risk-of-poverty estimates for 2006 are uncertain, to be interpreted cautiously. |
| Severe material deprivation | | | |
| Overcrowding | | | |
| Share of children in jobless households | | | |
| Share of children in low work-intensity households | | | |
| Low birth weight | | | |
| Early school-leavers | | | |
| Children in low Wt Hts | | | |

A general finding: the relationships between material and non-material well-being outcomes

E d u c a t i o n



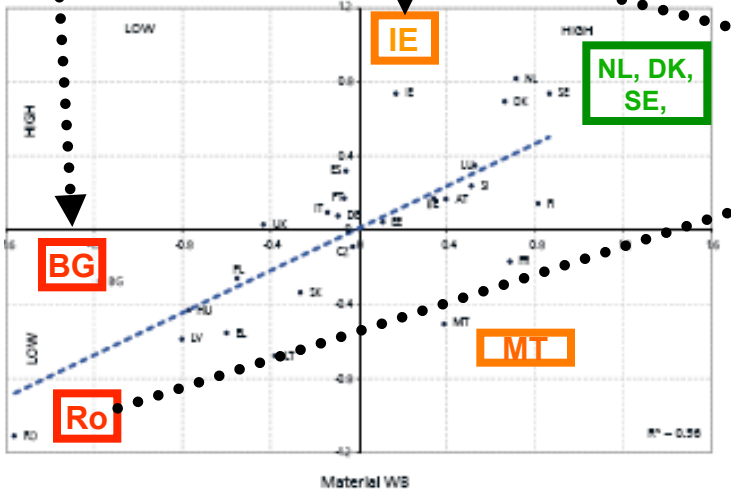
Figures 4.1a-c: Non-material child well-being outcomes (education, health, risk behaviour) and material resources, EU-27

Source: Own estimations following the methodology described in section 4.2 of this report.
 Note: CY and MT are missing from Figure 4.1a due to the lack of data for all indicators considered in the (B1) Education dimension. The same holds for LU in (B3) Risk behaviour (Figure 4.1c). CY has been dropped from Figure 4.1b, since its performance would have been evaluated using only one indicator (B2.1 Infant mortality) out of seven in (B2) Health dimension, due to lack of data for others.

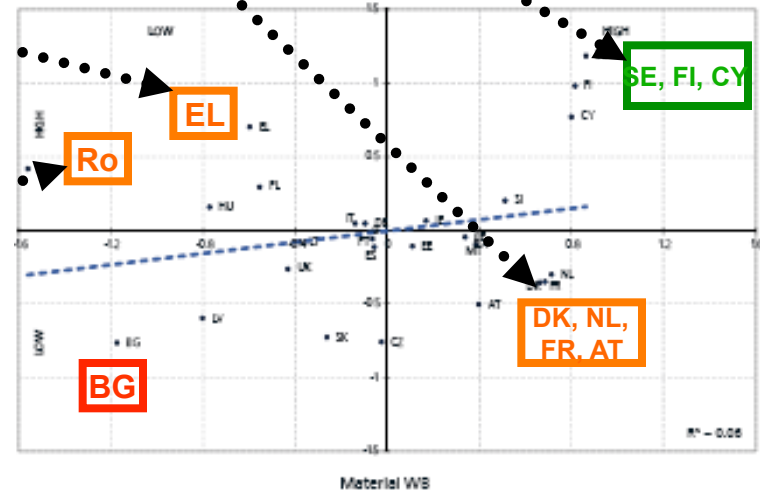
- There is a significant correlation between material well-being on the one hand and education and health performance on the other

- This is not the case for risk behaviour

H e a l t h



R i s k b e h a v i o u r



Parents' (esp mother's) labour market participation (in good quality and flexible enough employment) is essential for reducing child poverty ...

... but different combinations of joblessness, in-work poverty and social transfers efficiency give indications for policy reforms

| If high child poverty appears in ... | Country examples | Challenge |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| ... high work intensity households (in work poverty) | RO, LT, ES | Earnings from work are insufficient |
| ... low work intensity households (joblessness) | BG, SI | Insufficient out of work support |
| ... low work intensity, despite high impact of social transfers | UK, IE, HU | Potential inactivity traps (disincentive effects) |
| ... low work intensity, combined with unavailable or very expensive childcare services | BG, CZ, IE, LV, LT, MT, SI | Inactivity trap may be due to prohibitive childcare costs (esp. when compared to expected income gains from employment) |

Conclusions on determinants and strategies to reduce material child poverty in the EU

There is a wide dispersion in country level performances in the EU, mostly due to

- historical factors
- level of economic development
- institutional differences
- policy priorities chosen by governments

Given the actual political structure of the EU, the situation of children ultimately depends on country level policies (nevertheless, there are a number of joint instruments that help member states learning from each other in formulating their own strategies)

Appropriate policy mixes to reduce material child poverty are needed, with elements of

- sufficient level of child-related benefit
- support for parents (mothers) to find employment
- fiscal incentives to make work pay
- minimum wages set at a carefully set level
- increased affordable childcare available throughout working day (and year)

Conclusions on non-material dimensions and policies on monitoring

Non-material dimensions (esp. those related to human capital accumulation) are to be put into the center of policies. i.e. policies shall have to focus on

- equality of opportunities: to improve on education performance and to improve family background disparities
- interventions in early childhood
- improving strategies to strengthen family AND to improve formal care institutions
- Adjustment of the incentive system to foster the largest possible education and health service take-up (the role of CCT-s)

Monitoring

- Important to build-up a comprehensive and separate set of child well-being indicators to allow for monitoring their situation in a comparative way across various countries and years
- In addition to material well being, a complex monitoring shall have to cover education, health and risk behaviour indicators as well
- To improve and adjust the data infrastructure accordingly
- Improvement of data infrastructure requires a close collaboration of all related agencies that have some responsibility for social, health, education policies and other agencies as well

Reports extensively quoted in the presentation:

Eu network of independent experts on social inclusion (2011):

Policy solutions for fostering inclusive labour markets and for combating child poverty and social exclusion

<http://www.peer-review-social-inclusion.eu/network-of-independent-experts/2011/policy-solutions-for-fostering-inclusive-labour-markets-and-for-combating-child-poverty-and-social-exclusion>

Gábos, A. (2012): Successful policy mixes to tackle the impact of rising inequalities on children: an EU-wide comparison. Draft for GINI Project, Tarki Social Research Institute

Social Protection Committee (SPC 2012): SPC Advisory report to the European Commission on tackling and preventing child poverty, promoting child well-being

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=7849&langId=en>

Tárki/Applica (2010): Child poverty and child well-being in the European Union. Report for the European Commission DG EMPL Unit E2.

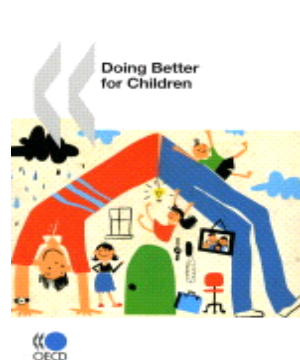
<http://www.tarki.hu/en/research/childpoverty/>

Tárki (2011): Child well-being in the European Union. Better monitoring for better policies

http://www.tarki.hu/en/news/2011/items/20110531_en.html

TÁRKI (2012): Proposal for the monitoring system of the Hungarian National Social Inclusion Strategy. Prepared for the Hungarian Government. Mimeo, in Hungarian (yet)

Other very important reports:



Material poverty: income poverty and social exclusion

Material poverty among children, in general, is higher than that of the overall population in Europe

Around 27% of children is at-risk-of-poverty or social exclusion in the EU-27

Social exclusion of children is specifically high in the two newest MS: BG, RO but also high in LV,

HU and IE

Much higher than the population average: IE, UK, CZ, HU

Lower than the population average in: DK, SE, CY, SI, FI

Income at-risk-of-poverty rates* in the EU in 2010

| | | |
|--|--------|--|
| Children in the EU: | 21%** | varies from DK, FI, SI (11-13%) to LV, BG, RO (27-30%) |
| in lone parent families: | 40% | |
| in low work intensity households: | 69% | |
| in migrant households: | 30% | |
| in large (2adult and 3+children) households: | 27% | |
| Children in „persistent poverty”: | 11%*** | |

* Below median 60% of equivalised disposable income, ** As against 16.4% of the total population ,

*** In at-risk-of-poverty in current year and in other 2 years out of the previous for 3 years

Source: SILC 2010, SPC 2012

Joblessness and low work intensity of households is a key to material poverty in all EU27 MSs ...

- **About 1 children out of 10 in the EU lives in jobless households**
- **... but most children live in households where at least one person is in full-time employment and poverty among them persist as well**

Poverty as outcome also relates to the combination of demographic and employment structure of the households

- **The risk of poverty among children is inevitably linked to the underlying structure of the households in which they live**
- **Children in jobless households are likely to live in lone parent families: BE, EE, IE and the UK**
- **Lone parent families are vulnerable even if their parent works full time**
- **Children in large families are affected in some countries (see HU, for example)**
- **Corresponding norms and institutions vary across countries: employment rates of mother drop with the first child in CZ, DE, HU, MT, IE, UK while they do not drop in other contexts (see BE, EL, FR, LV, LT, PL, PT, RO, SI, for example*)**

Characteristics of countries with low child poverty risk

Nordic countries (DK, FI, SE)+SI

- **Smallest no. of children at risk of poverty (9-12% in 2007)**
- **Risk lower among children than total population in DK, FI, same in SI**
- **Small no. of children living in jobless or low work intensity households**
- **High employment rates of women and large no. of children with parents in full-time work**
- **Children of migrants have a high poverty risk in all except SI and make up 23% of all children at risk in DK and 34% in SE**

Policies in place:

- **Income support**
 - High level of universal income support for families with children in DK, FI and SE
 - High level of support targeted on low-income families in SI
- **Employment policies**
 - Extensive and affordable childcare provision
 - Extensive support for parents to enter/re-enter employment in DK, FI and SE
 - High levels of economic activity and employment generally
- **Vulnerable groups**
 - Limited measures specifically directed at migrant families

Characteristics of countries with high child poverty risk

Southern MSs (IT, ES, EL) +PL

- **Children at risk 23-25% of total**
- **Risk for children much higher than for total population**
- **Not a national priority until recently**
- **Small no. of children with lone parents or in large families**
- **Small no. of children in jobless households**
- **Large no. in IT, EL+ES in one-earner households - 38-46% of all children at risk**
- **Large no. in two-earner households in EL, ES+PL - around 9% of these at risk in each**
- **Low employment of women plus low wages**

Policies in place:

- **Income support**
 - **Low levels of income support, especially for older children**
 - **Support narrowly targeted – in PL on very poorest or lone parents (6% of children), in EL on large families (10%)**
- **Employment policies**
 - **Lack of childcare provision, traditional reliance on extended family for childcare in IT, ES+EL**
 - **Employment rates low generally and support policies limited; fixed term jobs common except in IT**
 - **No minimum wages in EL or IT and set at low level in PL**
 - **But signs of change**
 - **ES: reduction in fixed-term jobs, rise in minimum wages, new child tax allowances**
 - **PL: increasing female employment**