



IMPACT OF POVERTY ON THE CRIMINAL LEVEL IN EU MEMBER STATES

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Abstract

This paper aims to draw attention to the fact that all lower level of the 28 European Union member states will lead to increasing crime, and corruption levels. The level of crime is measured by the number of population (persons) who exercise a punishment deprived of liberty (in any form of it). We consider this correlation of major importance because the low level of crime can have the effect of increasing social inclusion at European level and enhance the security of the European Union.

Keywords

Criminal level,
security, poverty,
social exclusion
JEL Codes: I3, F5

1. Introduction

Currently, across the European Union there is a high degree of security and confidence in the measures taken to increase social inclusion. And the poor have reason for this skepticism. For this reason, the promotion at European level and beyond, social inclusion is considered of major importance and priority.

Poverty and social exclusion are social and economic phenomena that affect the entire population of Earth. The notion of poverty line involves the situation where the population has income which is less than half the average income / capita in their State.

As a classification of the level of poverty on Earth, we can see that it exists in various forms:

- Poverty form of malnutrition - especially for people living in sub-Saharan Africa and East Asia;
- Poverty as high unemployment - especially for residents of the former communist states;
- Poverty as exclusion and social isolation - especially for citizens of developed countries.

In 1975, the European Council gave a definition of people at risk of poverty, according to which they are living in a household with an equalised disposable income below the poverty line, which is 60% of average disposable income equivalent to the national level. Equivalent income is calculated by dividing total household income to its size determined after applying the following coefficients:

- first adult (head of household)
- 0.5 each of the other members aged 14 and over 14,
- 0.3 each household member less than 14 years.

Persons in poverty (material) and severe living conditions constrained by a lack of resources and faces at least 4 of the 9 precariousness, that can not afford:

- 1) to pay a mortgage / rent or utility bills on time,

- 2) to heat their home adequately
- 3) to have contingency,
- 4) to eat meat, fish or equivalent proteins throughout the day,
- 5) a one week annual holiday away from home,
- 6) a car,
- 7) a washing machine,
- 8) a color TV,
- 9) a telephone (including mobile phone).

Also, rates of poverty and social exclusion tend to be higher for single parents with dependent children and for those with temporary contracts or part-time.

European indicator (and target of the EU Strategy 2020) on poverty and social exclusion refers therefore to people experiencing at least one of the three situations described above.

The targets set by the EU for the 28 Member States in 2020 are:

- employment rate to 75% among people aged 20-64 years;
- R & D investment share in GDP to 3%;
- climate change and sustainable energy development, found under the code "20/20/20";
- education:
 - reduce early school drop below 10%;
 - at least 40% of those aged 30-34 years have higher education;
- combating poverty and social exclusion, by subtracting at least 20 million people in this situation.

The European target for 2020 is "promoting social inclusion, in particular through poverty reduction, aiming at eliminating the risk of poverty and exclusion for at least 20 million people", while Romania has assumed a reduction of that number 580,000 .

It is noteworthy that the occupation is considered by the EU Strategy 2020 "probably the best safeguard against poverty and exclusion".

Under the "Employment", an important initiative is the "Youth on the Move" initiative which aims to increase the level of education and employability in the labor market, reduce youth unemployment and to increase the employment rate. It achieves this by adapting the educational offer to the needs of young people, encouraging young people to study abroad, based on European exchanges and also by encouraging EU countries to take action on the employment of young graduates.

Along with this initiative, it should be noted that it has a special role and the "Youth Opportunities". It aims to provide support to unemployed young people, especially those who left school early, and graduates to find a job.

Another initiative "Agenda for new skills and jobs" initiative which furthers the called "New skills for new jobs". This initiative aims to anticipate the demand for skills, acquired skills to better correlate with demand on the labor market and also to the educational environment of the professional approach.

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2010:

- approximately 81 million EU citizens live in monetary poverty;
- about 40 million live in extremely poor physical condition;
- about 38 million live in households where the adults work less than they could;
- about 116 million people in the European Union were at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2010.

These people can be affected by many aspects of poverty at the same time. About 80 million people were affected by an aspect of poverty, 28 million two points and almost 8 million by all three aspects simultaneously.

Therefore, we find that poverty is multifaceted. There monetary poverty, material deprivation and lack of access to employment, which are key aspects of poverty in the European Union. However, monetary poverty is the most common form of poverty.

We believe that this is due to the fact that revenues are not distributed evenly as income inequalities have not diminished the European Union.

In table 1 we represent the rate of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in all the members state of EU. In this table we see that percentage of total population who is at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

Table 1. Rate of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion

GEO/TIME	2011	2012	2013
Belgium	21,0	21,6	20,8
Bulgaria	49,1	49,3	48,0
Czech Republic	15,3	15,4	14,6
Denmark	18,9	19,0	18,9
Germany	19,9	19,6	20,3
Estonia	23,1	23,4	23,5
Ireland	29,4	30,0	29,5
Greece	31,0	34,6	35,7
Spain	26,7	27,2	27,3
France	19,3	19,1	18,1
Croatia	32,6	32,6	29,9
Italy	28,2	29,9	28,4
Cyprus	24,6	27,1	27,8
Latvia	40,1	36,2	35,1
Lithuania	33,1	32,5	30,8
Luxembourg	16,8	18,4	19,0
Hungary	31,0	32,4	33,5
Malta	22,1	23,1	24,0
Netherlands	15,7	15,0	15,9
Austria	19,2	18,5	18,8
Poland	27,2	26,7	25,8
Portugal	24,4	25,3	27,5
Romania	40,3	41,7	40,4
Slovenia	19,3	19,6	20,4
Slovakia	20,6	20,5	19,8
Finland	17,9	17,2	16,0
Sweden	16,1	15,6	16,4
United Kingdom	22,7	24,1	24,8

Source: Eurostat [ilc_peps01]

In table 2 we represent the number of persons who are at risk of poverty or social exclusion.

Table 2. Thousand persons who are at risk of poverty or social exclusion

GEO/TIME	2011	2012	2013
Belgium	2.271	2.356	2.286
Bulgaria	3.693	3.621	3.493
Czech Republic	1.598	1.580	1.508
Denmark	1.039	1.057	1.059
Germany	16.074	15.909	16.212
Estonia	307	311	313
Ireland	1.319	1.378	1.358
Greece	3.403	3.795	3.904
Spain	12.363	12.628	12.630
France	11.840	11.760	11.229
Croatia	1.384	1.384	1.271
Italy	17.112	18.194	17.326
Cyprus	207	234	240
Latvia	821	731	702
Lithuania	1.011	975	917
Luxembourg	84	95	96
Hungary	3.051	3.188	3.285
Malta	90	94	99
Netherlands	2.598	2.492	2.648
Austria	1.593	1.542	1.572
Poland	10.196	10.128	9.748

GEO/TIME	2011	2012	2013
Portugal	2.601	2.667	2.879
Romania	8.630	8.907	8.601
Slovenia	386	392	410
Slovakia	1.112	1.109	1.070
Finland	949	916	854
Sweden	1.538	1.519	1.602
United Kingdom	14.044	15.099	15.586

Source: Eurostat [ilc_peps01]

We also consider that there is a clear link between education and the risk of poverty because people with low levels of education face the highest risk of poverty. Also, people with low education levels lead to increasing crime and prison population.

The size of prison population influences a society, therefore influences the community, such as the European Union.

We believe that the greater the number of people living in poverty, the more you increase the number of crimes committed.

In table 3 we see the number of prison population in the EU Member States.

Table 3. Prison population

GEO/TIME	2010	2011	2012
Belgium	10.968	11.065	11.212
Bulgaria	9.429	9.885	9.904
Czech Republic	21.987	23.062	23.112
Denmark	3.965	4.037	3.984
Germany	70.103	69.371	65.722
Estonia	3.393	3.400	3.286
Ireland	3.556	3.610	3.789
Greece	12.590	12.349	12.479
Spain	73.929	70.472	68.597
France	66.532	66.975	73.780
Croatia	5.165	5.064	4.741
Italy	67.961	66.897	65.701
Cyprus	637	634	694
Latvia	6.780	6.561	6.117
Lithuania	8.844	9.526	9.868
Luxembourg	669	632	633
Hungary	16.328	17.210	17.179
Malta	598	597	585
Netherlands	14.370	13.970	13.481
Austria	8.597	8.767	8.756
Poland	81.094	81.544	84.129
Portugal	11.613	12.681	13.614
Romania	28.244	30.694	31.817
Slovenia	1.351	1.273	1.377
Slovakia	10.068	10.713	11.075
Finland	3.189	3.261	3.196
Sweden	6.891	6.716	6.413
United Kingdom	94.324	95.255	:

Source: Eurostat [crim_pris]

3. Conclusions

In conclusion, very poor countries in the European Union should use the tools and levers of good governance to attract investment in efficient and sustainable combination of factors of production to achieve a certain level of economic growth and development, considered optimal for each state.

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