

Left Behind

The impact of economic migration on
Children Left Behind and their families

Hotel Leopold - European Parliament

2 March 2011



Jana Hainsworth

Setting the EU context

CONFERENCE

LEFT BEHIND

Education Partner



in Collaboration with



Left Behind

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Setting the EU context

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Setting the EU context

Introduction to Eurochild

A European umbrella network promoting the rights and welfare of children & young people in Europe

- 135 members across 35 countries
- National & regional NGOs, European organisations, statutory bodies, professional associations, researchers
- Funded through Progress – the EU programme on employment & social solidarity
- Focus on mainstreaming children's rights through EU policy & campaigning against child poverty

The situation of children in the EU

1 in 5 children lived at risk of poverty (2008 SILC)

- In all countries but 6, poverty rates for children are higher than for the population as a whole
- Poverty rates are highest in Romania (33%) & Bulgaria (30%) – with lowest poverty threshold
- Poland (22%), Lithuania (22%), Latvia (21%)
- Combination of material deprivation & other factors gives a clearer picture (see well-being slide)
- **BUT** All EU countries have 'pockets of poverty' – of which one of most vulnerable groups are children of migrant background

Well-being of children in EU countries (cluster analysis based on indicators presented in Appendix 1)

Courtesy of: Wielisława Warzywoda-Kruszyńska, University of Łódź, Institute of Sociology, Presentation Eurochild AC2010

0,054218194	BG Bulgaria
0,059476127	RO Romania
0,100032607	LV Latvia
0,137062996	PL Poland
0,138951866	LT Lithuania
0,148602765	HU Hungary
0,16044557	SK Slovakia
0,16655358	CZ Czech Republic
0,183366902	GR Greece
0,184762937	EE Estonia
0,195692702	PT Portugal
0,225696705	DE Germany (including ex-GDR from 1991)
0,229268681	BE Belgium
0,239368635	UK United Kingdom
0,243945861	IT Italy
0,252606709	IE Ireland
0,264757694	CY Cyprus
0,284680181	FR France
0,290040735	SI Slovenia
0,294397898	ES Spain

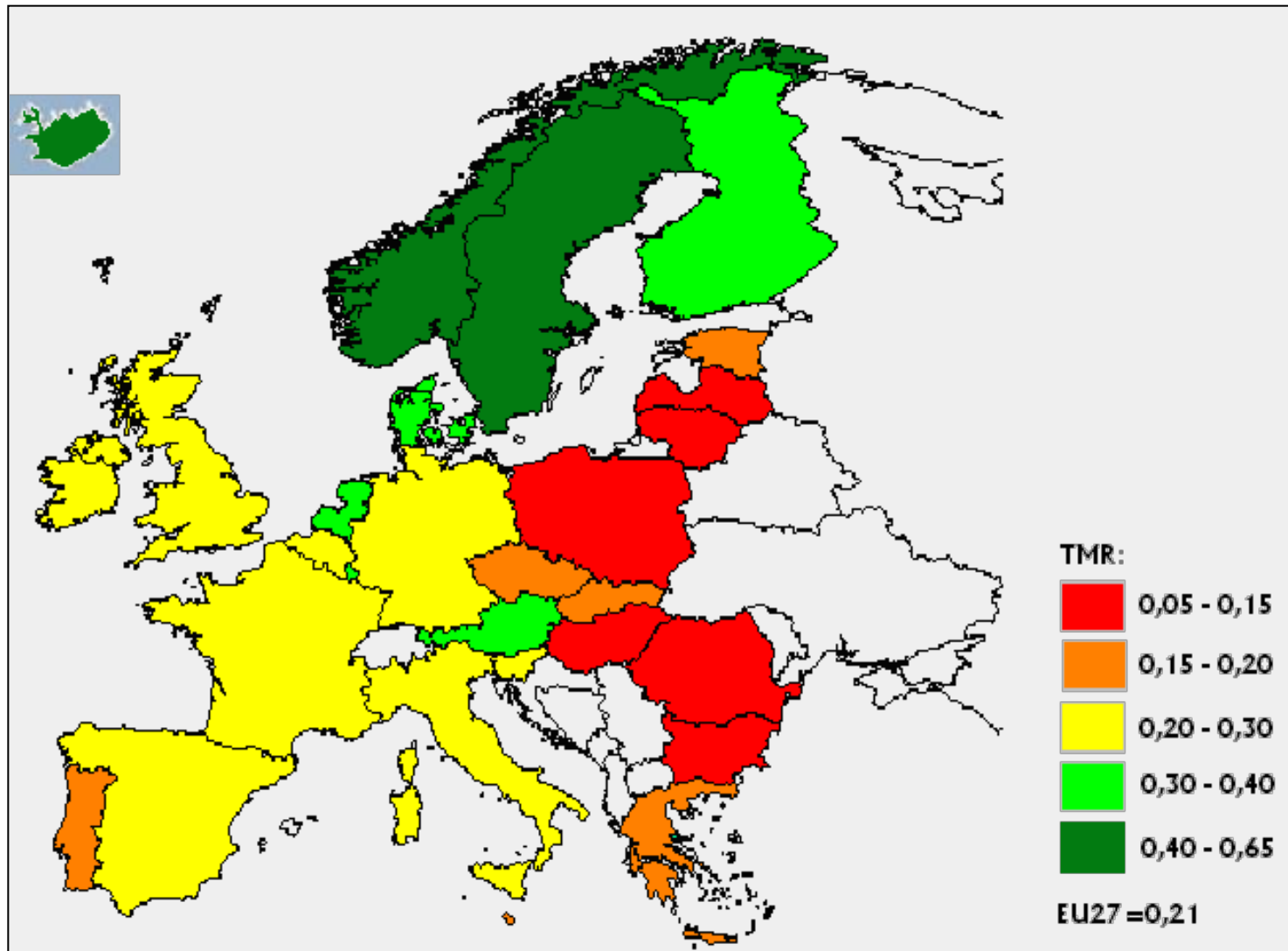
0,306714803	AT Austria
0,368247539	NL Netherlands
0,369842746	LU Luxembourg (Grand-Duché)
0,3718626	FI Finland
0,389551108	DK Denmark
0,468230577	IS Iceland
0,50408657	SE Sweden
0,653540809	NO Norway

0,209861207	EU27 European Union (27 countries)
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Source: *calculations by Kornelia Milczarek for purpose of this presentation based on data available on 31.10.2009*

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/statistics/themes>

Well-being of children in EU



The situation of children in the EU (2)

The crisis & government responses are further jeopardising children's future

- Salary cuts – growing in-work poverty
- Growing joblessness & tension associated with job cuts
- Changes to benefits regimes – growing conditionality on re-entry to the labour market
- Front-line services – including social services, family support, early childhood care & education – at risk
- Impact on migrants eg. Returns, host country hostility

Europe 2020 – Opportunities...

A strategy for *sustainable, smart & inclusive growth*

- A headline target to lift 20 million people out of poverty by 2020 – including relative poverty, joblessness & material deprivation
- A headline target to reduce early school leavers to 10%
 - ⇒ A Flagship initiative «Platform against Poverty» commits the EU to a Recommendation on child poverty & well-being
 - ⇒ An forthcoming Council Recommendation on early school leaving
 - ⇒ A new area of EU cooperation within early childhood education & care

Europe 2020 – & threats...

A strategy for *growth, if possible sustainable, smart & inclusive*

- Annual growth survey balanced clearly towards employment & economic recovery – fiscal consolidation & debt reduction
- Little/no acknowledgement of investment in social services & benefits as pre-requisite for sustained economic recovery
- National Reform Programmes become the 'backbone' of EU cooperation where social concerns are minimalised
- Uncertainty regarding EU agreement of common social objectives as done previously in the 'Social OMC'

What it means for *children left behind*

“An Agenda for new skills and jobs: A European contribution towards full employment”

“The potential of intra-EU mobility and of third-country migrant inflows is not fully utilised and insufficiently targeted to meet labour market needs, despite the substantial contribution of migrants to employment and growth.”

- ⇒ *A New Agenda for Integration of third country nationals to be launched in 2011*
- ⇒ *An analysis of the contribution of migration policies to labour market & skills matching (2011)*

What it means for *children left behind*

“The European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion: A European framework for social and territorial cohesion”

- ⇒ *Promotes “coordinated investments of ESF and ERDF in the implementation of integrated approaches” – targeting of resources on specific groups & deprived areas, incl. major investments in education, social and health infrastructure.*
- ⇒ *Proposes a Recommendation on child poverty & well-being, emphasising ‘protection of children’s rights’, equal opportunities & family policies*

Conclusions & way forward

Protection of children's rights is now an explicit objective of the EU – as stated in the Lisbon Treaty

- Countries of origin – EU pressure to increase social investment. Use of structural funds. Focus on prevention & early intervention. Clear objectives to end child poverty.
- Countries of destination – integration of migrants must consider family situation & dependents, support to be given to family reconciliation & strengthening family contacts.

Appendix 1

List of indicators used in cluster analysis

- At – risk – of – poverty rate among households with dependent children (after social transfers)
- At – risk – of – poverty rate among children between 0 and 17 years
- Children between 0 and 17 years experiencing material deprivation as a percentage off total population
- Child day care expenditure in Euro per inhabitant (at constant 2000 prices)
- Average number of weekly hours of formal care of less than 3 – year – old children
- Share of total population (with dependent children) not having indoor flushing toilet for the sole use of their household
- Households with dependent children unable to afford a meal with meat, chicken, fish (or vegetarian equivalent) every second day as a percentage of total households
- Households with dependent children unable to keep home adequately warm as a percentage of total households
- Households with dependent children exposed to crime, violence or vandalism in the dwelling – place area as a percentage of total households
- Households with dependent children unable to afford paying for one week annual holiday away from home as a percentage of total households
- Households with dependent children exposed to environmental problems (pollution, grime) as a percentage of total households
- Median equivalised net income among people who are less than 18 years
- Life expectancy in absolute value at birth for females and males