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Subject : **Review of the implementation by the Member States and the EU institutions
of the Beijing Platform for Action**
- **Indicators in respect of Women and Poverty**
= **Draft Council Conclusions**

Delegations will find in the Annex a report concerning indicators in respect of "Women and Poverty" prepared by the Portuguese Presidency.

**Review of the implementation by the Member States and the EU institutions of the Beijing
Platform for Action**

**Report by the Portuguese Presidency
Indicators on Women and Poverty**

1. Introduction

The Lisbon European Council of March 2000 asked Member States and the European Commission to make a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty by 2010, considering that building a more inclusive European Union is an essential element in achieving the Union's ten-year strategic goal of sustained economic growth, more and better jobs and greater social cohesion in the context of the Lisbon Strategy.

At the Nice European Council in December 2000, Heads of State and Government reconfirmed and implemented their March 2000 (Lisbon) decision that the fight against poverty and social exclusion would be best achieved by means of the open method of co-ordination. Key elements of this approach were the definition of commonly-agreed objectives in the fight against poverty and social exclusion for the European Union (EU) as a whole, the development of appropriate national action plans to meet these objectives, and the periodic reporting and monitoring of progress made. This Council also invited the Member States and the Commission to seek to develop commonly agreed indicators.

At the Stockholm European Council, in March 2001, Heads of State and Government gave the mandate to the Council to adopt a set of commonly agreed social inclusion indicators by the end of the same year.

The Social Protection Committee and its technical subgroup on Indicators have carried out this work. In particular, the sub-group was concerned with improving indicators in the field of poverty and social exclusion. When selecting the indicators, the Social Protection Committee considered all the main areas to be covered and taken account of national differences in the importance that Member States attach to different areas. In the suggested set of indicators, the Social Protection Committee agreed to focus on indicators that address social outcomes rather than the means by which they are achieved.

The LAEKEN European Council in December 2001 endorsed a first set of 18 common statistical indicators for social inclusion, aimed at allowing Member States' progress towards the agreed EU objectives to be monitored in a comparable way. These indicators cover four important dimensions of social inclusion (financial poverty, employment, health and education), which highlight the “multidimensionality” of the phenomenon of social exclusion.

The Communication “Working together, working better: A new framework for the open coordination of social protection and inclusion policies in the European Union,” adopted in December 2005, set out the Commission's proposals to create from Autumn 2006 a streamlined framework for further development of the Open Method of Coordination for social protection and social inclusion. It aimed to create a stronger, more visible OMC with a heightened focus on policy implementation, which would interact positively with the revised Lisbon Strategy, while simplifying reporting and expanding opportunities for policy exchange.

In March 2006, the European Council adopted a new framework for the social protection and social inclusion process including a new set of common objectives: Three overarching objectives and objectives for each of the three policy areas of social inclusion, pensions and health and long-term care.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (PfA) adopted at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 form the guidelines for European and national policies promoting equality between men and women and have been a catalyst for a large number of initiatives launched by governments to promote gender equality.

Following the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Madrid European Council (15 and 16 December 1995) requested an annual review of the implementation in the Member States of the PfA.

The Employment, Social Policy, Health & Consumer Affairs Council (ESPCO) called for a more systematic follow-up to the PfA in 1998, as a result of a proposal by the Austrian Presidency. This was to include a set of qualitative and quantitative indicators and benchmarks as part of the annual follow-up to assess the progress in the twelve critical areas of the PfA¹ and Member States, in cooperation with the European Commission, have since developed indicators.

The 10th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action in 2005 offered a suitable occasion to assess past achievements and to push for future reforms and actions. In the light of the report presented by the Luxembourg Presidency on the progress made in regard to the implementation of the PfA within the European Union, Member States committed themselves to a more systematic monitoring process and the continued development of indicators. So far, the indicators have been developed in six out of the twelve strategic objectives covered by the PfA.

The Portuguese Presidency has been asked to propose a set of indicators on *Women and Poverty* with the purpose of evaluating progress in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the EU Member States in this critical area.

¹ A. Women and poverty; B. Education and training of women; C. Women and health; D. Violence against women; E. Women and armed conflict; F. Women and the economy; G. Women in power and decision-making; H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; I. Human rights of women; J. Women and the media; K. Women and the environment; L. The Girl-child.

Poverty is a complex area of social policy action, given the several dimensions that make it up, and the diversity of socio-economic realities and social welfare regimes in the EU. Moreover, looking at women's poverty means merging two avenues of research and of policy action: that of poverty as an EU social policy concern and that of the gender perspective of social policy, less developed in the policy action and debate, particularly as far as poverty and social exclusion are concerned. This dual approach introduces additional difficulties to the current discussion, which involves the scientific content, the statistical feasibility of indicators and their adequacy for purposes of monitoring. All these aspects have been taken into account in the major options for the proposal that follows.

The proposal of a set of indicators requires the prior clarification of i) an adequate *concept* of poverty as formulated in the Beijing Platform for Action; (ii) the choice of a *theoretical approach* that can adequately analyse the gender dimension of poverty and the situation of women in this critical area; and (iii) an explicit *analytical model* that can account for the processes of poverty generation as is required to govern policy action. The indicators to be approved should then be those that best meet the above considerations.

2. The major options for indicators

Poverty is a *multidimensional concept* and should not be conceived of as something that is measurable simply in terms of resources, such as income, or based on a monetary poverty line. Aside from economic deprivation, it is important to focus on the numerous ways in which women, due to specific economic and social processes, may find themselves deprived of resources essential for their well-being. Poverty is about deprivation, which means a lack of well-being. The major dimensions of well-being associated with poverty among women, as reflected in the Beijing Platform for Action, include: education and vocational training, health, housing, the labour market, economic resources, social protection, family and private life, security and participation in public life. These elements all form part of the broad concept of poverty as "well-being deprivation" proposed here, but they are also the major building blocks of an analytical model required for monitoring policy action.

A *theoretical approach* is required to analyse the gender dimension of poverty. Such analysis goes far beyond statistical make-up and measurement, and should include a close look at the factors that generate poverty. This has two implications. On the one hand, analysing poverty among women means looking at factors specific to women. The variables for analysis should be chosen with a view to supporting such a *gender-differential approach*. On the other hand, analysing poverty means studying such factors at both the individual and the household level. In order to analyse poverty from a gender perspective, one must look inside the *black box* of more classical studies of the subject and focus explicitly on the intra-household dimensions of poverty generation.

The *modelling approach* proposed here also entails explicit consideration of the set of causal relations among variables, which identify the above-mentioned dimensions of well-being associated with poverty. Poverty mostly originates from a lack of economic resources, that is, income. Education and vocational training performance and participation in the labour market represent areas where poverty generation mechanisms operate. We must also look inside the household to account for gender-differentials in behaviour concerning these factors. Moreover, economic resources are unevenly distributed among household members, which has implications for women's well-being. Finally, there may be an uneven distribution of power within the household that affects the use of such economic resources and decisions about them.

The indicators for poverty among women proposed within the above framework are also supported by recent reports analysing poverty from a gender perspective and by recent statistical data.

3. The proposed indicators

The proposed indicators for poverty among women should be seen as *strictly specific* to this critical area, although the multidimensionality of the subject may give rise to certain complementarities with other critical areas. The indicators are focused on *resources* as factors of poverty; on the *individual dimension* of poverty in the context of the household; and - above all - on *intra-household* factors of poverty. Based on the *multidimensional* approach to poverty, the indicators focus explicitly on determining factors.

Our modelling approach required additional support beyond its theoretical foundations. Given the novelty of such an approach and the diversity of factors and social and institutional contexts across the EU, it was necessary to gather information on key topics from experts in the different Member States. The experts' opinions collected from the responses to the questionnaire were not intended to test our model and underlying hypotheses but, instead, to provide additional support to our conceptual, theoretical and modelling approach.

These indicators are, then, located at the *core* of the factors that generate poverty among women, as shown in the modelling approach described below, and are *extracted from a broader set of indicators* that, together, fully describe such a model. From a list of 18 possible multidimensional indicators, which reflect the aspiration for a complete analytical framework for poverty among women (see Section 8 below), the following three have been selected. These are the *feasible* ones, reflecting the most important areas of poverty among women in the EU, and subject to a broad consensus. The remaining indicators complement the information captured by this subgroup and are in line with the theoretical approach followed.

The proposal thus seeks a compromise between the *desirability* of a full set of indicators and the *feasibility* of such set, given the costs involved in their statistical implementation. Moreover, as additional support for this proposal, they are associated with those dimensions of well-being to which the national experts consulted gave a higher score as regards their relevance for women in their countries.

The indicators, which are explained in Section 9 below, are the following:

PW1. *At-risk-of-poverty rate by age and sex*

PW2. *At-risk-of-poverty rate by type of household and sex, including at-risk-of-poverty rate of single parents with dependent children*

PW3. *Inactivity by age and sex*

a) *share of women and men who are inactive by age*

b) *share of inactive women and men who are not looking for a job for family care reasons*

4. Women in poverty in the European Union

The status of women in society and related issues occupy a prominent place on the world's social and political agenda. Between 1976 and 1985 the United Nations promoted the *United Nations Decade for Women*, which contributed to the recognition of the importance of equal treatment for men and women.

In the nineties international conferences about the environment and development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), human rights (Vienna, 1993), population and development (Cairo, 1994), social development (Copenhagen, 1995) and, in particular, the World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 contributed significantly to underlining the importance of gender mainstreaming by considering gender equality as an integral part of human rights.

The Beijing Conference organised by the United Nations adopted a Declaration and a Platform for Action, agreements that constitute a fundamental framework for gender mainstreaming. These documents identify critical areas associated with the specific problems of women and offer resolution strategies.

EU policy as regards equality between women and men takes a comprehensive approach which includes legislation, gender mainstreaming and specific measures, including positive actions. The purpose is to eliminate inequalities and promote gender equality throughout the European Union. Gender inequality in the EU will be tackled by specific activities over the next years, which are outlined in a new gender equality roadmap published by the European Commission (COM (2006) 92 final). The “Roadmap for equality between men and women 2006-2010” aims, among others also to promote gender equality in social protection and the fight against poverty.

The Roadmap highlights that women are still likely to have shorter or interrupted careers. This increases the risk of poverty in particular for single parents, older women or for women working in family-based businesses in agriculture or fishery. This also negatively affects women's capacity to accumulate individual pension entitlements. For these reasons, the Commission commits itself to monitoring and strengthening gender mainstreaming in the streamlined Open method of coordination that covers pensions, social inclusion, health and long-term care.

The social welfare systems and health systems are not completely adjusted to the different needs of women and men. This is why the principle of equality between women and men is considered among the objectives of the new framework for the open coordination of social protection and inclusion policies.

Therefore, Member States of the EU are committed to gender mainstreaming in their National Action Plans for Inclusion in order to reduce the disparities between women and men. It is necessary to tackle two kinds of basic gender gaps: on the one hand, the risk of exposure to poverty and social exclusion and, on the other hand, the intensity or severity of living in poverty or being socially excluded. This may include gender-specific policies, targeted towards particular population groups such as elderly isolated women, single parents or the long-term unemployed.

The indicators and statistics to be presented in the National Action Plans for Inclusion should be disaggregated by sex and age, where possible and applicable. However, there is no mention of the policy purpose of these breakdowns. In fact, gender impact assessment as the fundamental tool to mainstream gender into social policy is not explicitly used, although it was an eligible requirement in the guidelines for these reports.

Globally the gender perspective is still underdeveloped in the National Action Plans for Inclusion. However it is worthwhile mentioning some of the positive advances in this area:

- assumption of gender mainstreaming as a key priority;
- improvements in indicators and statistics by considering a gender breakdown;
- identification of specific target groups;
- amelioration in work-family reconciliation measures;
- development of gender-oriented policies in areas such as health, education, employment, housing, and social protection.

Although efforts to address gender equality concerns in the National Action Plans for Inclusion have led to progress in this area in the EU, the link between gender issues and women's poverty is not yet fully understood and the gender perspective can be further developed in the National Reports on Strategies for Social Protection and Social Inclusion.

Poverty and social exclusion are still a problem even in the industrialised world, and have been part of the EU political agenda since the seventies. The statistics clearly show that a significant number of people in the EU live in poverty. According to EUROSTAT², around

² The statistics referred to in the text were given by EUROSTAT, and can be consulted at: http://epp.eurostat.cec.eu.int/portal/page?_pageid=1996,45323734&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&screen=welcomeref&open=/&product=EU_MAIN_TREE&depth=1

16% of the EU population was at-risk-of poverty³ at the beginning of the millennium. This was also the case in 1995 and 2005. In these years in the EU-15, Portugal, Greece, Ireland and Spain had the greatest incidence of poverty (around 20%), in contrast to Finland, Denmark, Germany and Belgium (with incidences of nearly 13%). The average risk of poverty in the new Member States in 2005 was 16%. Within this group, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland had the most pronounced incidences (of around 20%).

Concerning poverty intensity, the statistics show that the new Member States bear the direst living conditions, particularly the countries with higher incidences. In the EU-15, the south showed the most significant intensity, as opposed to Finland, Austria and Denmark.

From a longitudinal perspective, the EUROSTAT statistics are also worrying as they estimate that 9% of the population in the EU-15 had been poor for at least two years. At the beginning of the millennium, the time period spent in poverty⁴ was particularly worrying in Portugal, Greece and Ireland, with 14% being considered persistently poor.

Poverty risk is not homogeneous. According to age, children and the elderly are the most vulnerable groups. In terms of household composition, single parents, large families and families with members aged 65 or over are particularly at risk. Finally, concerning the gender dimension, women are more exposed to poverty than men. The longitudinal life-course component of poverty is also different by gender.

³ The risk of poverty is evaluated by the LAEKEN indicator, estimated by EUROSTAT – the at-risk-of-poverty rate – defined as the proportion of individuals who had an equivalised income below the poverty line. The poverty line is considered to be 60% of the median income. It is a strictly monetary concept of poverty.

⁴ Poverty persistence is evaluated through the LAEKEN indicator, estimated by EUROSTAT, which gives, for a given base year, the proportion of individuals that were at risk of poverty in that base year and in at least two of the previous three years.

5. The multidimensional content of poverty among women

The problem of poverty among women is multidimensional. Gender disparities within poverty can be monitored through a tri-dimensional perspective, namely: economic resources, the labour market and education / training. We will now analyse each of these areas to understand the specific features of poverty among women.

5.1. Economic resources

The common indicators show that women are more vulnerable to income poverty than men. The EUROSTAT statistics estimate that in the EU-25, nearly 15% of men were at risk of poverty in 2005 while the figure for women was 17%. This gender gap is repeated at the national level in most of the Member States. The gender gap in terms of poverty risk is greatest in Ireland and Germany, where the poverty rate is five percentage points higher for women than for men.

The gender poverty disparity by age is more significant among the elderly. National variations in this area are high, ranging from one percentage point in Denmark to twelve, in Finland, fourteen, in Latvia and sixteen, in Lithuania and Estonia.

Additionally it should be noted that in the EU-25 more than half of persons aged 65 or more are women. Therefore, older women contribute to poverty in two ways: by their number and by their poverty risk.

Concerning household composition, single parents were particularly at risk in most of the Member States. In 2005 the incidence of poverty for single parent families with dependent children was 32%. In Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Lithuania, Malta and Poland these families showed the most significant vulnerability. For Member States in northern Europe, the opposite was the case. A final note on these families: 85% of them are headed by women, which cumulatively increases their vulnerability to poverty when taking into account the gender gap in terms of exposure to poverty.

It must also be noted that the statistics show that the income of single parent families headed by women was 9% to 26% lower than that of correspondent families headed by men. This disparity was more pronounced in the UK (26%) and lower in Italy (9%). This gap highlights once again the vulnerability to poverty of single parents on the one hand, and of women on the other.

5.2. Labour market

Participation in the labour market is a key issue in social inclusion, through income and integration into social dynamics. In the area of the labour market women are markedly disadvantaged, both in absolute terms, because they are more affected by unemployment than men in most EU Member states, and in relative terms because they suffer from discrimination in earnings, contracts, access and careers. The labour market has gender dynamics.

The Employment Report 2006 showed that the unemployment rate for women remained higher than for men in the EU-25. This gender disparity was particularly pronounced in Greece, Spain, Luxembourg and Italy, where gaps in unemployment rates were respectively 9, 4 and 5 percentage points. However, in some Member States, namely Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Sweden and the UK, unemployment rates for women were lower than those for men.

Long-term unemployment, an important contributor to the intensity and severity of poverty, was also higher for women in most EU Member states. In 2005, among the 25 Member States, only Latvia, Ireland, Hungary, Finland and Malta showed a gender gap favourable to women.

In the area of wages, EUROSTAT statistics show that in the EU-25, men earned around 15% more than women in 2004. This gender gap was lower in Slovenia, Portugal, Belgium, Italy, Malta and Slovakia.

As for contracts, there was a gender disparity in terms of working hours and the duration of the contracts. According to the statistics, in the EU-25, nearly one-third of female employment was part-time in 2006, compared to 6.5% for men. It is worth noting that part-time jobs are often the only alternative for many women due to the lack of childcare facilities and support to care for the elderly and other dependent. In fact, within the household women still have to bear the main responsibilities for caring for children and the elderly, and for running the household. Men usually spend less than half the time that women spend on these kinds of activities. In Italy and Spain this disparity was more pronounced - the time spent on such duties by women was almost triple that spent by men.

Focusing on duration or contract type, in 2006 around 15% of women employed in the EU-25 were in temporary jobs compared to 14% of men. In Finland and Cyprus the difference was more pronounced, reaching 7 percentage points. It was minimal in Germany (0.3 percentage points) and in Austria (0.1 percentage points). In Slovakia there was no difference.

In relation to access to the labour market, EUROSTAT statistics show a significant gap between men and women. In the EU-25 this gap was 15 percentage points in favour of men in 2006. Only in Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia did this disparity not exist.

Lastly, it should be noted that discrimination in terms of access to the labour market is particularly pronounced in high-level positions and in politics.

These disparities directly determine pension levels on retirement and social protection benefits. In addition it is also worth remembering that, in most Member States, career interruptions are penalised and the social protection system does not cover non-conventional jobs, often occupied by women.

According to the European Economic and Social Committee⁵, 70% of retired persons in 2005 were women. However, their income was 50% lower than the corresponding amount for men. In addition, nearly 75% of the retired people who received social transfers due to their low income were women.

5.3. Education and Training

The existence of low-level education/qualifications is a potential factor in poverty and social exclusion, derived from the consequent difficulties of participation in the labour market. The European Economic and Social Committee⁶ found that in the EU-25 only half of women with low-level qualifications were employed, as against 85% of those who had high qualifications. This disparity was much lower for men – 83% and 93%, respectively.

Access to education in the EU is quite similar by sex. EUROSTAT statistics for 2005 show that among young people aged between 15 and 25, a higher proportion of women were involved in education than men.

In 2006, the EUROSTAT found that the number of people with high education levels was similar for men and women. However, it should be noted that in Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland and Sweden the disparity was in favour of women, with a gap of ten percentage points.

Despite similar education levels, there is still a gender disparity in the use of ICT. Women usually spend less time working with computers and therefore tend to be more info-excluded; this is especially true of older women. EUROSTAT statistics recorded that in 2005 nearly 60% of women aged from 16-74 years are considered to have very poor computer skills, as against the 49% of men who were reported to be in the same situation.

⁵ EESC Report on Poverty among women and Gender equality by Brenda King, September 2005.

⁶ Idem.

Focusing on continuous vocational training, EUROSTAT statistics show that in 2005 there were, in general, more men involved in ongoing training than women (43% of men and 41% of women, aged between 25 and 65). Only in Slovenia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ireland and Finland was the figure higher for women higher than for men. These figures are certainly associated with the labour market discrimination referred to above.

The above data highlight relevant gender disparities existing in the EU.

6. Conceptual options

The integration of the *gender* dimension into research carried out on poverty is relatively recent. Diane Pearce presented the *feminisation of poverty* thesis for the first time in the late 1970s. Despite the lack of consensus around the concept, it has paved the way for a fresh look at the gendered causes and experiences of poverty, provided either by academia or policymakers.

The major options underlying the proposed indicators for poverty among women deal with three essential assumptions: firstly, that beyond the general mechanisms which account for poverty among men and women alike, there are *specific* social and economic processes which affect women in particular⁷; secondly, that full comprehension of those processes requires a concept of poverty able to deal with the complexity and the *multidimensionality* of the phenomenon; finally, that an exhaustive study calls for the setting up of “cross-border” conceptualisations and practical methodologies, usually used by *different scientific backgrounds*, in order to fully incorporate a gender perspective into poverty studies.

Such assumptions imply the need for a new concept of poverty that accounts for the social policy direction followed and will cope with the limitations of the classical studies of poverty, namely with relevance for the research on poverty among women.

⁷ Cf., Viguera 1989, cit. In Perista, Gomes and Silva, 1992:p. 11.

6.1. Limitations of classical studies and challenges

The attempt to establish an objective category of poverty (a poverty line) prevailed in classical studies and the core debate revolved around the concept of absolute poverty *versus* relative poverty. In these studies, aggregate household data were used to infer individual living conditions. Also relying on this approach, many statistical data sources still provide information about the household as an aggregate, homogeneous unit.

Many contemporary authors have made critical comments with regard to such a traditional approach and pointed out that, as far as poverty among women is concerned, such conceptual and methodological options are insufficient and do not provide an adequate and full understanding of the phenomenon (e.g. Pahl, 1983; Daly, 1992; England, 1997). Such options imply the concealment of important inequalities within the family: traditional economists presume that the household is a *black box*, within which the resources acquired by individuals are assumed to be shared among household members (Pahl, 1983 p.238). In a similar way, a household statistically classified as non-poor may, in fact, include family members who face severe living conditions (e.g. children and women) (Daly, 1992).

The definition of poverty commonly used in EU processes of social inclusion assumes that the household resources are shared equally among family members, but poverty is experienced at an individual level and should be analysed at that level if the gender dimension of poverty is to be understood.

Therefore, most LAEKEN indicators do not provide a precise picture of the gender dimension of poverty because their measurement of poverty is based on the assumption of equally pooled resources. In fact, the gender dimension of poverty can only be revealed by looking inside the *household black box*.

However, not only a micro-level, disaggregated analysis (at the individual, intra-household level) is needed. A full understanding of poverty among women requires a multidimensional concept of poverty, extended beyond the monetary dimension.

It also demands the use of complementary mixed methodologies, based on both quantitative and qualitative methods of measurement. These practices should have the potential to measure poverty, to analyse the complex processes and patterns of inequality, gender vulnerability, well-being deprivation and subjective well-being.

A further conceptual and methodological challenge is posed: poverty has long been conceived as a static phenomenon; nonetheless, vulnerability to poverty is strongly linked to particular events in a woman's life cycle (divorce, single motherhood, widowhood, old age). In order to take this into account, a *dynamic approach* and the use of longitudinal data are also absolutely required.

6.2. Towards a multidimensional concept of poverty

The Beijing Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace under the aegis of the United Nations in 1995, identifies poverty as one of the critical areas of concern in urgent need of strategic objectives and actions. The Platform for Action also defines a set of objectives in order to promote women's empowerment, gender equality and the eradication of obstacles to women's participation in social life, in both the private and public spheres, and in decision-making processes concerning economic, social, cultural and political affairs. In a similar vein, the document addresses the need for the promotion of conditions for equality between men and women in the sharing of power and responsibilities within the family, the labour market and society in general.

The commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action means that the promotion and protection of all basic women's human rights and freedoms are to be taken as a fundamental target, i.e., as a *sine qua non* for women's empowerment, for their well being and for the eradication of poverty. Therefore, according to the human rights approach, poverty among women is defined as the deprivation of basic human rights due to the lack of resources in various domains, which restricts or precludes "the possibility of realising their full potential in society and shaping their lives in accordance with their own aspirations".⁸

⁸ Beijing Declaration (paragraph 12^b), at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/beijingdeclaration.html>.

In contrast, dignity and well-being are assured whenever women are effectively entitled to the following human rights:

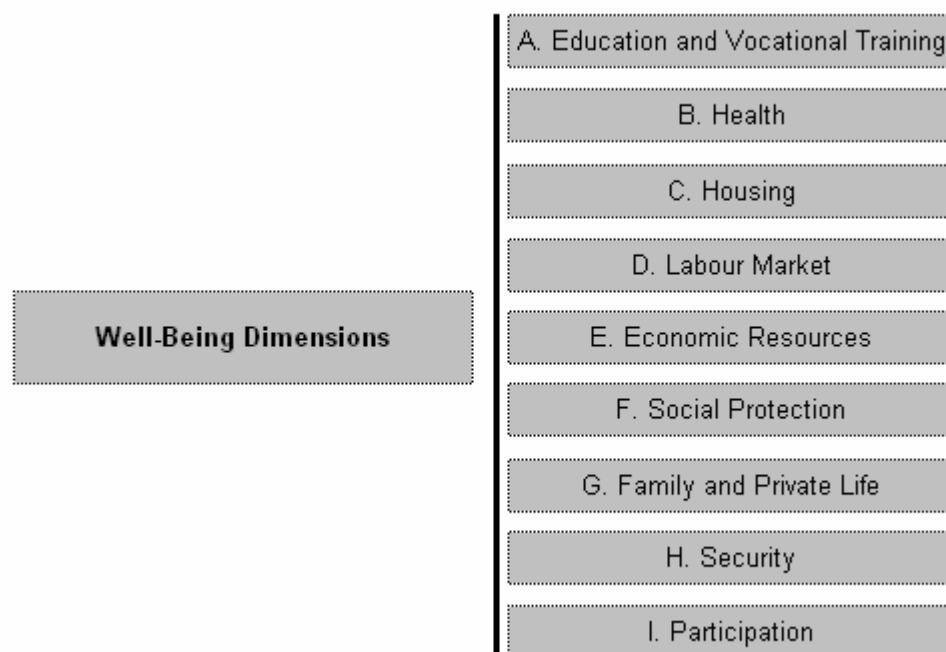
- right to an adequate standard of living, including housing, food, potable water and basic social services;
- right to a healthy and safe environment;
- right to medical care;
- right to be protected against all forms of discrimination;
- right to equal access to education and vocational training;
- right to equal access to productive resources;
- right to work and rights at work (access to equal pay for work with equal value; equal opportunities in recruitment, promotion and career development);
- right to a decent wage and sufficient to provide a person with independent means;
- right to equal sharing of responsibilities concerning childcare and caring activities;
- right to social protection in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood or old age;
- right to be treated with dignity and to be protected in the event of harassment, violence or exploitation;
- right to equal participation in all the processes of decision-making important for their own lives, their families and the community.

Hence, the Beijing Platform presents us with a clear and holistic definition of poverty among women, which allows us to apprehend the complexity and multidimensionality of the phenomenon. “Poverty has various manifestations, including lack of income and productive resources sufficient to ensure a sustainable livelihood; hunger and malnutrition; ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basic services; increasing morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments; and social discrimination and exclusion. It is also characterised by lack of participation in decision-making and in civil, social and cultural life”⁹

⁹ Beijing Platform for Action (paragraph 47th), in: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/poverty.htm>.

In view of this statement, it is therefore possible to identify a set of specific conditions in which women's well-being is to be achieved. Thus, a woman is poor when she lacks the resources (material and immaterial) in the following dimensions of well-being:

Well-being dimensions associated with poverty among women



Each dimension in the figure above includes the necessary key elements for a better understanding of poverty among women, as described below:

Educational and vocational training is an essential dimension in combating poverty and in promoting women's well-being. This dimension is composed of elements such as formal education, literacy level, skills and abilities, lifelong learning opportunities, use of computers and the internet, and access to sources of information (including information on legal topics).

The **health** dimension concerns the access to affordable health care services, reproductive health care and nutrition information.

Housing conditions also strongly affect women's well-being and includes elements related to the internal (type of construction, basic infrastructure, amenities, natural light, habitable spaces) and external conditions (residential environment/neighbourhood, proximity to social services, public transportation).

The **labour market** dimension includes both the formal and the informal sectors and encompasses the following elements: access to occupations and activity that are socially recognised and rewarded; access to adequate working conditions in terms of working time, job contract, wage level; opportunities for promotion and career advancement; work-life balance opportunities - working time arrangements compatible with the organisation of family life; opportunities for equal treatment in case of pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding; and opportunities for developing entrepreneurship.

Women's well-being is also related to the existence of **economic resources**, which involve the economic capacity and personal capability to secure a bank loan; the opportunity to be an income earner with a regular income flow; and the economic capacity and personal capability to live on independent means in case of divorce, widowhood or interruption of an employment relationship.

Another important dimension of women's well-being is **social protection**, which is related to access to public childcare and eldercare services, access to formal security schemes and to social (both formal and informal) networks which may provide individual protection in case of pregnancy, maternity, breastfeeding, unemployment, sickness, disability, a change in marital status (divorce, widowhood, ...), retirement and old age.

Private/family life is considered to be a further important dimension as far as women's well-being is concerned. It consists of elements such as sharing of family responsibilities, domestic and care activities; participation in decision-making concerning important family/household issues; sharing power and economic resources; the allocation of time to family and individual needs; parenting arrangements after divorce (women's well-being is enhanced in those situations in which they do not bear the economic burden of parenting alone). The full accomplishment of well-being in private life also depends on the opportunity to benefit from balanced individual time management, including enough time to sleep, relax and to exercise regularly.

Security is a vital feature, being assured in those cases where women are fully protected against all forms of discrimination, violence, harassment, sexual abuse and exploitation as well as against all attitudes and practices grounded on gender prejudices. Access to protection services, to psychological guidance and to information on legal topics, is also a key element within this dimension.

Finally, **participation** in public life (economic, social, political and cultural arenas) is very important to the full accomplishment of women's citizenship and their well-being. This includes participation in policy-related decision-making processes, both in private/business and public sectors (at supranational, national, regional and local levels), as well as participation in social networks (a fundamental source of social capital) and in cultural and recreational activities.

To sum up, the approach followed, which underpins the proposed indicators, relies on a multidimensional concept of women's well-being. Poverty among women is not only conceived in terms of economic/material deprivation, but also in terms of the multiple dimensions in which women, due to specific economic and social processes, may find themselves deprived of the essential resources for their well-being.

7. The questionnaire on “Women and Poverty” in the European Union

The methodology adopted to support the proposed indicators included, as a very important source of information, a survey for the national representatives of the High-Level Group on Gender Mainstreaming¹⁰ about the relevance of a gender dimension in national strategies to tackle poverty and the specificities of poverty among women in each Member State.

¹⁰ The **High Level Group on gender mainstreaming** is an informal group made up of high-level representatives responsible for gender mainstreaming at national level. It is chaired by the Commission, which convenes regular meetings twice per year, in close collaboration with the Presidency. Among its main tasks, the Group support Presidencies in identifying relevant policy areas and topics to be addressed during Presidencies in order to achieve gender equality. The Group is also the main forum for planning the strategic follow-up of the Beijing Platform for action, including the development of indicators. Since 2003 the Group also assists the Commission in the preparation of the Report on Equality between women and men to the European Council.

This enabled the research team that prepared the proposed indicators to take into account how the relevance of the various selected dimensions in poverty among women and their specific content differed at national level. As a result, it was possible to obtain additional support for the final selection of indicators of poverty among women to be proposed as complements to the existing ones.

The questionnaire is divided into 5 sections. Section 1 deals with the dimensions of well-being and the multidimensionality of poverty. There is a specific group of issues describing several dimensions of well-being relevant for understanding the lack of well-being (i.e. deprivation) among women. These are the nine dimensions previously described for our proposed concept of poverty. Each of these dimensions includes several items that better identify their (also multidimensional) content. For each of these items there are, in each country, factors of an economic, social, and institutional nature that may act to prevent the fulfilment of well-being, that is, generate deprivation. Some such factors may be *specific to women*, i.e., they may affect men and women differently.

The aim is to gain an insight into the multidimensionality of poverty (deprivation) as a phenomenon specific to women in each country. Each expert was asked to ascribe to each item a figure representing the importance that he/she considered that item to have for poverty among women in his/her country and, therefore, to poverty (that is deprivation, or lack of well-being) as a specific factor for women in each country. For each item, there was a scale ranging from 1 to 4, with 1 being “Not important at all”, meaning that the item affects women and men likewise; and 4 being “Very important”, meaning that the item clearly affects more women than men. With regard to this qualitative evaluation it should be noted that what really matters in this questionnaire is the *gender differential* in each item. In other words, a given item may be a relevant dimension of poverty in a given country¹¹ but one only expects a high figure attached to this item if there is some gender bias reflecting a poorer position for women relative to men, i.e. if the item is specific to the women in that country.

¹¹ It is to be expected that such dimensions of national poverty are well illustrated in poverty indicators for that country. Gender-specific poverty indicators are then to be used to complement “average” national poverty indicators.

Section 2 concerns the relevance of poverty within different groups of women in each country. It is also expected to be a qualitative assessment of poverty among women, not a quantified approach. For each specified group of women, each country representative was asked to answer, using a scale ranging from 1 to 4, with 1 being “The group is not affected by poverty” and 4 being “The group is very much affected by poverty”. It was expected that the expert’s responses to this part of the questionnaire would consider, in terms of substance, the dimensions of well-being (and therefore the dimensions of deprivation, or lack of well-being) that were identified in the previous section. This would provide some indication of the policy relevance of some social groups and specific categories of women. And indirectly, as women’s groups are categorised in the questionnaire, the responses to this part of the questionnaire would also give a preliminary indication of the expert’s opinion on the national relevance of some typical causes of poverty among women.

Section 3 covers indicators for the dimensions of well-being. Concerning each defined well-being dimension, each country representative had the opportunity to describe indicators they would like to suggest as the most appropriate for the evaluation of women’s well-being, taking into account the specific characteristics of the country. It was expected that such suggestions would stem from the relevance of the dimensions of deprivation and women’s groups contained in the responses to the previous sections. The national relevance of the proposed indicators might also be reflected in their use in that country (whether for analytical or policy purposes, whatever the case), details of which were also asked of the respondents. It should be noted that this is a crucial part of our analysis (it is intended as the main aim of this report). The national relevance of the proposed indicators was checked against the relevance of the *dimensions* of poverty (from section 1) and its main *causes* (indirectly through section 2).

Section 4 is devoted to learning about the national relevance of social policies focused on poverty among women, either in policy strategies or in the national policy debate. This part of the questionnaire tackles this topic in two different ways, considering that the topic is located at the intersection between two avenues of research and policy action. On the one hand, we want to know to what extent poverty issues are taken into consideration in gender equality policies and, on the other hand, to what extent gender issues are included in policies targeting poverty, namely in the National Action Plans for Social Inclusion.

Section 5 focuses on the institutional setting of policies; the respondents were asked about the principal institutions and social actors within the policies specifically oriented towards tackling poverty among women, indicating the relative importance of the principal functions they may have, namely: policy formulation, research and development, policy analysis, monitoring and assessment.

The response from the members of the High-Level Group on Gender Mainstreaming was good. In spite of possible misunderstanding as regards some questions, given the focus on women-specific issues relating to poverty, the responses were of a high quality and were fairly useful for analytical purposes. They generated the information summarised in Tables 1 to 4 in the Annex and set out below.

- **Relevant items for understanding the lack of well-being (or deprivation) among women as stated by the members of the High Level Group on Gender Mainstreaming** (*Table 1* in the Annex)

In the *Education and Training* dimension, effective equal access to education and training opportunities, regardless of the type of occupation chosen, and the opportunity of lifelong training are two of the items that, on average, affect more women than men in terms of deprivation. Also, the use of computers with Internet access is an item that affects more women than men.

With regard to *Health*, access to family planning consultations and contraceptives free of charge seems to be the item that affects more women than men. However, this and the other items are considered by all Member States as ‘not very important’ that is, not relevant from a gender-differential perspective.

As for *Housing*, access to a safe home environment is an item of well-being more important for women than for men.

In relation to *Labour Market and Professional Life*, there are two items that clearly affect more women than men, namely work-life balance opportunities: working time arrangements compatible with the organisation of family life, and opportunities for equal treatment in cases of pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding. Although not of the same relevance, access to equal pay for work of equal value was also considered an item of specific importance to women's well-being.

As regards *Economic Resources*, a woman's economic capacity and personal capability to reorganise her life in the case of divorce, widowhood or interruption of an employment relationship is a well-being item more important to women than to men, followed by that of being an income earner with a regular income flow, and having the capacity for own-account production activities.

In relation to *Social Protection*, access to a public network of childminders and crèches near the residence or workplace emerges as the item that affects more women than men.

With respect to *Family and Private Life*, both an equal distribution of family responsibilities and caring activities between both partners and an equal distribution of domestic responsibilities and tasks between both partners clearly affect more women than men.

Where *Security* is concerned, access to protection against domestic or family violence, to protection against sexual harassment or mobbing and to protection against trafficking and sexual exploitation are well-being items that have significantly more impact on women than men.

Lastly, within the *Social Involvement* dimension, participation in political decision-making is perceived as affecting more women than men

- **The relevance of poverty within groups of women** (*Table 2* in the Annex)

Older women with irregular contributions to the social protection system and women in single parent families with children are the specific groups of women that are very much affected by poverty. Additionally, the specific groups of older unemployed women and older single women are also affected by poverty.

- **The relevance of poverty among women as part of the national strategies** (*Table 3.1* and *Table 3.2* in the Annex)

For most EU Member States the poverty issue is considered as part of the strategy and the debate on gender equality and, at same time, gender issues are included in social policy measures to combat poverty.

- **The institutional setting** (*Table 4* in the Annex)

Another important finding is that central government plays a larger role than the other actors in policy formulation, policy analysis and monitoring and assessing the strategies/policies to combat poverty among women. While academic establishments are primarily responsible for the research and development of those strategies/policies, independent experts' commissions, social partners, private institutions and non-governmental organisations are more responsible for policy analysis (together with government). These actors also support government in monitoring and evaluation.

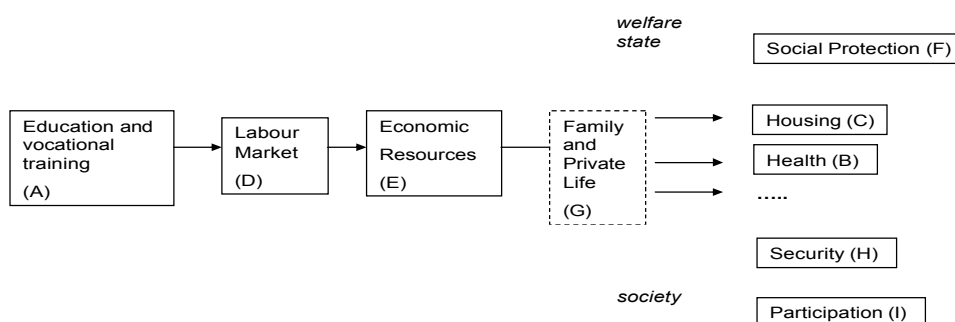
8. Multidimensional indicators on poverty among women

The indicators described in section 3 above form part of a set of indicators that emerged from a multidimensional *model* of poverty among women, taking the gender perspective into account.

This *broader set of indicators* reflects the understanding of the multidimensionality of poverty viewed as deprivation in those areas of well-being that were selected as relevant in accounting for the specific situation of women in the European Union. Moreover, the responses of all representatives of the Member States that belong to the High-Level Group on Gender Mainstreaming were taken into account.

The selected indicators should also reflect the explicit consideration of the set of causal relations between variables that characterise our *modelling approach* to poverty among women. Such variables are those that identify the above-mentioned well-being dimensions associated with poverty. Poverty mostly stems from a lack of economic resources, that is, income. However, on the one hand, education and vocational training performance and participation in the labour market need to be taken into account as broad domains in which poverty generation mechanisms are to be found. This analysis necessitates looking inside the household to account for gender differentials in behaviour concerning these factors. On the other hand, these economic resources are distributed among household members; gender differences may arise on the inequality of distribution, with implications for women's well-being. Moreover, there may be some gender-based differences within the household as regards the power to use such economic resources and the economic decisions involving them.

Poverty among women: a modelling approach



The above factors work mostly at the individual level and reflect *gender-related* power relations and economic behaviour inside the *household*. But there are other dimensions of well-being that reflect to a great extent the *context* of the household, focusing either on the *welfare state* (as far as social protection is concerned) or *society* (with the focus here on security and participation in social life).

The *broad set of indicators* for poverty among women is part of this framework in terms of the above-mentioned *conceptual* content of poverty, its *theoretical* approach and the *modelling* option for monitoring policy action on poverty and its determining factors.

The above modelling approach required additional support beyond its theoretical foundations. The novelty of such an approach and the national diversity of factors and social and institutional contexts prompted the need for a survey targeting the national representatives' experts and covering some major topics. The experts' opinions as they were collected from the responses to the sent questionnaires were not intended to test the model and the underlying hypotheses but, instead, to provide additional support for our conceptual, theoretical and modelling approach.

The indicators that follow are the *desirable* ones, intended to provide information on all relevant dimensions of poverty among women, taking account of its prevalence and major characteristics, given the diversity of this phenomenon in the UE-27. They are *complementary* to other indicators on poverty, and try to reflect the specific characteristics of women in poverty, given those dimensions. They fall into two different groups. One group is composed of existing indicators published by a given statistical institution. The other is composed of *new indicators*, devised to integrate the gender perspective into poverty measurement. The indicators of this group are those marked with the \surd symbol.

A. Education and Training

A1 *Percentage of individuals who use and have the opportunity to use a computer with Internet access in their daily life, by sex and age. √*

This indicator seeks to provide information about the extent of info-exclusion, which affects more women than men, as mentioned in section 2 of this paper. On the one hand it reflects the effect of the education level reached by the population and, on the other, it has relevant consequences for progress in further education, participation in the labour market and professional life and social involvement.

A2 *Percentage of women involved in life-long learning programs, by age.*

This is an already existent indicator measured through data collected by EUROSTAT. This indicator has been proposed by some of these representatives, being used in some countries.

B. Health

B1 *Percentage of women who have wanted to consult a doctor for assistance on health care specific to women but have not done so in the last twelve months, because of constraints such as the absence of medical assistance, waiting time, economic issues or other reasons. √*

This is a relevant indicator given the responses of the representatives of the Member States to section 1 of the questionnaire, where an item with similar content is included. The SILC, a statistical source of EUROSTAT, includes a similar question, but it does not cover health care specific to women. Some countries have proposed this indicator, which is not being used so far.

B2 *Healthy life expectancy, by sex and age.*

This indicator is already included in the new set of common indicators for the social protection and social inclusion process, adopted by the Social Protection Committee in June 2006. This is also one of the indicators selected in 2006 during the Austrian Presidency of the European Union to measure progress on the area of concern "Women and health" of the Beijing Platform for Action. The ECHP, a statistical source of EUROSTAT, provided information to some extent related to this, concerning subjective perception of health, disaggregated by sex. In the meantime, this indicator should only be used at national level because of the lack of comparability at international level. Methodology and questions in the context of this indicator will be reviewed by the corresponding working groups of EUROSTAT with the aim of improving comparability.

C. Housing

C1 *Percentage of households without at least two domestic appliances such as a washing machine, dishwasher or vacuum cleaner. ✓*

This indicator refers to an important constraint of welfare, namely for women, given the traditional distribution of domestic chores. EUROSTAT statistics from both the SILC and the former ECHP include these items, but do not ask the question in the same way.

C2 *Percentage of individuals who consider themselves to be living in a safe home environment, by sex.*

This indicator could be obtained from ECHP and can be obtained from SILC. It also may be obtained from the European Social Survey (ESS). It is a relevant indicator, as is evident from the responses to section 1 of the questionnaire.

D. Labour Market and Professional Life

D1 *Share of women and men who have interrupted their working lives or are inactive for family care reasons:*

- a) *share of women and men who have interrupted their working lives for family care reasons (among inactive persons of working age who have already been in employment);*
- b) *share of inactive women and men who are not looking for a job for family care reasons;*
- c) *share of women and men who work part time for family care reasons (among persons working part time).*

The statistical source for this indicator is the Labour Force Survey (LFS). This is an issue of great relevance in analysing poverty among women, and it was highlighted in the responses to section 1 of the questionnaire.

D2 *Gender pay gap (difference in average earnings of women and men).*

The information for this indicator is available from EUROSTAT statistics. It is a very relevant indicator for the analysis of poverty among women; it has been proposed by some country representatives and has also been cited by some of them as being in use.

E. Economic Resources

E1a *At-risk-of-poverty rate by age and sex*

E1b *At-risk-of-poverty rate by type of household and sex, including at-risk-of-poverty rate of single parents with dependent children*

These are classical indicators of poverty. They are already included in the old common indicators on social inclusion, as well as in the new common indicators for the social protection and social inclusion process. A breakdown according to personal (E1a) and household (E1b) attributes is quite relevant for poverty analysis.

E2. *Percentage of couples where:*

- a) *the woman has no income of her own of any kind and the man has some source of income;*
- b) *the man has no income of his own of any kind and the woman has some source of income. ✓*

The proposal for this indicator is supported in the theoretical thinking on this issue, and its relevance has been confirmed by the responses to section 1 of the questionnaire. It is explained in section 9.

F. Social Protection

F1 *Number of public social facilities: crèches, pre-school and eldercare institutions, by child or elderly person and by region. ✓*

This is a relevant indicator judging from the responses to section 1 of the questionnaire, and several country representatives have proposed it as such as a relevant indicator.

F2 *Median pension expenditure by age, function and sex.*

There is information for this indicator in EUROSTAT statistics, though without a gender breakdown.

G. Family and Private Life

- G1** *Participation in decision-making concerning major family issues: contraception and reproduction; bank loans and savings; house mortgage; purchase of a new car; eldercare and childcare; participation in the labour market.*

This indicator has been proposed with rather similar content in the responses of the country representatives. This is a rather relevant indicator that fills an information gap with respect to the decision-making process within the household.

- G2** *Time distribution for: caring and domestic activities, leisure, personal care activities and sleep, by sex*

This indicator complements the one before it with respect to intra-household information, whose relevance has been highlighted in the responses to section 1 of the questionnaire. Information on this domain is already provided by statistics on domestic use of time.

H. Security

- H1** *Distribution of violent acts suffered by women victims of violence, by act type, aggressor and location. ✓*

Some country representatives in the responses to the questionnaire have proposed this indicator, with a similar content.

- H2** *Number of counselling and psychological assistance centres, shelters or network supports for women victims of violence, by region.*

This indicator has been proposed, with a similar content, by some country representatives in the responses to the questionnaire, thereby highlighting its relevance.

I. Social Involvement

- I1** *Proportion of women in formal and informal community networks, NGOs, trade union decision-making bodies, political parties, parliament and government (local and national).* √

This indicator has been proposed, with similar content, by some country representatives in the responses to the questionnaire, thereby highlighting its relevance.

- I2** *Percentage of women who rarely or never spend time with friends, colleagues or others in social groups.*

There is information for this indicator in OCDE statistical data.

Multidimensional indicators on poverty among women

A. Education and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Percentage of individuals who use and have the opportunity to use a computer with Internet access in their daily life, by sex and age.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Percentage of women involved in lifelong learning programmes, by age.
B. Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Percentage of women who have wanted to consult a doctor for assistance on health care specific to women but have not done so in the last twelve months because of constraints such as the absence of medical assistance, waiting time, economic issues or other reasons.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Healthy life expectancy, by sex and age.
C. Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Percentage of households without at least two domestic appliances such as a washing machine, dishwasher or vacuum cleaner.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Percentage of individuals who consider themselves to be living in a safe home environment, by sex.
D. Labour Market and Professional Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Share of women and men who interrupted their professional lives or are inactive for family care reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) share of women and men who interrupted their professional lives for family care reasons (among working age inactive persons who have already been in employment before); b) share of inactive women and men who are not searching for a job because of family care reasons. c) share of women and men who work on part-time for family care reasons (among persons working on part-time).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gender pay gap (difference in average earnings of women and men).
E. Economic Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Percentage of couples where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the woman owns no income of any kind and man has some source of income b) the man owns no income of any kind and woman has some source of income
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At-risk-of-poverty rate by age and sex. ▪ At-risk-of-poverty rate by type of household and sex, including at-risk-of-poverty rate of single parents with dependent children
F. Social Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of public social facilities: crèches, pre-school and eldercare institutions, by child or elderly person and by region.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Median pension expenditure by age, function and sex.

G. Family and Private Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participation in decision-making concerning major family issues: contraception and reproduction; bank loans and savings; house mortgage; purchase of a new car; eldercare and childcare; participation in the labour market.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Time distribution for: caring and domestic activities, leisure, personal care activities and sleep, by sex.
H. Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Distribution of violent acts suffered by women victims of violence, by act type, aggressor and location. ▪ Number of counselling and psychological assistance centres, shelters or network supports for women victims of violence, by region
I. Social Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proportion of women in formal and informal community networks, NGOs, trade union decision-making bodies, political parties, parliament and government (local and national). ▪ Percentage of women who rarely or never spend time with friends, colleagues or others in social groups.

9. The final proposal of indicators

The above list of indicators are those which, abiding by the general principles of indicator construction, are considered *desirable* performance indicators of poverty and social exclusion at EU level (Atkinson *et al*, 2002). The list was designed to be in full agreement with the proposed concept of poverty among women as it resulted from our understanding of the Beijing Platform for Action in this critical area.

Poverty is one of the critical areas of the Beijing Platform for Action, and others have been previously discussed and the corresponding indicators proposed by other EU presidencies. But poverty among women, in the sense discussed and proposed in this text, is a multidimensional concept whose content to some extent includes (and/or to a great extent overlaps with) that of other critical areas. A further analysis of the relationship between these critical areas and of the corresponding indicators would be convenient.

Therefore, our final recommendations were intended to highlight those indicators whose selection should be seen as *strictly specific* to this critical area and which, therefore, should be chosen. Our proposed indicators for poverty among women fall within this framework in terms of the *conceptual* content of poverty mentioned earlier, its *theoretical* approach and *modelling* option for monitoring policy action geared towards poverty and its determining factors.

Our final proposed indicators constitute a *trade-off* between *feasibility* and the multidimensional indicators stemming from our theoretical approach.

The indicators proposed are the feasible ones and seek to emphasise a practical approach. Moreover, as an additional support for this proposal, they are located in those dimensions of well-being on which the national experts from the High-Level Group on Gender Mainstreaming reached a higher consensus.

We will explain in more detail each of these indicators and their theoretical foundations.

PW1: At-risk-of-poverty rate by age and sex

This is a “classical” poverty measure and a LAEKEN indicator, defined as the percentage of persons below the monetary poverty line, defined as 60% of the median national adult-equivalent household disposable income in each Member State. This is an *output* indicator of poverty of high relevance for analysis, as it provides information on household income scarcity and includes important elements about the phenomenon of poverty as related to *personal attributes*, such as age (reflecting the lifecycle perspective) and sex (which emphasizes the gender specification).

PW2: At-risk-of-poverty rate by type of household and sex, including at-risk-of-poverty rate of single parents with dependent children

This is another *output* indicator based on the same poverty measure. It emphasizes those *household attributes* that have a particular impact on poverty among women, such as single parenthood and household size.

The number of single parents has been increasing across the EU and the data shows they face a particular risk of suffering from poverty. In 2005 the incidence of poverty for single-parent families with dependent children was 32%.

EUROSTAT statistics from 2005 show that 85% of single-parent families are headed by women, which cumulatively increases their vulnerability to poverty when taking into account the poverty exposure by gender.

Much of the risk can be attributed to low participation in the work force. Only 50 % were in work compared with 68 % of married women. EUROSTAT statistics from 2003 show that, in contrast to mothers' increasing employment rates, single mothers' employment rates have hardly changed.

Many single parents have to look after their children themselves and look for jobs with hours that enable them to spend as much time with their children as possible, and thus to combine parenting with employment. As a result, they might be forced to settle for precarious, low-paid employment with a lower level of social protection. The income of single parent families headed by women was 9% to 26% lower than that of correspondent families headed by men. This gap highlights once again the vulnerability to poverty of single parents, on the one hand, and of women, on the other.

Other relevant household attributes are: ethnic minorities and urban/rural location of the household.

PW3. *Inactivity by age and sex*

- a) share of women and men who are inactive by age***

- b) share of inactive women and men who are not looking for a job for family care reasons***

This is a *factor* (i.e. causal) indicator of poverty. Employment is perceived by many Member States as a key factor for social inclusion and offers the most important means of escaping the poverty cycle. Being employed and earning wages is crucial for the economic independence of women and men; therefore, those events that may lead women and men of working age to interrupt their working lives or not to participate in the labour market can generate a risk of potential poverty. The responsibility for family care still falls mainly on women, in part due to social stereotypes regarding women's and men's roles in the family and society.

EUROSTAT statistics from 2006 show a relevant gender difference between the percentage of women and that of men who are not seeking employment due to family or personal responsibilities or because they are looking after children or incapacitated adults.

Irrespective of the personal choice leading to this situation, gendered social representations of women's and men's roles and responsibilities towards the family may generate unbalances between women and men with regard to the interruption of their professional life or inactivity for family care reasons.

This indicator focuses mainly on the differences between women and men with regard to the interruption of their working lives and inactivity for family care reasons. Inactivity and the interruption of working life may reflect personal preferences. However, due to the above-mentioned gender imbalances, the interruption of working life or inactivity for family care reasons can act as women-specific factors that may generate a loss of economic independence and, later in the lifecycle, a lower level of social protection (lower pensions). This indicator also sheds light on the factors of poverty at an individual level inside the household.

The statistical source for this indicator is the Labour Force Survey (LFS).

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Annexes

Questionnaire

- Table 1.** The importance of well-being indicators for poverty among women, European Union, 2007
- Table 2.** The relevance of poverty within different groups of women in the European Union, 2007
- Table 3.1.** The relevance of poverty among women in national strategies in EU countries, either in policies to fight poverty or in gender policies (univariate relative frequencies), 2007
- Table 3.2.** The relevance of poverty among women in national strategies in EU countries, either in policies to fight poverty or in gender policies (multivariate absolute frequencies), 2007
- Table 4.** The relative importance of the main functions to policies specifically oriented towards tackling poverty among women, European Union, 2007
- Table 5.** At-risk-of-poverty rate by age and sex
- Table 6.** At-risk-of-poverty rate by household type
- Table 7.** Inactive population as a percentage of the total population. Distributions for 15 years and over age group, by sex (%), 2006
- Table 8.** Inactive population as a percentage of the total population. Distributions for 15 years and over age group, by sex (%), 2006

QUESTIONNAIRE

BACKGROUND OF THE RESEARCH

The Platform for Action adopted by Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995, identified the eradication of the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women as one of the 12 critical areas of concern requiring special attention and action by the international community, governments and the civil society.

An important achievement of the Beijing Conference has been the increasing recognition by governments of the gender dimension of poverty. In some cases, this has resulted in the implementation of policies and actions specifically addressed to the needs of the women. It has also contributed to a broader definition of poverty that goes much beyond the indirect approach based upon some monetary poverty line. Instead, it has a multidimensional content which not only takes into account the minimum basic needs but also includes the lack of equal opportunities, autonomy, and security and citizenship rights. This new conceptualisation of poverty also goes well beyond the notion of material deprivation and captures economic, social and subjective dimensions.

For this research, poverty is considered as synonymous to deprivation, which means lack of *well-being*. Some relevant dimensions of well-being have been selected as those that are explicitly or implicitly stated in the Platform for Action, with particular focus on poverty among women:

“Poverty has various manifestations, including lack of income and productive resources sufficient to ensure a sustainable livelihood; hunger and malnutrition; ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basic services; increasing morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments; and social discrimination and exclusion. It is also characterized by lack of participation in decision-making and in civil, social and cultural life” (Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, § 47).

Aim of the Questionnaire

The aim of this questionnaire is to understand if a gender dimension is reflected in the national strategies to tackle poverty among women, as well as to collect information in order to draw up indicators in the domain of the incidences and causes of poverty among women.

Please return this filled questionnaire to pereirin@iseg.utl.pt on the 29th June at the latest.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire is divided into 5 sections as follows:

Section 1 – Dimensions of well-being and the multidimensionality of poverty

Section 2 – Dimensions of well-being and specific groups of women

Section 3 – Indicators by dimensions of well-being

Section 4 – Gender equality and poverty among women

Section 5 – Institutional setting

RESPONDENT DETAILS

Country:	
Contact person:	
Position:	
Email:	
Phone:	
Fax:	

SECTION 1: DIMENSIONS OF WELL-BEING AND THE MULTIDIMENSIONALITY OF POVERTY

The following tables describe several dimensions of *well-being*, all of them with relevance to understand the **lack of well-being** (i.e. **deprivation**) among women. Each of such dimensions is better understood by considering several *items* that identify their multidimensional content. That is the purpose of these tables. For each of such *items* there are factors (economic, social, and institutional ones) that may act to prevent the fulfilment of well-being, that is, to generate deprivation. Some of such factors may be **specific to the women**, that is, they may act differently for men and women.

We would like to know about the multidimensionality of poverty (deprivation) as a specific women phenomenon in your country. So we ask you to fill next tables ascribing to each *item* a figure that represents **the importance of that item to poverty among women in your country** and, therefore, to poverty (or *lack of well-being*) as a specific factor for women in your country.

Please, apply to each *item* below the following grading scale, which ranges **from 1 to 4**, with **1** being “Not important at all”, that is, the *item* affects women and men **likewise**; and **4** being “Very important”, that is, the *item* clearly affects **more** women than men:

- 1** Not important at all (i.e., the *item* affects women and men **likewise**)
- 2** Not very important
- 3** Important
- 4** Very important (i.e., the *item* clearly affects **more** women than men)

There is no hierarchical relation between such items. Moreover, some items may overlap with others.

The following **example** can help in giving correct replies to the questionnaire.

Let us consider *Education and Training* as a dimension of well-being (dimension A below). *Access to higher education* is a relevant item to this dimension (item A2, below). If in your country there are economic, social, cultural or institutional factors that constrain further progress of students to higher education but it affects women and men likewise, you should ascribe “1” (*not important at all*, since “The *item* affects women and men **likewise**”) or “2” (*not very important*) to this item. If instead such factors have higher relevance for women by comparison with men, you should ascribe “4” (*very important* since “The *item* clearly affects **more** women than men”) or “3” (*important*) to it.

Dimensions of <i>well-being</i>	Relevant <i>Items</i> for women well-being	Importance for poverty among women in your country 1 not important at all (the <i>item</i> affects women and men likewise) 2 not very important 3 important 4 very important (the <i>item</i> clearly affects more women than men)
A. Education and Training	A1. Effective opportunity to obtain full compulsory education	
	A2. Access to higher educational levels (above the basic compulsory education)	
	A3. Effective equal access to education and training opportunities, regardless of the type of occupation chosen	
	A4. Opportunity of life-long training	
	A5. Use of computer with <i>internet</i>	
	Another item relevant for your country (please describe it)	
B. Health	B1. Proximity of hospitals and health centres providing primary health care services	
	B2. Access to specialist doctors and specific medical exams	
	B3. Access to medical consultations and medicines free of charge or partially charged to patients	
	B4. Access to family planning care consultations and contraceptives free of charge	
	Another item relevant for your country (please describe it)	

Dimensions of <i>well-being</i>	Relevant <i>Items</i> for women well-being	Importance for poverty among women in your country 1 not important at all (the <i>item</i> affects women and men likewise) 2 not very important 3 important 4 very important (the <i>item</i> clearly affects more women than men)
C. Housing	C1. Access to basic housing infrastructures such as: hot running water, indoor flushing toilet with bath and public electricity.	
	C2. Access to generalised domestic goods such as: washing machine, dishwasher and vacuum cleaner	
	C3. Access to supermarket, pharmacy and public transport in the neighbourhood	
	C4. Access to a safe house environment	
	Another item relevant for your country (please describe it)	
D. Labour Market and Professional Life	D1. Access to occupations and sectors of activity socially recognised and rewarded.	
	D2. Opportunity to work beyond a short working week (under-employment or involuntary part-time)	
	D3. Opportunities for developing entrepreneurship.	
	D4. Work-life balance opportunities: working time arrangements compatible with the organisation of family life	
	D5. Access to equal pay for work with equal value	
	D6. Non precarious jobs	
	D7. Opportunities for promotion and career development	
	D8. Opportunities for equal treatment in case of pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding	
	D9. Access to services provided by employers (childcare facilities; transportation to and from work)	
	D10. A short commuting time per day (time spent on the journey home-work-home)	
Another item relevant for your country (please describe it)		

Dimensions of well-being	Relevant <i>Items</i> for women well-being	Importance for poverty among women in your country 1 not important at all (the <i>item</i> affects women and men likewise) 2 not very important 3 important 4 very important (the <i>item</i> clearly affects more women than men)
E. Economic Resources	E1. To be an income earner with regular income flow	
	E2. Economic capacity and personal ability to get a bank loan	
	E3. Economic capacity and personal ability to reorganize her life in case of divorce, widowhood and break in employment relation	
	E4. Capacity for own-account production activities	
	Another item relevant for your country (please describe it)	
F. Social Protection	F1. Access to the public network of childminders and crèches nearby the residence or the work places.	
	F2. Access to the public network of pre-school education establishments (kindergartens) near the residence or the workplace.	
	F3. Access to public network of leisure centres providing children and young's with several activities in their free time from school.	
	F4. Access to public services and infrastructures providing social family support in flexible schedules.	
	F5. Access to public individualized personal care at home for individuals and families who cannot satisfy their basic needs and/or perform daily life activities on a temporary or permanent basis, due to illness, disability or other problems.	
	F6. Access to public social services and infrastructures, such as day-care centre, foster care, residential care.	

Dimensions of well-being	Relevant <i>Items</i> for women well-being	Importance for poverty among women in your country 1 not important at all (the <i>item</i> affects women and men likewise) 2 not very important 3 important 4 very important (the <i>item</i> clearly affects more women than men)
F. Social Protection (cont.)	F7. Protection against unemployment, during pregnancy, maternity, breastfeeding and adoption.	
	F8. Effective access to minimum social protection (income benefits <i>take-up</i>)	
	Another item relevant for your country (please describe it)	
G. Family and private life	G1. An equal distribution of domestic responsibilities and tasks between both partners	
	G2. An equal distribution of family responsibilities and care activities between both partners (childcare and eldercare activities...)	
	G3. A balanced bargaining and decision power between both partners concerning major economic issues (bank loans, mortgage, and purchase of a new car...)	
	G4. A balanced bargaining and decision power between both partners concerning daily life economic issues (routine expenses required to meet family needs)	
	G5. A balanced bargaining decision concerning the participation of each partner in paid work (whether it is a single or a dual-career family, or whether women's participation is on a full-time or a part-time basis)	
	G6. Equal participation in decision-making between partners concerning family issues (reproduction and contraception options, childcare, eldercare, parental leave...)	

Dimensions of well-being	Relevant <i>Items</i> for women well-being	Importance for poverty among women in your country 1 not important at all (the <i>item</i> affects women and men likewise) 2 not very important 3 important 4 very important (the <i>item</i> clearly affects more women than men)
G: Family and Private Life (cont.)	G.7. Opportunities to benefit from a fair regime of parenting arrangements after divorce (situation which does not entail the economic burden of parenting alone).	
	G.8. Opportunity to benefit from enough time to sleep and relax	
	Another item relevant for your country (please describe it)	
H. Security	H1. Access to protection against domestic or family violence.	
	H2. Access to protection against sexual or moral harassment.	
	H3. Access to protection against traffic and sexual exploitation.	
	H4. Friends' neighbours and family network for support in the resolution of personal and familiar problems.	
	H5. Access to protection against hazardous work.	
	Another item relevant for your country (please describe it)	
I. Social involvement	I1. Participation in the political decision-making groups	
	I2. Regular participation in leisure and cultural activities	
	I3. Participation in trade-unions	
	I4. Participation in non-governmental organisations	
	Another item relevant for your country (please describe it)	

SECTION 2 – DIMENSIONS OF WELL-BEING AND SPECIFIC GROUPS OF WOMEN

We would like to know about the **relevance of poverty** within different groups of women in **your country**. It is expected to be a **qualitative assessment** of poverty among women, not a quantified approach.

For each specified group of women, we ask you to fill in the following table, applying to each group the following grading scale, which ranges from 1 to 4, with **1** being “*The group is not affected by poverty*” and **4** being “*The group is very much affected by poverty*”

Women’s groups	Assessment
G1. Women in lone parents families with children	
G2. Immigrant women	
G3. Women in large families	
G4. Women with incomes significantly lower than their partners	
G5. Women with low levels of education	
G6. Women with precarious work or part-time	
G7. Unemployed women	
G8. Older unemployed women	
G9. Older women with irregular contributions to social protection system	
G10. Single older women;	
G11. Other (<i>please specify</i>)	

SECTION 3: INDICATORS BY DIMENSIONS OF WELL-BEING

Concerning each defined well-being dimension, please describe **indicators** you would like to suggest as **the most appropriate** for the evaluation of women's well-being, taking into account the specific characteristics of **your country**. Please refer to those dimensions already considered in Section 1.

The following example can help in replying to this section.

Let us consider *Education and Training* as a dimension of well-being (dimension A below) and *Access to higher education* as a relevant item to such dimension. If in your country those economic, social, cultural or institutional factors that constrain further progress of students to higher education are more relevant for women than for men, you may consider, for instance, as a convenient indicator "*The percentage of women who completed the secondary education level that go to the university level*"

Well-being dimension	Suggested indicator	Has it ever been used in your country? (Yes, No)
A. Education and Training	A(i)	
	A(ii)	
	A(iii)	
	[Other, specifying in annex as A(iv), ...]	
B. Health	B(i)	
	B(ii)	
	B(iii)	
	[Other, specifying in annex as B(iv), ...]	

Well-being dimension	Suggested indicator	Has it ever been used in your country? (Yes, No)
C. Housing	C(i)	
	C(ii)	
	C(iii)	
	[Other, specifying in annex as C(iv), ...]	
D. Labour market and Professional Life	D(i)	
	D(ii)	
	D(iii)	
	[Other, specifying in annex as D(iv), ...]	
E. Economic resources	E(i)	
	E(ii)	
	E(iii)	
	[Other, specifying in annex as E(iv), ...]	
F. Social protection	F(i)	
	F(ii)	
	F(iii)	
	[Other, specifying in annex as F(iv), ...]	
G. Family and private life	G(i)	
	G(ii)	
	G(iii)	
	[Other, specifying in annex as G(iv), ...]	
H. Security	H(i)	
	H(ii)	
	H(iii)	
	[Other, specifying in annex as H(iv), ...]	
I. Social involvement	I(i)	
	I(ii)	
	I(iii)	
	[Other, specified in annex as I(iv), ...]	

SECTION 4: GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S POVERTY

We would like to know about the relevance of poverty among women as part of the **national strategies in your country**, either of policies addressed to fight **poverty** or as part of **gender** policies.

Please put an x by your answer to each question below.

4.1 Is the poverty issue considered in the strategy/debate of gender equality in your country?

Yes	
No	
Don't know / Don't answer	

4.2 Are the gender issues considered in social policy measures which are directed at poverty in your country?

Yes	
No	
Don't know / Don't answer	

4.3 In the scope of the *National Action Plan for Social Inclusion* of your country, are there specific measures aiming to tackle poverty among women?

Yes	
No	
Don't know / Don't answer	

SECTION 5: INSTITUTIONAL SETTING

Concerning the principal institutions and social actors within the policies specifically oriented towards tackling **poverty among women**, please indicate the relative importance of the principal functions they may have: policy formulation, research and development, policy analysis, monitoring and assessment (when applicable).

Please ascribe a figure to each of the functions below, according to the following scale:

- 0 Not applicable
- 1 Not important
- 2 Not very important
- 3 Important
- 4 Very important

1. Central government (Ministerial or other organisations at the government level)

Policy formulation	
Research and development	
Policy analysis	
Monitoring and assessing	
Other (<i>please specify</i>):	

2. Private institutions (private firms)

Policy formulation	
Research and development	
Policy analysis	
Monitoring and assessing	
Other (<i>please specify</i>):	

3. Academic level (experts, research centres, ...)

Policy formulation	
Research and development	
Policy analysis	
Monitoring and assessing	
Other (<i>please specify</i>):	

4. Independent experts commissions

Policy formulation	
Research and development	
Policy analysis	
Monitoring and assessing	
Other (<i>please specify</i>):	

5. Social Partners

Policy formulation	
Research and development	
Policy analysis	
Monitoring and assessing	
Other (<i>please specify</i>):	

6. Non-governmental organizations

Policy formulation	
Research and development	
Policy analysis	
Monitoring and assessing	
Other (<i>please specify</i>):	

7. National social solidarity organizations

Policy formulation	
Research and development	
Policy analysis	
Monitoring and assessing	
Other (<i>please specify</i>):	

8. Other (please specify)

Policy formulation	
Research and development	
Policy analysis	
Monitoring and assessing	
Other (<i>please specify</i>):	

Thank you for your cooperation!

Table 1. The importance for poverty among women by well-being indicators, European Union, 2007

Well-being dimensions	Well-being Indicators	Average (1, ...,4)	Distribution (%)				Response Rate
			1 not important at all (the item affects women and likewise)	2 Not very important	3 Important	4 important very (the item affects women clearly more than men)	
Education and Training	Effective opportunity to obtain full compulsory education	1,6	72	8	12	8	100
	Access to higher educational levels (above the basic compulsory education)	1,6	68	12	8	12	100
	Effective equal access to education and training opportunities, regardless of the type of occupation chosen	2,5	24	28	24	24	100
	Opportunity for life-long training	2,5	24	28	24	24	100
	Use of computer with internet	2,3	36	16	28	20	100
Health	Proximity of hospitals and health centres providing primary health care services	1,7	60	20	8	12	100
	Access to specialist doctors and specific medical exams	1,8	52	24	12	12	100
	Access to medical consultations and medicines free of charge or partially charged to patients	1,6	64	24	4	8	100
	Access to family planning care consultations and contraceptives free of charge	2,5	36	8	24	32	100
Housing	Access to basic housing infrastructures such as hot running water, indoor flushing toilet with bath and public electricity	1,6	68	16	4	12	100
	Access to generalised domestic goods such as washing machine, dishwasher and vacuum cleaner	1,9	48	32	4	16	100
	Access to supermarket, pharmacy and public transport in the neighbourhood	1,9	44	32	12	12	100
	Access to a safe house environment	2,4	28	28	24	20	100

Labour Market and Professional Life	Access to occupation and sectors of activity socially recognised and rewarded	2,9	8	24	40	28	100
	Opportunity to work beyond a short working week (under-employment or involuntary part-time)	2,8	8	28	36	28	100
	Opportunities for developing entrepreneurship	3,0	0	28	40	32	100
	Work-life balance opportunities: working time arrangements compatible with the organisation of family life	3,6	0	4	28	68	100
	Access to equal pay for work with equal value	3,4	8	4	28	60	100
	Non precarious jobs	2,8	16	24	28	32	100
	Opportunities for promotion and career development	3,3	0	12	48	40	100
	Opportunities for equal treatment in case of pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding	3,6	0	8	21	71	96
	Access to services provided by employers (childcare facilities; transportation to and from work)	3,3	13	4	26	57	92
	A short commuting time per day (time spent on the journey home-work-home)	2,3	32	24	24	20	100
Economic Resources	To be an income earner with regular income	2,6	12	36	28	24	100
	Economic capacity and personal ability to get a bank loan	2,5	17	42	21	21	96
	Economic capacity and personal ability to reorganize her life in case of divorce, widowhood and break of labour relation	3,3	4	16	24	56	100
	Capacity for own-account production activities	2,6	12	40	24	24	100

Social Protection	Access to the public network of childminders and crèches near the residence or the work places	3,1	20	4	24	52	100
	Access to the public network of pre-school education establishments (kindergartens) near the residence or the work place	3,0	24	4	24	48	100
	Access to public network of leisure centres providing children and young's with several activities in their free time from school.	2,8	24	16	20	40	100
	Access to public services and infrastructures providing social family support in flexible schedules	2,7	24	8	44	24	100
	Access to public individualized personal care at home for individuals and families who cannot satisfy their basic needs and/or performs daily life activities on a temporary or permanent basis, due to illness, disability or other problems	2,8	20	16	32	32	100
	Access to public social services and infrastructures, such as day-care centre, foster care, residential care	2,6	32	12	24	32	100
	Protection against unemployment, during pregnancy, maternity, breastfeeding and adoption	3,0	17	25	4	54	96
	Effective access to minimum social protection (income benefits take-up)	2,1	40	24	20	16	100
Family and Private Life	An equal distribution of domestic responsibilities and tasks between both partners	3,6	0	4	36	60	100
	An equal distribution of family responsibilities and caring activities between both partners (childcare and eldercare activities...)	3,6	0	4	28	68	100
	A balanced bargaining and decision power between both partners concerning major economic issues (bank loans, mortgage, and purchase of a new car...)	2,8	12	24	32	32	100
	A balanced bargaining and decision power between both partners concerning daily life economic issues (routine expenses required to meet family needs)	2,7	16	24	36	24	100
	A balanced bargaining decision concerning the participation of each partner in paid work (whether it is a single or a dual-career family, or whether women's participation is on a full-time or a part-time basis)	2,8	8	32	36	24	100
	Equal participation in decision-making between partners concerning family issues (reproduction and contraception options, childcare, eldercare, parental leave...)	2,8	20	16	32	32	100
	Opportunities to benefit from a fair regime of parental regulation after divorce (situation which does not entail the economic burden of parenting alone)	3,0	13	17	33	38	96
	Opportunity to benefit from enough time to sleep and relax	3,1	8	12	40	40	100

Security	Access to protection against domestic or family violence	3,5	4	9	17	70	92
	Access to protection against sexual or moral harassment	3,5	4	9	22	65	92
	Access to protection against trafficking and sexual exploitation	3,4	4	13	17	65	92
	Friends' neighbours and family network for support in the resolution of personal and familiar problems	2,7	14	24	38	24	84
	Access to protection against hazardous work	2,2	42	17	21	21	96
Social Involvement	Participation in the political decision making groups	3,2	12	12	24	52	100
	Regular participation in leisure and cultural activities	2,3	32	24	28	16	100
	Participation in trade unions	2,2	38	25	21	17	96
	Participation in non-governmental organisations	1,8	54	21	13	13	96

Table 2. The relevance of poverty within different groups of women in the European Union, 2007

Groups of women	Average (1- 4)	Distribution (%)				Response Rate
		1 The group is not affected by poverty	2	3	4 The group is very much affected by poverty	
Women in lone-parent families with children	3,6	0	0	42	58	96
Immigrant women	3,1	9	9	43	39	92
Women in large families	2,8	8	21	50	21	96
Women with incomes significantly lower than those of their partners	2,5	4	50	42	4	96
Women with low levels of education	3,2	0	13	58	29	96
Women with precarious or part-time work	3,0	0	17	63	21	96
Unemployed women	3,4	0	13	38	50	96
Older unemployed women	3,6	0	0	38	63	96
Older women with irregular contributions to the social protection system	3,7	0	4	25	71	96
Older single women	3,5	0	8	33	58	96
Other group: Homeless women	4	Other group				Czech Republic
Other group: Women going through the process of separation	3	Other group				Malta
Other group: Roma women	4	Other group				Romania
Other group: Rural women	3	Other group				Romania
Other group: Women from minorities	-	Other group				Bulgaria
Other group: Women in ethnic group	4	Other group				Hungary
Other group: Women with disabilities	4	Other group				Ireland

Table 3.1 The relevance of poverty among women in national strategies in EU countries, either in policies to fight poverty or in gender policies (univariate relative frequencies), 2007

	No	Yes	Response Rate
Is the poverty issue considered in the strategy/debate on gender equality in your country?	12,0	88,0	100
Are gender issues considered in social policy measures which are focused on poverty in your country?	8,0	92,0	100
Across your country's NAP/incl, are there specific measures to tackle poverty among women?	16,0	84,0	100

Table 3.2 The relevance of poverty among women in national strategies in EU countries, either in policies to fight poverty or in gender policies (multivariate absolute frequencies), 2007

		Across your country's NAP/incl, are there specific measures to tackle poverty among women?	
		No	Yes
No	No	0	0
	Yes	2	1
Yes	No	0	2
	Yes	2	18

Table 4. The relative importance of the main functions to policies specifically oriented towards tackling poverty among women, European Union, 2007

Principal institutions and social actors	Principal functions	Average (1. Not important; 4. Very important)	Response rate
Central government	Policy formulation	3,8	96
	Research and development	3,2	96
	Policy analysis	3,5	96
	Monitoring and assessing	3,5	96
Private institutions	Policy formulation	2,2	84
	Research and development	2,0	84
	Policy analysis	2,2	84
	Monitoring and assessing	2,0	84
Academic bodies	Policy formulation	2,4	92
	Research and development	3,5	96
	Policy analysis	3,3	96
	Monitoring and assessing	2,8	92
Independent commissions experts'	Policy formulation	2,6	88
	Research and development	2,5	88
	Policy analysis	2,8	88
	Monitoring and assessing	2,7	92
Social partners	Policy formulation	2,7	92
	Research and development	2,1	92
	Policy analysis	2,6	92
	Monitoring and assessing	2,7	92
Non-Governmental Organisations	Policy formulation	2,9	84
	Research and development	2,3	92
	Policy analysis	2,9	96
	Monitoring and assessing	3,0	96
National social security organisations	Policy formulation	2,8	68
	Research and development	2,4	68
	Policy analysis	2,6	68
	Monitoring and assessing	2,9	68
Other	Policy formulation	4,0	8
	Research and development	2,0	8
	Policy analysis	3,0	8
	Monitoring and assessing	3,5	8

Table 5. At-risk-of-poverty rate by gender and various age groups (whole population), 2005

		Total		Males		Females	
EU25	European Union (25 countries)	15	s	14	s	16	s
EU15	European Union (15 countries)	15	s	14	s	17	s
NMS10	New Member States (CZ, EE, CY, LV, LT, HU, MT, PL, SI, SK)	16	s	16	s	16	s
EA12	Euro area (BE, DE, IE, GR, ES, FR, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI)	15	s	14	s	16	s
BE	Belgium	14		13		15	
BG	Bulgaria	:		:		:	
CZ	Czech Republic	9	b	8	b	10	b
DK	Denmark	12		12		13	
DE	Germany (including ex-GDR from 1991)	13	b	11	b	15	b
EE	Estonia	18		16		19	
IE	Ireland	19		18		20	
GR	Greece	20		18		21	
ES	Spain	19		17		20	
FR	France	13		12		13	
IT	Italy	18		16		20	
CY	Cyprus	17	b	15	b	19	b
LV	Latvia	19	b	18	b	20	b
LT	Lithuania	19	b	18	b	20	b
LU	Luxembourg (Grand-Duchy)	11		11		11	
HU	Hungary	12	b	12	b	12	b
MT	Malta	13	b	12	b	14	b
NL	Netherlands	10	b	9	b	10	b
AT	Austria	12		10		13	
PL	Poland	19	b	20	b	18	b
PT	Portugal	20	p	19	p	20	p
RO	Romania	17	i	17	i	17	i
SI	Slovenia	12	b	10	b	14	b
SK	Slovakia	12	b	12	b	13	b
FI	Finland	12		11		13	
SE	Sweden	10		9		10	
UK	United Kingdom	17	b	16	b	19	b
HR	Croatia	:		:		:	
TR	Turkey	:		:		:	
IS	Iceland	10		9		10	
NO	Norway	12		11		13	
CH	Switzerland	:		:		:	

Source: EUROSTAT. At risk of poverty rate (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers).

(b) – break in series; (i) – see explanatory text; (e) - EUROSTAT estimate; (p) –provisional value.

Table 5. At-risk-of-poverty-rate by gender and various age groups (whole population), 2005

		Total		Males		Females	
EU25	European Union (25 countries)	15	s	14	s	16	s
EU15	European Union (15 countries)	15	s	14	s	17	s
NMS10	New Member States (CZ, EE, CY, LV, LT, HU, MT, PL, SI, SK)	16	s	16	s	16	s
EA12	Euro area (BE, DE, IE, GR, ES, FR, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI)	15	s	14	s	16	s
BE	Belgium	14		13		15	
BG	Bulgaria	:		:		:	
CZ	Czech Republic	9	b	8	b	10	b
DK	Denmark	12		12		13	
DE	Germany (including ex-GDR from 1991)	13	b	11	b	15	b
EE	Estonia	18		16		19	
IE	Ireland	19		18		20	
GR	Greece	20		18		21	
ES	Spain	19		17		20	
FR	France	13		12		13	
IT	Italy	18		16		20	
CY	Cyprus	17	b	15	b	19	b
LV	Latvia	19	b	18	b	20	b
LT	Lithuania	19	b	18	b	20	b
LU	Luxembourg (Grand Duchy)	11		11		11	
HU	Hungary	12	b	12	b	12	b
MT	Malta	13	b	12	b	14	b
NL	Netherlands	10	b	9	b	10	b
AT	Austria	12		10		13	
PL	Poland	19	b	20	b	18	b
PT	Portugal	20	p	19	p	20	p
RO	Romania	17	i	17	i	17	i
SI	Slovenia	12	b	10	b	14	b
SK	Slovakia	12	b	12	b	13	b
FI	Finland	12		11		13	
SE	Sweden	10		9		10	
UK	United Kingdom	17	b	16	b	19	b
HR	Croatia	:		:		:	
TR	Turkey	:		:		:	
IS	Iceland	10		9		10	
NO	Norway	12		11		13	
CH	Switzerland	:		:		:	

Source: EUROSTAT. At-risk-of-poverty rate (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers).

(b) – break in series; (i) – see explanatory text; (e) – EUROSTAT estimate; (p) – provisional value.

Table 5 (cont.) At-risk-of-poverty rate by gender and various age groups (under 16 years), 2005

		Total		Males		Females	
EU25	European Union (25 countries)	19	s	19	s	19	s
EU15	European Union (15 countries)	18	s	18	s	18	s
NMS10	New Member States (CZ, EE, CY, LV, LT, HU, MT, PL, SI, SK)	24	s	24	s	25	s
EA12	Euro area (BE, DE, IE, GR, ES, FR, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI)	18	s	18	s	18	s
BE	Belgium	19		19		18	
BG	Bulgaria	:		:		:	
CZ	Czech Republic	18	b	17	b	19	b
DK	Denmark	10		10		10	
DE	Germany (including ex-GDR from 1991)	13	b	14	b	13	b
EE	Estonia	21		22		20	
IE	Ireland	22		22		21	
GR	Greece	19		19		19	
ES	Spain	24		24		24	
FR	France	14		14		15	
IT	Italy	24		23		25	
CY	Cyprus	12	b	13	b	12	b
LV	Latvia	21	b	22	b	19	b
LT	Lithuania	27	b	25	b	30	b
LU	Luxembourg (Grand Duchy)	20		19		21	
HU	Hungary	19	b	19	b	19	b
MT	Malta	22	b	22	b	22	b
NL	Netherlands	16	b	15	b	16	b
AT	Austria	15		16		14	
PL	Poland	29	b	29	b	29	b
PT	Portugal	24	p	22	p	25	p
RO	Romania	25	i	:		:	
SI	Slovenia	12	b	11	b	12	b
SK	Slovakia	18	b	19	b	18	b
FI	Finland	10		10		10	
SE	Sweden	8		8		9	
UK	United Kingdom	22	b	24	b	21	b
HR	Croatia	:		:		:	
TR	Turkey	:		:		:	
IS	Iceland	10		11		9	
NO	Norway	9		9		10	
CH	Switzerland	:		:		:	

Source: EUROSTAT. At-risk-of-poverty rate (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers). (b) – break in series; (i) – see explanatory text; (e) – EUROSTAT estimate; (p) – provisional value.

Table 5 (cont.) At-risk-of-poverty rate by gender and various age groups (16 years and over), 2005

		Total		Males		Females	
EU25	European Union (25 countries)	15	s	14	s	16	s
EU15	European Union (15 countries)	15	s	14	s	17	s
NMS10	New Member States (CZ, EE, CY, LV, LT, HU, MT, PL, SI, SK)	16	s	16	s	16	s
EA12	Euro area (BE, DE, IE, GR, ES, FR, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI)	15	s	14	s	16	s
BE	Belgium	14		13		15	
BG	Bulgaria	:		:		:	
CZ	Czech Republic	9	b	8	b	10	b
DK	Denmark	12		12		13	
DE	Germany (including ex-GDR from 1991)	13	b	11	b	15	b
EE	Estonia	18		16		19	
IE	Ireland	19		18		20	
GR	Greece	20		18		21	
ES	Spain	19		17		20	
FR	France	13		12		13	
IT	Italy	18		16		20	
CY	Cyprus	17	b	15	b	19	b
LV	Latvia	19	b	18	b	20	b
LT	Lithuania	19	b	18	b	20	b
LU	Luxembourg (Grand Duchy)	11		11		11	
HU	Hungary	12	b	12	b	12	b
MT	Malta	13	b	12	b	14	b
NL	Netherlands	10	b	9	b	10	b
AT	Austria	12		10		13	
PL	Poland	19	b	20	b	18	b
PT	Portugal	20	p	19	p	20	p
RO	Romania	17	i	17	i	17	i
SI	Slovenia	12	b	10	b	14	b
SK	Slovakia	12	b	12	b	13	b
FI	Finland	12		11		13	
SE	Sweden	10		9		10	
UK	United Kingdom	17	b	16	b	19	b
HR	Croatia	:		:		:	
TR	Turkey	:		:		:	
IS	Iceland	10		9		10	
NO	Norway	12		11		13	
CH	Switzerland	:		:		:	

Source: EUROSTAT. At-risk-of-poverty rate (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers). (b) – break in series; (i) – see explanatory text; (e) – EUROSTAT estimate; (p) – provisional value.

Table 5 (cont.) At-risk-of-poverty rate by gender and various age groups (between 16 and 24 years), 2005

		Total		Males		Females	
EU25	European Union (25 countries)	19	s	18	s	20	s
EU15	European Union (15 countries)	18	s	17	s	20	s
NMS10	New Member States (CZ, EE, CY, LV, LT, HU, MT, PL, SI, SK)	21	s	21	s	22	s
EA12	Euro area (BE, DE, IE, GR, ES, FR, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI)	18	s	16	s	20	s
BE	Belgium	17		17		18	
BG	Bulgaria	:		:		:	
CZ	Czech Republic	12	b	13	b	11	b
DK	Denmark	29		26		32	
DE	Germany (including ex-GDR from 1991)	14	b	13	b	16	b
EE	Estonia	18		19		18	
IE	Ireland	19		19		20	
GR	Greece	23		21		25	
ES	Spain	18		17		19	
FR	France	18		15		20	
IT	Italy	23		21		25	
CY	Cyprus	12	b	13	b	10	b
LV	Latvia	19	b	19	b	20	b
LT	Lithuania	23	b	21	b	24	b
LU	Luxembourg (Grand Duchy)	15		17		14	
HU	Hungary	17	b	17	b	16	b
MT	Malta	11	b	11	b	12	b
NL	Netherlands	16	b	15	b	17	b
AT	Austria	13		11		15	
PL	Poland	26	b	25	b	27	b
PT	Portugal	20	p	20	p	21	p
RO	Romania	22	i	24	i	21	i
SI	Slovenia	10	b	10	b	11	b
SK	Slovakia	17	b	17	b	17	b
FI	Finland	22		20		23	
SE	Sweden	23		21		25	
UK	United Kingdom	19	b	19	b	19	b
HR	Croatia	:		:		:	
TR	Turkey	:		:		:	
IS	Iceland	15		14		17	
NO	Norway	27		27		27	
CH	Switzerland	:		:		:	

Source: EUROSTAT. At-risk-of-poverty rate (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers). (b) – break in series; (i) – see explanatory text; (e) – EUROSTAT estimate; (p) – provisional value.

Table 5 (cont.) At-risk-of-poverty rate by gender and various age groups (between 25 and 49 years), 2005

		Total		Males		Females	
EU25	European Union (25 countries)	14	s	13	s	14	s
EU15	European Union (15 countries)	13	s	12	s	14	s
NMS10	New Member States (CZ, EE, CY, LV, LT, HU, MT, PL, SI, SK)	17	s	17	s	17	s
EA12	Euro area (BE, DE, IE, GR, ES, FR, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI)	13	s	12	s	14	s
BE	Belgium	11		11		12	
BG	Bulgaria	:		:		:	
CZ	Czech Republic	11	b	9	b	13	b
DK	Denmark	10		10		9	
DE	Germany (including ex-GDR from 1991)	12	b	10	b	13	b
EE	Estonia	16		16		17	
IE	Ireland	14		12		15	
GR	Greece	15		14		17	
ES	Spain	16		15		17	
FR	France	11		10		11	
IT	Italy	16		15		17	
CY	Cyprus	10	b	9	b	12	b
LV	Latvia	17	b	17	b	17	b
LT	Lithuania	19	b	19	b	19	b
LU	Luxembourg (Grand Duchy)	13		12		15	
HU	Hungary	14	b	15	b	14	b
MT	Malta	13	b	12	b	14	b
NL	Netherlands	10	b	10	b	10	b
AT	Austria	11		11		11	
PL	Poland	21	b	22	b	21	b
PT	Portugal	17	p	17	p	16	p
RO	Romania	16	i	17	i	16	i
SI	Slovenia	9	b	10	b	9	b
SK	Slovakia	14	b	13	b	15	b
FI	Finland	8		9		8	
SE	Sweden	8		8		7	
UK	United Kingdom	13	b	12	b	14	b
HR	Croatia	:		:		:	
TR	Turkey	:		:		:	
IS	Iceland	9		9		9	
NO	Norway	8		9		7	
CH	Switzerland	:		:		:	

Source: EUROSTAT. At-risk-of-poverty rate (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers). (b) – break in series; (i) – see explanatory text; (e) – EUROSTAT estimate; (p) – provisional value.

Table 5 (cont.) At-risk-of-poverty rate by gender and various age groups (between 16 and 64 years), 2005

		Total		Males		Females	
EU25	European Union (25 countries)	14	s	14	s	15	s
EU15	European Union (15 countries)	14	s	13	s	15	s
NMS10	New Member States (CZ, EE, CY, LV, LT, HU, MT, PL, SI, SK)	17	s	18	s	17	s
EA12	Euro area (BE, DE, IE, GR, ES, FR, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI)	14	s	13	s	15	s
BE	Belgium	12		11		13	
BG	Bulgaria	:		:		:	
CZ	Czech Republic	10	b	9	b	10	b
DK	Denmark	11		11		11	
DE	Germany (including ex-GDR from 1991)	12	b	11	b	14	b
EE	Estonia	17		17		17	
IE	Ireland	17		16		17	
GR	Greece	17		16		18	
ES	Spain	16		16		17	
FR	France	12		11		12	
IT	Italy	17		15		18	
CY	Cyprus	11	b	10	b	13	b
LV	Latvia	18	b	18	b	18	b
LT	Lithuania	19	b	20	b	19	b
LU	Luxembourg (Grand Duchy)	12		12		13	
HU	Hungary	13	b	14	b	13	b
MT	Malta	12	b	11	b	13	b
NL	Netherlands	10	b	10	b	10	b
AT	Austria	11		11		12	
PL	Poland	21	b	22	b	20	b
PT	Portugal	18	p	17	p	18	p
RO	Romania	17	i	17	i	16	i
SI	Slovenia	10	b	10	b	11	b
SK	Slovakia	13	b	13	b	13	b
FI	Finland	11		11		10	
SE	Sweden	9		9		9	
UK	United Kingdom	15	b	14	b	16	b
HR	Croatia	:		:		:	
TR	Turkey	:		:		:	
IS	Iceland	10		10		9	
NO	Norway	11		11		10	
CH	Switzerland	:		:		:	

Source: EUROSTAT. At-risk-of-poverty rate (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers). (b) – break in series; (i) – see explanatory text; (e) - EUROSTAT estimate; (p) –provisional value.

Table 5 (cont.) At-risk-of-poverty rate by gender and various age groups (between 50 and 64 years), 2005

		Total		Males		Females	
EU25	European Union (25 countries)	13	s	13	s	13	s
EU15	European Union (15 countries)	13	s	13	s	14	s
NMS10	New Member States (CZ, EE, CY, LV, LT, HU, MT, PL, SI, SK)	13	s	15	s	12	s
EA12	Euro area (BE, DE, IE, GR, ES, FR, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI)	13	s	12	s	14	s
BE	Belgium	11		10		12	
BG	Bulgaria	:		:		:	
CZ	Czech Republic	6	b	6	b	6	b
DK	Denmark	5		5		4	
DE	Germany (including ex-GDR from 1991)	13	b	12	b	14	b
EE	Estonia	18		20		16	
IE	Ireland	20		20		19	
GR	Greece	18		18		19	
ES	Spain	17		16		17	
FR	France	10		10		10	
IT	Italy	15		13		16	
CY	Cyprus	14	b	11	b	18	b
LV	Latvia	20	b	22	b	19	b
LT	Lithuania	18	b	21	b	15	b
LU	Luxembourg (Grand Duchy)	8		8		8	
HU	Hungary	10	b	11	b	10	b
MT	Malta	13	b	12	b	14	b
NL	Netherlands	8	b	8	b	8	b
AT	Austria	10		10		10	
PL	Poland	16	b	19	b	14	b
PT	Portugal	18	p	16	p	19	p
RO	Romania	13	i	13	i	13	i
SI	Slovenia	13	b	12	b	13	b
SK	Slovakia	8	b	8	b	8	b
FI	Finland	9		9		8	
SE	Sweden	5		5		4	
UK	United Kingdom	16	b	16	b	16	b
HR	Croatia	:		:		:	
TR	Turkey	:		:		:	
IS	Iceland	6		7		5	
NO	Norway	6		5		6	
CH	Switzerland	:		:		:	

Source: EUROSTAT. At-risk-of-poverty rate (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers). (b) – break in series; (i) – see explanatory text; (e) – EUROSTAT estimate; (p) – provisional value.

Table 5 (cont.) At-risk-of-poverty rate by gender and various age groups (65 years and over), 2005

		Total		Males		Females	
EU25	European Union (25 countries)	19	s	16	s	21	s
EU15	European Union (15 countries)	20	s	18	s	23	s
NMS10	New Member States (CZ, EE, CY, LV, LT, HU, MT, PL, SI, SK)	9	s	5	s	11	s
EA12	Euro area (BE, DE, IE, GR, ES, FR, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI)	20	s	17	s	22	s
BE	Belgium	21		19		22	
BG	Bulgaria	:		:		:	
CZ	Czech Republic	5	b	2	b	7	b
DK	Denmark	18		17		18	
DE	Germany (including ex-GDR from 1991)	15	b	12	b	18	b
EE	Estonia	20		10		26	
IE	Ireland	33		30		36	
GR	Greece	28		25		30	
ES	Spain	29		26		32	
FR	France	16		15		18	
IT	Italy	23		19		26	
CY	Cyprus	51	b	47	b	53	b
LV	Latvia	21	b	12	b	26	b
LT	Lithuania	17	b	6	b	22	b
LU	Luxembourg (Grand Duchy)	7		9		5	
HU	Hungary	6	b	4	b	8	b
MT	Malta	16	b	16	b	17	b
NL	Netherlands	5	b	5	b	6	b
AT	Austria	14		10		17	
PL	Poland	7	b	5	b	9	b
PT	Portugal	28	p	28	p	28	p
RO	Romania	17	i	12	i	21	i
SI	Slovenia	20	b	11	b	26	b
SK	Slovakia	7	b	3	b	10	b
FI	Finland	18		11		23	
SE	Sweden	11		6		14	
UK	United Kingdom	26	b	24	b	29	b
HR	Croatia	:		:		:	
TR	Turkey	:		:		:	
IS	Iceland	9		9		10	
NO	Norway	19		8		27	
CH	Switzerland	:		:		:	

Source: EUROSTAT. At-risk-of-poverty rate (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers). (b) – break in series; (i) – see explanatory text; (e) – EUROSTAT estimate; (p) – provisional value.

Table 6. At-risk-of-poverty rate by household type, 2005

		Total		Single person		One younger adult than 64 years		One older adult than 65 years		Single parent with dependent children		Single female		Single male	
EU25	European Union (25)	16	s	24	s	23	s	27	s	32	s	26	s	22	s
EU15	European Union (15)	16	s	25	s	22	s	29	s	32	s	27	s	22	s
NMS10	New Member States	17	s	20	s	26	s	14	s	37	s	17	s	25	s
EA12	Euro area	16	s	25	s	22	s	28	s	31	s	27	s	22	s
BE	Belgium	15		21		18		27		36		23		19	
BG	Bulgaria	:		:		:		:		:		:		:	
CZ	Czech Republic	10	b	16	b	19	b	14	b	41	b	16	b	16	b
DK	Denmark	12		26		28		21		21		25		26	
DE	Germany	13	b	27	b	29	b	25	b	30	b	28	b	26	b
EE	Estonia	18		36		32		41		40		37		35	
IE	Ireland	20		48		34		62		45		53		44	
GR	Greece	20		28		19		35		44		32		19	
ES	Spain	20		34		19		47		37		43		21	
FR	France	13		20		18		21		26		20		19	
IT	Italy	19		28		21		35		35		34		19	
CY	Cyprus	16	b	48	b	27	b	70	b	35	b	59	b	29	b
LV	Latvia	19	b	41	b	37	b	45	b	31	b	40	b	42	b
LT	Lithuania	21	b	32	b	30	b	33	b	48	b	30	b	35	b
LU	Luxembourg (Grand Duchy)	13		14		17		7		32		13		15	
HU	Hungary	13	b	19	b	26	b	10	b	27	b	15	b	24	b
MT	Malta	15	b	21	b	23	b	20	b	49	b	24	b	15	b
NL	Netherlands	11	b	14	b	17	b	7	b	26	b	12	b	17	b
AT	Austria	12		19		17		23		27		23		14	
PL	Poland	21	b	16	b	26	b	7	b	40	b	12	b	25	b
PT	Portugal	20	p	38	p	32	p	42	p	34	p	39	p	37	p
RO	Romania	18	i	26	i	20	i	30	i	27	i	29	i	20	i
SI	Slovenia	12	b	44	b	43	b	45	b	22	b	49	b	35	b
SK	Slovakia	13	b	16	b	23	b	12	b	32	b	16	b	18	b
FI	Finland	12		30		26		36		20		32		27	
SE	Sweden	9		19		20		19		18		20		19	
UK	United Kingdom	18	b	26	b	22	b	32	b	37	b	29	b	24	b
HR	Croatia	:		:		:		:		:		:		:	
TR	Turkey	:		:		:		:		:		:		:	
IS	Iceland	10		23		23		22		14		21		25	
NO	Norway	11		30		28		36		19		35		26	
CH	Switzerland	16	s	24	s	23	s	27	s	32	s	26	s	22	s

Source: EUROSTAT. At-risk-of-poverty rate (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers). (b) – break in series; (i) – see explanatory text; (e) – EUROSTAT estimate; (p) – provisional value. New Member States (CZ, EE, CY, LV, LT, HU, MT, PL, SI, SK); Euro area (BE, DE, IE, GR, ES, FR, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI).

Table 6 (cont.) At-risk-of-poverty rate by household type, 2005

		Two adults younger than 65 years		Two adults, at least one aged 65 years and over		Two adults, at least one aged 65 years and over		Two adults with one dependent child		Two adults with two dependent children		Two adults with three or more dependent children		Three or more adults	
EU25	European Union (25)	10	s	16	s	12	s	14	s	24	s	9	s	10	s
EU15	European Union (15)	10	s	17	s	11	s	13	s	22	s	9	s	10	s
NMS10	New Member States	12	s	6	s	15	s	18	s	37	s	10	s	12	s
EA12	Euro area	10	s	16	s	12	s	14	s	22	s	9	s	10	s
BE	Belgium	8		16		9		10		21		5		8	
BG	Bulgaria	:		:		:		:		:		:		:	
CZ	Czech Republic	7	b	2	b	9	b	11	b	25	b	3	b	7	b
DK	Denmark	5		13		4		5		14		1		5	
DE	Germany	11	b	12	b	10	b	7	b	13	b	3	b	11	b
EE	Estonia	15		11		13		12		25		8		15	
IE	Ireland	14		20		12		13		26		9		14	
GR	Greece	15		27		14		18		33		13		15	
ES	Spain	11		29		14		23		36		13		11	
FR	France	8		13		8		9		20		10		8	
IT	Italy	10		20		15		22		35		9		10	
CY	Cyprus	14	b	47	b	9	b	9	b	14	b	11	b	14	b
LV	Latvia	19	b	11	b	14	b	18	b	39	b	13	b	19	b
LT	Lithuania	17	b	9	b	15	b	18	b	44	b	9	b	17	b
LU	Luxembourg (Grand Duchy)	6		7		13		17		20		3		6	
HU	Hungary	9	b	4	b	15	b	15	b	26	b	6	b	9	b
MT	Malta	13	b	18	b	12	b	16	b	34	b	4	b	13	b
NL	Netherlands	7	b	4	b	9	b	10	b	20	b	4	b	7	b
AT	Austria	9		11		9		11		20		6		9	
PL	Poland	14	b	6	b	17	b	23	b	45	b	14	b	14	b
PT	Portugal	16	p	28	p	17	p	25	p	39	p	9	p	16	p
RO	Romania	10	i	12	i	11	i	16	i	44	i	12	i	10	i
SI	Slovenia	12	b	12	b	9	b	10	b	17	b	6	b	12	b
SK	Slovakia	10	b	4	b	13	b	17	b	24	b	5	b	10	b
FI	Finland	6		8		7		5		12		3		6	
SE	Sweden	5		4		4		4		9		4		5	
UK	United Kingdom	11	b	23	b	9	b	12	b	27	b	9	b	11	b
HR	Croatia	:		:		:		:		:		:		:	
TR	Turkey	:		:		:		:		:		:		:	
IS	Iceland	10		3		8		8		10		3		10	
NO	Norway	6		6		4		5		10		4		6	
CH	Switzerland	10	s	16	s	12	s	14	s	24	s	9	s	10	s

Source: EUROSTAT. At-risk-of-poverty rate (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers). (b) – break in series; (i) – see explanatory text; (e) – EUROSTAT estimate; (p) – provisional value. New Member States (CZ, EE, CY, LV, LT, HU, MT, PL, SI, SK); Euro area (BE, DE, IE, GR, ES, FR, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI).

Table 6 (cont.) At-risk-of-poverty rate by household type, 2005

		Three or more adults with dependent children		Households without dependent children		Households with dependent children	
EU25	European Union (25 countries)	16	s	15	s	17	s
EU15	European Union (15 countries)	15	s	15	s	16	s
NMS10	New Member States	18	s	12	s	21	s
EA12	Euro area	16	s	15	s	16	s
BE	Belgium	17		13		16	
BG	Bulgaria	19		:		:	
CZ	Czech Republic	9	b	7	b	14	b
DK	Denmark	5		15		9	
DE	Germany	7	b	14	b	12	b
EE	Estonia	13		19		18	
IE	Ireland	11		20		19	
GR	Greece	28		19		21	
ES	Spain	18		18		21	
FR	France	15		13		13	
IT	Italy	21		16		22	
CY	Cyprus	8	b	27	b	11	b
LV	Latvia	13	b	20	b	19	b
LT	Lithuania	14	b	18	b	23	b
LU	Luxembourg (Grand Duchy)	14		8		17	
HU	Hungary	11	b	10	b	17	b
MT	Malta	10	b	11	b	18	b
NL	Netherlands	6	b	8	b	13	b
AT	Austria	9		12		13	
PL	Poland	23	b	13	b	25	b
PT	Portugal	15	p	19	p	21	p
RO	Romania	23	i	14	i	21	i
SI	Slovenia	6	b	16	b	10	b
SK	Slovakia	13	b	8	b	17	b
FI	Finland	8		14		9	
SE	Sweden	12		11		8	
UK	United Kingdom	13	b	18	b	19	b
HR	Croatia	:		:		:	
TR	Turkey	:		:		:	
IS	Iceland	5		11		9	
NO	Norway	4		16		8	
CH	Switzerland	16	s	15	s	17	s

Source: EUROSTAT. At-risk-of-poverty rate (cut-off point: 60% of median equivalised income after social transfers). (b) – break in series; (i) – see explanatory text; (e) – EUROSTAT estimate; (p) – provisional value. New Member States (CZ, EE, CY, LV, LT, HU, MT, PL, SI, SK); Euro area (BE, DE, IE, GR, ES, FR, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI).

Table 7. Inactive population as a percentage of the total population. Distributions for 15 years and over age group, by sex (%), 2006

		Males	Females
EU27	European Union (27 countries)	22,4	37,1
BE	Belgium	26,6	40,5
BG	Bulgaria	31,2	39,8
CZ	Czech Republic	21,7	37,7
DK	Denmark	15,9	23
DE	Germany (including ex-GDR from 1991)	18,5	p 30,5
EE	Estonia	24,2	30,7
IE	Ireland	18,5	38,1
GR	Greece	20,9	45
ES	Spain	18,6	40
FR	France	25,2	p 35,9
IT	Italy	25,4	49,2
CY	Cyprus	17,3	36,2
LV	Latvia	23,8	33,3
LT	Lithuania	29,5	35,4
LU	Luxembourg (Grand-Duchy)	24,7	41,8
HU	Hungary	31,3	44,5
MT	Malta	20,3	61,7
NL	Netherlands	16,1	29,7
AT	Austria	19,5	33
PL	Poland	29,9	43,2
PT	Portugal	20,5	31,6
RO	Romania	29,3	43,4
SI	Slovenia	25,1	33,3
SK	Slovakia	23,6	39,1
FI	Finland	22,9	26,7
SE	Sweden	18,8	23,7
UK	United Kingdom	17,9	30,8

Source: EUROSTAT. (p) –provisional value. New Member States (CZ, EE, CY, LV, LT, HU, MT, PL, SI, SK); Euro area (BE, DE, IE, GR, ES, FR, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI).

Table 8. Inactive population - Main reason for not seeking employment - Distributions for 15 years and over age group, by sex (%), 2006

		Males				Females			
		Other family or personal responsibilities	or	Looking after children or incapacitated adults	or	Other family or personal responsibilities	or	Looking after children or incapacitated adults	or
EU27	European Union (27 countries)	0,9	u	0,3	u	12,2	u	9,7	u
BE	Belgium	1,5	:	:	i	16,6	:	3,4	:
BG	Bulgaria	3	:	0,7	u	5,5	:	8,4	:
CZ	Czech Republic	:	i	0,3	u	0,7	:	16,7	:
DK	Denmark	1,4	u	:	i	3,7	:	2,5	:
DE	Germany (including ex-GDR from 1991)	0,3	p	:	i	11,1	p	7,4	p
EE	Estonia	:	i	:	i	:	i	13,5	:
IE	Ireland	3,2	p	:	u	31,8	p	:	pu
GR	Greece	0,7	:	:	i	25,7	:	4,2	:
ES	Spain	1,8	:	0,6	:	31,4	:	11,3	:
FR	France	:	u	0,2	u	:	u	4,6	p
IT	Italy	0,7	:	0,3	:	7,7	:	14,2	:
CY	Cyprus	3,6	:	:	i	34,1	:	10,9	:
LV	Latvia	4,5	:	:	i	6,8	:	9,1	:
LT	Lithuania	:	i	:	i	6,6	:	5,6	:
LU	Luxembourg (Grand-Duchy)	0,9	u	:	i	47,9	:	9,3	:
HU	Hungary	0,3	u	0,9	:	2,5	:	12	:
MT	Malta	:	i	:	i	47,5	:	9,5	:
NL	Netherlands	0,5	u	0,5	u	7,4	:	13,5	:
AT	Austria	0,7	u	:	i	16,6	:	11,3	:
PL	Poland	2	:	0,4	u	9,2	:	8,5	:
PT	Portugal	1,7	:	:	i	17,5	:	5	:
RO	Romania	0,3	u	:	i	13,8	:	3,5	:
SI	Slovenia	3,7	u	:	i	8,7	:	2	u
SK	Slovakia	:	i	:	i	1,6	:	15,5	:
FI	Finland	1,1	:	:	u	13,8	:	:	u
SE	Sweden	:	i	:	i	0,6	:	4,2	:
UK	United Kingdom	:	u	:	u	:	u	:	u

Source: EUROSTAT. (p) -Provisional value; (u) - Unreliable or uncertain data; (i) - see explanatory text; New Member States (CZ, EE, CY, LV, LT, HU, MT, PL, SI, SK); Euro area (BE, DE, IE, GR, ES, FR, IT, LU, NL, AT, PT, FI)