

# 2018 Net-SILC3 International Conference

## Comparative EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions

### Session 5: Material and social deprivation, Multidimensional poverty (**abstracts of all session papers**)

**Chair:** Jean-Louis Mercy (European Commission, Eurostat)

**Discussant:** Brian Nolan (University of Oxford, UK)

- Anne-Catherine Guio and Eric Marlier (LISER, Luxembourg), Frank Vandenbroucke (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands) and Pim Verbunt (KULeuven University, Belgium): *Micro- and macro-drivers of child material deprivation in 31 European countries*
- Anne-Catherine Guio (LISER, Luxembourg) and Karel Van den Bosch (University of Antwerp and Federal Planning Bureau, Belgium): *Deprivation among couples: sharing or unequal division?*
- Sabina Alkire (University of Oxford, UK), Mauricio Apablaza (Universidad del Desarrollo, Chile & University of Oxford, UK) and Anne-Catherine Guio (LISER, Luxembourg): *A multidimensional poverty index for the EU?*

- Anne-Catherine Guio and Eric Marlier (LISER, Luxembourg), Frank Vandenbroucke (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands) and Pim Verbunt (KULeuven University, Belgium): *Micro- and macro-drivers of child material deprivation in 31 European countries*

This paper analyses the determinants of child deprivation in 31 European countries, using the scale defined by Guio et al (2017) and officially adopted in March 2018 to measure child-specific deprivation at EU level. It combines single level and multilevel models and shows that both types of models are needed to get a full picture of child deprivation determinants. With regard to within-country differences, our results confirm in all countries analysed the combined impact of variables related to the “longer-term command on resources” and variables signalling household needs. However, our results also clearly show that the impact of these variables differs between countries. In the richest countries, the relative impact of the variables related to household needs is the largest, whereas in the most deprived countries, the impact of resources is generally greater. With regard to between-country differences, the analysis shows that the explanatory power of most institutional variables (social spending and pro-poorness) is limited, except for the in-kind social benefit level, which is the only variable not taken into account at the micro-level. In fact, it is (only) when household income is omitted that other social spending concepts have a statistically significant negative relationship with child deprivation intensity. This questions the conclusions of papers which have analysed the impact of social transfers on differences in deprivation in the EU, using multilevel models but without controlling for individual household income.

- Anne-Catherine Guio (LISER, Luxembourg) and Karel Van den Bosch (University of Antwerp and Federal Planning Bureau, Belgium): *Deprivation among couples: sharing or unequal division?*

In the standard poverty analysis, all household members are assumed to share equal living conditions. The few studies to date about differences in deprivation between partners in a couple find that such differences are not very common, but that when they do occur, they are somewhat more often to the disadvantage of women than of men. There is, however, no study comparing differences in deprivation between partners within the EU. This paper is the first to present empirical evidence on this issue for a range of EU countries, using the 2015 wave of the EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC), which contains a number of items on deprivation at the individual level. We map the extent of intra-couple inequality in deprivation, and analyse its determinants. We find that, for all items except access to internet, the gender difference in enforced lack between partners, though generally small, is significant and at the disadvantage of women. When aggregating the individual items into a deprivation scale, we find couples where the number of enforced lacks is higher for the woman (9.2%) are more numerous than couples where the man is disadvantaged (6.5%). The work status of the partners and their relative contribution to the joint income are important determinants of the intra-couple gender deprivation gap. We pay special attention to the possible effect of proxy interviews, which are quite numerous in some countries.

- Sabina Alkire (University of Oxford, UK), Mauricio Apablaza (Universidad del Desarrollo, Chile & University of Oxford, UK) and Anne-Catherine Guio (LISER, Luxembourg): *A multidimensional poverty index for the EU?*

Building on Alkire et al (2016), this paper seeks to construct different EU multidimensional poverty indices (MPIs) and to validate and analyse a potential multidimensional poverty measure for EU for policy purposes. In previous approaches, the candidate EU MPI was based on the three Europe 2020 indicators, as well as on indicators of health, education and the living environment. This paper extends this approach, by going further in the validity analysis of the indicators that could be used to construct multidimensional poverty indices in the EU, using a set of potential indicators including the new material and social deprivation indicators and the detailed information collected in the 2013 thematic EU-SILC module on subjective well-being and social capital. In particular, we self-critically consider how and whether subjective questions might add value. This paper illustrates how the dimensional composition of the MPI impacts on the national rankings and on the poverty risk factors.