

Can New Member States Take the EU Social Inclusion Process Seriously?

- Discrepancy between Copenhagen criteria of accession (1993, mainly economic and political goals) and the Lisbon Strategy (binding for New Member States (NMSs) since 2002, social goals finally rehabilitated)
- Potential and real inner limits to the effective design and implementation of the Lisbon Strategy in the NMSs
- Household poverty at country level and EU level
- Limits to the effective design and implementation of the Lisbon Strategy common to the EU as a whole

TAKING FORWARD THE EU SOCIAL INCLUSION PROCESS

Taking Forward the EU Social Inclusion Process

Discrepancy between Copenhagen criteria of accession (1993, mainly economic and political goals), and the Lisbon strategy (binding for NMSs since 2002, social goals finally rehabilitated)

Goals to fight poverty and social exclusion of EU Nice Declaration and the Lisbon Strategy, 2000	The development of social conditions of everyday life in candidate countries in the 90s.	Selected examples
To provide more and better employment	The sharp drop in overall employment	Hungary: 1989 total employment 5,264 mil. (50,5%); 1999 total employment 3,812 mil. (37,8%)
To ease access to resources, rights, goods and services for all	Access to some social, educational and health services made more dependent on the purchasing power of individuals (re-commodification)	Poland: The number of university students increased considerably: 1990 – 404 thousand; end of the 90s: 1584 thousand. Tuition fees came as a rescue to the school's finances in the situation of dwindling state subsidies. Two-layer health service in Poland and Slovakia: 78 % of Poles (1998) and 60 % of Slovaks (1999) made informal payments for health care.



Discrepancy between Copenhagen criteria of accession (1993, mainly economic and political goals), and the Lisbon strategy (binding for NMSs since 2002, social goals finally rehabilitated)

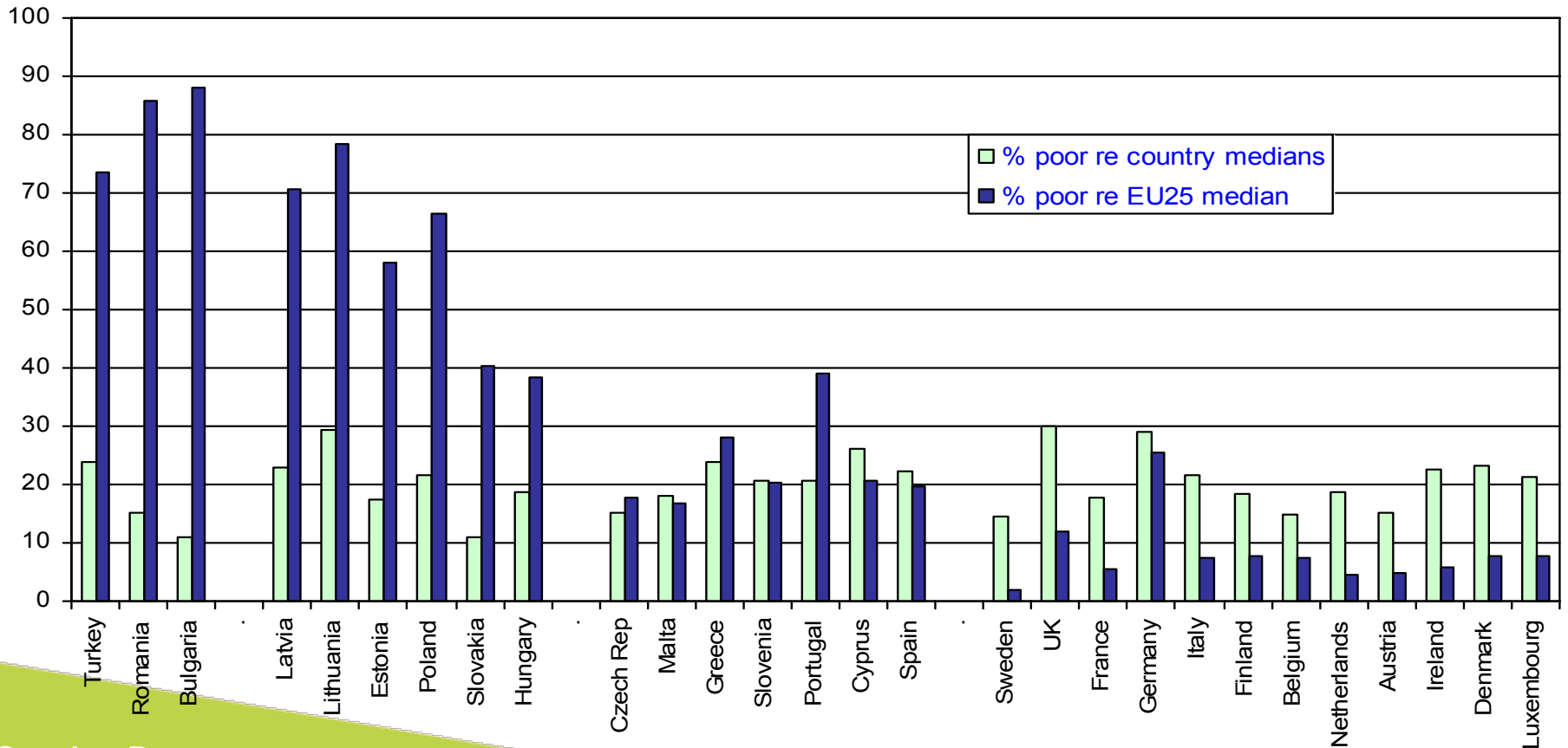
Goals to fight poverty and social exclusion of EU Nice Declaration and the Lisbon Strategy, 2000	The development of social conditions of everyday life in candidate countries in the 90s.	Selected examples
To prevent the danger of social exclusion	Growing numbers and shares of marginalized people	Slovakia: the living conditions of the Romany population deteriorated due to the 95 % rate of unemployment and spread of poverty.
To help the most vulnerable	Women and children were the losers of transformation	All countries: relative economic position of women and families with dependent relatives – mostly children – has worsened
To mobilise all responsible institutions	Political neglect to issues of social inclusion	Czech Republic's government (1992-1997): "...market is the best remedy to all illnesses of the communism"

Potential and real inner limits to the effective design and implementation of the Lisbon Strategy in the NMSs

- Lack of analytical evidence and research capacity
- Lack of political determination and motivation to implement it
- Insufficient public space for actors' dialogue
- Lack of strategic governance skills of civil servants and politicians

Household poverty (% at risk of poverty) at country level and EU level - below 60% of country medians and EU25 median

Source: EQLS data, Fahey, T. (2004)



Limits to the effective design and implementation of the Lisbon Strategy common to the EU as a whole

- The EU-wide perspective of the definition of social inclusion should be implemented
- Open method of coordination, along with present mechanisms of redistribution, are too weak to reverse the negative induce necessary change to the better

Sources:

Fahey, T.: Living Standards Graphs, Berlin, Social Science Center, October 2004. Powerpoint presentation at the seminar.

Potůček, M.: Accession and social policy: the Case of the Czech Republic. In: Journal of European Social Policy, Vol. 14, No. 3, August 2004, pp. 253-266.

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