

EFSC Workshop

National Action Plans for Social Inclusion: the Inclusion of Street Children

- **EFSC Assessment Reports of the NAPs 2008-2010:**
- **To what extent have street children ,,,,**
- **Mieke Schuurman**
- **Children's Rights Consultant**
- **12 November 2009**

What I will be sharing with you

- **Children's Rights Framework on Child Poverty**
- **EU competence and definition of child poverty**
- **Analysis of NAPs 2008-2010 for street children**
- **Recommendations for the Next Round of NAPs/inclusion**

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) Framework

- Articles 2,3,6,12: General Principles of the UN CRC :

Non-discrimination; Best Interests of the child; right to **Life and Development**; right to **Participation**

- Art. 27: right of children to **adequate standard of living**

- Art. 26: right of children to benefit from **social security**

- Art. 24: right of children to enjoy the highest level of health possible and access to **health services**

- Art. 28/29: right of the child to **education**

- Art. 23: Rights of **handicapped children**

- Art. 31: Right of the child to **play**



EU's competence and Political commitment to combat child poverty

- **EC Legal base to work on child poverty:**
Articles 13 (non-discrimination), 136 and 137 EC (combating social exclusion) ; Charter of Fundamental Rights Art. 24
- **EU Political commitment** to focus on target groups such as children and giving all of them equal opportunities:
European Councils of 2005, 2006, 2007.
- European Council in spring 2009:
*“Member States would aim in particular at pursuing poverty reduction and social cohesion, through reinforced comprehensive strategies to **combat and prevent poverty and social exclusion of children**, including strengthened provision of accessible and affordable quality child care”*

EU definition of child poverty rates

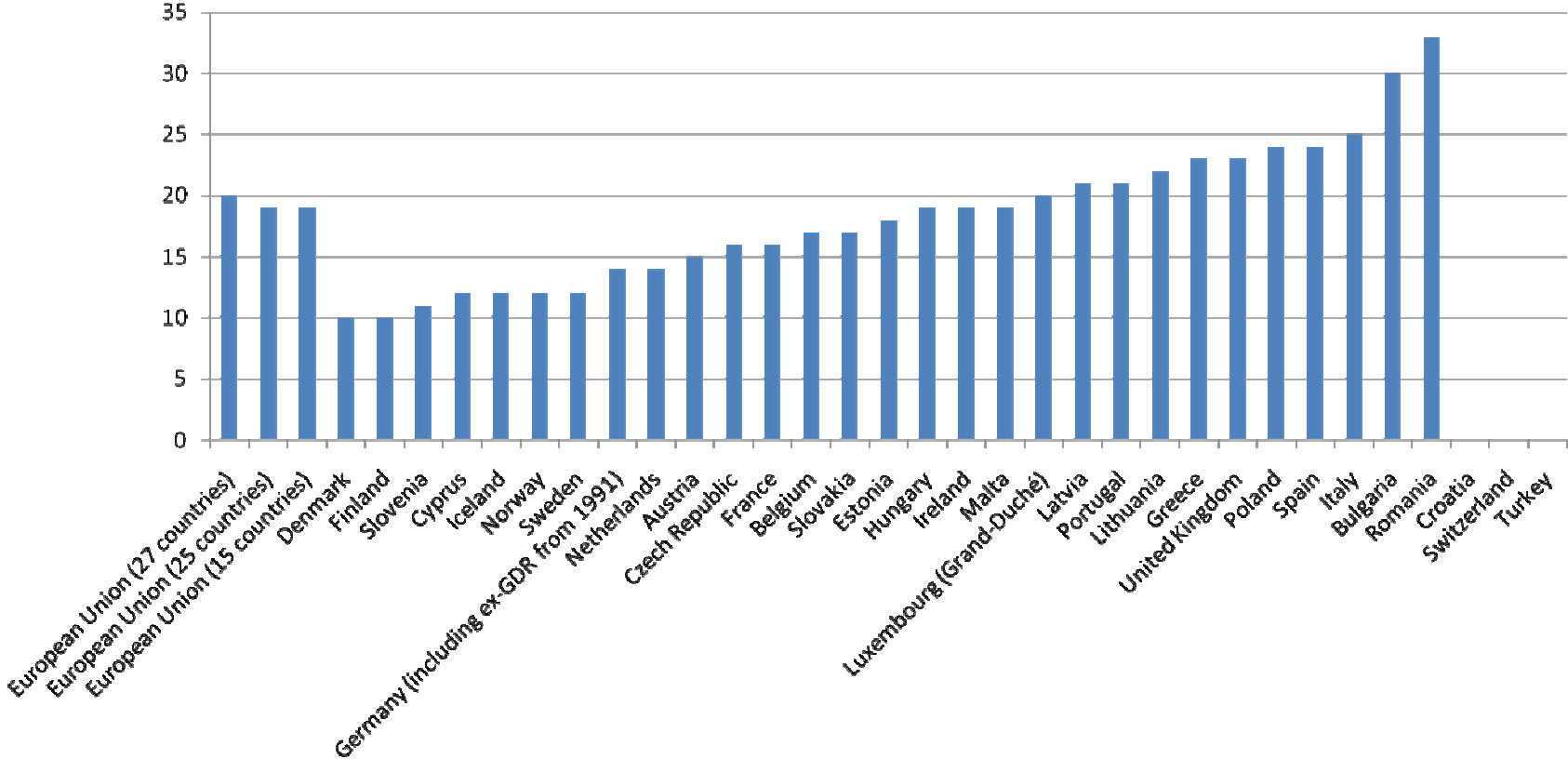
Relative definition of poverty:

- *“the share of persons with a disposable income below 60% of the national median”*

Child poverty is measured by using **Indicators** including specific age breakdowns for children

Child Poverty – some figures

% children living at risk of poverty - 2007 figures - Eurostat



Analysis of NAPs 2008-2010

Only a few specific references to actions targeting street children:

- ✓ **Romanian “*Homeless children initiative*” project**
- ✓ **Finnish working group to deal with beggars on the street, including small children**

Relevant Sections in NAPs/inclusion for Street Children

- **Homelessness**
- **Education – School drop-outs**
- **Access to health care**
- **Combating of violence, abuse and exploitation of children**
- **Roma groups experiencing social exclusion**
- **Migrants and refugees**

General measures to combat child poverty

Preventive measures:

- Social benefits
- Family policies
- Employment measures

NAPs 2008-2010 referring to actions with an impact on street children

- **Finland:** Helping beggars, including children, on the street and homeless families.
- **Romania:** 'Homeless Children Initiative' and other programmes aimed at disadvantaged groups including domestic violence victims, Roma; prevention of separation of children from his/her family.
- **Austria:** Providing shelters for children (for children living in families in crisis); homelessness; improving anti-violence measures, supporting refugees, education measures.
- **Cyprus:** Providing shelters for victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation and promote the active integration of unaccompanied (foreign) minors

NAPs 2008-2010 referring to actions with an impact on street children

- **Estonia:** Housing for children without parental care, the homeless; free education
- **Slovenia:** Shelters for the homeless increased; crisis centre for children; subsidised school meals, scholarships
- **Sweden:** Education; homelessness with high number of children included in evicted households; violence against children; support children in socially vulnerable situations.
- **UK:** Reduce 'rough sleeping' and homelessness; Education, target to eradicate child poverty in 2020

NAPs with indirect measures affecting street children

- **Majority of NAPs have measures with an indirect impact on street children:**

Examples:

- Bulgaria: protective measure for child victims of violence and abuse
- Hungary: improvement of child protection services
- Ireland: combat child poverty as top priority
- Luxembourg: facilitate housing for vulnerable groups

Recommendations for Next Round of NAPS 2010-2011

- Inclusion of more references to street children in specific sections: **homelessness, access to education, health, violence, Roma, migrants and refugees.**
- Need for more **data – indicators**
- Take **economic crisis** into account
- **2010 EU Year for combating poverty and social exclusion**



2010 European Year for combating poverty and social exclusion

- Providing Opportunities to combating Child Poverty and Social Exclusion of Street Children
- Commission aims for a political declaration and a renewed commitment of the EU Member States to combat child poverty (by end of 2010)



Thank you for your attention

