

## **On Comparative Measurement of Poverty in EU Countries**

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In this presentation we provide a broad review of issues and approaches to the measurement of poverty in EU countries from a comparative prospective. The main data source for the purpose is EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). Starting with a recapitulation of the main features of this source, we consider five broad areas in turn: definition of income and the construction of poverty measures for households and persons; multi-dimensional aspects of deprivation and measures based on their union and intersection; issues in data quality and comparability, and assessment of sampling and non-sampling errors in EU-SILC surveys; analysis beyond the national level, including the use of EU-level and sub-national (regional) poverty lines, small area estimation and data cumulation over time; and the potential usefulness of the ‘fuzzy’ approach in constructing multi-dimensional and longitudinal measures of deprivation. We conclude by seeking directions for improvement in comparative assessment of poverty and deprivation among European populations.

The presentation is based on the joint work of Vijay Verma, Gianni Betti and Francesca Gagliardi of Siena University.