

Committee on the Family - Family Poverty – 11 Nov. 2017

UN Definition of poverty:

“Fundamentally, poverty is the inability of having choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity. It means lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in society. It means not having enough to feed and clothe a family, not having a school or clinic to go to, not having the land on which to grow one’s food or a job to earn one’s living, not having access to credit. It means insecurity, powerlessness and exclusion of individuals, households and communities. It means susceptibility to violence, and it often implies living in marginal or fragile environments, without access to clean water or sanitation.”

- 24% of the European Union population are at risk of poverty and face social exclusion. 1 out of 4 children is at danger.
- Cost of living, especially housing, explodes and it is impossible for poor people to find adequate housing.
- Also they cannot afford to give their children a proper education which means that these children are “on the street” and in danger to fall into criminal hands.
- Access to high-quality-infrastructure becomes a problem too.
- Migrants and minorities with ethnic background are often unemployed and therefore excluded from access to social-services and/or health care. Often they are accused to be just lazy to work which is very humiliating and discriminating.
- Children in single-parent families are at increased risk of poverty and suffer more from being excluded and isolated.
- Women are more at risk of monetary poverty and social exclusion.

For several reasons people try to hide their state of living. So called “Hidden Poverty” means that there is no possibility to receive accurate help.

“Listen to the voices of people living in poverty - lobby for those who have no lobby!”

Policies to fight poverty:

- Empowerment of people experiencing poverty
- Avoiding inequalities (gender equality)
- Adequate wages and balanced tax-system
- Innovative labor-market
- Establish concrete poverty-reduction and monitoring processes
- Strengthen focus on innovative projects
- Strengthen anti-discrimination measures
- GARANTEERING CHILDRENS’ RIGHTS “Poor children don’t grow on trees!”

What can be done to attract public attention?

- Conferences on Poverty and Wealth
- Media work: Awareness-raising and information (Public opinion is often very negative)
- Political lobbying and monitoring
- Networking : Global, European and national- wide with various stakeholders