

# The mobility into and out of poverty in 14 European Countries

**Eirini Andriopoulou**

Department of International and European Economic Studies,  
Athens University of Economics and Business, Athens

Address: Iakovaton 33, 111 44, Kato Patissia, Athens, Greece

Tel: 0030 210 2234850

Email: [peace@aub.gr](mailto:peace@aub.gr)

## **Abstract:**

This paper analyzes aspects of poverty dynamics in 14 European Countries for the period 1994-2000, using the European Community Household Panel. The first part of the paper presents entry and exit poverty rates, along with the conditional, to the duration of spell, exit probabilities and re-entry rates to poverty. In the second part, mobility matrices are used to examine in which income group the poor find themselves in the years following the end of poverty spell, allowing for poverty re-entries. The third part examines the first level causes for poverty entries and exits (income changes, demographic changes, etc), as well as the particular events associated with poverty spell beginnings/endings using the Bane & Ellwood (1986) framework of analysis. The results reveal some common mobility patterns among the EU Member-States with regard to entry, exit, and re-entry rates, and mobility among income groups. Yet, the results differ significantly across countries when the events associated with poverty exits and entries are examined in detail, reflecting the different importance of household income components, as well as the different effects that the demographic changes have to transitions into and out of poverty in each country. Income events and especially changes in head's labor earnings seem to be highly associated with poverty transitions in Mediterranean countries, while demographic events seem to be relatively more important in Finland, Denmark, the UK and Luxembourg.