

## **Poverty, Deprivation and Social Class in the EU**

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This paper uses data from the ECHP (1994-1998) to examine differences by social class in the risk of income poverty and deprivation, both cross-sectionally and longitudinally in 14 EU countries. Social classes are conceptualised as groups with distinctive employment relations who, as a consequence, experience distinctively different life chances. The measure of social class is an early version of the new European Socio-Economic Classification (ESeC) that is currently being developed for use in comparative European research. We build on a body of earlier work suggesting that deprivation (understood as enforced lack of commonly available goods and services), particularly when combined with measures of income, better captures variations in long-term command over resources than income alone. The hypotheses are that class differences will become more pronounced as we move from income poverty to deprivation and from point-in-time poverty /deprivation to persistent poverty/deprivation.

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