

GAPS, TRAPS AND SPRINGBOARDS IN EUROPEAN MINIMUM INCOME SYSTEMS

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The ambition of this research (sponsored by the European Commission - DG Empl) was twofold: in the first place, we wanted to develop indicators for one particular dimension of social inclusion, namely, income security. Secondly, regarding the proper subject of income protection, we have explored the effectiveness of guaranteed minimum income systems in the EU, focusing on actual coverage, patterns of mobility and causes of insufficient protection, exclusion and inclusion. The project covers 13 EU Member States and makes use of the first five waves of the ECHP panel.

First, we estimate empirically the extent of the coverage gap of national minimum income systems; next, we test two models (one on the macro-, and one on the micro-level) explaining the risk of under-protection; finally, we measure and analyse mobility between five states of social protection ('insufficient protection' / minimum income / other social security / work / other income).

Keywords: social protection, social inclusion, life course, social mobility, stratification, guaranteed minimum income, poverty