

POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION CONTEXT IN EUROPE

According to Eurostat and using the 60% of the median income threshold, almost 24% of the population of the 28 Member States of the European Union was at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2015, with more than 17% in the same situation even taking into account social transfers.

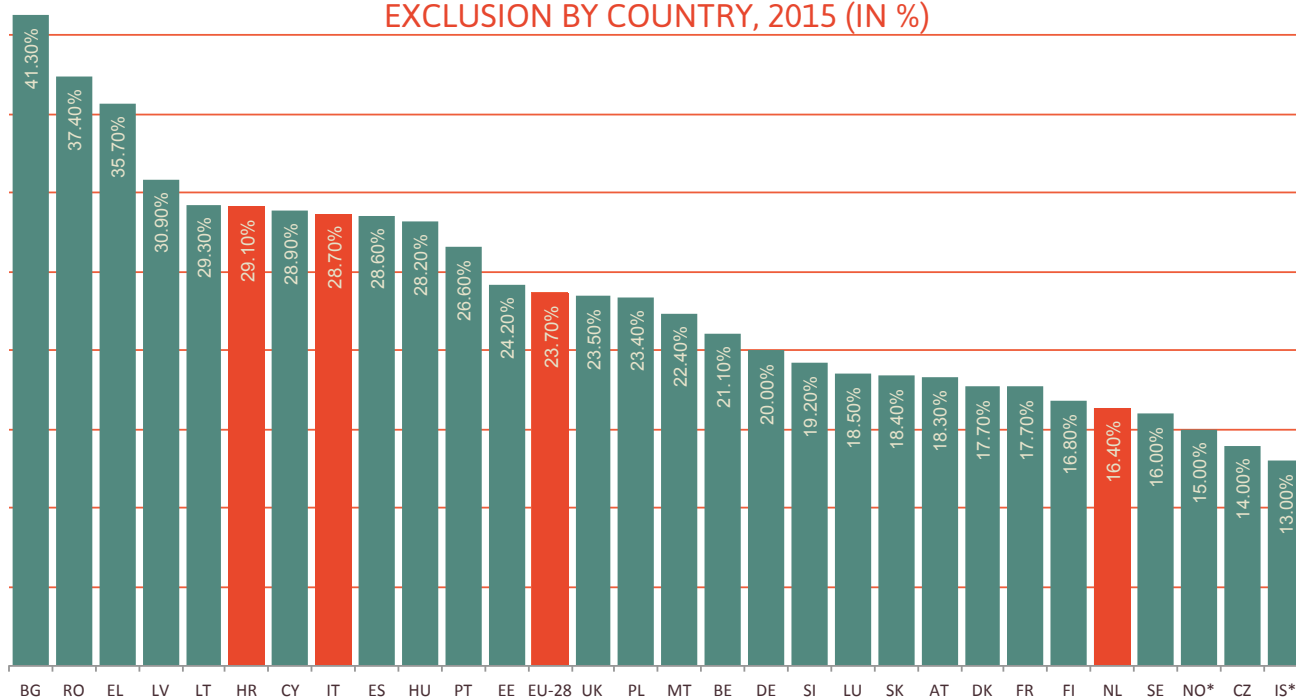
This is the context in which the PIE News project is building a Collective Awareness Platform, www.commonfare.net, that will enable people in Europe to access information about anti-poverty support measures, share good bottom-up practices, and be engaged in networking activities. These are three key components of Commonfare, a new concept of welfare provision based on commonality and grassroots initiatives. The initiative and the digital platform aim to supplement existing public measures, thereby combating conditions of Poverty, lack of Income and unEmployment - but equally importantly, they aim to promote experiences of Participation, Imagination, and Empowerment

among European citizens.

THREE PILOT SITES: CROATIA, ITALY, THE NETHERLANDS

The PIE News project follows a pilot-driven approach, centered on the needs of the population in the three countries where the pilots are being run: Croatia, Italy, and the Netherlands. These three countries are different in terms of labour market, income distribution, and welfare measures. The project takes into account these differences, beginning with the different distributions of risk of poverty or social exclusion in the three countries, described in the table below.

SHARE OF THE TOTAL POLULATION AT RISK OF POVERTY OR SOCIAL EXCLUSION BY COUNTRY, 2015 (IN %)



- EFTA countries (marked with *) do not contribute to EU average.
 - Source: Eurostat, EU-Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)
 - Data for the EU have been estimated; Netherlands: provisional data.

Croatia: In what is overall a difficult social situation in Croatia, young people and women face special difficulties. The unemployment rate sprang from 9.2% in 2009 to 16.3% in 2015, while youth unemployment rate stood at 43% last year. With an employment rate at 60.5% in that same year, this shows how troubled the Croatian labour market is (Eurostat 2016).

Italy: In Italy - according to data published by Istat in 2015 - 4.598 million people live in absolute poverty, and 8.307 million people live in relative poverty. Since 2007, the year before the onset of the financial crisis, there has been a twofold increase in the percentage of poor people, which jumped from 3.1% to 7.6%. Youth unemployment (15-24 years old) is 40.3%.

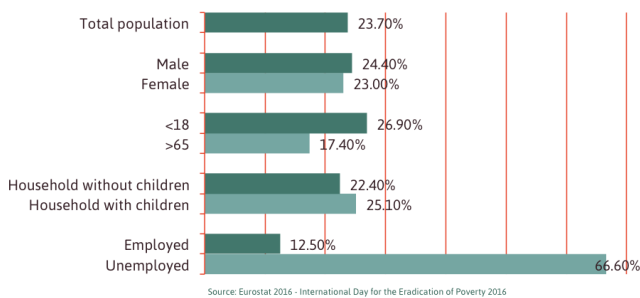
The Netherlands: In the Netherlands in 2014 there were a little over 1.2 million people (7.6% of the total population) living in poverty, compared to 0.87 million in 2008. The so-called “working poor” account for 41% of the poor in the Netherlands. In 2014, 288,000 children (12%) were growing up in a

household with an income below the “not-much-but-adequate” budget.

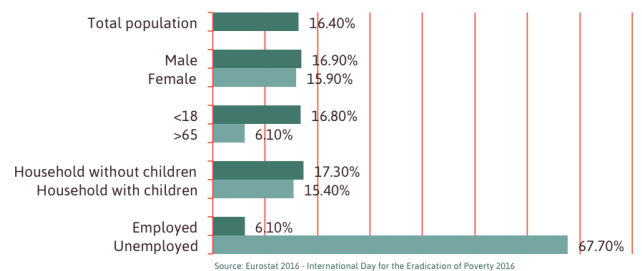
WHAT IS PIE NEWS DOING?

PIE News started on July 1st, 2016. Since then, activities have been running in the pilot countries and the consortium has been working on the design of the commonfare.net digital platform in partnership with potential end-users. In particular, more than 250 people have been reached by the partners working in the field (BIN Italia, Center for Peace Studies, and Museu da Crise) including, for example, precarious workers, freelancers, recipients of welfare benefits, non-Western migrants, and unemployed youth. At the same time, partnerships have been established with organizations working on the themes of the project in the three countries, showing that the project is attracting interest from those already working to support people’s participation, imagination, and empowerment.

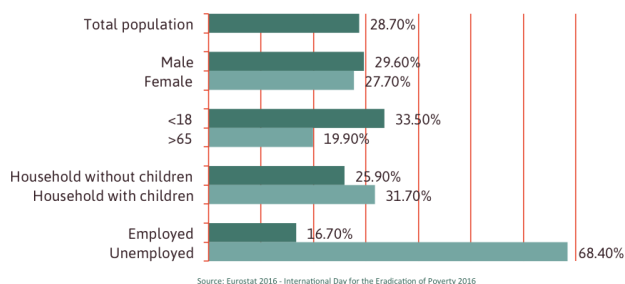
People at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2015 in Europe



People at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2015 in the Netherlands



People at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2015 in Italy



People at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2015 in Croatia

