

# European Youth Debate

## Road to zero poverty

### Poverty and Social Exclusion in the EU: The End of Social Europe?

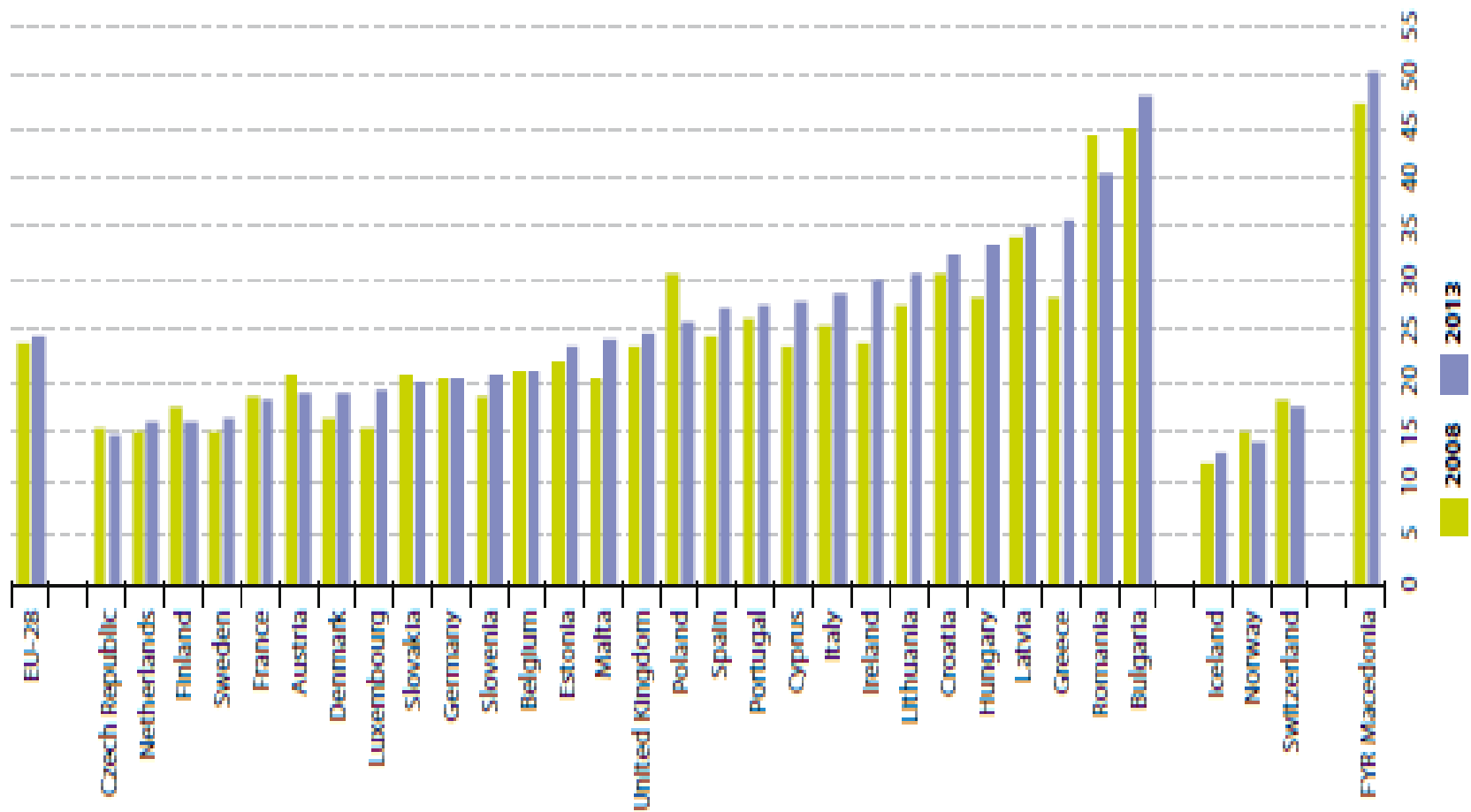
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# Outline

- Some facts: Europa, Europae
- The rise of 'social Europe'
- The crisis and social Europe
- The end of social Europe?
- Discussion and conclusion

# Poverty and Social Exclusion in the EU

(Source: Eurostat)



(\*) 2010 data (instead of 2008) for EU-28, HR and MK; 2011 data (instead of 2013) for MK; 2012 data (instead of 2013) for IE, HR and CH; EU-28 data for 2013 are estimates; break in time series in 2012 (LUK) and 2013 (ES).

# At-risk-of-poverty rate

## (Source: Eurostat)

	At-risk-of poverty before social transfers		At-risk-of poverty after social transfers		At-risk-of poverty threshold (national currency)		Currency
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	
<b>EU-28 (*)</b>	25.8	25.8	16.9	16.7	:	:	
<b>Euro area (*)</b>	25.2	25.3	17.0	16.7	:	:	
<b>Belgium</b>	27.7	26.3	15.3	15.1	12 168	12 890	EUR
<b>Bulgaria</b>	25.9	26.7	21.2	21.0	3 356	3 431	BGN
<b>Czech Republic</b>	17.6	16.6	9.6	8.6	114 953	116 093	CZK
<b>Denmark</b>	28.3	28.1	13.1	12.3	118 822	120 130	DKK
<b>Germany</b>	24.3	24.4	16.1	16.1	11 757	11 749	EUR
<b>Estonia</b>	24.8	25.4	17.5	18.6	3 592	3 947	EUR
<b>Ireland</b>	39.3	:	15.7	:	11 447	:	EUR
<b>Greece</b>	26.8	28.0	23.1	23.1	5 708	5 023	EUR
<b>Spain</b>	29.6	30.0	22.2	20.4	7 182	8 114	EUR
<b>France</b>	23.8	24.2	14.1	13.7	12 362	12 572	EUR
<b>Croatia</b>	30.6	29.7	20.4	19.5	24 000	22 916	HRK
<b>Italy</b>	24.4	24.6	19.4	19.1	9 617	9 440	EUR
<b>Cyprus</b>	23.5	24.3	14.7	15.3	10 156	9 524	EUR
<b>Latvia</b>	25.7	26.0	19.2	19.4	1 877	1 967	EUR
<b>Lithuania</b>	28.4	30.3	18.6	20.6	8 985	9 734	EUR
<b>Luxembourg</b>	29.0	29.4	15.1	15.9	19 668	19 981	EUR
<b>Hungary</b>	27.1	26.3	14.0	14.3	796 784	786 000	HUF
<b>Malta</b>	24.0	23.3	15.1	15.7	6 869	7 256	EUR
<b>Netherlands</b>	20.6	20.8	10.1	10.4	12 337	12 504	EUR
<b>Austria (*)</b>	25.8	25.9	14.4	14.4	13 084	13 244	EUR
<b>Poland</b>	22.9	23.0	17.1	17.3	12 509	12 966	PLN
<b>Portugal</b>	25.3	25.5	17.9	18.7	4 994	4 902	EUR
<b>Romania</b>	28.0	27.8	22.6	22.4	5 382	5 528	RON
<b>Slovenia</b>	25.2	25.3	13.5	14.5	7 273	7 111	EUR
<b>Slovakia</b>	20.0	20.1	13.2	12.8	4 156	4 042	EUR
<b>Finland</b>	26.9	26.4	13.2	11.8	13 619	13 963	EUR
<b>Sweden</b>	27.4	27.1	14.1	14.8	133 926	137 947	SEK
<b>United Kingdom (*)</b>	29.7	30.1	16.0	15.9	9 325	9 526	GBP
<b>Iceland</b>	23.1	22.7	7.9	9.3	1 875 151	2 047 736	ISK
<b>Norway</b>	25.8	26.0	10.0	10.9	187 394	192 353	NOK
<b>Switzerland</b>	23.4	22.8	15.9	14.5	29 144	29 499	CHF

(\*) 2013: estimated data.

(\*) 2013: break in time series.

# The rise of 'social Europe' (1989-2003)

- Increasing regulation over time (especially in the 1980s and mid '90s)
- Amsterdam Treaty (1997)
- Open Method of Coordination:
  - Employment
  - Social inclusion
  - Pensions
  - Healthcare

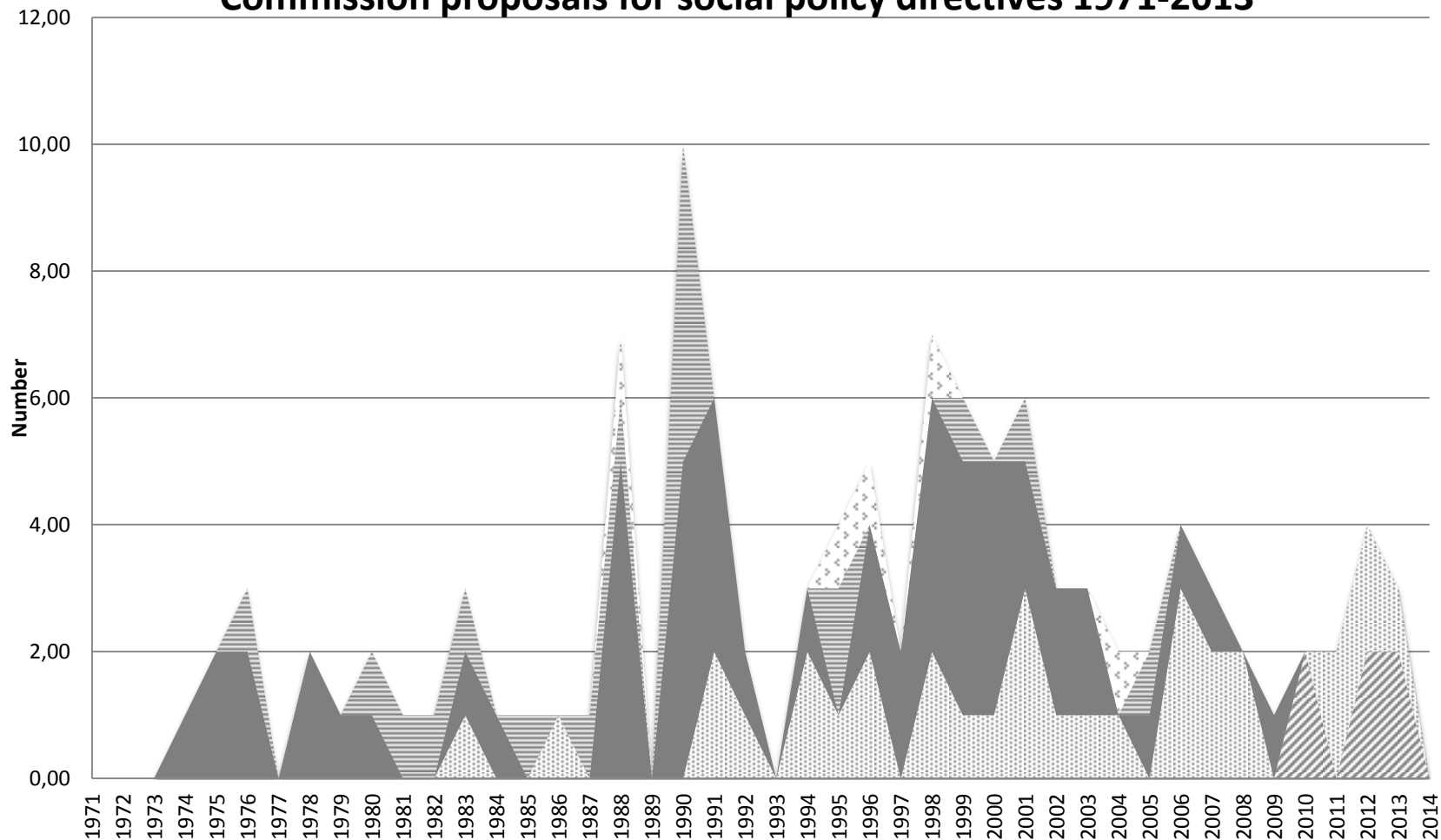
# The crisis and 'social Europe'

- Indicators are not very satisfactory...
- ...best 'proxies' seem to be answers in the Eurobarometer data.
- Eurobarometer data (61, 71, 80) show that since late 2000s there has been a growing concern towards unemployment issues and, subsequently, a greater demand for employment and social protection also at the EU level.

# The end of 'social Europe'?

- Decline of 'social Europe' in two respects:
  - regulatory social policies: see graph
  - EU coordinating social policy: decreasing role of employment and social OMC from 2004 onwards

## Commission proposals for social policy directives 1971-2013



Source: EurLex, cross checked with PreLex, including EURATOM directives and measures addressing the free movement of persons, geographical extensions are excluded, revisions also covers codifications and amendments, directives proposed after 2008 are pending if not yet adopted

- ◌ pending directives
- Number of adopted directives
- ◌ Number of adopted Revisions
- ◌ Number of not adopted revisions
- ▨ Number of not adopted directives



# Explaining the mismatch

- Changing ideological composition of EU Commission
- Relative weak power of Employment and Social Affairs DG
- Interinstitutional power rebalancing

# Discussion and conclusion

- Poverty and social exclusion are not only a problem of the 'global South'?
- Also inside the European Union, especially after the crisis, the phenomena are on the rise
- EU policy answer has not been satisfactory