EUROPEAN SOCIAL NETWORK CONFERENCE

EVALUATION OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY TO PREVENT AND FIGHT POVERTY 2018-2022

8 June 2022

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Poverty in France

• In 2019, France had a relatively low monetary poverty rate: 13.8% in France vs. 16.7% in the European Union. The monetary poverty threshold in France in 2019 was 958€\(^1\) per month for a single person.

• Relatively few older people live below the monetary poverty threshold.
  • In 2019, 10.3% of people over 65 lived in poverty vs. 17.3% in the EU.

• However, some groups are particularly affected by poverty.
  • In 2019, 17.9% of children (under 18) lived in poverty vs. 18.9% in the EU.
  • In 2019, 32.5% of single-parents with dependant children lived in poverty vs. 31.5% in the EU.
  • In 2019, 38.6% of unemployed persons lived in poverty vs. 46.9% in the EU.

\(^1\) Purchasing Power Standard
Sources: EU-SILC and INSEE
The national strategy to prevent and fight poverty 2018-2022

The strategy is based on two main objectives:

1. To avoid the social reproduction of poverty
2. To enable people to escape poverty through the labour market

- 35 measures have been identified by the Evaluation Committee.
- The strategy is interdepartmental.
- The implementation is shared between national and local governmental administrations.
- The strategy covers the years 2018 to 2022. A new strategy is expected for the next five years.
Rethinking poverty: the very poor

- About 2 million people were very poor in France in 2018.
  - 153,000 of them were homeless or living in a mobile home.
  - 24% were living in the five overseas departments of France.

- For people living in ordinary housing, being very poor is defined as *the combination of low income and severe material and social deprivation*. Their median standard of living is *57%* lower than the median standard of living of the French population.

=> An extra focus added by the **Evaluation Committee**: To leave no one in a situation of great poverty.

*Source: INSEE*
• The Evaluation Committee was created one year after the implementation of the strategy. Steered by France Stratégie (an independent institution reporting to the Prime Minister), it is made up of associations, qualified experts and researchers.

• Participatory procedure: 32 citizens living in poverty and 30 citizens from a representative sample of the French population are consulted.

• Tools: Hearings, calls for research studies, scientific literature, tracking of monitoring and evaluation indicators, for example:
  • Percentage of poor children in nurseries
  • Employment rate of NEETs
Monitoring of the implementation (outcomes and spendings): lack of data; monitoring system can be improved → Continuity is required in evaluation.

Impact of the strategy at a global level and for each measure: difficulties to launch studies; few results for now → Evaluation takes time and must be thought ahead.

The quality of the data and the delay in obtaining it is frequently unsatisfactory.

Ambition for the next strategy: to set up the conditions for the evaluation of the measures effectiveness.

For ex. : Non take-up in France – ⅓ of eligible persons do not claim Active Solidarity Income. It is an area of improvement for the next strategy.