

EUROPEAN SOCIAL NETWORK
CONFERENCE

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

8 June 2022

Louis Schweitzer, Chair of the Evaluation Committee

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

Evaluation tools

- 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

Evaluation tools - Learnings

- **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** – 1/3 of eligible persons do not claim *Active Solidarity Income*. It is an area of improvement for the next strategy.