

Impact of the Crisis on Children in Europe

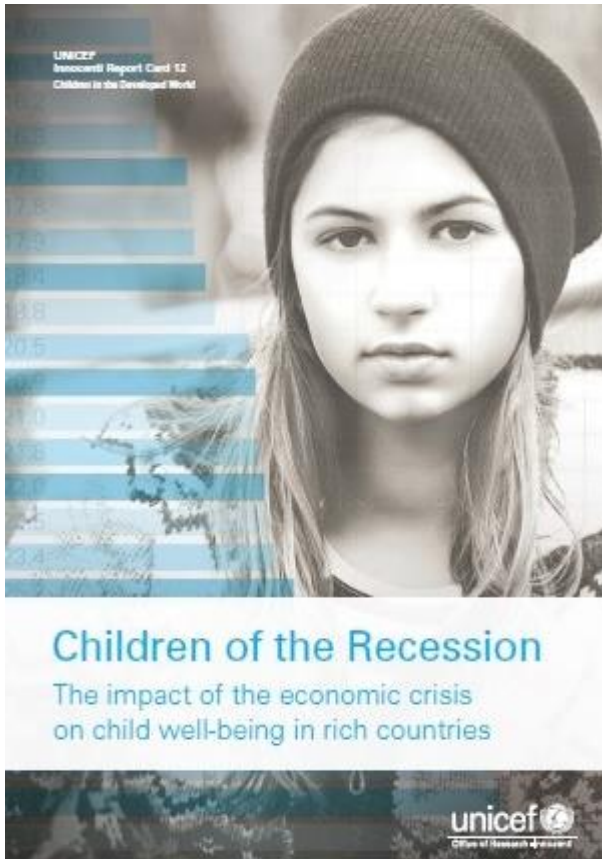
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Council of Europe, Strasbourg
May 12, 2015



UNICEF Report Card 12: Children of the Recession

41 countries in the EU and/or OECD.
32 Council of Europe member states



In more than half the rich countries of the world...

1 in 5 children
LIVE IN POVERTY.

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#GreatLeapBackward

Innocenti Report Card 12
Children in the Developed World
Children of the Recession
unicef-irc.org

In Greece, Italy, Spain & the US around...

1 in 3 children
LIVE IN POVERTY.

Greece	43.5%
Spain	28.3%
Italy	30.4%
US	32.2%

NOT IN EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING

7.5 million 15-24 year olds in Europe are **NEET**.

Since 2008 NEET rates have risen in **34 out of 41 rich countries**
A generation of young people IN LIMBO.

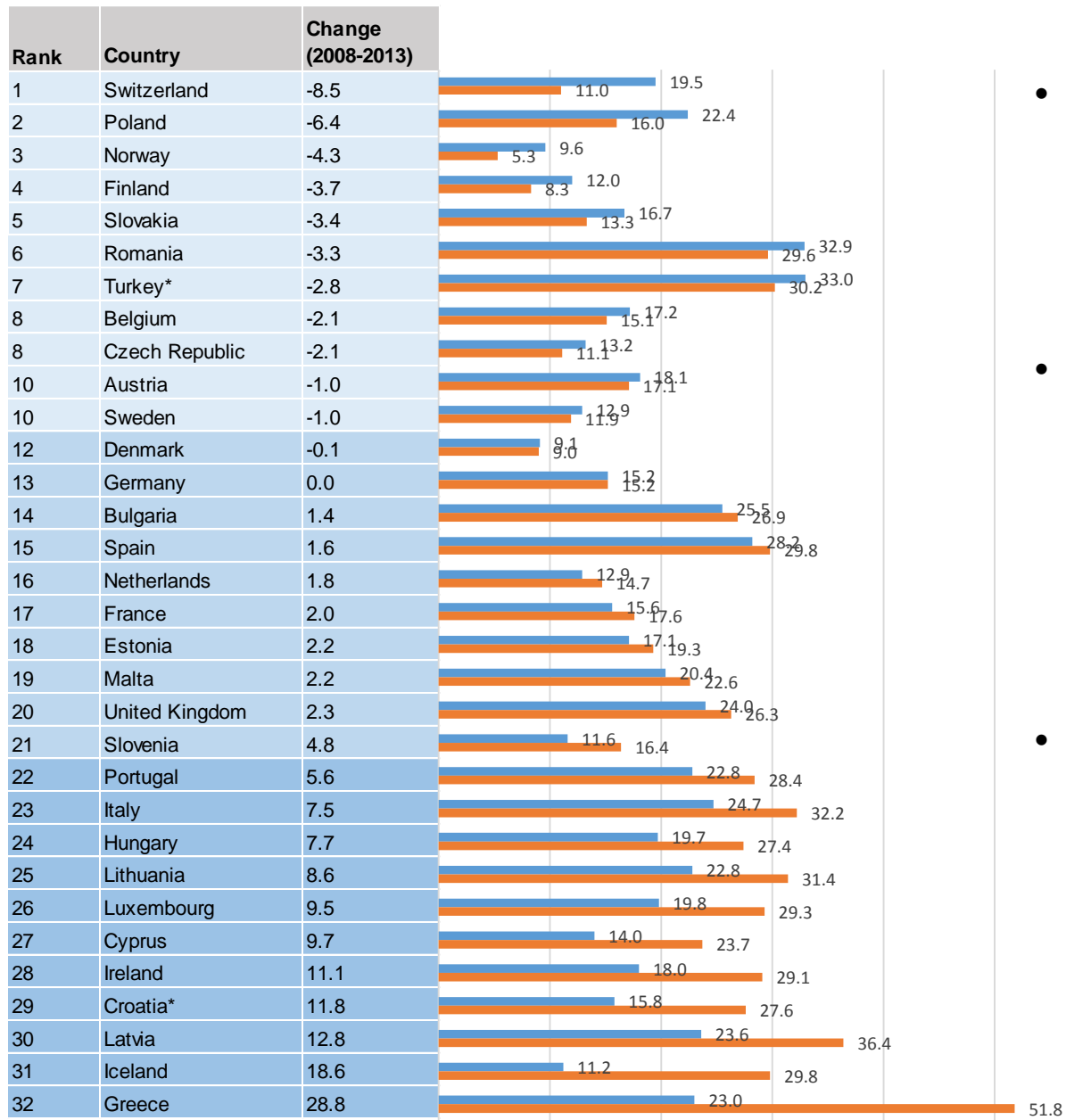
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League Table 1: Change in (anchored) child poverty between 2008 and 2013



- **Child poverty increased in 19 out of 32 countries**

- **Worst affected country groups:**

- The Mediterranean
- The Baltics
- Ireland/Iceland

- **Highest child poverty rates in 2013:**

- Greece (52%)
- Latvia (36%)
- Italy (32%)

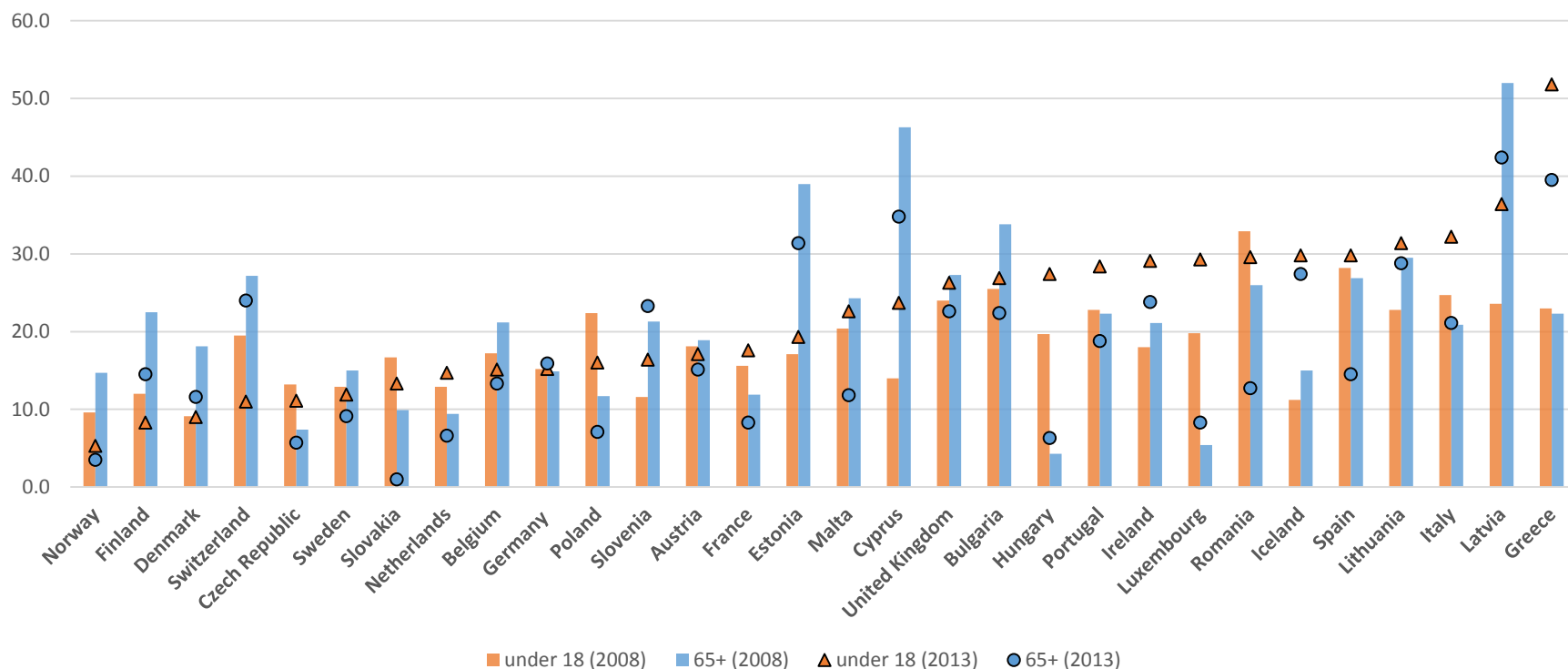


Source: EU-SILC (Eurostat).

*National data sources; 2008-2012.

■ 2008 ■ 2013

Child poverty vs elderly poverty (2008-2013)

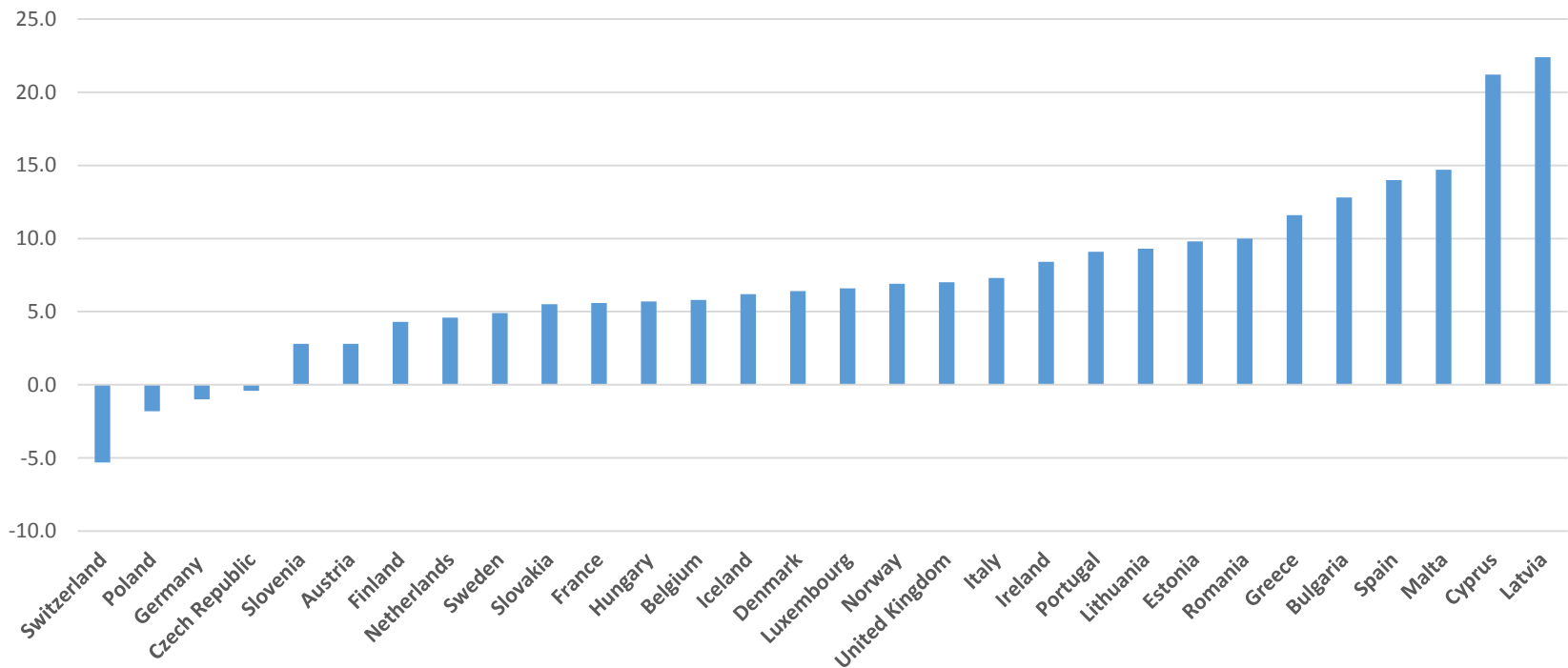


Source: EU-SILC (Eurostat).

Child poverty increased in 18 countries; elderly poverty increased in 7 countries.



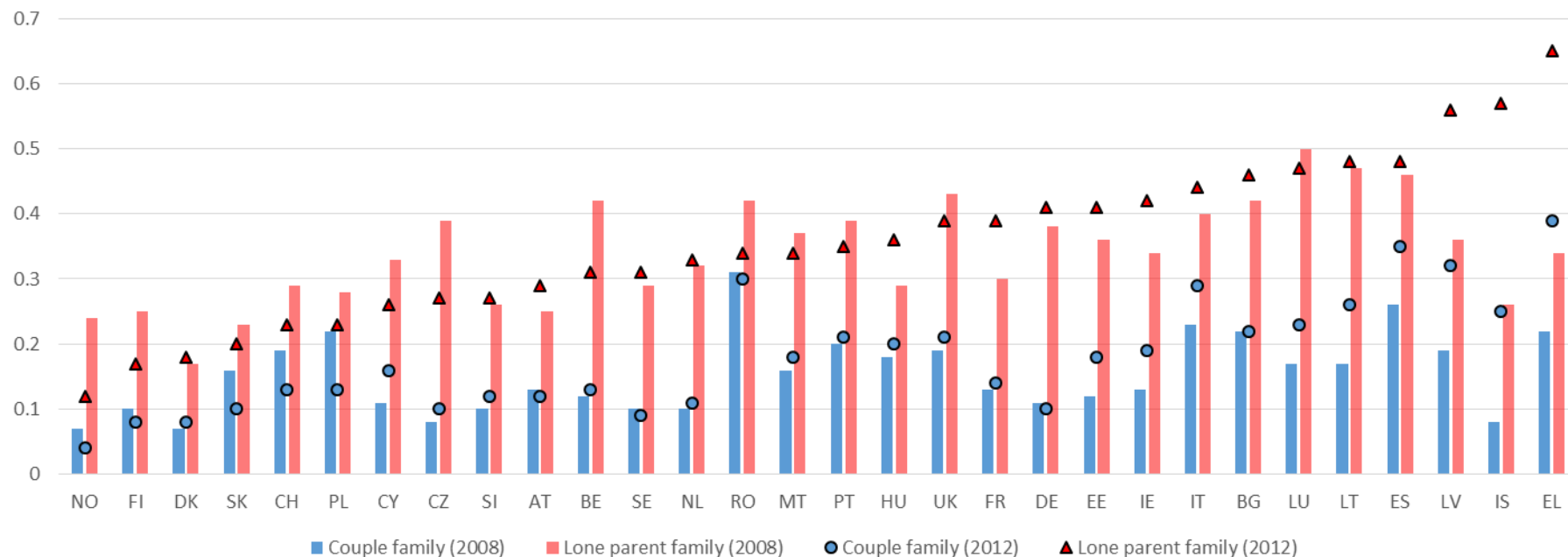
Child poverty vs elderly poverty (2008-2013): change in child poverty – change in elderly poverty



Source: EU-SILC (Eurostat).

In nearly all countries (26/32), child poverty increased faster or fell more slowly than elderly poverty between 2008 and 2013.

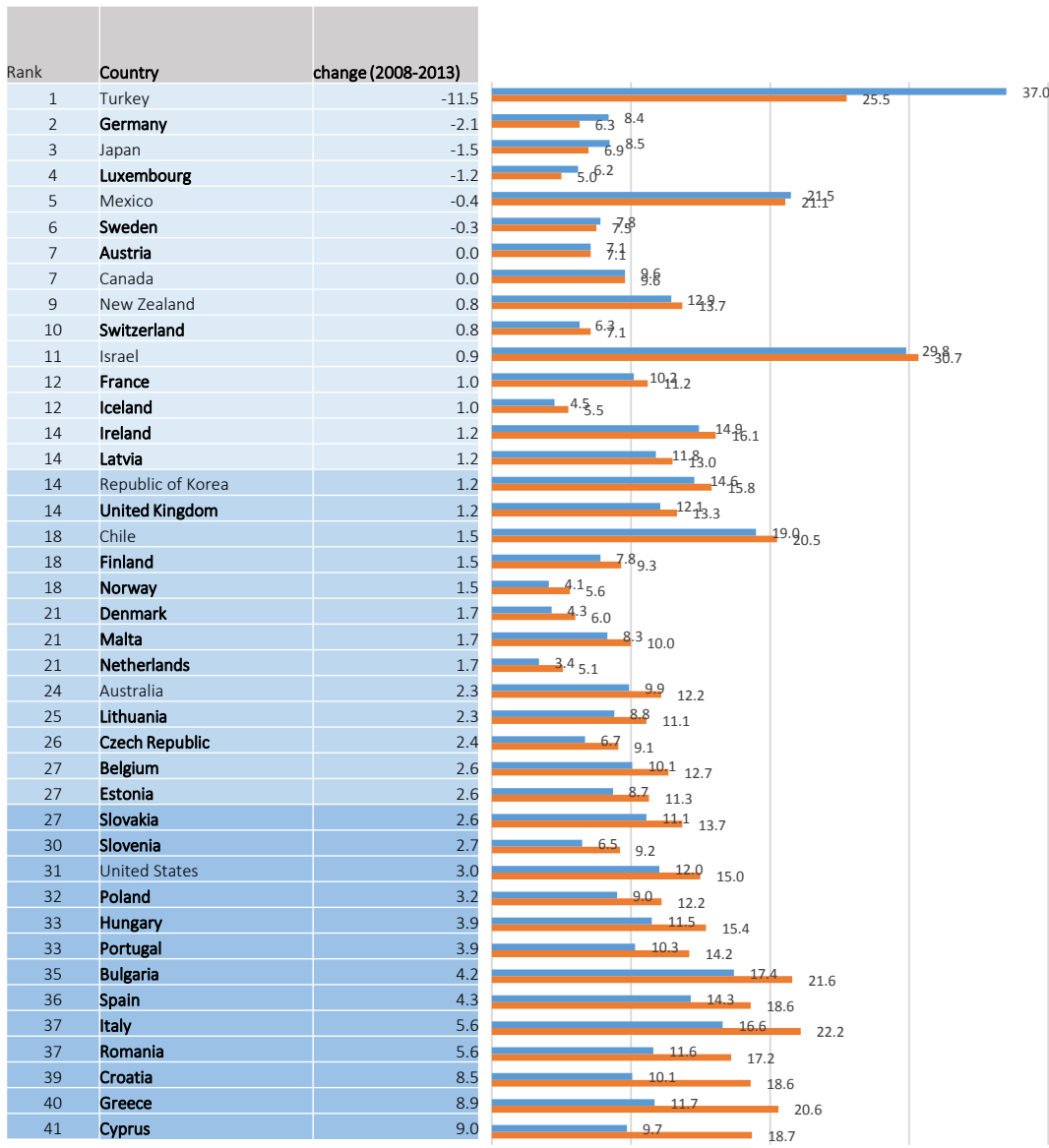
Child poverty in lone parent families (2008-2012)



Source: EU-SILC (Eurostat).

- In more than one-third of EU countries, child poverty increased faster (or decreased more slowly) in lone parent families.

League Table 2: Change in the NEET rate among 15-24-year-olds



- **Largest relative increase in NEET:**
 - Cyprus (+93%)
 - Croatia (+84%)
 - Greece (+76%)
- **Highest level of NEET in 2013:**
 - Turkey (25.5%)
 - Italy (22.2%)
 - Bulgaria (21.6%)
- **Largest net increase in the number of NEETs:**
 - United States (+1.4 million)
 - Italy (+0.3 million)
 - Mexico (+0.2 million)

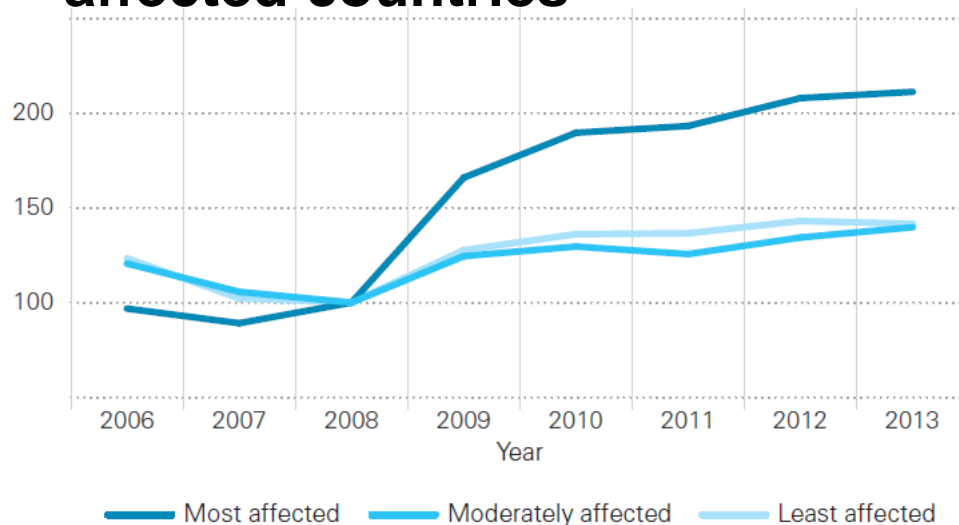
Source: Innocenti Report Card 12

■ 2008 ■ 2013



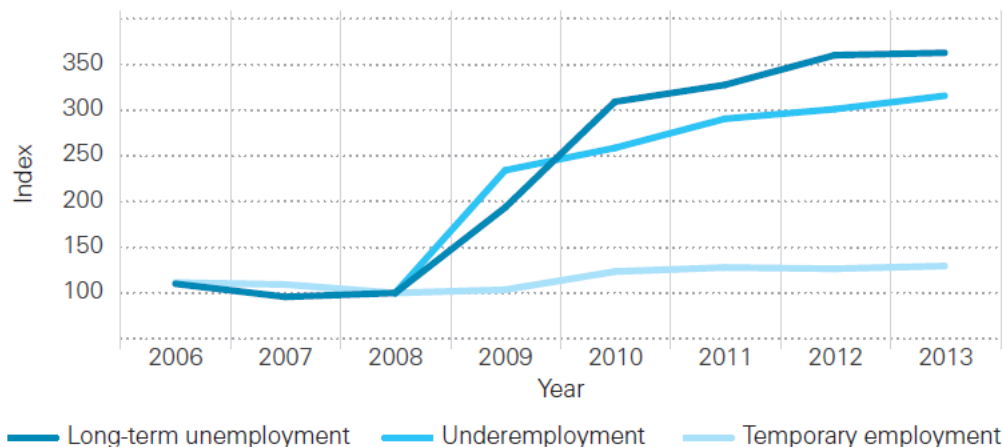
Employment of young people deteriorated, especially in affected countries

Youth unemployment 15-24



- **Most affected**
 - Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal and Spain
- **Moderately affected**
 - Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Japan, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the UK, the US
- **Least affected**
 - Australia, Bulgaria, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey

Source: Eurostat.



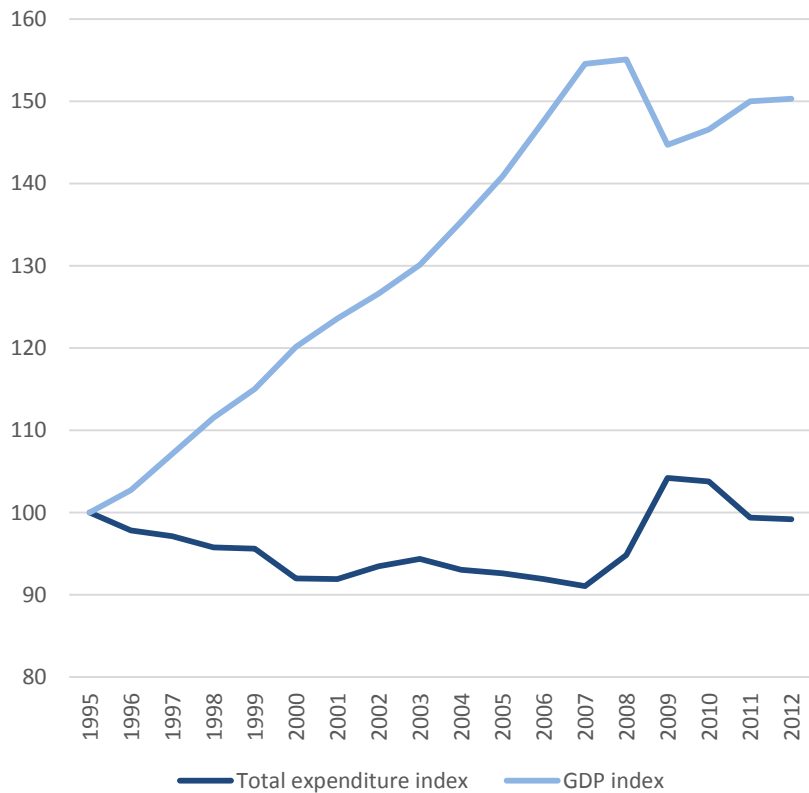
Source: Eurostat.

Source: Innocenti Report Card 12

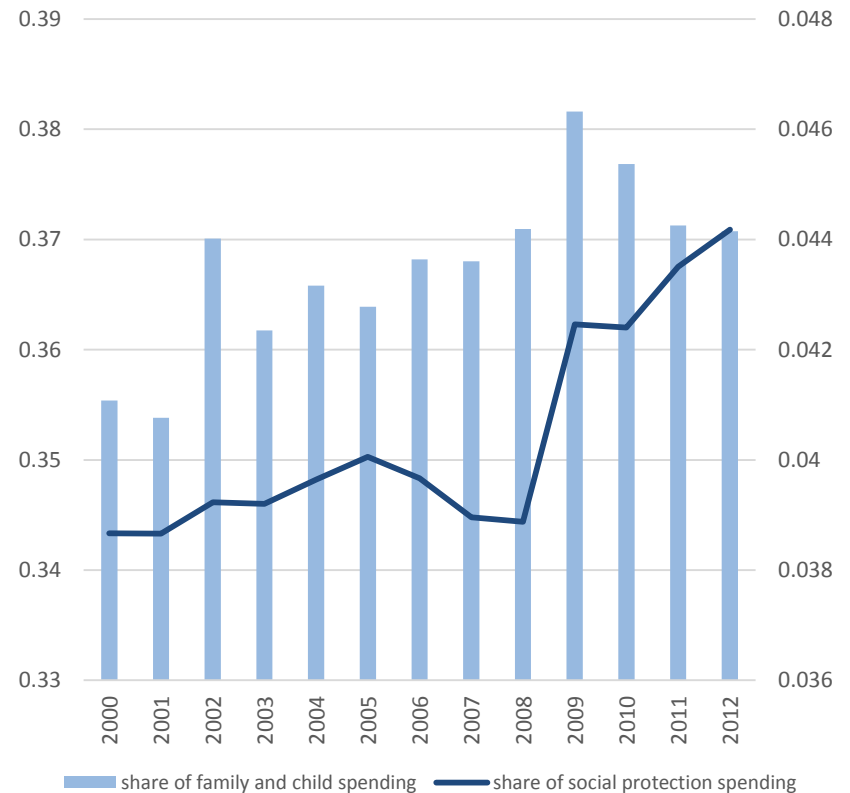


...even during periods of economic growth in the past social spending has been in decline

Social spending stagnant despite high GDP growth



Social protection spending (as share of total spending) increased in 2008, but family- and child-related spending as share of social protection declined (blue bars)



Summary

- **Child poverty increased in 19/32 CoE countries during the Great Recession**
 - Net increase of 2.6m children living in poverty across 41 EU/OECD countries between 2008 and 2012
 - 76.5m children in total live in poverty in these affluent countries
- **Young people have been most affected by crisis**
 - 7.5m youth are NEET in the EU, an increase of 1m
 - NEET rates increased in 28/32 Coe countries
- **Before the crisis social spending stagnant in most countries despite high growth**
 - During crisis initial expansionary policy followed by austerity
 - Ability of state to reduce child poverty changed significantly from 2010
 - Some countries, despite circumstances, did protect children

Key take away messages

- **Children and young people suffer most and will bear the consequences longest in countries most affected by recession**
 - Children living in poverty experience deprivation in multiple, inter-linked ways
 - ‘A generation lost’ - Full impact of recession and austerity measures will be felt for years to come
- **At a time of recession and austerity, **child poverty and social exclusion are not inevitable**. Good pro-child policies can make a real difference.**
 - Social protection can help ensure minimum living conditions for children to realise their rights to survive, thrive, learn and participate in society
 - Child poverty can be reduced by well-integrated social protection programmes that address children’s specific needs and pay attention to the most vulnerable
- **On both moral and economic grounds, children should be placed at the top of the crisis response agenda**

What can be done?



National Dimension

- 1. Make an explicit political commitment to pro-child policies to both end child poverty and protect child wellbeing**
- 2. Give priority attention to the most vulnerable children and youth**
- 3. Prioritize maintaining, ring fencing and increasing spending**
- 4. Policies supporting children's well-being are an investment**
- 5. Strengthen comprehensive policies & programs for children and families**
- 6. Ensure regular, quality and timely reporting on the situation of children and adolescents**



- **EU 2020 Target #5: *Fighting Poverty and Social Inclusion***
 - Integrate explicit child and youth focus into European Semester (EC)
 - Set national targets for reducing child poverty by 2020 (MS)
 - Strengthen EU-wide warning systems to detect, prevent and correct
 - Improve collection and timeliness of data on child poverty
 - **EC Recommendation on *Investing in Children***
 - Monitor implementation as part of European Semester (EC)
 - Report on progress in Annual National Reform Programmes (MS)
 - **EU Structural and Investment Funds**
 - Make full use of European Social Funds - 20% for social inclusion (MS)
 - Ensure focus on the most excluded and most affected (EC & MS)
- **Put child poverty back on the EC "jobs, growth and investment" agenda**

What can be done?



Global Dimension

- **Ensure child poverty is a priority in the Post-2015 Agenda**
 - Explicitly include child poverty in the Post-2015 agenda
 - Prioritize the poorest children across all goals to address equity
- **Sustainable Development Goal 1: Poverty**
 - **SDG Target 1.2:** By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and **children** of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
 - **SDG Target 1.3:** Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for **all**, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

GOAL 1 END POVERTY
GOAL 2 END HUNGER
GOAL 3 WELL-BEING
GOAL 4 QUALITY EDUCATION
GOAL 5 GENDER EQUALITY
GOAL 6 WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL
GOAL 7 AFFORDABLE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY
GOAL 8 DECENT WORK FOR ALL
GOAL 9 TECHNOLOGY TO BENEFIT ALL
GOAL 10 REDUCE INEQUALITY
GOAL 11 SAFE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
GOAL 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION BY ALL
GOAL 13 STOP CLIMATE CHANGE
GOAL 14 PROTECT THE OCEAN
GOAL 15 TAKE CARE OF THE EARTH
GOAL 16 LIVE IN PEACE
GOAL 17 MECHANISMS AND PARTNERSHIPS TO REACH THE GOALS



Goal 1 targets should include **specific child poverty indicators**

Financing for Development
Conference Addis Ababa, July 2015



No Data, No Progress - New Evidence & Analysis

Upcoming

- UNICEF State of the World's Children Report 2016 (Child Poverty)
- UNICEF Social Monitor 2015 – Central and Eastern Europe & CIS
- UNICEF Report Card 13 (2016) – Office of Research - Innocenti

On-going

- Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA) for Children
- TransMonEE Database – UNICEF CEECIS & National Statistics Offices
- Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys – UNICEF & National Statistics Office & other partners

<http://data.unicef.org/>



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