

***Evolution of AROPE over time:
A focus on (quasi-)joblessness***

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Abstract

The EU2020 key indicator “AROPE” (at risk of poverty and exclusion) is itself a combination of three indicators, all implemented on the basis of EU-SILC: at-risk of poverty, severe material deprivation and (quasi-)joblessness – referring to the people living in very low work intensity households. The focus of the paper is on the latter. The paper discusses the notion of (quasi-)joblessness, its relevance as a component of AROPE and its implementation. It provides also a statistical analysis of the indicator. This analysis shows huge cross-country differences in the composition of (quasi-)joblessness, relatively small contributions to AROPE, and evolutions over time which are difficult to interpret. It is argued that the current approach to (quasi-)joblessness is conceptually unclear, that the statistical implementation of the notion of work intensity, on which the indicator is based, is fragile and that the indicator lacks of consistency in terms of scope with the two other components of AROPE. Some possible directions of revision, aimed at increasing the relevance and robustness of the indicator, are suggested.

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