

***Poverty, Affluence and Dispersion  
Viewed from the Median***

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***Abstract***

The paper brings together different features of the income distribution – poverty, affluence and dispersion – in a single framework that allows one to see the relation between different concepts. The framework helps us see, how the at-risk-of-poverty measures embodied in the EU social indicators can be related to the wider distribution of income, allowing the full range of the EU-SILC income data to be exploited. The paper focuses on cross-country comparisons using the 2012 EU-SIL data. It shows how one can identify the sources of differing performance across countries without reducing the analysis to a single indicator. Some countries perform better at the bottom and some at the top of the income distribution, but in general the two move closely together. The different parts of the income distribution story cannot be separated.