

## Child Poverty



Children growing up in poverty and exclusion are likely to become entangled in a 'cycle' thus passing it from generation to generation. Entailing inequality of access to resources and opportunities, and often linked to discrimination, **child poverty is a denial of children's rights.**

It has severe long-term consequences, restraining children from achieving their full potential, adversely affecting their health, inhibiting their personal development, education and general

well-being.

Tackling child poverty and breaking the transmission of poverty and exclusion from one generation to the next features high on the European Union's political agenda. Child poverty is recognised as a multi-dimensional problem which requires urgent **integrated actions across a wide range of social, economic and cultural policies.**

Inspired by the priority given to the issue by the March 2006 European Council, many Member States have taken it to heart.

- In the 2006-2008 **National Reports on Strategies for Social Protection and Social Inclusion**, governments pledge to develop a strategic, integrated and long-term approach to preventing and addressing poverty and social exclusion among children.
- The independent social inclusion experts submitted in 2007 [reports on the situation in their respective countries](#) and a **synthesis report** was produced.
- The Social Protection Committee has also approved in January 2008, on request of the European Council, **a report on "Child Poverty and Well-Being"**, identifying the predominant factors affecting child poverty in each country. This report underpinned the key policy messages on social inclusion of the **2008 Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion** adopted jointly by the Commission and the Council.
- Several European projects on mutual learning, peer reviews, Round Tables and Presidency events have addressed various aspects of the issue. The European Union also gives support to the operating costs of European networks devoted to the fight against child poverty such as Eurochild and EAPN.

**Addressing child poverty is crucial to the achievement of greater social cohesion and sustainable social and economic development in Europe.**

To this end, the European Union continues its efforts on mainstreaming child poverty in national and European Union policy making, strengthening the indicators for measuring and evaluating the progress, taking into account the voices of the affected children, and raising public awareness on the issue.

# Documentation

## Video



Duration: 3'30" - Date: Mar 2008 Available in: [en](#) [fr](#)

## Best practice

- [ACCESS: Cottonera Community Resource Centre \(Malta - 2007\)](#)
- [Preventing the risks of exclusion of families with difficulties](#)
- [Clearing: assistance for young people with special needs in their transition from school to working life](#)
- [Local alliances for the family: Reconciliation of work and family life](#)

## Reports

- **Policy measures concerning child poverty**  
[de](#) [en](#) [fr](#)
- **Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion 2008**  
This fourth Joint Report examines more in depth the theme of child poverty  
[Available in 23 languages](#)
- **Child Poverty and Well-Being in the EU**  
Adopted by the Social Protection Committee on 17 January 2008  
[en](#)