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### **Stream: Poverty and Social Exclusion**

#### **Determinants of child poverty and policy responses in the European Union**

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#### **Abstract**

The development of presently young generations and their coming performances as adults strongly determine the future outcomes of the societies: socially and financially sustainable economic growth, quality and quantity of employment, social cohesion and maintainable welfare systems. It reinforces the EU objective of promoting sustainable development by combining economic growth and more and better jobs with a strong emphasis on social cohesion. Poverty and social exclusion can be seen as an obstacle for children in achieving their full potential, over which they do not have any control. Therefore, societies would clearly benefit as a whole by investing public resources to alleviate child poverty, to promote the social inclusion of children and to foster their human capital. One of the most striking challenges of the present economic crisis is the expected increase in child poverty and therefore in income and social inequalities due to decreasing public and private investments in children. Parents with weak labour market attachment are especially vulnerable to economic and labour market shocks.

Member States of the European Union show a great variation in terms of both poverty risk of children, its main factors and the performance of policies aimed at reduce child poverty and improving child well-being among children. This allows us to comparatively evaluate the key challenges of countries, their relative performance and their outcomes in terms of child poverty and well-being. We suggest to form a country typology based on relevant indicators related to the household level (e.g. household composition and labour market participation of parents) and institutional determinants of child poverty and also to effectiveness of policies in place. EU-SILC will be used as a main data source for the analytical assessment, complemented with the portfolio of agreed Social OMC indicators as well as other international comparative databases that include information on the institutional context (e.g. OECD Family Database).