

## **Stream: 2. Poverty and Social Exclusion**

**Convener: Bea Cantillon**

**Making the concept of social exclusion operative for comparison. A proposal from the analysis of the impact of economic crisis in social integration within Spanish society**

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### **Summary**

There is high level of theoretical consensus on the usage of social exclusion as a concept that enables multidimensional approaches in the analysis of social inequalities complementing the economic dimension with others as social dimension (in terms of social relations) and political (in terms of access to social rights). Nevertheless, this consensus achieved in the theoretical field does not automatically reflect in common operative methodologies, indicators or variables that could allow comparative analysis in Europe. Present paper tries to contribute to this goal from a specific analysis of social exclusion in Spain. The work is based on a definition of social exclusion agreed by several research groups with long trajectories in this field in the country. The definition was later made operative through a specific grid of indicators concerning different dimensions of social exclusion (income, work, health, housing, education and others). The grid was applied in 2007 survey on living conditions of the Spanish population. The Survey Foessa 2007 was the first multidimensional analysis of the social exclusion made in the national level and it made possible the elaboration of a deep diagnosis of specific groups of population affected by the different processes of social exclusion in the country.

Afterwards deep impact of economical crisis in Spain highlight weakness of Spanish social protection system and raise the interest of knowing accurately which are the effects of the crisis in social cohesion in Spain. In the paper are included results from the new born wave of the Survey Foessa 2010 that analyzes in a longitudinal way the same sample used in 2007 with a questionnaire that allows the comparison in all the areas that have been considered to be relevant for the analysis of social exclusion. Special interest is focused in the impact of the crisis in living conditions of vulnerable groups (considering gender, age, ethnic minority and territorial approaches) and their strategies to tackle the situation. The aim of this paper is also analysing and discussing de possibility of transferring this country-based methodology towards a more international comparative approach at the European level.

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