

Child Well-Being in the European Union: Better monitoring instruments for better policies



A new report on child well-being by TÁRKI Social Research Institute

As part of a series of research on the situation of children, TÁRKI launched a report in 2011 that aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the situation of children in Europe. Also the report includes an evaluation for individual countries, as well as recommendations of instruments used for international benchmarking, target setting and policy intervention. With the development of country specific indicator report cards, the report contributes to the development of instruments that facilitate better, evidence based policy making in the EU countries.

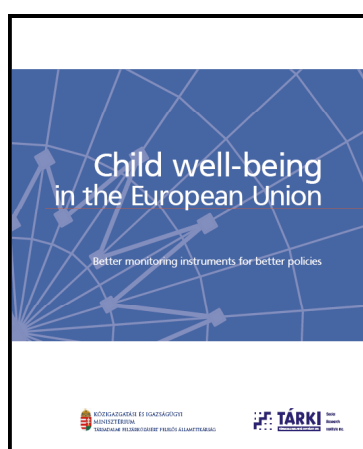


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The indicator portfolio

The aim with the indicators was to properly cover multiple dimensions of child well-being. Requirements with the whole set were as follows:

- Having a **balanced** and a **coherent portfolio** of indicators across dimensions and across main phases of childhood
- Keeping the **structure** of the portfolio as **simple** as possible
- Relying as much as possible on the already agreed **Social OMC** indicators and **EU2020** indicators
- Distinguishing between **resource-based** measures and forward-looking indicators of child **outcomes**
- Reflecting the policy need of breaking the **intergenerational transmission of poverty**

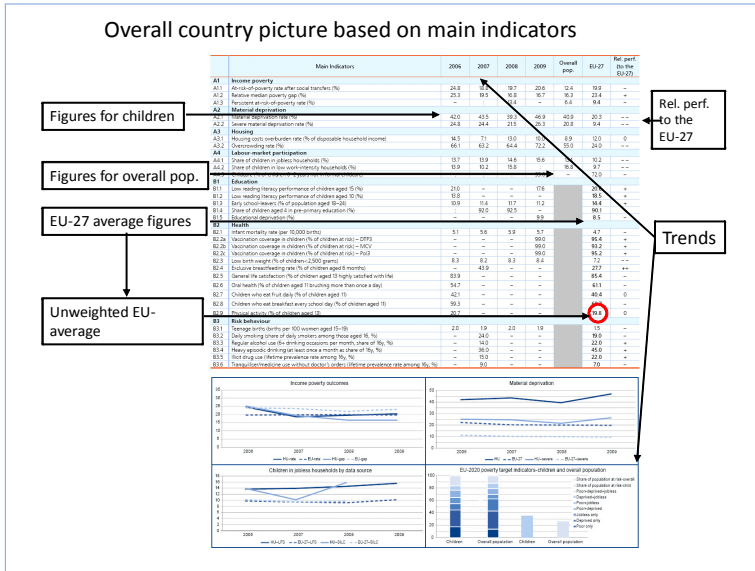
The indicators cover five dimensions:

- Income
- Material Deprivation
- Education
- Health
- Exposure to Risk Behaviour

...while further works should aim to complete this list with:

- Family relationships, social participation
- Local environment

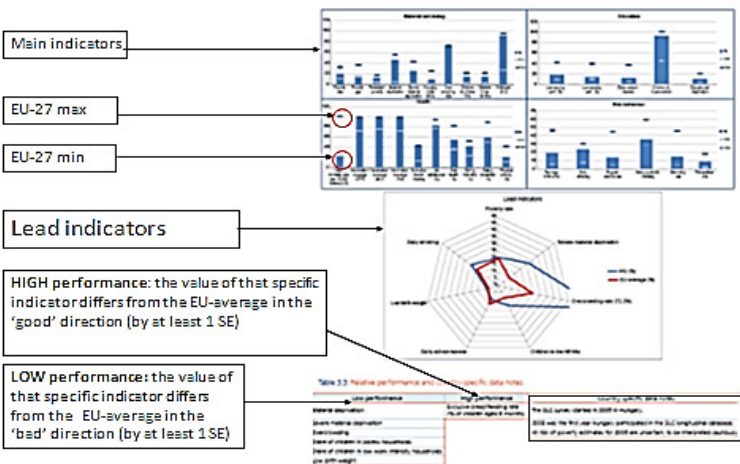
How the policy marker report cards look like?



Research Highlights

- There are no countries in the European Union where the situation of children is perfect. Even in those countries where positive performances predominate (such as the Nordic countries, Luxembourg and the Netherlands), there are some shortcomings. By the same token, even the least well performing countries (like Romania and Bulgaria) have some positives.
- At the level of Member States, education and health show a clear and strong correlation with material well-being, but no country-level correlation has been found between material well-being and socially risk behaviour.
- Despite the wealth of available datasets, there are serious data gaps in child well-being measures. The capture of difficult to reach groups and vulnerable groups is in great need. In addition, micro datasets are of crucial importance to monitoring processes.
- Policy marker report cards, provide the never before advantage of EU-wide country comparison, but it is a process that needs continual upgrading.
- Countries must commit themselves to improve their own data gaps, if child well-being monitoring is to move forward.

Presentation of country's relative performance



The entire report can be downloaded from:
http://www.tarki.hu/en/news/2011/items/20110531_en.html
 For learning about the Study on Child Poverty and Well-Being in the EU project, commissioned by the DG EMPL (2009), please visit:
<http://www.tarki.hu/en/research/childpoverty/index.html>

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