

Welcome



Dear reader,

In Spring 2012 we kicked-off ImPRovE, a European project funded by the European Commission. The major aim of ImPRovE is to increase our understanding of poverty in Europe and to inform policy makers, civil society and the wider public about how poverty could be combatted more effectively and efficiently. With this newsletter we aim to keep you informed of the progress we make with the project and our forthcoming dissemination activities. If you would like to learn more about ImPRovE, you can consult our <http://improve-research.eu> website, or [contact us directly](#).

Hoping to meet you soon during one of the events organised by ImPRovE,

Bea Cantillon
Coordinator ImPRovE

Next Conference

ImPRovE Mid-term conference:

8 April 2014 the ImPRovE Mid-term Conference will take place in Antwerp. In this conference, we scrutinise the impact of policies on poverty and inequality trends during the Lisbon era and the recent economic crisis and draw lessons for the future. We pay particular

attention to the countries hardest hit by the crisis and ask Members of the European Parliament to reflect on how the Europe 2020 targets can be reached. More information on the conference programme as well as a registration form can be found on the [ImPRovE website](#).

The Project

ImPRovE is a research project financed by the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission. It is coordinated by the [Herman Deleeck Centre for Social Policy](#) (University of Antwerp) and brings together ten outstanding research institutes in a concerted effort to study poverty, social policy and social innovation in Europe.

The two central questions driving the ImPRovE project are:

- How can social cohesion be achieved in Europe?
- How can social innovation complement, reinforce and modify macro-level policies and vice versa?

The project runs from March 2012 till February 2016.

Overview of publications

The ImPRovE Working Papers aim to disseminate as quickly and as widely as possible the output of the ImPRovE project. The paper series contains both methodological and discussion papers. The ImPRovE Working Papers are indexed in [Repec](#). First project papers available for download:

WP 13/01. The Evolution of Poverty in the European Union: Concepts, Measurement and Data

Decancq, K.; Goedemé, T., Van den Bosch, K. and Vanhille, J.

WP 13/02. Towards a common framework for developing cross-nationally comparable reference budgets in Europe

Storms, B., Goedemé, T., Van den Bosch, K. and Devuyt, K.

WP 13/03. The butterfly and the elephant: local social innovation, the welfare state and new poverty dynamics

Oosterlynck, S., Kazepov, Y., Novy, A., Cools, P., Barberis, E., Wukovitsch, F., Sarius, T. and Leubolt, B.

WP 13/4. Money or kindergarten? Distributive effects of cash versus in-kind family transfers for young children

Förster, M. and Verbist, G.

WP 13/5. Why has social security become less pro poor?

Cantillon, B., Van Mechelen, N., Pintelon, O. and Van den Heede, A.

WP 13/06. The effect of local labour market conditions on educational choices

Tumino, Alberto

WP 13/07. Alternative vs. current measures of material deprivation at EU level

Guio, A.-C. Marlier, E.

WP 13/08. The indicators of intertemporal material deprivation

D'Ambrosio, C.

WP 13/09. Measuring low work intensity – an analysis of the indicator

Ward, T., Ozdemir, E.

WP 13/10. Testing the Statistical Significance of Microsimulation Results

Goedemé, T., Van den Bosch, K., Salanauskaite, L. & Verbist, G.

WP 13/11. Trends and convergence of Europe's minimum income schemes

Van Mechelen, N. & Marchal, S.

WP 13/12. Exploring the multi-level governance of welfare provision and social innovation

Oosterlynck, S., Kazepov, Y., Novy, A., Cools, P., Wukovitsch, F., Saruis, T., Barberis, E. & Leubolt, B.

WP 13/13. Measuring performance: does the assessment depend on the poverty proxy?

Notten, G.

WP 13/14. In-work poverty in times of crisis: do part-timers fare worse?

Horemans, J. & Marx, I.

WP 13/15. The relationship between incomes and living arrangements: variation between countries, over the life course, and over time

Maria Iacovou

News

Previous conference

We had the first ImPRovE Conference on improving poverty reduction in Europe on 14 and 15 th November in Brussels. The conference built on recent work by ImPRovE researchers and brought together the knowledge generated in related major EU funded projects. All presentations, pictures and many more information are available online on the [ImPRovE website](#).

EU Reference Budgets Network

Within ImPRovE we develop for the first time cross-nationally comparable reference budgets. More in particular, we will assess in a comparable way what minimum level of resources is needed for adequate social participation in six countries (Belgium, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Italy and Spain. Among other things, reference budgets could be used to contextualise the standard at-risk-of-poverty threshold and to evaluate the adequacy of minimum income benefits.

The project has caught the attention of the European Commission who stresses the potential usefulness of reference budgets in its communication on a Social Investment Package. Very recently, DG Employment and Social Affairs has awarded a contract to the Herman

Deleeck Centre for Social Policy and Applica to develop a common methodology for constructing reference budgets in all EU Member States and build an EU Reference Budget Network. Within this pilot project, in which several ImPRovE partners participate, reference budgets will be developed for about 10 countries, and a comparable food basket for all other EU Member States.