

# Overview of the Guide on Poverty Measurement

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# Guide on poverty measurement

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1. What is the objective of preparing guidelines?
2. At what stage of the work are we at the moment?
3. What are the next steps?
4. Important dates and deadilnes.

# What is the objective of preparing guidelines?

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The main objective is to provide **recommendations for improving the international comparability** and availability of statistics on poverty and the related metadata.

# To achieve this aim we need to:

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- **prepare an inventory** of poverty measures for UNECE countries
- **define a coherent set of indicators** to measure poverty mainly at the international level
- **develop guidelines on the definitions, methods and data sources** of the defined poverty indicators
- **provide recommendations** on the documentation of metadata on poverty

# At what stage of the works are we at the moment?

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We have prepared the drafts of particular chapters of the publication.

Contents of the guide:

- *Introduction*
- *Chapter 1. Conceptual background.*
- *Chapter 2. Monetary poverty.*
- *Chapter 3. Subjective poverty.*
- *Chapter 4. Multi-dimensional poverty, including material deprivation*
- *Chapter 5. Recommendations for improving comparability*
- *Executive summary (including recommendations)*

# What are the next steps?

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- finishing work on particular chapters of the guidelines
- providing the coherence of the contents
- **working out the recommendations** (in a context of short- and long-term actions)

# Principles that should guide the construction of social indicators (by Atkinson)

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## An indicator should:

- **...identify the essence of the problem** and have a clear and accepted normative interpretation.
- **...be robust and statistically validated.**
- **...responsive to effective policy interventions but not subject to manipulation.**
- **...measurable in a sufficiently comparable way across member states,** and comparable as far as practicable with the standards applied internationally by the UN and the OECD.
- **...be timely and susceptible to revision.**

The measurement of an indicator should **not impose too large a burden on member states, on enterprises, or on the citizens.**

*Source: Atkinson and others, Social indicators. The EU and social inclusion, Oxford 2002.*

# Principles that should guide the construction of social indicators (by Atkinson) (cont.)

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- The portfolio of indicators should be **balanced across different dimensions**.
- The indicators should be **mutually consistent** and the weight of single indicators in the portfolio should be **proportionate**.
- The portfolio of indicators should be **as transparent and accessible as possible to the citizens**.

*Source: Atkinson and others, Social indicators. The EU and social inclusion, Oxford 2002.*



# Important dates and deadlines

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- **12-15/07/2016** discussion at the seminar and the Task Force meeting
- **2nd half of 2016** finalizing the preparation of particular chapters of the guidelines by Task Force; comments and suggestions by others; editing
- **02/2017** meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES)
- **03-04/2017** formal consultation with countries
- **06/2017** expected adoption of the Guide by CES plenary
- **12/2017** Guide on measuring poverty published

# Why preparing of the guidelines is so hard?

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*'It often seems that if you put five academics (or policy makers) in a room you would get at least six different definitions of poverty....'*

- David Gordon