

Child poverty in the EU

- multi-level governance and the role
of multi-level citizenship on national
policy -

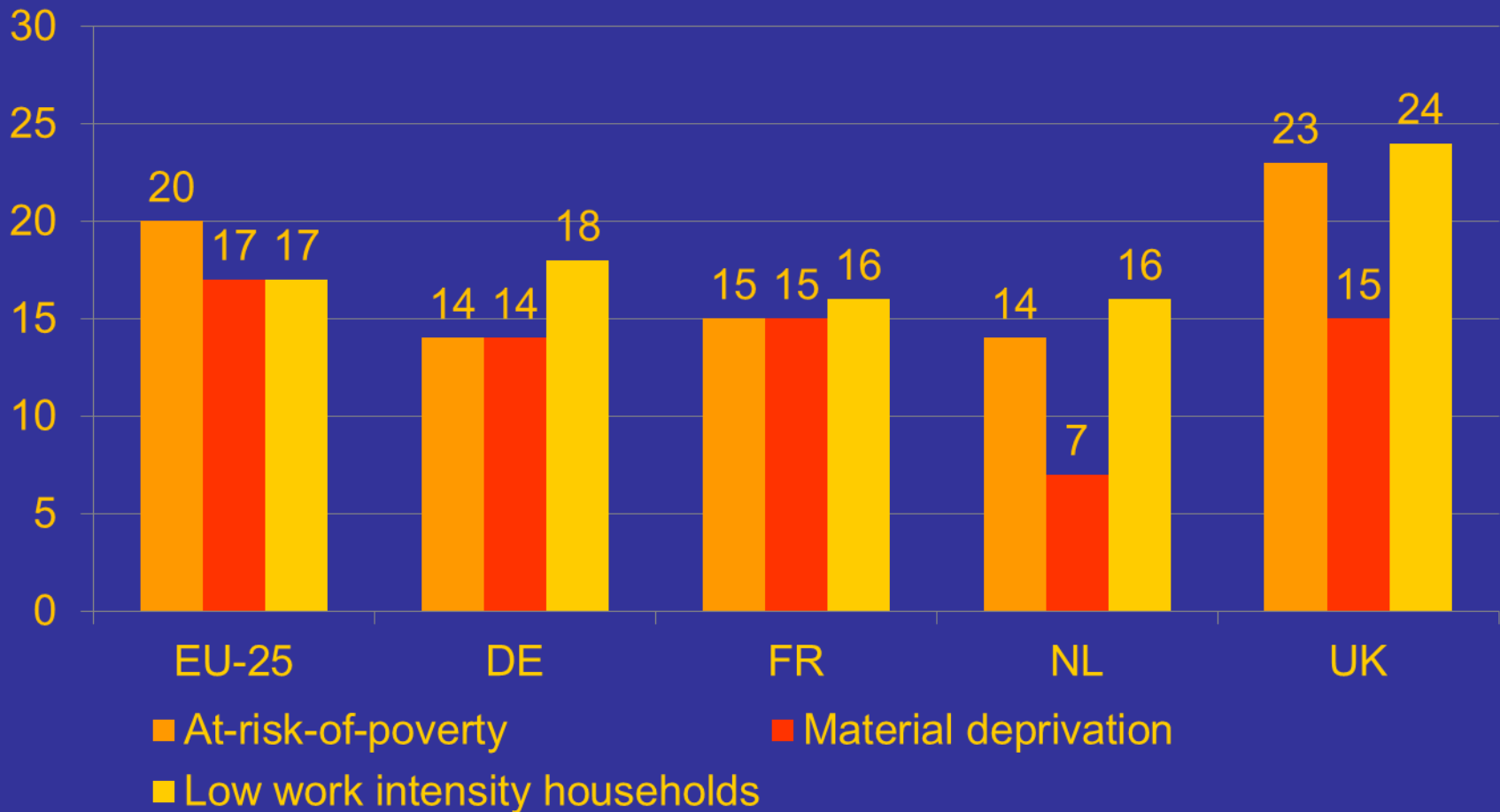
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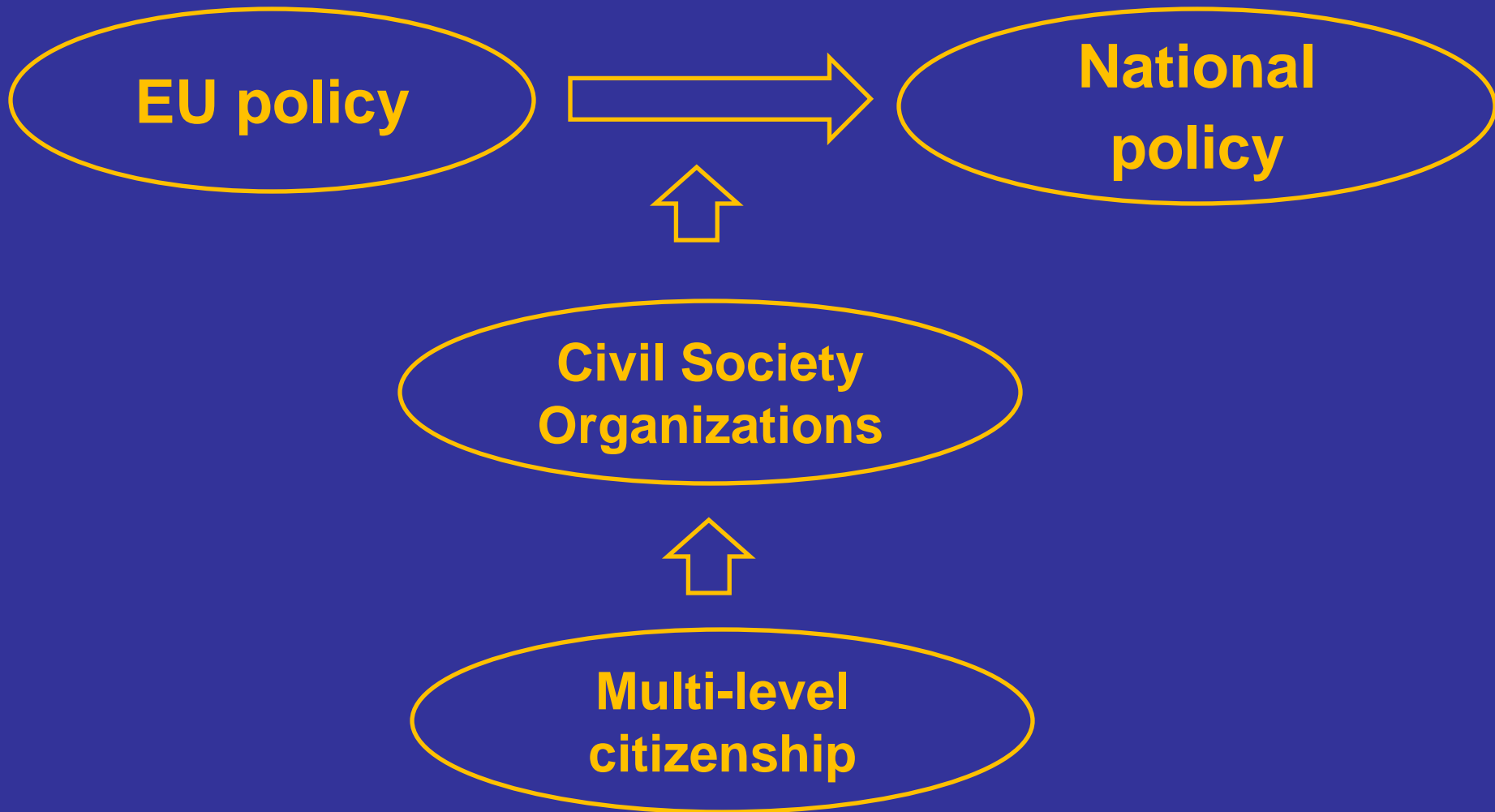
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Child poverty and social exclusion in EU

(% of children, source: Tarki 2010)



Research frame & concepts: child poverty in EU



Common goals & indicators

- Common goal (as in Europe 2020 strategy)
 - at least 20 million fewer people in or at risk of poverty and social exclusion by 2020
- Common indicators
 - At-risk-of-poverty rate (below 60% of national median)
 - Material deprivation (deprived in ≥ 3 indicators)
 - People in low work intensity households (working age members work less than 20% of their potential)

National goals & indicators

- As in 2011 National Reform Programmes
 - DE: reduce people in long term jobless households with 660,000 by 2020
 - FR: reduce anchored (2006) at-risk-of-poverty rate by 33% by 2012 and then reassess for goal 2020
 - NL: reduce people in jobless households by 100,000 by 2020
 - UK: eradication child poverty by 2020 & multiple intermediary targets for 2011-14; various indicators such as (anchored & persistent) at-risk-of-poverty rate, material deprivation, children in workless / in-work poverty households

EU governance processes & child poverty

Method	Actors involved	Outputs / Activities
Europe 2020	EC, European Council, EP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Common priorities & headline targets through summits & work-groups - Translation into national strategies & monitoring through consultations, national reporting (Stability and Growth Pact, National Reform Programmes), country specific recommendations & policy warnings
Social OMC	EC (SPC, ISG), Council of Ministers, EESC, CSOs, social partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Common goals & indicators - National strategies & exchange through consultations, National Strategy Reports, National Social Reports, Joint Reports, Peer Review Sessions
European year on poverty and social exclusion (2010)	EP, Council of Ministers, EU steering committee, National committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raise public awareness through conferences, campaigns, workshops, information sessions, art activities, contract research

Emergence of child poverty as an EU issue

- Lisbon strategy (2000)
 - Explicit objective to fight poverty & social exclusion
 - Monitor progress through OMC & ‘Laeken’ indicators
 - No child specific indicators / very few MS mention child poverty in NAP_incl (UK is exception)
- Child poverty enters EU agenda
 - Joint reports on social inclusion (2004, 2008)
 - European Pact for Youth (2005)
 - EC funded research (Hoelscher, 2004; Tarki 2009 & 2010)
 - EC/SPC report on child poverty (2008)
 - SPC: ad-hoc group on child poverty to develop EC’s 2012 recommendation on child poverty & stakeholder consultations

Example CSO: Eurochild

- Umbrella organization
 - Network of organizations and individuals working in Europe to improve quality of life of children & youth
 - Funded by EC's PROGRESS Programme (85%)
 - Rights-based philosophy (UNCRC)
- Involvement in EU and national governance
 - Consulted as stakeholders on EC recommendations, ESF spending guidelines, NRP's etc.
- Perception members on role in national governance
 - No genuine consultation in drafting NRP's
 - (Mildly) pessimistic on likelihood of keeping child poverty on national poverty agenda's era of austerity

Child poverty in EU: discussion

- Multi-level citizenship affects EU & national policy through Civil Society Organizations (CSO)
- EU multi-level governance process offers leverage opportunities for CSO's (consultations, lobbying)
- Child poverty emerged on EU agenda in mid-200s
 - Role of CSO's?
 - EU still in process of implementing 'child mainstreaming'
- Resonance of child poverty on national agenda's?
 - Of the 4 case studies, child poverty is only priority in UK
 - (Child) poverty reduction mainly through employment
 - Eurochild: limited role of CSOs in national implementation of Europe 2020