

Laura Alipranti and A. Kalogiratou

Family forms and risk of child poverty: an overview

Poverty, deprivation and social inequalities have been topics of social science research since decades as one of the key common social objectives within the European Union is the reduction of poverty and social exclusion and children are one of the target groups of social policy.

Poverty rates in the developed countries vary among different family types. Family structures have changed in the 2nd half of the 20th century. Marriage rates have declined while divorce rates have considerably increased. At the same time cohabitation as a new type of the organisation of intimacy has increased dramatically, as well as, the proportion of families headed by a lone parent.

Along with these changes in the institution of marriage also the risk of poverty rises among families. In particular, those families that are at risk of poverty, dysfunction and disadvantage are the lone parent families, especially those headed by a single, unmarried woman and by teenage mothers.

Our paper will focus on family forms and poverty risk and we will present recent research activities as well as longitudinal studies dealing with that issue. In a second stage we will present some results for Greece based on EU-SILC data.

Laura Alipranti and A. Kalogiratou

National Centre of Social Research, EKKE, Greece

e-mail: lalipranti@ekke.gr