Institute of Sociology
University of Lodz

as

Centre for Research on Poverty and Social Exclusion

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prof. Wielisława Warzywoda-Kruszyńska, Director IS UL
Brussels, 29.05.08
Ranked 2nd nationally among 17 Institutes of Sociology in 2007 by „Polityka”
Institute of Sociology
School of Economics & Sociology

prof. Wielisława Warzywoda-Kruszyńska, Director IS UL
Brussels, 29.05.08
Contents:

- R&D staff members of the IS UL
- Participation in international and domestic research and teaching projects
- The specificity of approach to poverty and social exclusion applied in the IS UL
- Conclusions: To overcome replication of poverty and social exclusion research on and among „children on the street”, i.e. children living in child poverty stricken areas is needed
- Annexes:
  - I. Participation in R&D projects
  - II. Participation in educational projects
  - III. Main publications
R&D staff members of the Institute

- 6 Full Professors
- 17 Habilitated Doctors
- 30 Senior Researchers (Ph.D.)
- 15 Researchers (M.A.)
- 8 Administrators

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Researchers have experience in conducting studies among:

- Individuals
- Families
- Stakeholders operating at different governance levels

Elaborating both:

- Qualitative, and
- Quantitative data

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Participation in R&D projects (Annex I)

- **EU founded:** 7
  - 6th 4
  - 5th FP 2
  - Leonardo da Vinci 1

- **Based on bilateral cooperation:** 3

- **Founded by domestic institutions:** 7
  - *The State Committee for Research:* 4
    - coordinated by IS staff 4
    - coordinated by other institutions 2
  - *The Foundation for Polish Science:* 1

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Participation in educational projects (Annex II):

- TEMPUS Program 3
- SOCRATES Program 2
Expertise provided to:

- World Bank
- Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
- Ombudsman for Children
- Ombudsman for Citizens
- Province Office (Development Strategies of Lodz Province)
- Local and regional social departments responsible for the design of social inclusion strategies

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The main thesis of the presentation is that

- to prevent replication of poverty and social exclusion survey data have to be complemented with data collected with the use of case studies carried out in communities vulnerable to the existence of „hot spots”, i.e. areas stricken by poverty, particularly – by child poverty.

- Studies carried out by the IS researchers may indicate ways to refine or deepen the analysis of issues related to preventing and tackling poverty.
The distinguishing features of the approach applied by the IS research team are:

1. Contextualizing the problem of poverty and social exclusion
2. Applying the dynamic approach to poverty (focus on life-course poverty and poverty transmission across generations)
3. Focusing on exposure of „hot spots”, particularly those affected by child poverty
Case study approach means that

1. Study is conducted in selected communities/ municipalities

2. Triangulation of methods and information sources is applied
Focusing on local level is based on the convictions that:

1. tackling poverty and social exclusion requires tailoring policy measures to specific needs

2. Smaller units (local gov.) are able to tailor policy measures to the specific needs better than the central government is

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Community, municipality may tailor policies better because:

- Social diagnosis covering smaller populations may be more correct and specific
- Segmentation and fragmentation of social services may be overcome better in this case
Such approach was applied also in the EU funded PROFIT project

- Study on intergenerational inheritance of inequalities was conducted in eight medium-size towns located in 8 EU member states.

- Results of the project are published in English in:
  - *Przeglad Socjologiczny* (Sociological Review) 2007/4
  - www.profit.uni.lodz.pl
The particular interest of the IS UL researchers is focused

- on exposing social „hot spots”, areas of a given community stricken by poverty, where intergenerationally transmitted poverty and social exclusion is very likely.

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To expose areas stricken by poverty

- in cooperation with urban geographers the IS research team has developed original methodology based on the use of data available from administrative registers (social welfare, education departments, etc.)
- It enabled to calculate poverty rates for much smaller spatial units than provided by nationwide surveys

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A poverty stricken area is defined as

• a locality overrepresented by poor people, being permanent residents of the area.

„Overrepresented” is a relative concept and depends on an average poverty rate for the whole population. Poverty stricken area is a locality with poverty rate at least twice as high as the average for the whole population (in a given town, province, etc.)
Such definition is not perfect because:

1. it excludes homeless persons and families

2. it is sensitive to:
   - the concept of „a poor person”, which is based on administrative definition
   - the concept of spatial unit, which is delineated for other purposes than exposing poverty enclaves
   - the poverty rate in a given town, district, province where poverty stricken areas are to be exposed
However,

• Its obvious advantage is that attaching the problem of poverty and social exclusion to space (an administrative unit) it enables to design intervention using all sources being at disposal.
To show how this method works

- the example of the exposure of areas stricken by child poverty in the city of Lodz is provided.
- Child-poverty stricken area is defined as an administrative region of grammar school where at least twice as much pupils as the average for the whole city is provided with free meals at school.
Therefore,

• Spatial unit is defined as administrative region of a given school
• Poor child is defined as one provided with free meal at school.
• Poverty rate for children living in a given administrative region is a proportion of poor children to all pupils in the school.
Poverty rate calculated as a share of pupils provided with free meals in Lodz, 2005.

- Child poverty areas:
  - 34% in one region
  - 28% in another region
  - 16%> in a third region

- Average for the town: 8%

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In the child poverty stricken areas children suffer from multiple deprivations

- They are not „street children” in terms they are homeless but they are „children on the street”. It is the street where they spend time and express their agency (playing games, stealing, working, making noise, etc.)
- They are excluded from goods and activities that other children take for granted
Children spending time in child poverty enclaves in Lodz

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Conclusions:

In the 7th FP attention should be paid to intergenerational transmission of poverty and social inequalities resulting from child poverty.

It seems to be of particular importance to approach the problem of „children on the street”, i.e. children living in child-poverty stricken areas.

It is a group of children distinct from children placed at institutions, in foster families, or having immigrant background.

Research results are needed to get a deepened understanding about specific needs and necessary interventions to provide the „children on the street” with equal opportunities.

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Annex I – Participation in R&D projects:

6th FP


**BIONET** – Ethical Governance of Biological and Biomedical Research: Chinese – European co-operation, 2006-2009, (036788), coordinating institution London School of Economics and Political Sciences, UK, coordinator: N. Rose, partner in IS UL D. Walczak-Duraj

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6th FP:

EUROPREVALL - The Prevalance, Cost and Basis for Food Allergy Across Europe, 2007-2009, (514000 Food), coordinating institution: Institute of Food Research, Norwich Research Park, UK coordinator: D.A. Brown, partners in IS UL: P. Starosta, E. Rokicka


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5th FP:

**Learning:** Learning in European Agricultural and Rural Networks: institutions, networks and governance (2001-2005), Contract No: HPSE-CT-2002-60059), 5 FP, coordinating institution: INRA, France, partner in IS UL – E.Rokicka


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Leonardo da Vinci Program

**Invite** - New Ways of Biographical Counseling in Rehabilitative Vocational Training (2003-2006), Contract No: 2003-D/03/B/F/PP 146 087, coordinating institution: University in Magdeburg, DE, coordinator: Fritz Schuetze, partner in IS UL: A.Golczynska-Grondas

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Research projects carried out in cooperation with foreign universities:

• Moving up and Out: Poverty, Gender and Social Policy in Poland and USA. Joint project with Arkansas University, USA, 2001 - 2002

• Collective and individual strategies to eradicate long-term unemployment and poverty in depressive regions. Joint project with REGLO, Bulgaria, financed by UNESCO MOST, 2000

• Social History of Poverty in Central Europe (Joint project with Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic), financed by Institut fuer die Wissenschaften vom Menschen, 1999

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Research projects funded by the State Committee for Research

- Social networks as remedy for poverty and social exclusion (2006-2009), coordinator: J. Grotowska-Leder

- Local government strategies against unemployment and poverty” (200-2003), coordinator: W. Warzywoda-Kruszynska


Research projects with participation of IS UL researchers funded by State Committee for Research

**Polish Poverty III** (2003-2006) coordinating institution: Institute of Labour and Social Affairs, coordinator: S.Golinowska

**Social deprivation**: manifestations, patterns and structural determinants, coordinating institution: Institute of Philosophy and Sociology Polish Academy of Sciences, coordinator: K.Janicka

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Research project supported by the Foundation for Polish Science

- Poverty, social exclusion and family (2002-2005), coordinator: W. Warzywoda-Kruszynska
Annex II: Participation in EU founded educational projects:

- **NEW MOD** – New Models of Activism in European Social Work (2006-2008); (PhD_ACT_AIMS; 1-2006-1), coordinator: Hans Uwe Otto, contractor in IS: Jerzy Krzyszkowski


- Three projects within **TEMPUS program**:
  - 1995-1998 (coordinator: W. Warzywoda-Kruszynska)

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Annex III – Main Publications


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Thank you for your attention

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