

Title: *Poverty and Deprivation of Italian Children: Evidence from the EU-SILC Survey*

Author(s): Cristina Freguja and Isabella Siciliani

Institution/Country: ISTAT (Italian National Statistical Institute)

Children represent a particular population group, about which the attention is particularly high as their success in later life is an important factor for the future progress of a society. Moreover, children are a weak subgroup of population as they cannot influence their own economic condition. Several studies have proved a significant negative impact of poverty on children's educational achievements and therefore on their ability to have a well-off life.

The aim of the paper is to investigate the level and the causes of child poverty, with reference to the Italian context. Not only the monetary and more traditional approach to the poverty analysis is used, but a multidimensional approach is adopted as also other deprivation indicators are exploited. Using a fuzzy set based approach, some synthetic deprivation indicators are determined for the main dimensions of deprivation both for the households with and without children. It is showed that households with children have a higher risk to be poor and deprived. Moreover, the analysis conducted for the single dimensions of non-monetary deprivation and for the monetary poverty enlightens the more significant factors of the higher risk of child deprivation.

The objectives are: (i) to identify dimensions of deprivation relevant for the Italian socio-economic context and to summarise a large set of indicators into few synthetic indicators, including the traditional monetary ones; (ii) to analyse the relative risk of deprivation (along all the proposed dimensions) and of monetary poverty for households with and without children; (iii) to assess individual well-being of children vs. adult and old age individuals using a fuzzy set based approach. The main data source used for the analysis is the 2004 Italian survey for the EU-SILC project (European Statistics on Income and Living Condition). Additional information from other households Italian surveys are also taken into account.