Individual Poverty Risk And Household Income Patterns: A Comparison At European Level

The paper explores the relation between two main aspects of income poverty: the risk factors at individual level and the earning capabilities of households. The interplay of the individual and the households levels may lead to a better understanding of determinants of income poverty.

In this paper we examine the main individual risk factors as low educational attainment, lack of qualification and labour market position, but also we investigate the role of poor health, disability or lack of social ties (family, community) in determining economic disadvantages. In particular we look at the work conditions (professional experience, type of contract, number of hours usually worked) and the possibility of falling below the at-risk-of poverty threshold, in order to individuate social profile of income poverty.

In general terms, the individual risk factors depend also on the household earning capabilities. The household's position in the income distribution is strongly influenced by the household composition, the numbers of income percipients and main income sources of the household members. All these aspects could be defined as household income structure and the households could be classified on the basis of different structures. In this way it is possible to explain how the differences in household income structures contribute to the risks of income poverty.

In this work we use the individual and household level of analysis from a comparative perspective using EU-SILC micro data of three European countries (Italy, France and Sweden) for the survey year 2006, in order to highlight some differences or similarities in income poverty and its determinants in the selected countries.