

Material deprivation items and its relationship to welfare state classification

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The research question is *How do countries cluster on material deprivation items keeping in mind the welfare state typology?*

The material deprivation indicators are one of the three pillars currently defining the risk poverty and social exclusion. There are nine indicators addressing different type of shortages of the households, as are: the inability to face unexpected expenditure, deprivation in mortgage utility bills and instalments, meat consumption at least twice a week, difficulties in keeping the household warm, some referring to durable goods consumption (the possession of washing machine, coloured TV, phone and car) and not affording a holiday once a year, several days. A combination of four of them defines the severe material deprivation. A solution to the limit of living standard measurement exclusively by monetary indicators the material deprivation indicators are subject to cultural and society development over the time. They have suffered their own changes and developments. Guio, Gordon, Najera, Pomati (2017) question on the adequacy of the possession of the washing machine, a TV and a telephone as indicators of nowadays deprivation. This brings even more the attention on them, as Israel and Spannagel (2018) stressed out, combating material deprivation being crucial towards fostering the individual's ability to fully participate in all societal aspects.

In the early 90s Esping-Andersen proposed a classification of the welfare states regimes, grounded on social protection and employment indicators. Subject of criticism and developments the classification has suffered some changes over the time (*Esping Andersen (1990, 1999), Ferrera (1998) Boeri (2002)*), but it is still largely utilised by the social policies scholars. For the European area, a significant change occurred in the early 2000 (ex: Boeri, 2002), by considering the new EU member states. Some works on various social policies measures (Ilie, 2017; Voicu and Stănescu, 2019) observed the blur of the cut between the former communist countries and particularly the Southern European group.

The research uses the *EU-SILC 2013-2016 micro data*, more precisely the panel data for 24 European countries except for the UK, Germany, Ireland and Netherlands¹. The usage of panel

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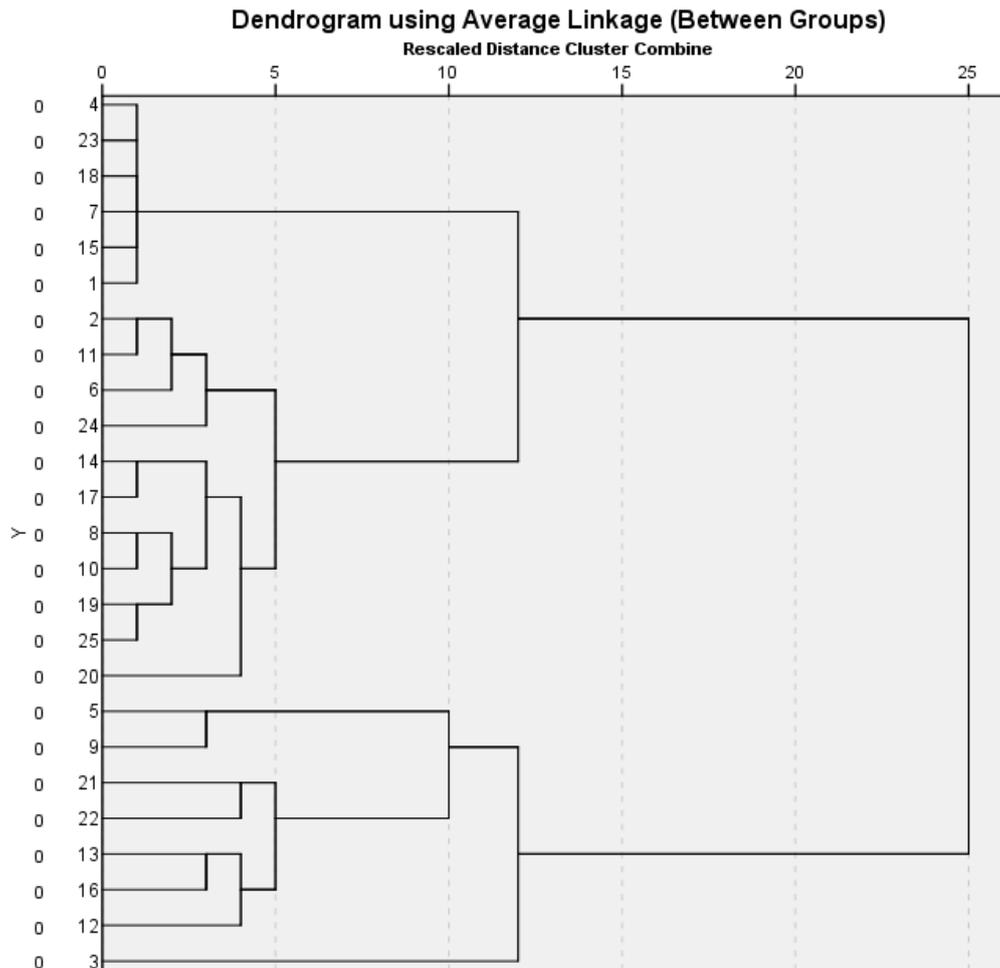
data (as opposed to the data available on Eurostat datasets) offers the advantage of a more stable depiction of the national specific.

The *first results* we find that in general countries like Norway, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Sweden have very low deprivation whereas countries such as Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Hungary, Latvia have high percentages of population deprived on the items composing material deprivation.

We applied the cluster methodology for the data with and without the group of variables on whose adequacy questioned Guio, Gordon, Najera and Pomati (possession of a washing machine, a colour TV and a phone) and which seem to produce the least degree of deprivation. The results suggest a stability of the groups of the North and West Central European countries. At limit, France and Belgium tends to go close to the countries in the Southern Model (in a group alongside to the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Italy, Malta, Slovakia, Estonia, Spain, Poland, Portugal). The East European countries do not show the same classification as in Boeri (2002), Hungary and Estonia leaving their groups. On the other hand, the South-East European countries (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Croatia, Hungary, Latvia, Romania and Serbia) with the highest figures for the material deprivation indicators, cluster together heterogeneously.

For further analysis we envisage grouping by subgroups of material deprivation indicators (as they define the immediate consumption needs or leisure aspects of people life), as well as some correlations macro indicators (such as social and social assistance and total social benefits, the employment rate, income inequality indicators, poverty rates before and after social transfers and so on; (Guio, Marlier, Vandenbroucke, Verbunt, 2020) in the attempt to interpret our results.

¹ Data was accessed through the Ingrid network at LISER Luxembourg, benefiting from a visiting research period of two weeks on its premises. We wish to thank Alessio Fusco, Philippe Van Kerm and Anne Catherine Guio for the assistance provided.



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