

#2 – EU Multidimensional Inequality Monitoring Framework (MIMF)

Short description

Type of object: Dataset

Source (organisation): EU – Directorate-General, Joint Research Centre

Issues: (1) knowledge and skills, (2) health, (3) material living conditions, (4) natural and environmental conditions, (5) working life, (6) cultural life and recreation, (7) political participation and voice, (8) social and family life, (9) bodily integrity and safety and (10) overall life experience.

Time span: The data for each issue is updated to a specific date (ranging from 2011 to 2019).

Time span is variable depending on the aspects studied (e.g., for the study of the Inequality of opportunity, four different birth cohorts were considered: 1939-1944, 1945-1949, 1950-1954, and 1955-1965)

Geographical coverage: Macro-region: European Union

Link: <https://composite-indicators.jrc.ec.europa.eu/multidimensional-inequality>

Note/Interpretations

“The EU MIMF is intended to play a role as a first, but comprehensive, attempt to establish a ‘common language’ and a common framework for monitoring and analysing inequalities in the EU. (...) The basic premise underpinning this report is that **inequality is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon**. Therefore, we draw on five different methodological approaches to study inequalities across **10 key dimensions of human well-being**. In addition to defining and computing relevant inequality metrics at country level, we have developed and implemented a double-sorting algorithm that allows us: (i) to rank countries according to their performance in any subset of inequality indicators, and (ii) to identify in which of the areas covered by these indicators the countries struggle — or find it easier — to make progress in their efforts to tackle inequalities. The report also includes a section that explores the econometric analysis of possible causes and effects of inequalities in the EU. Finally, the last two chapters make use of high-quality administrative data sets to calculate more granular (i.e., sub-national) inequality indicators in selected EU countries.”

“Research and policies addressing **inequality differ in scope from those tackling poverty**. The analysis of poverty focuses on the part of the overall population that is below a given threshold for any relevant social outcome of interest. Instead, the study of inequality takes into consideration the whole range of interpersonal and intergroup disparities in life outcomes.”

(from the abstract of the report “[Monitoring Multidimensional Inequalities in the European Union](#)” – 2021)

The core of the EU MIMF is a comprehensive data set of **346 indicators**, each calculated for the most recent year available at the time of preparation of this report.

Further sources quoted: Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI) by UNDP; OECD Well-being Framework; Measurement Framework for Equality and Human Rights in the UK; Multidimensional Inequality Framework (MIF) by London School of Economics and SOAS University of London, in collaboration with practitioners from Oxfam; Sustainable Society Index (SSI); Social Progress Index (SPI); Social Justice Index (SJI); WEF Inclusive Development Index (WEF-IDI); Social Scoreboard for the European Pillar of Social Rights; UN Sustainable development goals; EUROSTAT Quality of life framework; EU Integrated Poverty and Living Conditions Indicator System (EU-IPOLIS); EU Regional Human Development Index (EU-RHDI)

Main concepts: vertical and horizontal inequality; equality of opportunity; capability; social mobility; discriminatory norms, attitudes and practises

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