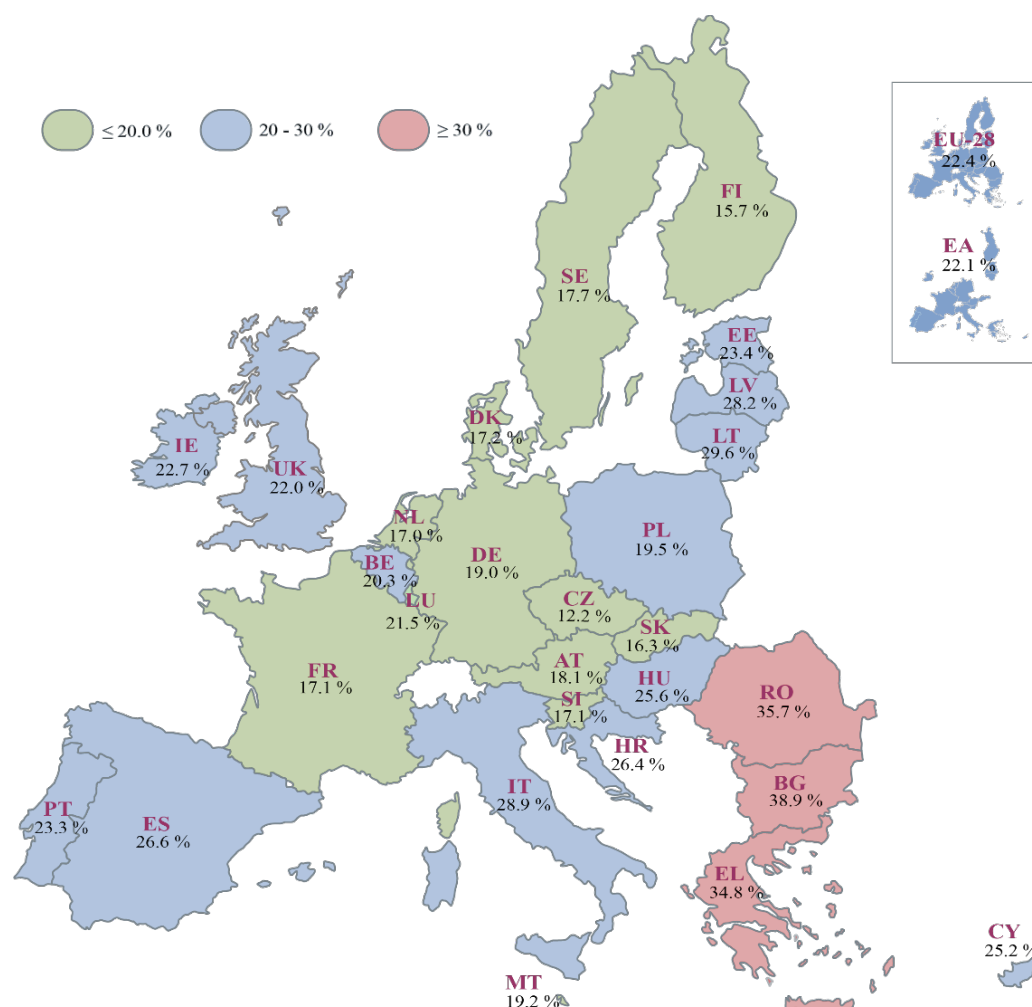


People at risk of poverty or social exclusion

This note provides an overview of the **risk of poverty or social exclusion** in the European Union. This risk [indicator](#) refers to the situation of people either at risk of poverty, or severely materially deprived or living in a household with a very low work intensity.

As part of the [Europe 2020 strategy](#) adopted by the [European Council on 17 June 2010](#), one of the key targets is the reduction of poverty by lifting at least **20 million people** out of risk of poverty or social exclusion between 2008 and 2020 in the EU¹. This target is unlikely to be met, as the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU decreased only to **112 million** persons, or 22.4 % of the population, against a target of **96 million** persons in 2017 (latest annual data available). However, this aggregated figure masks large variations across Member States.

Chart 1: People at risk of poverty or social exclusion rate in 2017, as % of the total population

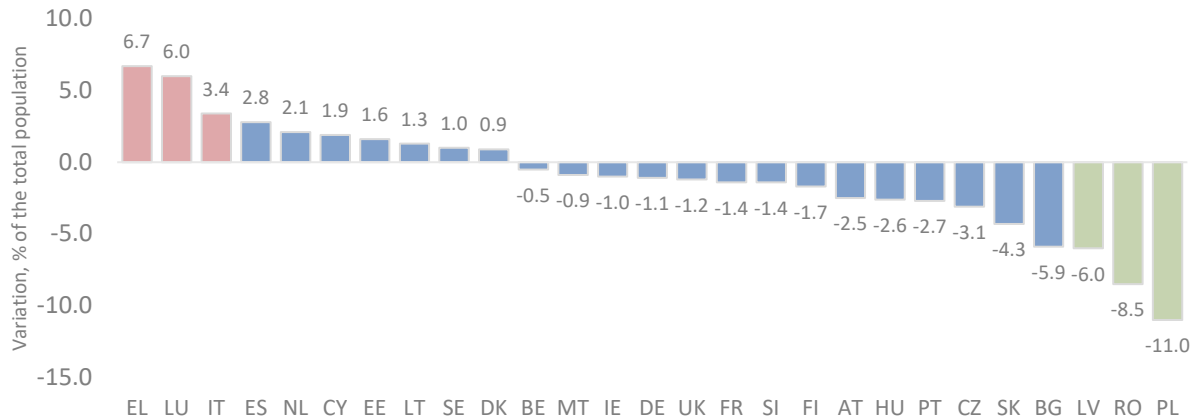


Source: Eurostat, extraction date 30/01/2019.



In relative terms, in the 2008-2017 period the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, expressed as a percentage of the total population, increased the most in Greece (+6.7 pp), Luxembourg, (+6.0 pp), Italy (+3.4 pp), Spain (+2.8 pp) and decreased the most in Poland (-11.0 pp), Romania (-8.5 pp), Latvia (-6.0 pp), Bulgaria (-5.9 pp).

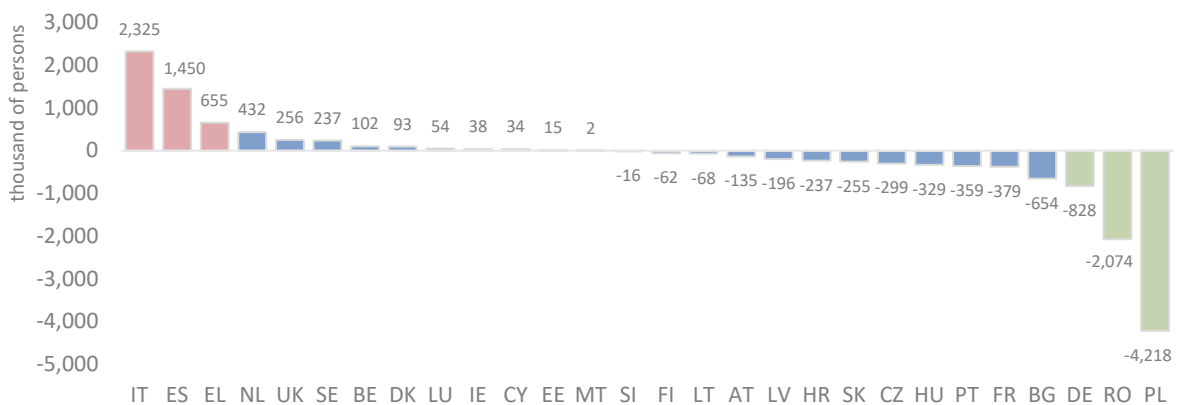
Chart 2: People risk-of-poverty or social exclusion, 2008-2017 variation, in % of total population



Sources: Eurostat, extraction date 31/01/2019; data for Croatia is only available as of 2010.

In absolute terms, in the 2008-2017 period the variation of the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion increased the most in Italy (+2.3 million), Spain (+1.5 million) and Greece (+655 thousand) and decreased the most in Poland (-4.2 million), Romania (-2.1 million) and Germany (-828 thousand).

Chart 3: People risk-of-poverty or social exclusion, 2008-2017 variation, in millions of persons



Sources: EGOV based on Eurostat, extraction date 31/01/2019; data for Croatia is only available as of 2010.

Disclaimer and Copyright

The content of this document is the sole responsibility of the author and any opinions expressed therein do not necessarily represent the official position of the European Parliament. It is addressed to the Members and staff of the EP for their parliamentary work. Reproduction and translation for non-commercial purposes are authorised, provided the source is acknowledged and the European Parliament is given prior notice and sent a copy. © European Union, 2019. Contact: egov@ep.europa.eu
 This document is available on Internet at: www.europarl.europa.eu/supporting-analyses

¹ The EU poverty reduction target applies to the EU27, as Croatia joined EU in 2013 and data is available only as of 2010. Croatia's national target is to reduce to 1 220 000 the number of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion. When the Europe 2020 strategy was adopted in 2010, most key social data referred to 2008 as the most recent year of data available, which is why 2008 serves as the baseline year. For more information, see Eurostat's statistical book [Smarter, greener, more inclusive? - 2018 edition](#).