

Bulgaria and Romania at the Highest Risk of Poverty in EU 27

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Brussels, February 9 (BTA) - Eurostat data for 2010 shows that the highest shares of persons being at risk of poverty or social exclusion in 2010 were recorded in Bulgaria (42 per cent) and Romania (41 per cent) followed by Latvia (38 per cent), Lithuania (33 per cent) and Hungary (30 per cent). The lowest, on the other hand were in the Czech Republic (14 per cent), Sweden and the Netherlands (both 15 per cent), Austria, Finland and Luxembourg (all 17 per cent).

In 2010, 115 million people, or 23.4 per cent of the population in the EU 27 were at risk of poverty or social exclusion, which means that they were at least in one of the following three conditions: at risk of poverty with income less than 60 per cent of the national average (after social transfers), severely materially deprived (unable to pay bills, keep adequately warm, have adequate protein intake), living in households with very low work intensity (the adults (aged 18-59) worked less than 20 per cent of their total work potential during the past year)).

The elderly population is at the highest risk of poverty in Bulgaria (59.5 per cent) and Romania (39.9 per cent).

The share of children (under 18) at risk of poverty reaches 48.7 per cent in Romania and 44.6 per cent in Bulgaria, while in Finland and Sweden they are 14.2 and 14.5 per cent respectively.

The largest share of people at risk of poverty after social transfers is in Latvia (21.3 per cent), Romania (21.1 per cent) Bulgaria and Spain (both 20.7 per cent).

In the EU 27, 8 per cent of the population were severely materially deprived, meaning that they had living conditions constrained by a lack of resources such as not being able to afford to pay their bills, keep their home adequately warm, or take a one week holiday away from home. The share of those severely materially deprived varied significantly among Member States, ranging from 1 per cent in Luxembourg and Sweden to 35 per cent in Bulgaria and 31 per cent in Romania. PK/MY