

# Approaches to Measuring Social Exclusion

Prepared by the UNECE Task Force on  
the Measurement of Social Exclusion



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# NOTE

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# PREFACE

For many countries, reduction of social exclusion is an important policy goal that requires measurement. Social exclusion must also be addressed in the context of policies with other stated goals, such as improving well-being, reducing poverty or improving social cohesion. While many countries measure different aspects of social exclusion, there is no widely accepted definition for what social exclusion is. It is a rather broad concept specific to the context and cultural values and may refer to outcomes, such as exclusion from the labour force, as well as to the processes by which exclusion happens, such as discrimination. Very few surveys or statistical methods are specifically designed for measuring social exclusion.

To consolidate current and emerging good practices in measuring social exclusion and in assessing their potential for delivering comparable results, the Conference of European Statisticians established a task force, which worked from 2019 to 2021 to develop the present publication.

The task force consisted of 30 statistical experts from 12 UNECE member countries and 5 international organizations and academia. Their recommendations aim to improve measurement of social exclusion by ensuring better availability of social exclusion data in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Thirty-one countries provided their national experiences on measurement approaches, topics, and best practice examples related to social exclusion or related concepts.

The publication targets mainly national statistical authorities and provides useful information for policymakers, researchers and other users of social exclusion and poverty data. It was endorsed by the 69th plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians in 2021.

UNECE is grateful to all the experts who were involved in the preparation of this publication.

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