Workshop 3: Poverty and Public Services

Seminar Urban Poverty

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“The partnership on urban poverty will focus on two main areas in relation to the main topic, namely:

- **Urban poverty considered within the perspective of an area-based approach**, i.e. urban poverty as a spatial phenomena manifesting itself in specific urban areas, in particular deprived urban neighbourhoods;

- **Urban poverty considered within the perspective of a people-based approach**, in particular focusing on child poverty”.
“Public services, such as education and training, health care, social services, transport play (or should play) a crucial role to tackle poverty and social exclusion”

Scoping Paper
The distribution of schools in urban space has not neutral effects. Often it influences the way pupils are allocated to schools.

School allocational systems can serve to reinforce or weaken existing patterns of segregation.

Areas with low levels of economic growth and high number of population at risk of poverty tend to have lower educational outcomes (lower academic performance, earlier school leavers and less participation in tertiary education).

Different examples in Europe for educational systems aiming to compensate poor students in order to ensure their equal chances at School.

Life-long learning and training (can prevent unemployment).
HEALTH:

• To what extent the access to different types and levels of medical services depend on income or other socioeconomic factors?

• If no cost barriers, how does the system operate in practice? how are the waiting lists organized?

• How are medical facilities located in the city (sanitary centers at neighbourhood level, speciality medical center, etc.)? Are they equally accessible to all?

• City of short distances. It supports the daily life of all citizens, particularly the most vulnerable (old people, ill people, single-parent families, carers, etc.).

• Role of private health care.

• Contextual factors (neighbourhood characteristics, pollution, noise, level of quality of urban space, perceived unsafety, provision of green areas, etc.).

• Demographic challenge.

• “Fuel poverty” / Heat waves (poor people is more vulnerable).
PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

- Good quality and affordable urban public transport tackles the spatial mismatch between affordable housing and jobs, between residential areas of the poor and good quality schools.

- Lack of public transport connectivity can isolate poorer urban areas from urban dynamics, perpetuating poverty.

- Different social groups have different patterns of mobility and different needs regarding public transport (e.g. “poligonal pattern” versus “pendular pattern”; “safety factor” particularly important for women -gender dimension-). Need of relevant statistics.

- Public transport should be planned taking into account other sectoral policies (housing, job market, etc.) in order to avoid transport systems geographically, financially or socially exclusive.
POVERTY AND PUBLIC SERVICES IN THE SCOPING PAPER

OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES

- Child care (nurseries) –addressed by another workshop-
- Day-care centers for the elderly
- Retirement residences for the elderly
- (Day) Centers for handicapped
- Should we include in our reflection other kind of public services?

PUBLIC SPACE

- The level of quality of the public space is a key issue. Environmental decline can start and perpetuate “poverty”. 

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION
Critical reflection on the scoping paper with regard to Urban Poverty and Public Services

Does the scoping paper reflect the key points that need to be discussed in the partnership?
What is especially relevant and what is not?
Are any crucial aspects missing?

Different approaches to the theme of the workshop, see Scoping Paper par. 2.3 – 2.7.

Bottlenecks and possible solutions: what actions need to be undertaken by the partnership to contribute to:

better regulation? (see Scoping Paper, chapter 4, p. 53-79, for an overview of existing policies and regulatory frameworks, and chapters 5.1 and 5.2 for current challenges)
better funding? (see Scoping Paper, chapter 5.3, p. 98-104)
better knowledge exchange?

Other possible topics to be discussed
• How is the education system of your country performing according to the aspects mentioned above?
What kind of proposals exist to improve the inclusiveness of the system?
What role do cities play to promote inclusive education system?
What are concrete obstacles, but also solutions, provided by (EU) regulation, funding, and knowledge exchange on this issue?
How is the health-care system of your country performing according to the aspects mentioned above?
What kinds of ideas exist to improve the inclusiveness of the system?
What role do cities play to promote access to good quality health care system?
What are concrete obstacles, but also solutions, provided by (EU) regulation, funding, and knowledge exchange on this issue?
How is the public transport system of your country performing in relation to reaching poor urban areas and connecting these with job and educational opportunities?
What kinds of ideas exist to improve the inclusiveness of the system and to tackle mobility poverty?
What role do cities play to promote access to good quality transport system?
What are concrete obstacles, but also solutions, provided by (EU) regulation, funding, and knowledge exchange on this issue?
How can area-based and people-based approaches be combined in order to improve health levels of people in specific areas?