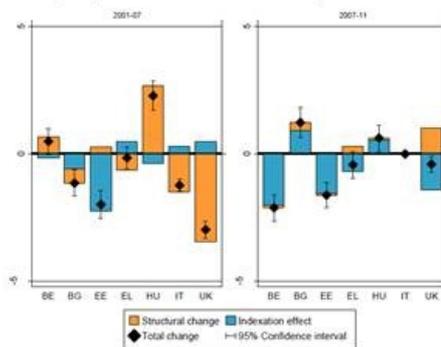


## In Focus

We are happy to announce the launch of the second Policy Brief of the project on **"The effects of tax and benefit policy changes on poverty and income distribution, 2001 to 2011: Some lessons for the future"** by John Hills, Alari Paulus, Holly Sutherland and Iva Tasseva.

Figure 2: Structural change and Indexation effects on poverty, 2001-07 and 2007-11 (compared to income-indexed base)



Source: Authors' calculations using EUROMOD version F6.36. See Discussion Paper 14/03 (Figure 6) for more discussion.

Among the main findings, the policy brief highlights that the period from 2001 to 2011 was not a 'lost decade' as the net effect of policy changes was to reduce poverty in most of the countries examined. At the same time, in most of the countries, policies since the crisis achieved less in terms of poverty reduction than before it, suggesting the need for governments to achieve more under favourable economic conditions.

The ImPRovE [Policy Brief Series](#) aims at distributing research findings with a high policy relevance in an accessible way. The policy briefs are based on state-of-the-art research within the ImPRovE project. More detailed information and more findings can be found in the [ImPRovE Working Papers](#) that form the basis of the policy briefs.

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## Next Conference

The 6th ImPRovE meeting will take place in Budapest hosted by TÁRKI Social Research Institute, and will be combined with an International Seminar on „**Policy programmes to promote social inclusion among Roma**”. The aim of the seminar is to disseminate research results related to policy initiatives focused on the social inclusion of Roma obtained within the frame of the ImPRovE project and other related projects and to offer an international platform for knowledge sharing related to the policy programmes focused on Roma in different member states, by involving scholars, project stakeholders and policy makers.

The European Union has developed a framework for national Roma inclusion strategies and promotes policy processes to improve their social inclusion. The ImPRovE project joins these efforts by putting a strong emphasis within its research agenda on the Roma. The project overviews and evaluates comprehensive social inclusion policy initiatives and socially innovative programmes focused on the Roma, in seven member states: Romania, Bulgaria, Spain, Hungary, Slovakia, Greece, and Italy.

For more information on the programme, registration and venue, please visit the <http://www.tarki.hu/en/research/improve/conference.html> page or contact the organisers by email: [conference@tarki.hu](mailto:conference@tarki.hu)

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## The Project

ImPRovE is a research project financed by the **7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme** of the European Commission. It is coordinated by the [Herman Deleeck Centre for Social Policy](#) (University of Antwerp) and brings together ten outstanding research institutes in a concerted effort to study poverty, social policy and social innovation in Europe.

The **two central questions** driving the ImPRovE project are:

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- How can social cohesion be achieved in Europe?
  - How can social innovation complement, reinforce and modify macro-level policies and vice versa? The project runs from March 2012 till February 2016.

[More information on the contents and output of the project on http://improve-research.eu](http://improve-research.eu)

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## Overview of publications

The ImPRovE Working Papers aim to disseminate as quickly and as widely as possible the output of the ImPRovE project. The paper series contains both methodological and discussion papers. The ImPRovE [Working Papers](#) are indexed in [Repec](#). The latest papers from 2014 are available for download:

**[WP 14/06](#). Estimating the poverty reduction effect of tax and benefit policies in Finland 1993-2013 using a microsimulation method**

*Pasi Moisio, Kirsi-Marja Lehtelä and Susanna Makkila*

**[WP 14/05](#). Mountains on the move: recent trends in national and EU-wide income dynamics in old and new EU Member States**

*Goedemé, T., Collado, D., Meeusen, L.*

**[WP 14/04](#). Distributive Effects of the Crisis and Austerity in Seven EU Countries**

*Matsaganis, M., Leventi, C.*

**[WP 14/03](#). A lost decade? Decomposing the effect of 2001-11 tax-benefit policy changes on the income distribution in EU countries**

*Hills, J., Paulus, A., Sutherland, H., Tasseva, I.*

**[WP 14/02](#). Can education bridge the gap? Education and the employment position of immigrants in Belgium**

*Corluy, V., Verbist, G.*

**[WP 14/01](#). Components of income inequality and its change in EU countries, 2004-2010**

*Márton Medgyesi*

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**Latest Book chapters and articles:**

Cantillon, Bea (2014), 'Beyond Social Investment. Which Concepts and Values for Social Policy-making in Europe?' in Cantillon, Bea & Vandenbroucke, Frank (eds.), *Reconciling Work and Poverty Reduction. How Successful are European Welfare States?*, Oxford: Oxford University Press: 286-318.

Decancq, Koen; Goedemé, Tim; Van den Bosch, Karel & Vanhille, Josefine (2014), 'The Evolution of Poverty in the European Union: Concepts, Measurement, and Data' in Cantillon, Bea & Vandenbroucke, Frank (eds.), *Reconciling Work and Poverty Reduction. How Successful are European Welfare States?*, Oxford: Oxford University Press: 60-93.

Manos Matsaganis & Chrysa Leventi (2014) [The Distributional Impact of Austerity and the Recession in Southern Europe](#), *South European Society and Politics*, 19:3, 393-412, DOI: 10.1080/13608746.2014.947700