

What is poverty according to the European Union ?

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60%

of the national median income

A person is considered poor when their disposable income (after taxes and social transfers), adjusted for household size, falls below this threshold.

Each country has its own threshold, set relative to its national median. There's no single EU-wide amount.

Relative approach (EU) ≠ absolute approach (World Bank, United States), based on a fixed basket of goods independent of the country's living standards.

The EU's broader indicator: AROPE



Income poverty

Income below 60% of the national median income



Severe material and social deprivation

Unable to cover essential expenses (heating, unexpected costs...)

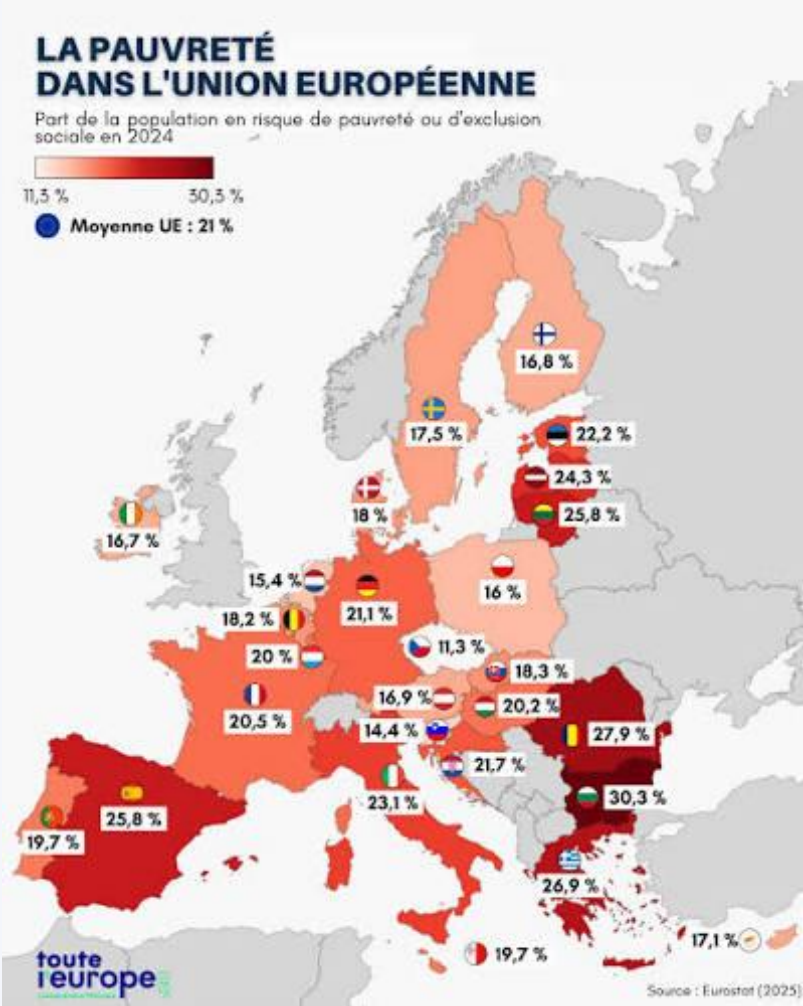


Very low work intensity

Working-age household members with little or no employment

EU 2030 target: – 15 million people out of poverty, including – 5 million children

The risk of poverty varies sharply across EU countries



21% of the EU population at risk of poverty or social exclusion, 93.3 million people (Eurostat, 2024)

Monthly poverty threshold (60% of median income, 2024)

Country	Threshold / month
Luxembourg (highest)	€2,540
Germany	€1,381
France	€1,278
Italy	€1,030
EU average	≈ €1,079
Spain	€965
Bulgaria (lowest)	€391

In France, poverty has been rising since 2017

Monetary poverty rate, 60% threshold (France)



* 2024: new Eurostat methodology (EU-SILC), France excluding Mayotte, not strictly comparable to previous years (Insee, ERFS).

Three setbacks for low-income households' purchasing power



2018 · Housing benefit cuts

Housing allowance cut by €5/month from 2017, only partly offset by lower social-housing rents



2021 · End of exceptional Covid support

End of solidarity payments and the exceptional back-to-school allowance top-up



2023 · End of “purchasing power” support

Inflation payment and back-to-school bonus not renewed; rise in involuntary part-time work

16.3% of the population lived below the poverty line in 2024 — the rise hits single-parent families and children hardest; retirees are less affected.

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