

SOURCES OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN ROMANIA

Elena Zamfir – University of Bucharest
Marian Preda – University of Bucharest
Adrian Dan – University of Bucharest

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In the first part of article, published in RJS No.1-2/ 2004, we reviewed a) the relevant literature, theories and explanations in the field of social exclusion, b) identified and analyzed major sources of social exclusion in Romania and c) analyzed the main types/ forms of social exclusion (from education, health, labor market, social services, housing etc.).

The second part of the article has also three sections analyzing in depth a) the main social groups excluded (children, elderly, homeless, unemployed, delinquents etc.), b) social policies on social inclusion, and finally we have an important section of c) conclusions and recommendations for action.

Since the study was done in the early 2004, Romania has made significant progress in fighting against social exclusion and promoting social inclusion. Such progress was recorded especially in the field of child protection (new legislation and institutional capacity building), but also regarding financial benefits and development of social services for vulnerable groups (elderly, domestic violence, children in institution at age of 18 etc.; child allowance, maternity leave etc.) social and economic measures for unemployed people and so on. The authors intend in the near future to update this study, putting more accents this time on the policies for social inclusion in the light of Romania's accession to EU structures.

Excluded Groups/ Social Segments

Currently, there exist in Romania a series of specific social groups that are at an accentuated risk from becoming excluded from various spheres of social, economic and political life, such as: children, the elderly, the unemployed, single parent families, the homeless, youngsters leaving institutions at the age of 18, children's institutions, the victims of delinquency, persons with disabilities etc. Such groups benefit from no comprehensive programmes that could protect them adequately against social exclusion. If in developed Western nations, unemployment – because of its consequences – is considered to be the gravest form of social exclusion – that pre-disposes, by association, to other types of