



Economic wellbeing trajectories among families with children in Europe in 2004–2025

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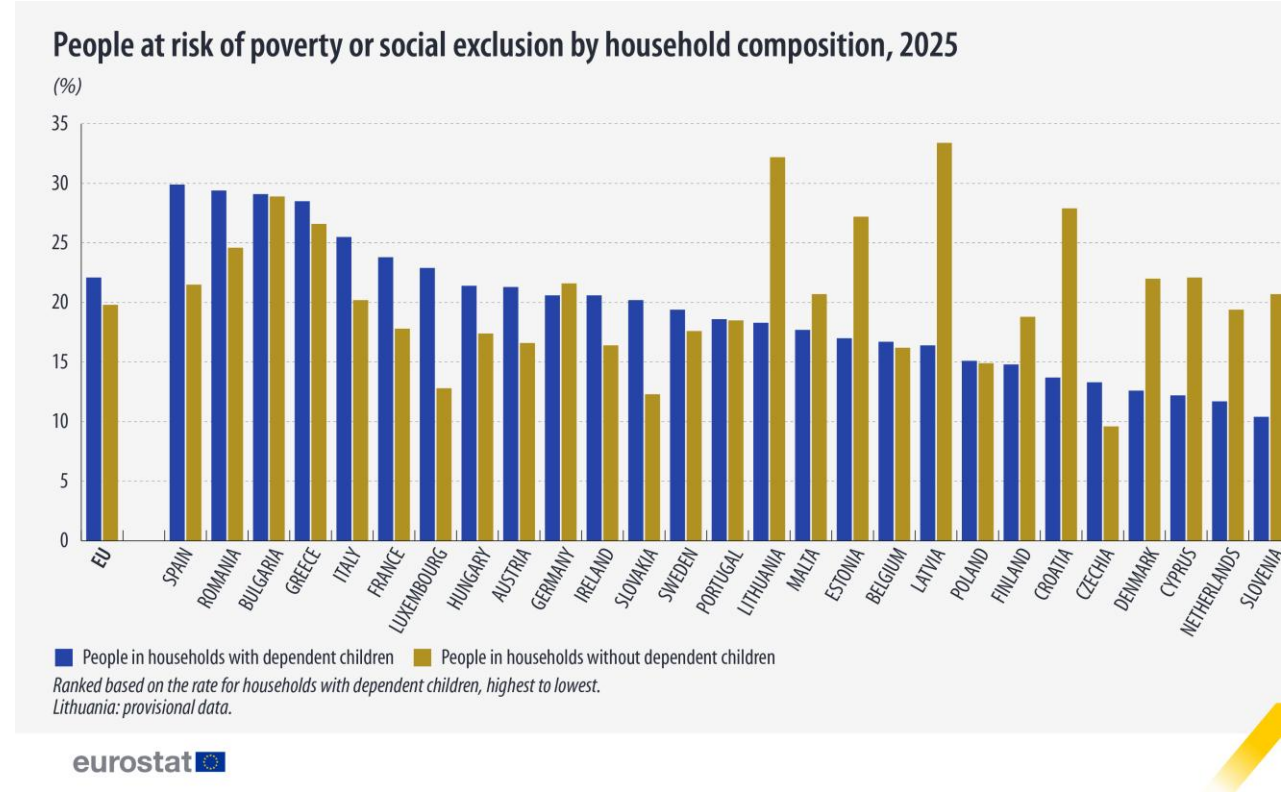
The aim of the study

- We ask, how economic wellbeing differs
 - across family types in Europe
 - *and across socioeconomic gradients (TBA)*
 - Have inequalities between family types widened in the last 20 years?
 - We analyse trends using 3 indicators of economic wellbeing among families with children
 - income poverty
 - material deprivation
 - financial strain
- Do the indicators reveal similar patterns of vulnerability?



Background

- Major socioeconomic transformations and polycrisis/permacrisis in European societies over the past two decades, resulting into rising cost-of-living, inflation and financial crisis
- Concerns about increasing inequalities in living conditions, the capacity of welfare states to protect families from economic insecurity and reformation of the political map in many countries



in 2025, households with dependent children faced higher risks of poverty and social exclusion than households without children in most EU-countries, yet with substantial variation between countries

Why this question matters now

- Repeated shocks
 - Financial crisis, pandemic, wars and the cost-of-living shock have altered risks and resources.
- Unequal exposure
 - Families differ in labour-market attachment, care responsibilities and household buffers.
- A welfare state "stress test"
 - Continuous crisis challenges the capacity of social protection to prevent insecurity.
- Question for social policy design: who needs support now and in the future?



Economic vulnerability is multidimensional

Income poverty	Material deprivation	Financial strain
Position in the income distribution Are household resources below a relative threshold?	Enforced lack of essential goods and activities What cannot the household afford?	Difficulty making ends meet and absorbing costs How tight is the household budget?

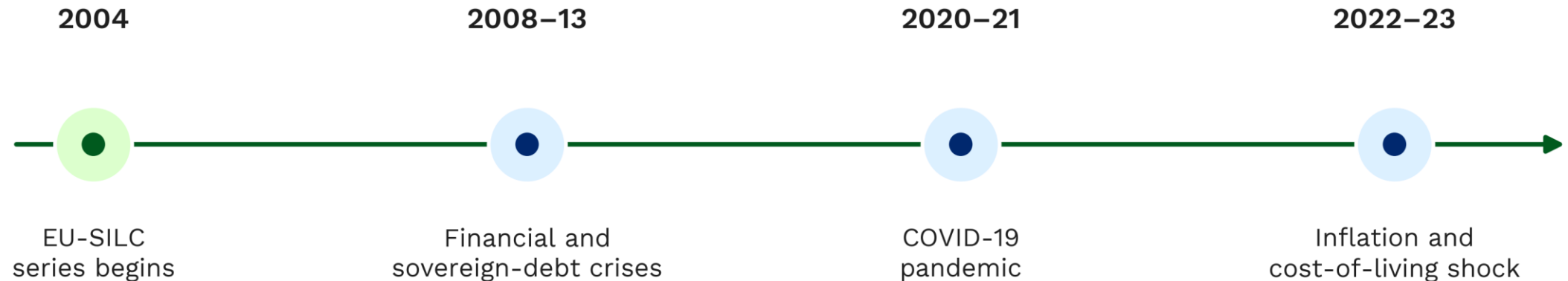


Triangulation matters: measures may converge during broad shocks or diverge when prices, benefits and household buffers change differently.

Data and methods

- Harmonised repeated cross-sectional EU-SILC data from 2004 to 2025 (later for EU-27)
- Methods: descriptive trend analysis
- This presentation is based on the indicators provided by Eurostat (micro-data analysis will follow)

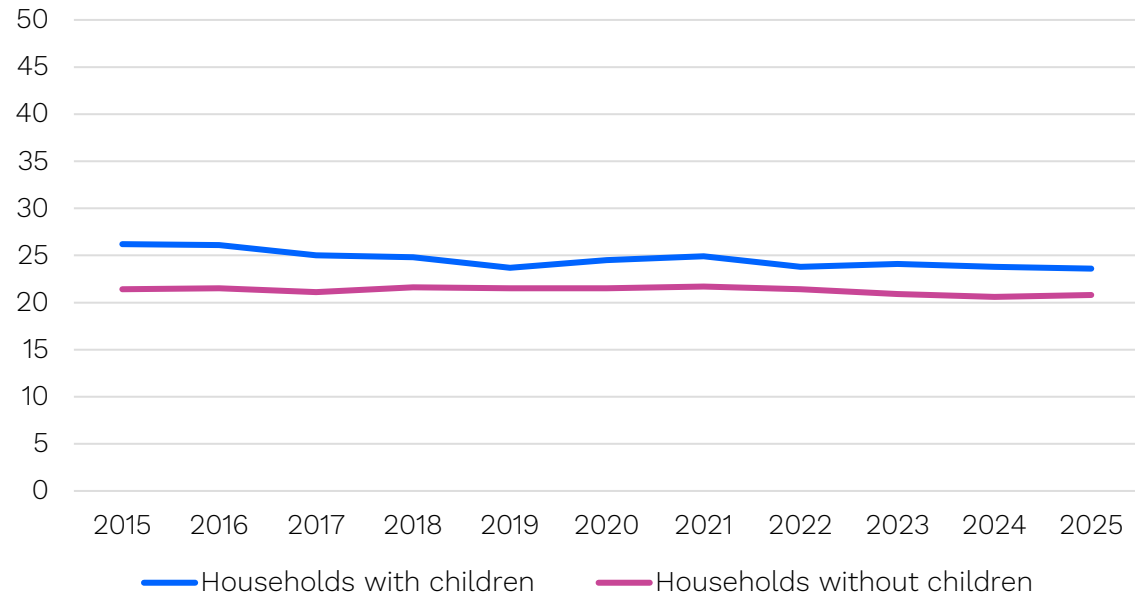
EU-SILC • 2004–2023



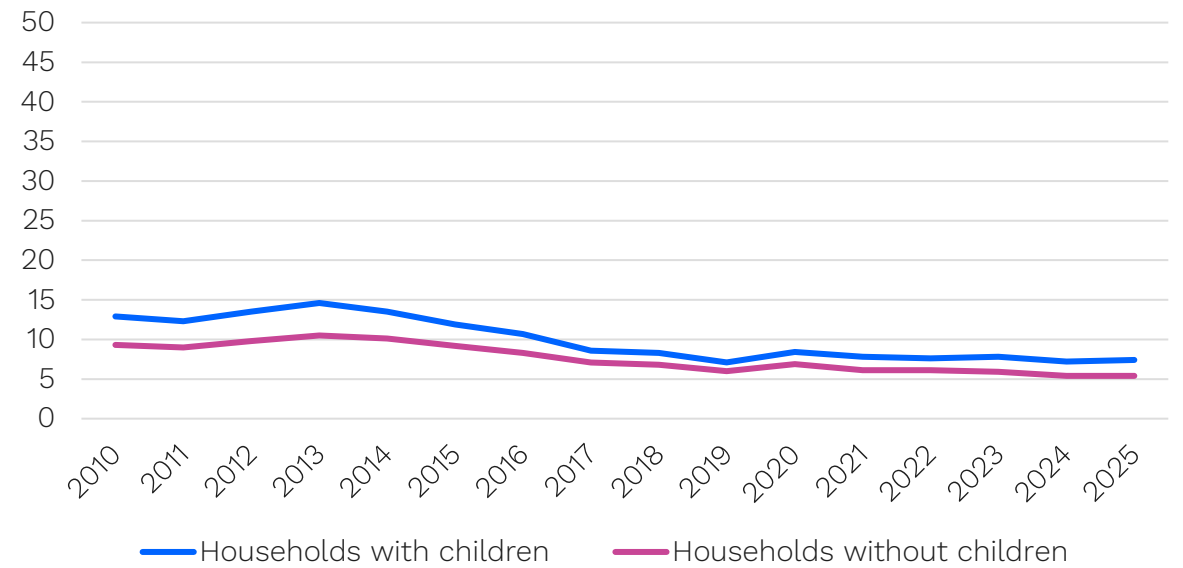
Findings



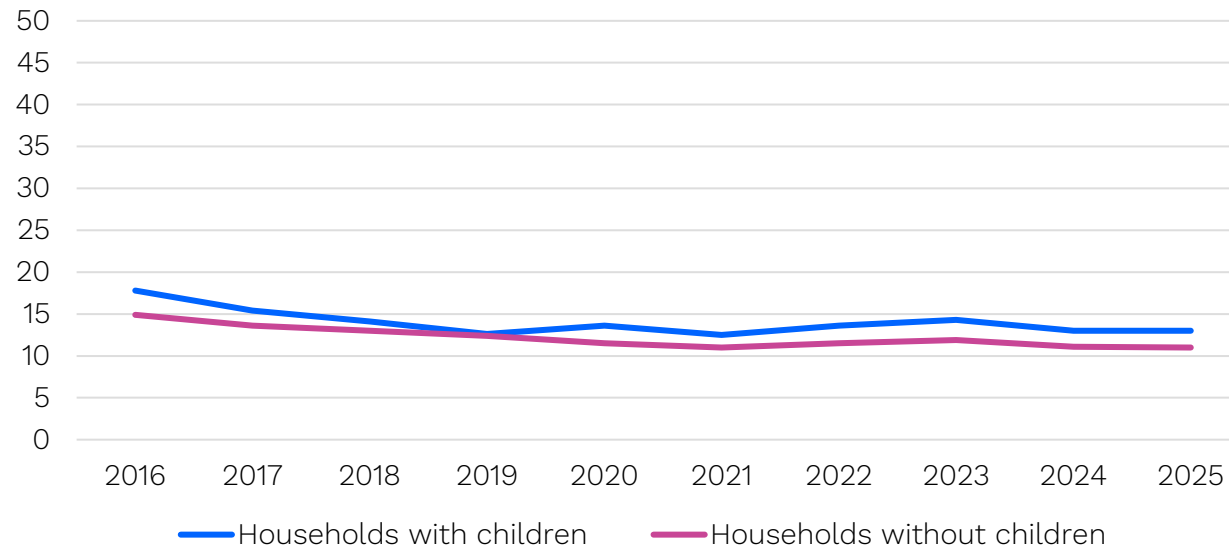
Monetary poverty (Below 60% of the median)



Financial strain



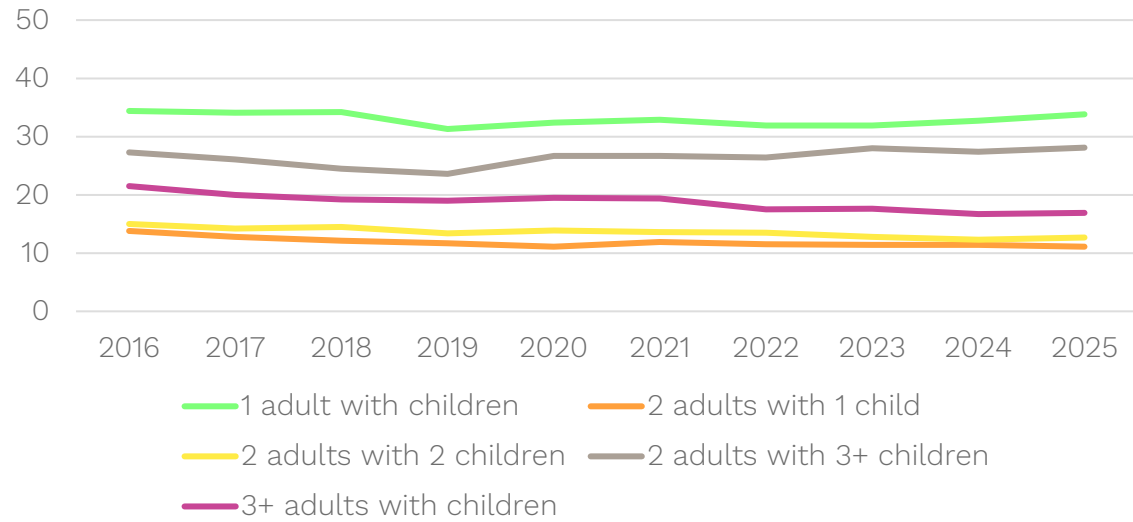
Material deprivation



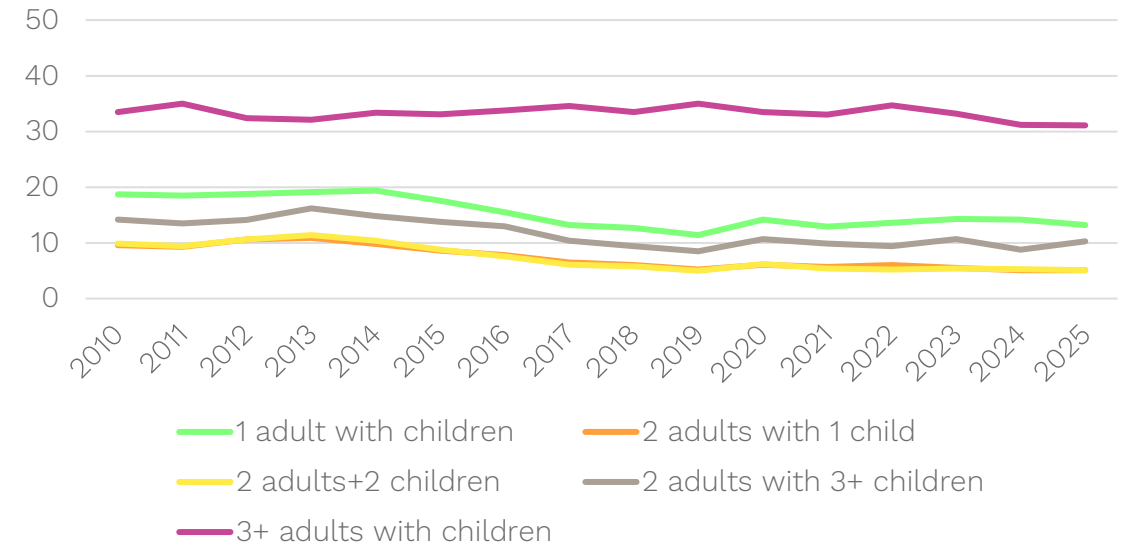
In EU-27 countries, poverty has decreased slightly among both households with and without children regardless of the measure we use

Poverty still higher among households with children

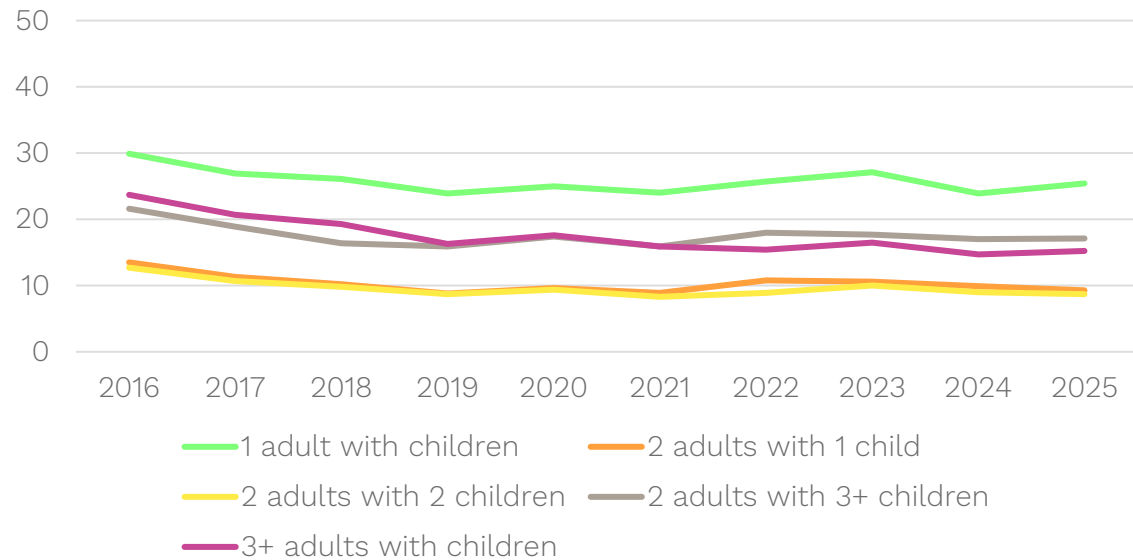
Monetary poverty (60% of median income)



Financial strain

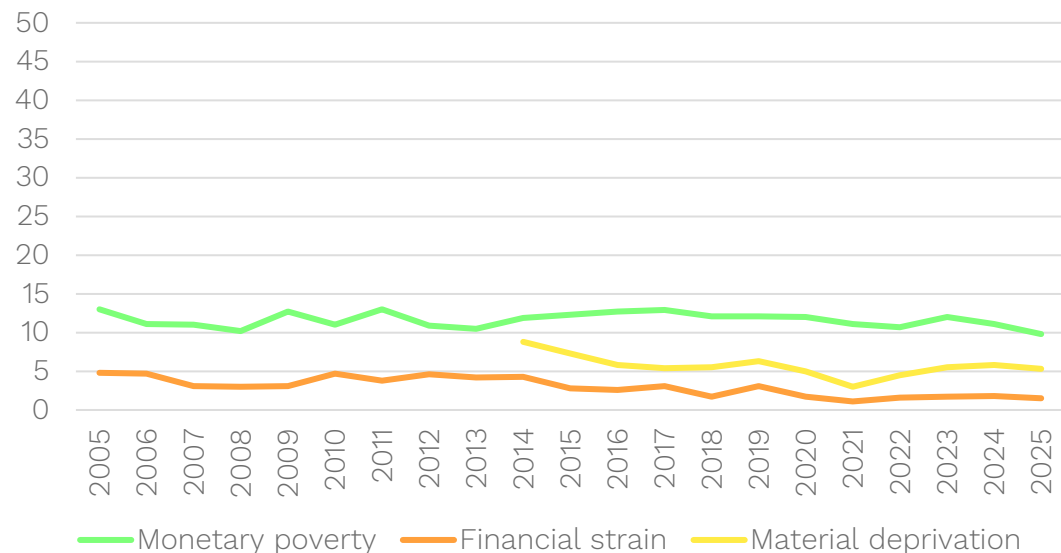


Material deprivation

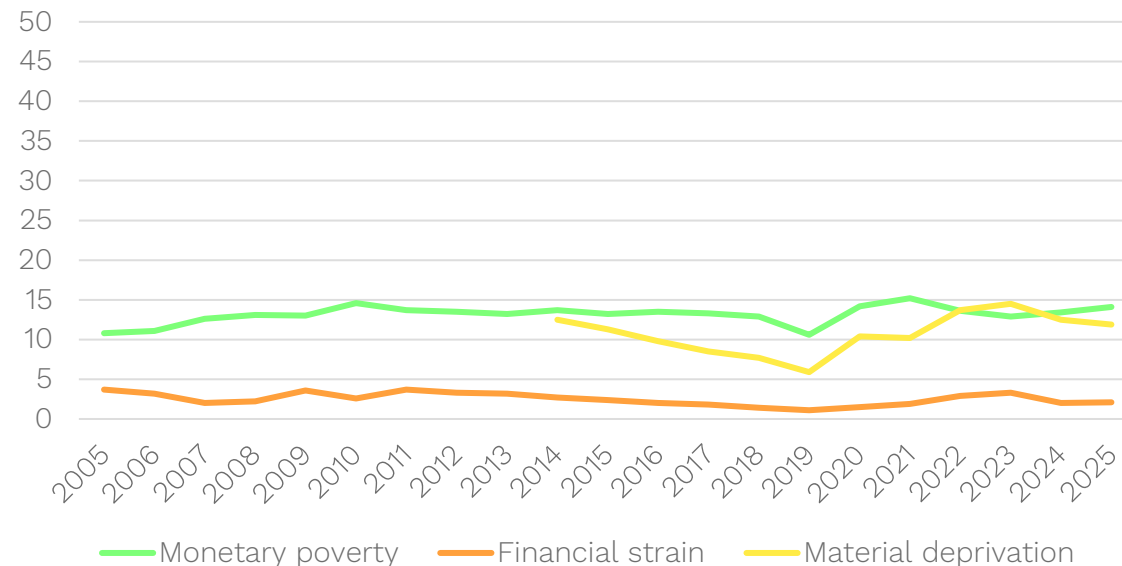


Only two-parent families with 1 or 2 children have remained on same poverty levels regardless of measure. For other family types, the picture varies

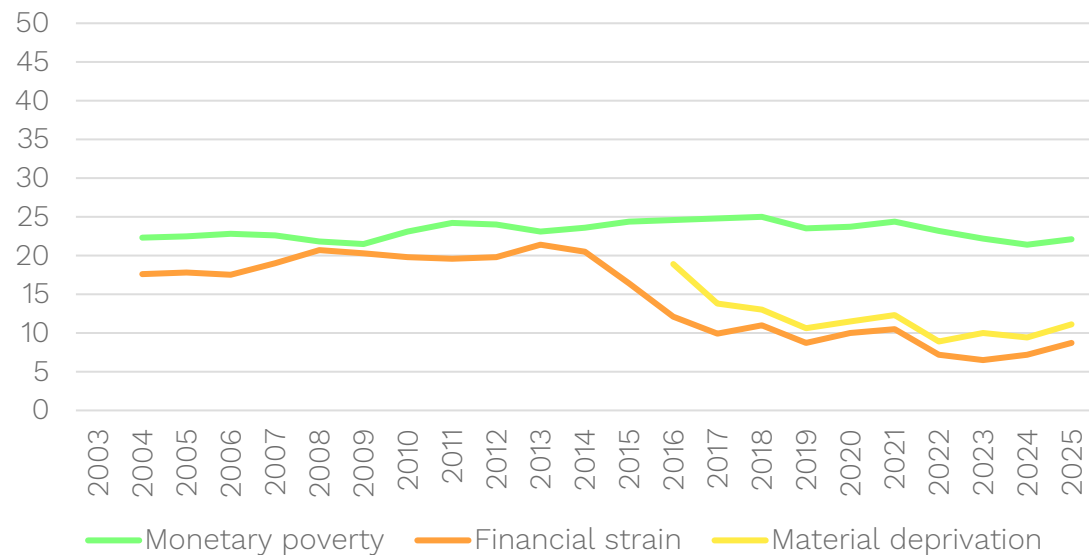
The Netherlands



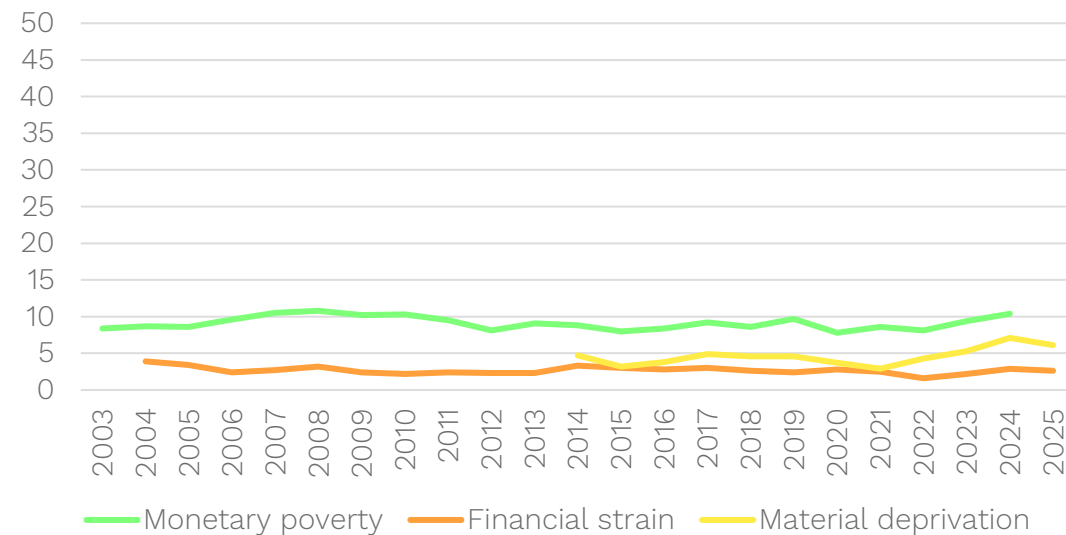
Germany



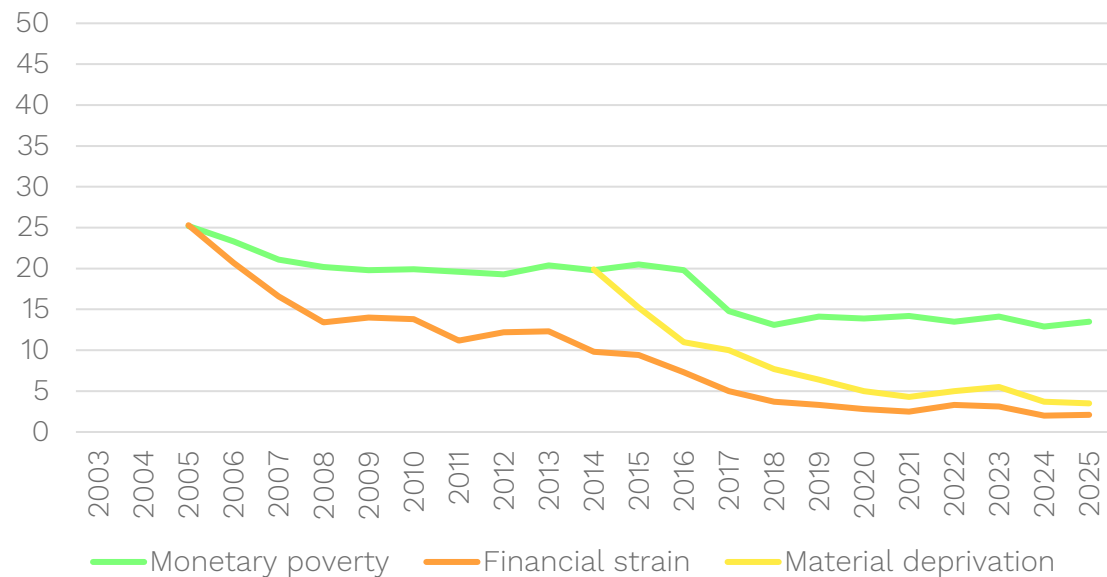
Italy



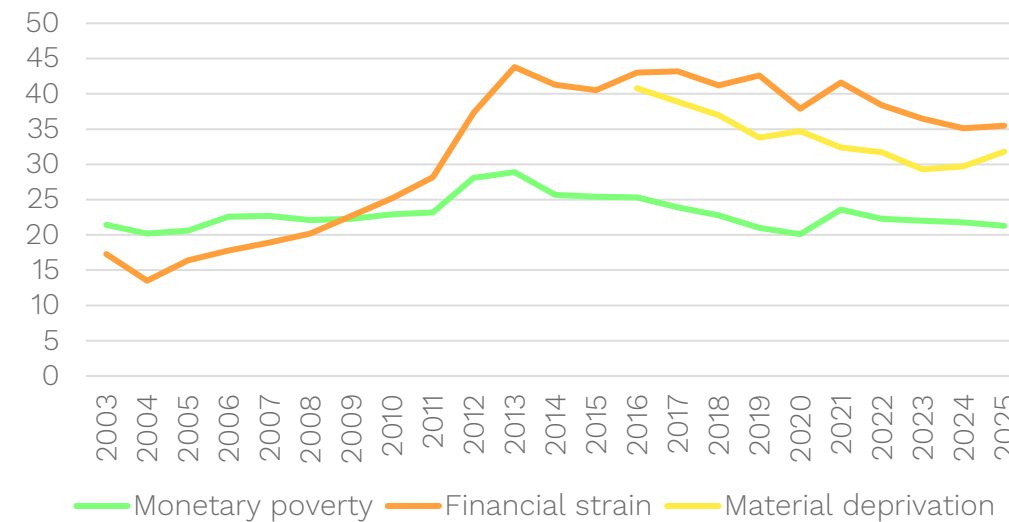
Finland



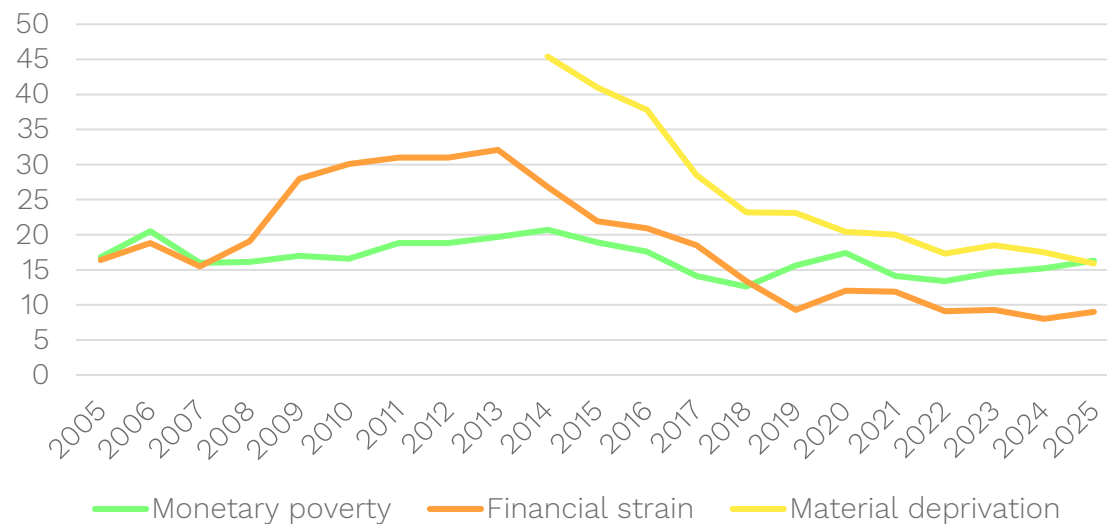
Poland



Greece



Hungary



Conclusion

- Repeated crises have affected families unevenly, with substantial disparities across countries and family types.
- Poverty reduction lagging behind the EU targets set for 2030
- Economic vulnerability is multidimensional: income poverty, material and social deprivation, and financial strain can follow different trajectories.
- National trends can hide lasting hardship and growing difficulties among some family types.
- Understanding families' circumstances through successive crises requires long time series, comparisons across family types, and complementary indicators examined together.



Discussion

- Beyond national trends: socioeconomic gradients within families
- Differences between family types reveal only part of the inequality: families with similar household compositions may have very different resources.
- Our next step is to use EU-SILC microdata to socioeconomic gradients, and how these intersect with family type.
- We will investigate whether socioeconomic gaps have widened through successive crises, and whether the pattern differs across income poverty, deprivation and financial strain.
- Cross-country comparisons can help identify where economic disadvantage is concentrated and inform discussion of welfare states' capacity to protect families.





Thank you!



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