

## *Session A:*

## *Poverty and Social Exclusion in the European Union*



# Understanding the underlying problems of poverty and social exclusion



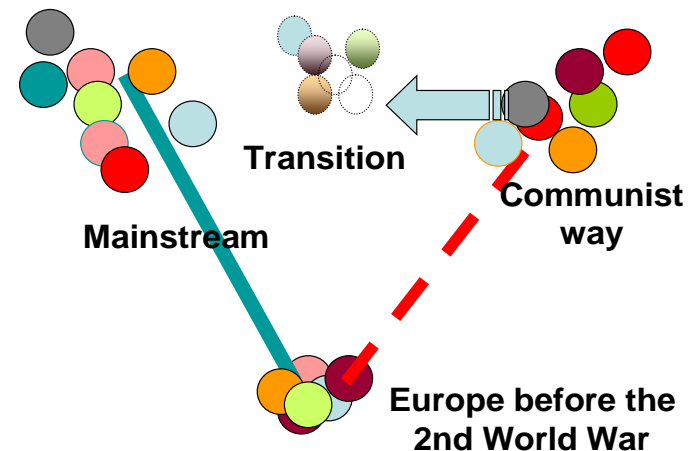
### Imaginary scheme for transforming Europe (Kutsar & Tiit, 2000)

EU-10, have undergone different social, economic and political experiences than the Western Europe; their development has been directed by a totalitarian system, which diverted them from their own developmental tracks

- Individual educational attainment has been only slightly affected by the change in the system
- High participation rate of women in employment is close to the EU-target

But:

- High human costs, revealed by the deterioration of socio-demographic indicators, poverty and social exclusion
- 7 out of 10 EU new members go to the poor, high poverty risk cluster



### Develop understanding of poverty, social exclusion and inclusion

- besides harmonized national and EU datasets apply also national social studies and contextual analyses
- analyse and compare EU and national policy responses
- assess the outcomes of policy for social practice
- promote policy learning between countries and improve the efficacy of policy responses

### Dilemmas for policy-makers in the EU-10

Policy-makers are looking for...

- a balance between policy frameworks and changing reality;
- the immediate and longer-term effects of policy;
- the demands of supranational agencies and national objectives and action plans;
- objective truth and the potential for strengthening political ideas;
- the logic of common sense and the consequences of political decisions.

## Promote bridging communications gaps between decision-makers, researchers and practitioners

- mapping social research
- promote mutual learning
- listen to practitioners

## Children mainstreaming

Children are active social agents, and form a structural part of a society

Children are poor and excluded 'here and now'

Children at risk of poverty face the risk of losing choices and social exclusion from peers

Socially excluded children 'here and now' create risks of being excluded for the next generation of children

- keeping children as subjects on policy agenda and rhetorics may have unexpectedly powerful impact on the EU social inclusion process