



Les défis de développement pour les villes et les régions dans une Europe en mutation

## Urban poverty in Greece: a comparative analysis

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### Référence à la session / reference to the session

S3 - The impact of economic crisis and austerity policy on urban and regional development and inequalities in Europe

### Résumé / Summary

During the recession, a new wave of poverty struck urban areas in Greece. Slower economic growth both at national and local level, as well as the retrenchment of the Welfare State, have contributed to this poverty surge. Moreover, there is a widespread perception that this poverty has become increasingly concentrated in certain neighborhoods, known as "inner city" or "poverty zone", and that such neighborhoods have mostly become the dwelling/domicile of homeless, unemployed, immigrants groups and others. This is of course, the one side of reality in Greek municipalities, as the "old poor" have become poorer and stayed in poverty for extended periods of time, but at the same time, below poverty line also fall people who had never been there before.

The objective of this paper is to investigate life quality and related characteristics of/within an urban population (4 municipalities) in Greece, using data from a survey conducted in 2012 with a sample of 2.000 households. More precisely, statistical data and the results of the qualitative research conducted with key informants and stakeholders will be discussed, with a view to focusing on the multiple effects of instability on the labour market: part-time jobs, unemployment, time-limited contracts, job changes, downward mobility, income loss and proposing new social interventions at local level.

Our analysis suggests that the urban "new poor - materially deprived" groups should be recognised as a new target group. Thus meaning that active social policy should place emphasis on addressing the needs of this new group.

Key-words: urban poverty, material deprivation, recession, local level, social policy.

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