

## **Conclusions and Follow Up of the Workshop “Measuring Poverty – Concepts, Challenges and Recommendations”**

**The workshop “Measuring Poverty – Concepts, Challenges and Recommendations” was held on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Belgrade with collaboration from the World Bank (WB), the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit (SIPRU) of the Government of Serbia, and the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS). The workshop discussed the challenges for poverty and living standards measurement in the country considering the recent methodological changes. The workshop gathered international experts and local practitioners, government officials, and academics with interest in the topic.**

### **Main Workshop Conclusions:**

- Measuring absolute poverty in the Republic of Serbia is still relevant, considering the stage of development of the country, regional disparities, and the need to inform policy decisions.
- Consumption data can help improve the information available for policy makers by providing information on consumption of services (for instance, health and education), or providing specific consumption information for vulnerable groups (IDP, Roma, refugees)
- The quality of the Survey of Income and Living Conditions (SILC) conducted in Serbia should not be affected by efforts to complement the information collected.
- As the workshop experience showed, opening a space for discussion on the coordination of poverty measurement efforts in the Republic of Serbia can be a good tool for further improvement of policy accuracy and data availability. Other countries’ experiences also showed this space for dialogue can contribute positively.

### **Follow Up:**

- An examination of the strengths and weaknesses of the Serbian Household Budget Survey should be performed to validate the data quality or to identify areas of improvement.
- The absolute poverty line for the Republic of Serbia set in 2006 needs to be updated to incorporate the latest methodological developments.
- Matching the SILC with consumption information collected in the HBS can help to determine overlaps or differences between the two surveys.
- Matching Serbian administrative data to the available household survey data can significantly improve the statistics available for the country.
- Examine options for conducting poverty mapping in the Republic of Serbia since this type of information could be of extreme importance for the improvement of social cohesion within the country, further municipal development, and offer strong guidance for policy makers in different areas.

All accompanying materials are available on the website of the Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit (SIPRU) of the Government of Serbia, <http://socijalnoukljucivanje.gov.rs/en/measuring-poverty-concepts-challenges-and-recommendations-workshop/>