

MEETING ON SOCIAL POLICY FOR CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING  
CK Farabi Hotel, Ankara  
6 September 2012  
13:45-14:15

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**Child well-being indicators for Turkey: what policy priorities would international comparisons suggest?**

\* With contributions/articles by András Gábos and thanks are also due to Annamária Gáti (both at Tárki, Budapest)



## **Outline**

- Introducing a provisional policy marker report card for Turkey
- EU-Turkey comparisons: indicators for material and non-material dimensions of child well being
- A summary report card for Turkey
- Conclusions



## Starting point

Turkey policy performances shall also have to be evaluated in terms of child outcome indicators

### Steps taken in this presentation:

1. putting Turkey into the monitoring framework as suggested to monitor the progress in member states
2. evaluate relative performances
3. formulate policy related lessons to help Gov of Turkey in setting policy targets

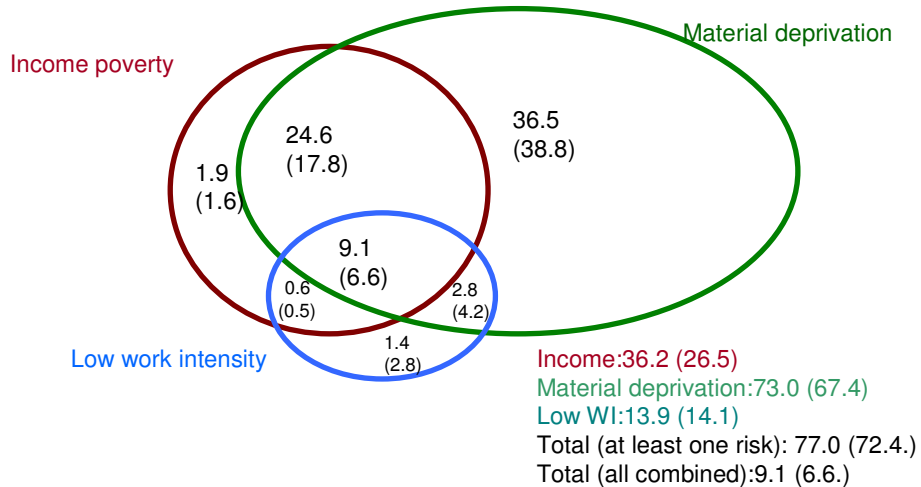
### What is not taken here:

1. We do not claim we know enough for any policy recommendations
2. We do not claim anyone outside Turkey can make policy suggestions without thorough discussions with Turkish experts



## Income poverty, material deprivation and joblessness combined: EU 2020 poverty reduction target categories calculated on Turkey data

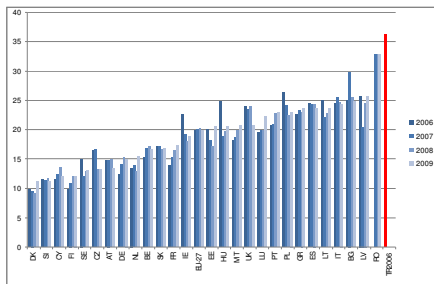
(in % of all children, total population figures in brackets, in 2006)



Source: Eurostat figures, own calculations



### A1.1. At risk of poverty rate after social transfers (%)



**Findings:**

- Over one third of Turkish children suffer in relative poverty (as defined in EU)
- At risk of poverty rate slightly over the Romanian figure
- Child poverty exceeds the overall poverty rates for the population by 30%\*
- There are huge regional disparities\*

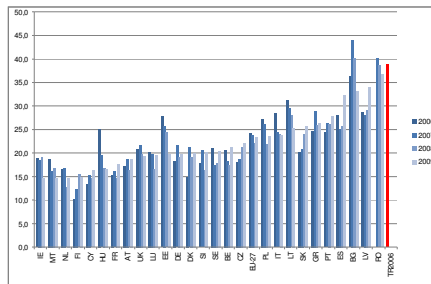
**Questions:**

- To what extent it is a developmental phenomenon and to what extent it is a policy failure? Further studies would be needed to clarify on this.
- Why no more up-to date figures on Eurostat?

**Definition:** percentage of children (<18 years old) below 60% of the national equivalised median income

\*UNICEF, Ankara University Report on Public Policy and Expenditure  
Analysis: Child Poverty and Fiscal Space  
Source: Eurostat, EU-SILC

### A1.2. Relative median at risk of poverty gap (%)



**Findings:**

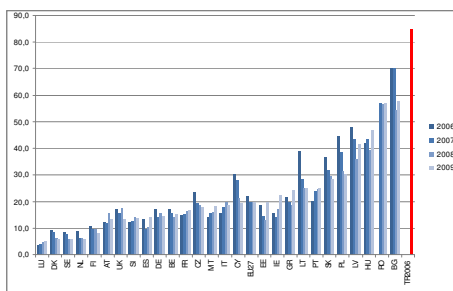
- Poor children's income falls short of the relative poverty threshold by almost 40 percent
- Relative gap compares to RO and BG levels
- (Note: relative gap is a figure with a practical ceiling, the Turkish figure IS approaching that.)

**Questions:**

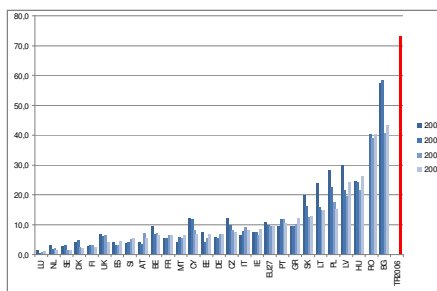
- What type of calibration of social assistance schemes could help closing this gap?
- Why no more up-to date figures on Eurostat?

**Definition:** the difference between the median equivalised disposable income of people below the at-risk-of-poverty threshold and the at-risk-of-poverty threshold, expressed as a % of the at-risk-of-poverty threshold (cut-off point: 60 % of national median equivalised disposable income)

### A2.1. Material deprivation rate (%)



### A2.2. Severe material deprivation rate (%)



**Findings:**

- Both material deprivation and severe material deprivation of the Turkish children is extremely high, should be decreased.
- (Note: this clearly follows at least partly from level of economic development. However, more equitable – pro-poor - economic development strategy could help decrease deprivation rate.)

**Question:**

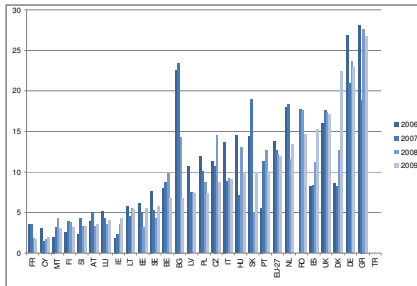
- Why no more up-to date figures on Eurostat?

**Definitions:** Material deprivation rate: Proportion of children in households lacking at least 3 items in the list (e.g.: The household could not afford a meal with meat, chicken or fish every second day, to keep the home adequately heated etc.) Severe material deprivation rate: Proportion of children in households lacking at least 4 items in the same list

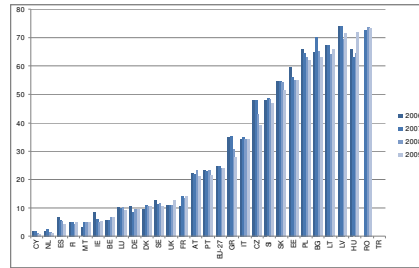
Source: EUROSTAT, EU-SILC



### A3.1. Housing cost overburden rate (%)



### A3.2. Housing overcrowding rate (%)



Source: EUROSTAT, EU-SILC

#### Finding:

- Indicators unavailable for Turkey

#### Suggestion:

-To calculate on the basis of SILC

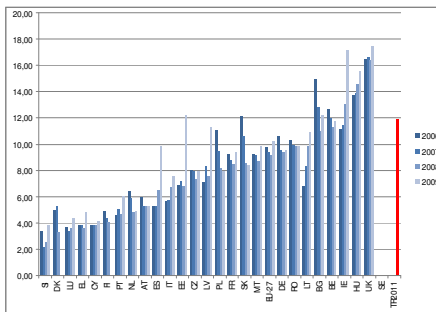


#### Definitions:

**Housing cost overburden rate:** % of children living in households where the total housing costs (net of housing allowances) represent more than 40% of disposable income (net of housing allowances).

**Overcrowding rate:** % of children living in a household without a minimum number of rooms equal to: – one room for the household – one room per couple in the household – one room for each single person aged 18 or more – one room per pair of single people of the same gender between 12 - 17 years of age – one room for each single person between 12 - 17 years of age and not included in the previous category – one room per pair of children under 12 years of age.

### A4.1. Share of children in jobless households (%)



#### Finding:

- Share of children in jobless households is shown to be surprisingly low

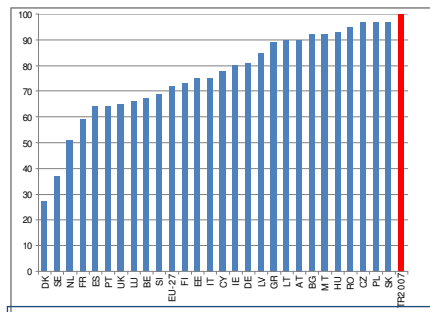
#### Question:

- What explains this, given the relatively low activity rates in the country?

**Definition:** The share of children living in households in which none of the members has been in paid work during the last four weeks.

Source: EUROSTAT, EU-LFS

### A4.3. Child care (%)



#### Finding:

- SILC data shows non-existence of child care facilities for children below 2 years of age

#### Question:

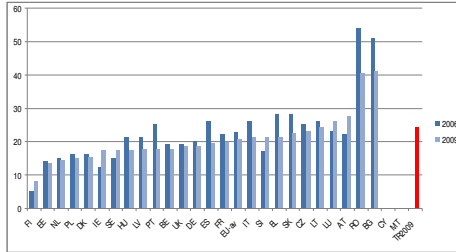
- While this is inconsistent with other data from Turkey (see ..), the coverage IS low. Important policy priority would be to increase service availability.

**Definition:** % of children 0–2 years not in formal childcare

Source: Eurostat, EU-SILC 2009 (2007 for Turkey, referring to 2006)



**B1.1. Low reading literacy performance of children aged 15 (%)**



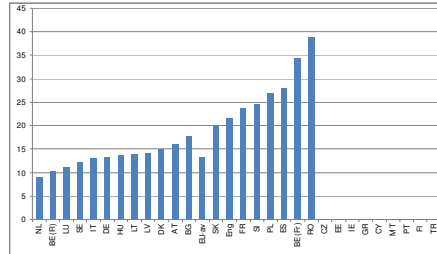
**Findings:**

- Relatively low share of Turkish children in the lowest competence category
- This is, however, compensated by much larger shares in the next („not good but less bad”) categories
- In addition: almost a third of overall educational achievement variation is due to family background (PISA 2006)

Definition: share of 15-year-old pupils who are at level 1 or below on the PISA combined reading literacy scale.

Source: OECD, PISA 2006, 2009

**B1.2. Low reading literacy performance of children aged 10 (%)**



**Finding:**

- Indicator (similarly to a number of EU member states) is unavailable for Turkey



**Suggestion:**

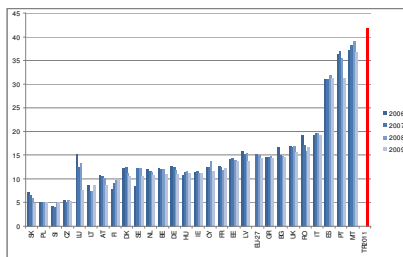
- Enter PIRLS. The 10 years performance is a good and relatively early indicator of school performance.

Definition: share of 10-year-old pupils at or below the Low International Benchmark in reading

Source: IEA, PIRLS 2006



**B1.3. Early-school-leavers (%)**



**Findings:**

- Share of those leaving schools early IS overly high (from other sources it is known: mostly girls finish studies too early)
- Enrolment-age profiles for girls and boys drastically deviate from each other from age 11 onwards (for girls: a serious sharp decline from over 80% to around 30%, (See „Expanding opportunities” paper by WB, 2012)

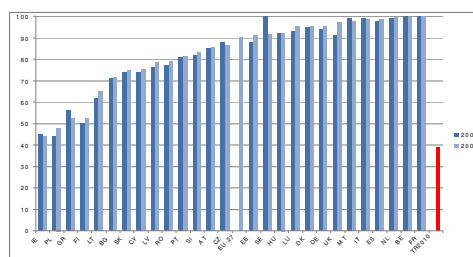
**Questions:**

What policy options to reduce these rates? - (supply (service delivery) or demand (CCT) side interventions seem more promising?

Definition. Numerator: persons aged 18–24 (i) with the highest level of education ISCED 0, 1, 2 or 3c; (ii) and who declared that they had not received any education or training in the four weeks preceding the survey. Denominator: consists of the total population of the same age group.

Source: EUROSTAT, EU-LFS

**B1.4. Children in pre-primary education (%)**



**Finding:**

- Enrolment in pre-primary schools IS extremely low\*

**Questions:**

- Supply or demand reasons are behind?
- What policy options to improve enrolment rates?

**Definition:**

Share of children aged 4 in pre-primary education (%)

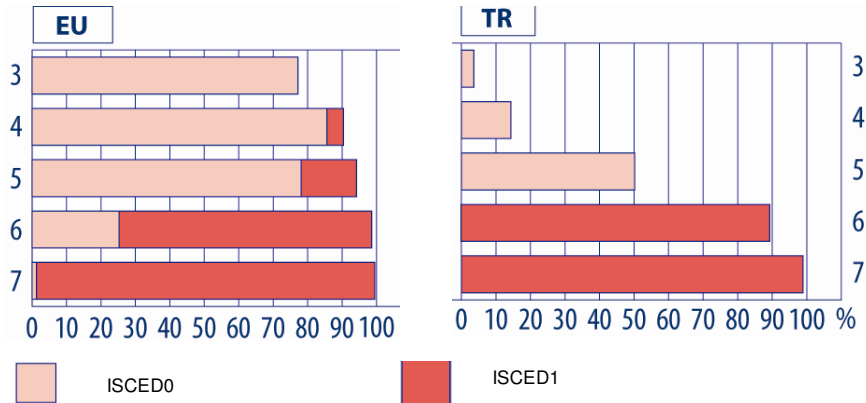
Source: EUROSTAT, EU-SILC

\*Note: OECD 2011 shows even much lower enrolment (see TURA)



## Turkish children start going to school too late ...

Participation rates in pre-primary and primary education (ISCED0 and ISCED1)

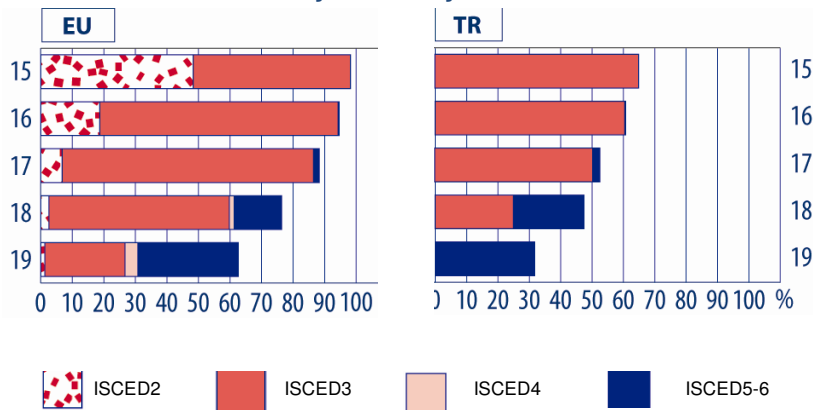


Source: EUROSTAT, Key data on education 2011 EUROSTAT, UOE, (date extracted 2011)



## ... and (despite spectacular developments\* in the last decade), they finish going to school too early ....

Participation rates of 15-19 year old students in lower secondary to tertiary education



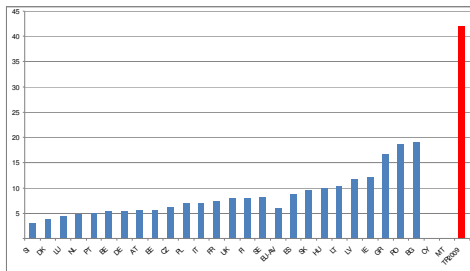
Source: EUROSTAT, Key data on education 2011 EUROSTAT, UOE, (date extracted 2011)

\*Especially as regards enrolment rates of the 14-16 year olds and the very fast expansion of higher education



## ... and, what's more, many of them face serious educational deprivation

### B1.5. Educational deprivation (%)



#### Finding:

- Educational deprivation (home learning „infrastructure” of children) is at an extremely high rate

#### Questions:

- To what extent is it a development problem?

- Any high regional variance in it?

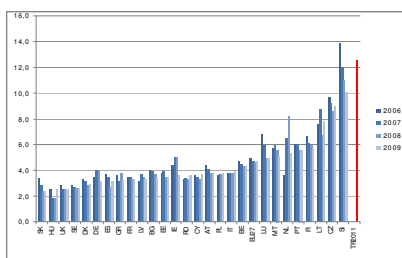
- Can it be reduced via (for example) via free school books programs?

**Definition:** % of students who report having less than 5 out of 7 educational items in their homes.  
**Items:** quiet place to study, desk, computer, educational software, internet connection, textbook, dictionary.  
**Recommendation:** further work on item selection and regular monitoring using EU-SILC is strongly recommended.

Source: OECD, PISA 2006, 2009



### B2.1. Infant mortality rate



#### Findings:

- Infant mortality rate is still higher than the worst EU MS figures.  
 - However, this should be understood in historical perspective as there are significant improvements in IMR and USMR

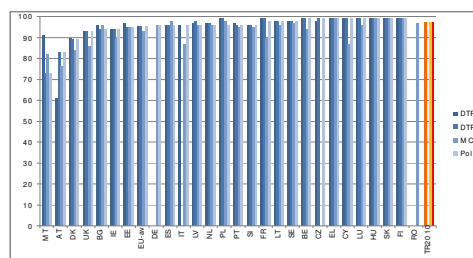
#### Questions:

- How can positive developments be maintained?  
 - Are there sufficient resources to achieve regional equalization in the improvements?

**Definition:** The ratio of the number of deaths of children under 1 year of age during the year to the number of live births in that year. The value is expressed per 1,000 live births.

Source: EUROSTAT

### B2.2. Vaccination coverage in children –DTP3, MCV, PoL3 (%)



#### Findings:

- Vaccination is reported to be rather high

- Health insurance coverage for children is reported to be very poor, however

#### Question:

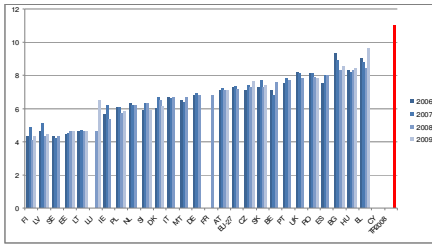
- How can health insurance coverage be extended and care for follow up of health status and medicines be improved?

**Definition:** Percentage of infants reaching their 1st birthday in the given calendar year who have been fully vaccinated against pertussis (whooping cough), diphtheria, tetanus (DTP) poliomyelitis and measles.

Source: WHO

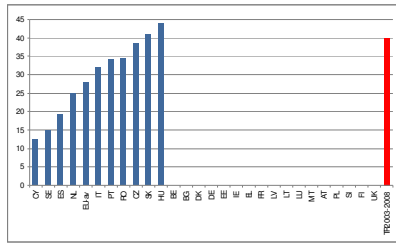


**B2.3. Low birth weight (%)**



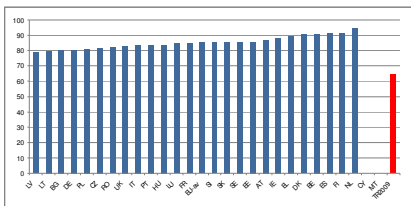
Definition: (% of children <2,500 grams)  
Source: OECD Health Data 2011

**B2.4. Exclusive breastfeeding rate (%)**



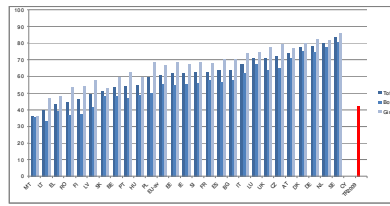
Definition: % of children aged 6 months  
Source: UNICEF The State of the World's Children 2009

**B2.5. General life satisfaction (%)**



Definition: Share of children aged 13 reporting high life satisfaction – i.e. a score 6 or more. Young people rate their life satisfaction on a scale from 0 to 10.

**B2.6. Oral health (%)**

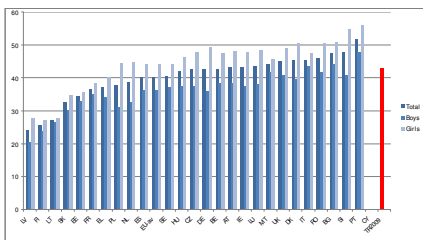


Definition: Share of children aged 11 who report brushing their teeth more than once a day.

Source: HBSC 2009/2010



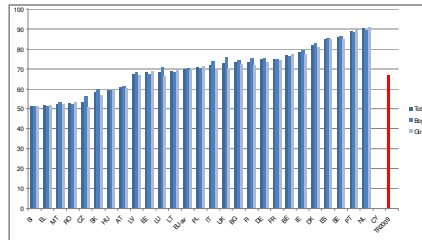
**B2.7. Children who eat fruit daily (%)**



Definition: Share of children aged 11 who report eating fruit at least every day or more than once a day.

Source: UNICEF, HBSC 2009/2010

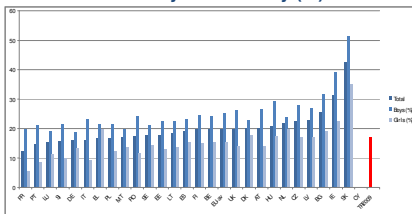
**B2.8. Children who eat breakfast every school day (%)**



Definition: Share of children aged 11 who report eating breakfast every school day. Young people are asked how often they eat breakfast on school days and at weekends. Breakfast is defined in the question as 'more than a glass of milk or fruit juice'.

Source: UNICEF, HBSC 2009/2010

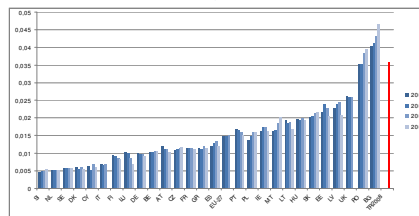
**B2.9. Physical activity (%)**



Definition: Proportion of children aged 13 who were physically active on every day of the week for a total of at least 60 minutes per day.

Source: UNICEF, HBSC 2009/2010

**B3.1. Teenage births**

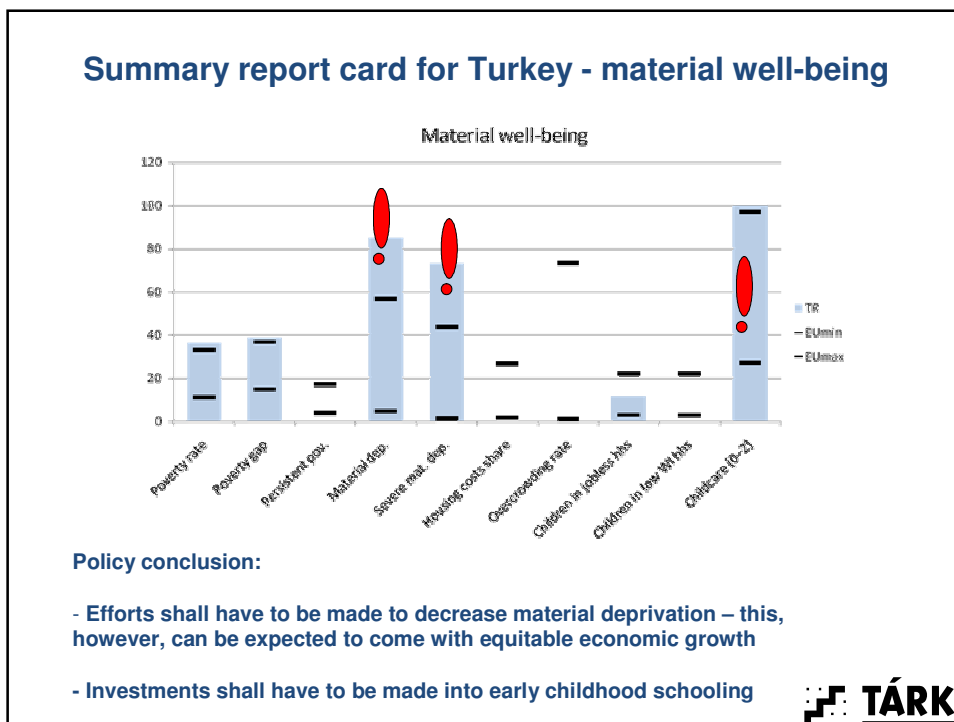
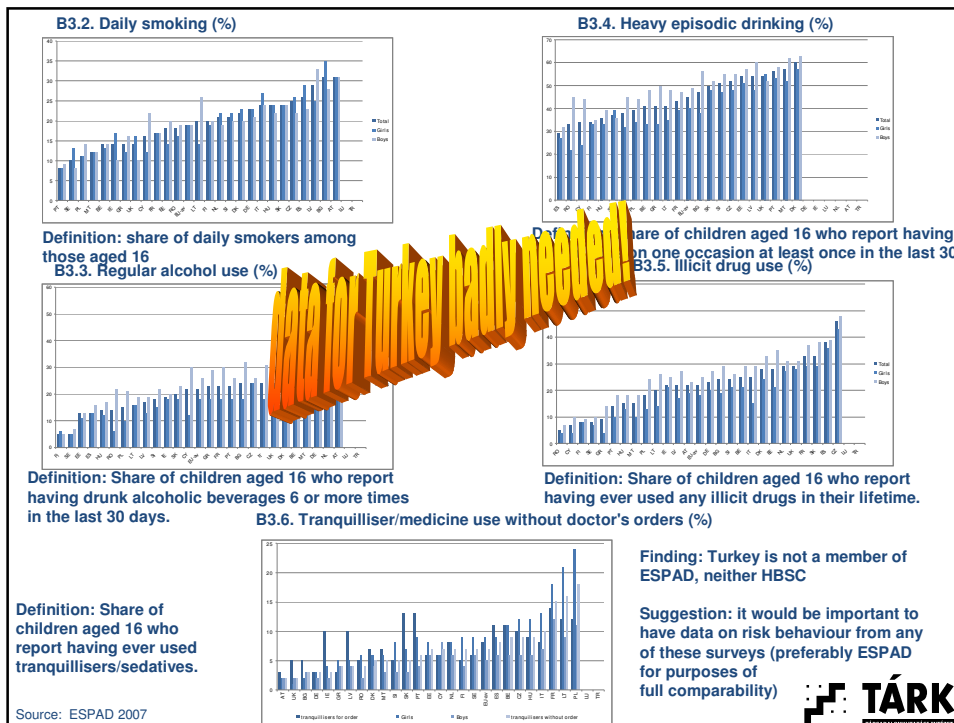


Definition: births per 100 women aged 15–19

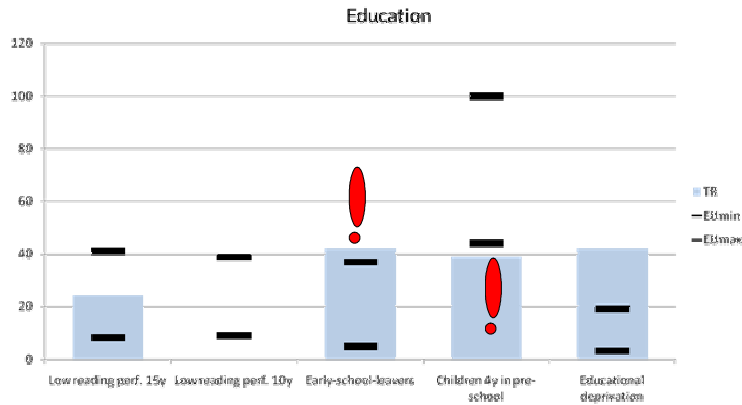
Source: EUROSTAT







## Summary report card for Turkey - education

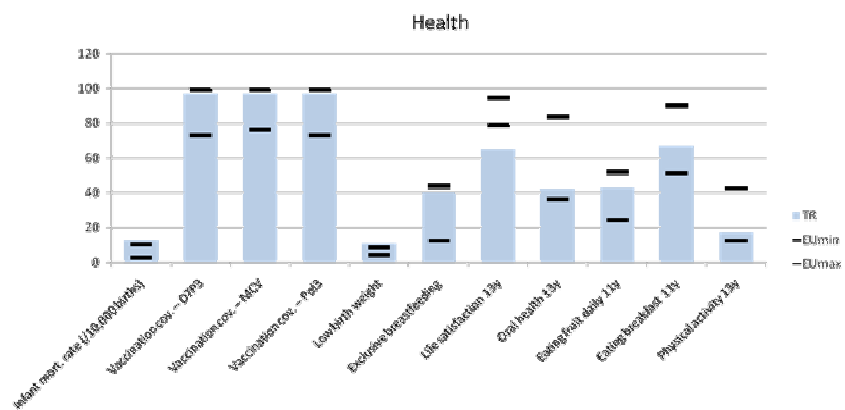


### Policy conclusion:

- Efforts shall have to be made to increase enrolment in early childhood education (supply and demand side interventions alike)
- Investments shall have to be made reduce school dropouts and early school leaving



## Summary report card for Turkey - health

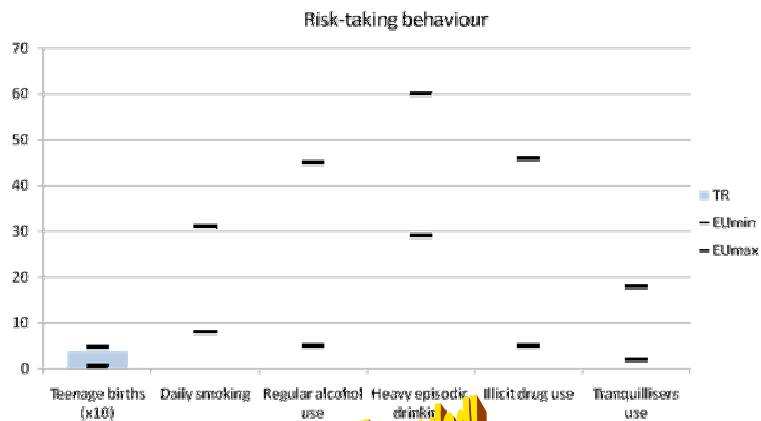


### Areas for further inspection:

- regional disparities in access to health services



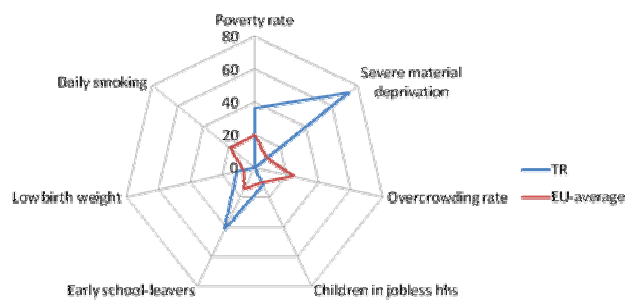
## Summary report card for Turkey – Risk-taking behaviour



Policy conclusion:

**2023-2024**

## Summary report card for Turkey – available lead indicators



Additional indicators should be introduced for Turkey to monitor progress

- Enrolment of 3-5 year olds in pre-school education
- Enrolment of pupils at age 14-18
- Territorial breakdowns for all the above indicators

## Conclusions and lessons for the future

On most indicators the country's performance is weaker than the EU average, while on some occasions (eg. poverty gap, teenage births) it is similar to some of the new member states (eg. RO, BG)

Initial results show remarkable progress, but some shifts in policy priorities promise results in better and more efficient delivery of improvements in child well being

**Modernization/development related factors**  
health and education infrastructure developments

**Policy related factors**  
improved access to early education  
longer schooling  
more equitable regional distribution

Data situation have to be improved and a monitoring frame should be set up to document/monitor/analyse policies and provide feedback to them



## Thank you for the attention

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