

## UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS **Group of Experts on Measuring Poverty and Inequality**28-29 November 2023 **Workshop on Harmonization of Poverty Statistics to** 

Measure SDG 1 and 10

27 November 2023

| Title of contribution         | To better Understand and Measure Great Poverty – a participative approach |
|-------------------------------|---|
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| Topic                         | Social policies, social transfers and data                                |
|                               |   |

The project is the result of a partnership between ATD-Quart-Monde (ATD), the Secours Catholique (SCCF) and the French Statistical Office (Insee), conducted in 2022, with a view to better understand and measure great poverty and more specifically some hidden dimensions.

The project is based on the active participation of people having an experience of poverty; it aims at identifying how the tools used by INSEE to measure poverty are consistent with the experiences of people that are actually living poverty day by day. Some local groups of people experiencing poverty have been formed, coordinated by animators from the associations with an approach that promotes trust and active participation of people. The project is punctuated by regular meetings of local groups and three plenary meetings with everyone.

The project is divided in two phases:

- phase 1: build a base of knowledge and common benchmarks to define poverty.
- phase 2: specific work on two dimensions: "social isolation" and "institutional mistreatment", with a view to identify common points and divergences between Insee tools and people's experience

The characteristics of social isolation identified by local groups were mostly about the lack of relationships with family (in particular difficult experiences during childhood) and with friends, the existence of social network with associations, the rejection of loved ones, the defense mechanisms which lead to auto-exclusion, the ambiguous effects of addictions, the violence of the exclusion.

For institutional abuse, local groups considered there is a strong link with the other dimensions, with a formation of a vicious circle. Characteristics of institutional abuse are mainly the lack of recognition of the competencies (in particular experiencing of volunteering), the judgment and disregard, the dependency to other people's decisions, the difficulty of access (digitalization), or the interference with private life.

Overall, the questionnaires of Insee have been considered as relevant on many issues, but not sufficiently complete to cover all characteristics mentioned above.

| Please select your preferred contribution (you may select both options): |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| X  | Presentation                          |
| Х  | Paper (to be submitted by 20 October) |