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Absolute poverty in Europe*

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Conference Notes

Absolute Poverty in Europe" was held in Austria, Salzburg on 27-28 August, 2015. This conference was hosted by Salzburg University as an activity of the Austrian chapter of the Academics Stand Against Poverty(ASAP).

The aim of the conference was to give a clear definition about absolute poverty concept both in general and in Europe. Since poverty is a complex and multi-dimensional concept; some other related issues such as migration, well-being, income-distribution, welfare state and its policies were evaluated from the view of various participants. The conference was organized under parallel sessions. In addition to parallel sessions, there were a roundtable discussion, opening and closing keynotes.

The opening keynote speaker David Hulme from the University of Manchester evaluated the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of their benefits to the absolute poor in Europe. His speech was a brief summary and comparison of the Millennium Development Goals with Sustainable Development Goals in conjunction with the main poverty types.

It should also be mentioned that the participants are from different disciplines such as law, sociology, economics, architecture, political science, members of non-governmental organizations (NGO) and institutions and practitioners. Therefore, absolute poverty concept was evaluated socially, economically and politically from the view and expertise of the participants. The participants had a chance to see different case studies such as gender effects of pension system in Bulgaria, Roma child beggars in Europe or some cases from the European Court of Human Rights.

I presented a paper entitled "The determinants of poverty in Turkey: a study clustering and mapping by region" which was co-authored by my colleagues Bülent Doğru and Özlem Sekmen. Our paper (Bülent Doğru, Gülçin Beken, Özlem Sekmen) aimed to show the relationship between crime and poverty in specific to regions.

Nicole Rippin from German Development Institute analysed absolute poverty in Germany by developing a multi-dimensional poverty index. By using this multi-dimensional poverty index, her research presents an opportunity to see the correlation between poverty dimensions and also gives a chance to decompose the results to the population sub-groups.

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Doğa Başar Sarıpek and Arzu Özsoy Özmen from Kocaeli University evaluated social policy reform and social protection scheme of Turkey to show whether there was a shift from formal to informal social protection or not.

Overall, researchers all around Europe came together and discussed a very well-known issue from their perspective. It was a great opportunity for all researchers in order to share their opinions, experiences and expertise. The contribution of the participants to the speakers with their questions and critics is undeniable. The conference can be accepted successful about bringing all the researchers together and gave them an opportunity to receive important feedbacks.



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