

17 October: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty – Downward trend in the share of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU – But still over 115 million people in this situation

In 2016, 117.5 million people, or 23.4% of the population, in the **European Union** (EU) were at risk of poverty or social exclusion. This means that they were in at least one of the following three conditions: at-risk-of-poverty after social transfers (income poverty), severely materially deprived or living in households with very low work intensity. After three consecutive increases between 2009 and 2012 to reach almost 25%, the proportion of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the **EU** has since continuously decreased to 23.4% last year, only 0.1 percentage points above its 2009 low-point. The reduction of the number of persons at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU is one of the key targets of the Europe 2020 strategy.

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