

Social Citizenship at the Margins. A Return to Charity?

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Adverse inclusion

- Pathways of exclusion embedded in social inclusion policies
- Structural factors
- “The Gypsies” as a discursive device to undermine support for welfare rights
- Blaming the poor: the undeserving “most of them” versus the deserving “few”

Pathways of adverse inclusion

- False meritocracy and creaming effects
- Hidden exclusion
- Disempowering (Anthias, 2001) /discrediting inclusion
- Embedded xenophobia/demographic concerns

False meritocracy and creaming effects

- **Assumption:** support should be granted upon merit.
- **Example 1:** Unlike in other cities, in Cluj-Napoca selection for social housing uses “education” as a heavily weighted criterion;
- **Example 2:** Homeless persons not allowed to enter the shelter or a drop-in centre in case of drunkenness;

Hidden exclusion (perverse bureaucracy)

- **Assumption:** this is the minimal eligibility criteria, isn't it?
- **Example 1:** In RO, heating allowance is only granted to persons who have identity cards certifying a domicile; families living in improvised shacks are therefore not entitled;
- **Example 2:** In order to get a certificate of invalidity or disability, one ought to have health insurance. However, most of the persons who work irregularly do not hold a health insurance.

Disempowering/ discrediting inclusion

- **Assumptions:** welfare recipients failed to get a normal life due to their own fault; it is in their benefit to control, discipline and “educate” them by conditional welfare.
- **Example 1:** Making public on the walls of the town hall the list of families receiving social aid and the schedule of public work
- **Example 2:** Taking the support-allowance for needy families with children in case that one of the children have repeated absences from school

Embedded xenophobia and demographic control

- **Assumptions:** the “Gypsies” commodify their children in order to get social benefits; this requires Eugenic measures to preserve the nation;
- **Example 1:** flattening the support-allowance for needy families with children at the fourth child (no additional support for the fifth, sixth etc.);
- **Example 2:** granting birth-allowance only for the first four children (in RO, birth allowance was eventually phased out in 2010)



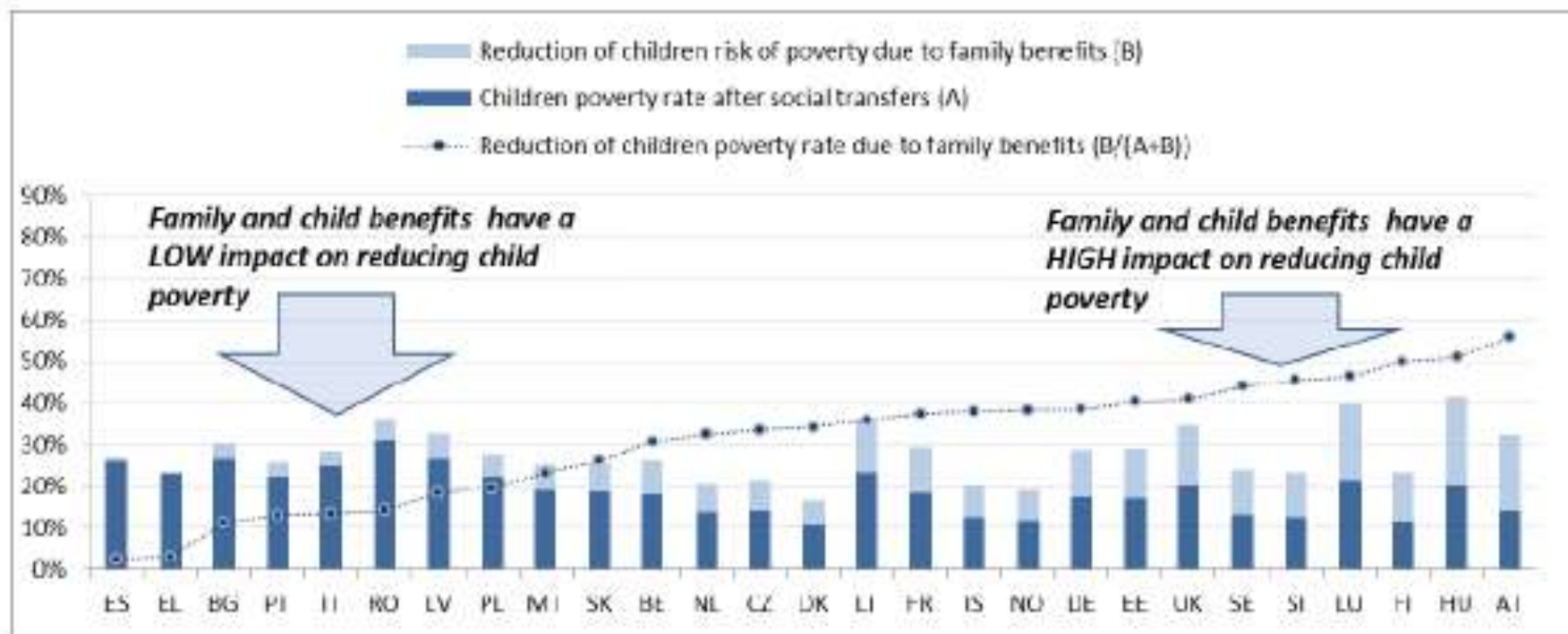
The “undeserving welfare mothers” as a discursive device for social dumping

Photo from the article **“Romanians who are social assistance recipients by profession”** [“Români de profesie asistați social”] de Sorin Semeniuc, *Evenimentul zilei*, 14 May 2010



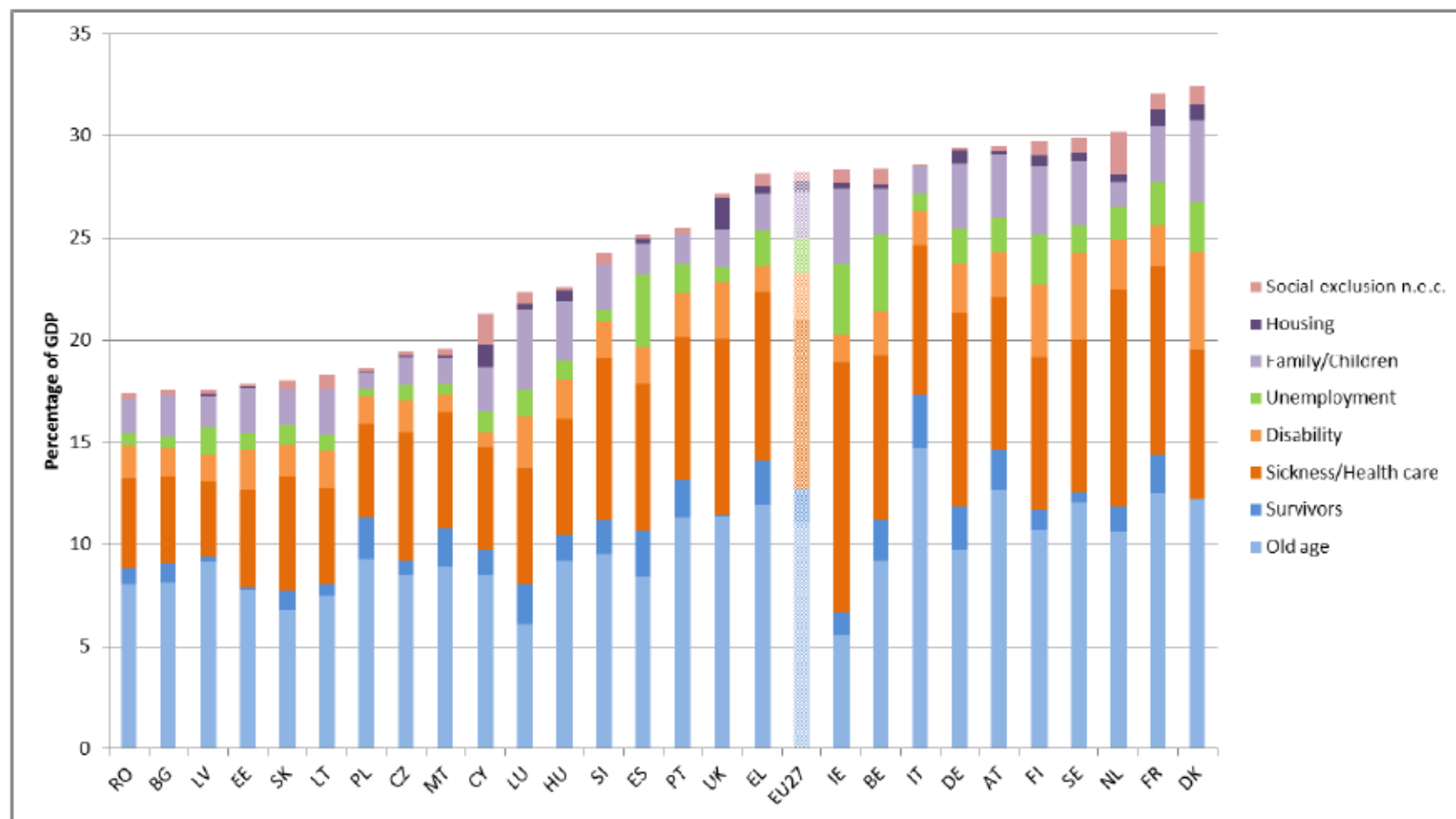
Photo from the article **“50 Ways in which the state discourages work”** [“50 de moduri prin care statul incurajeaza nemunca”] de Mariana Bechir, *Adevarul*, 6 April 2010

Figure 6.3 — Poverty reduction effect of family and child benefits for children (0-17)



Source: EU-SILC 2010, UDB, DG EMPL calculations; IE and CY not available.

Figure 7.2 — Expenditures on social protection benefits by function in 2010 (% of GDP)



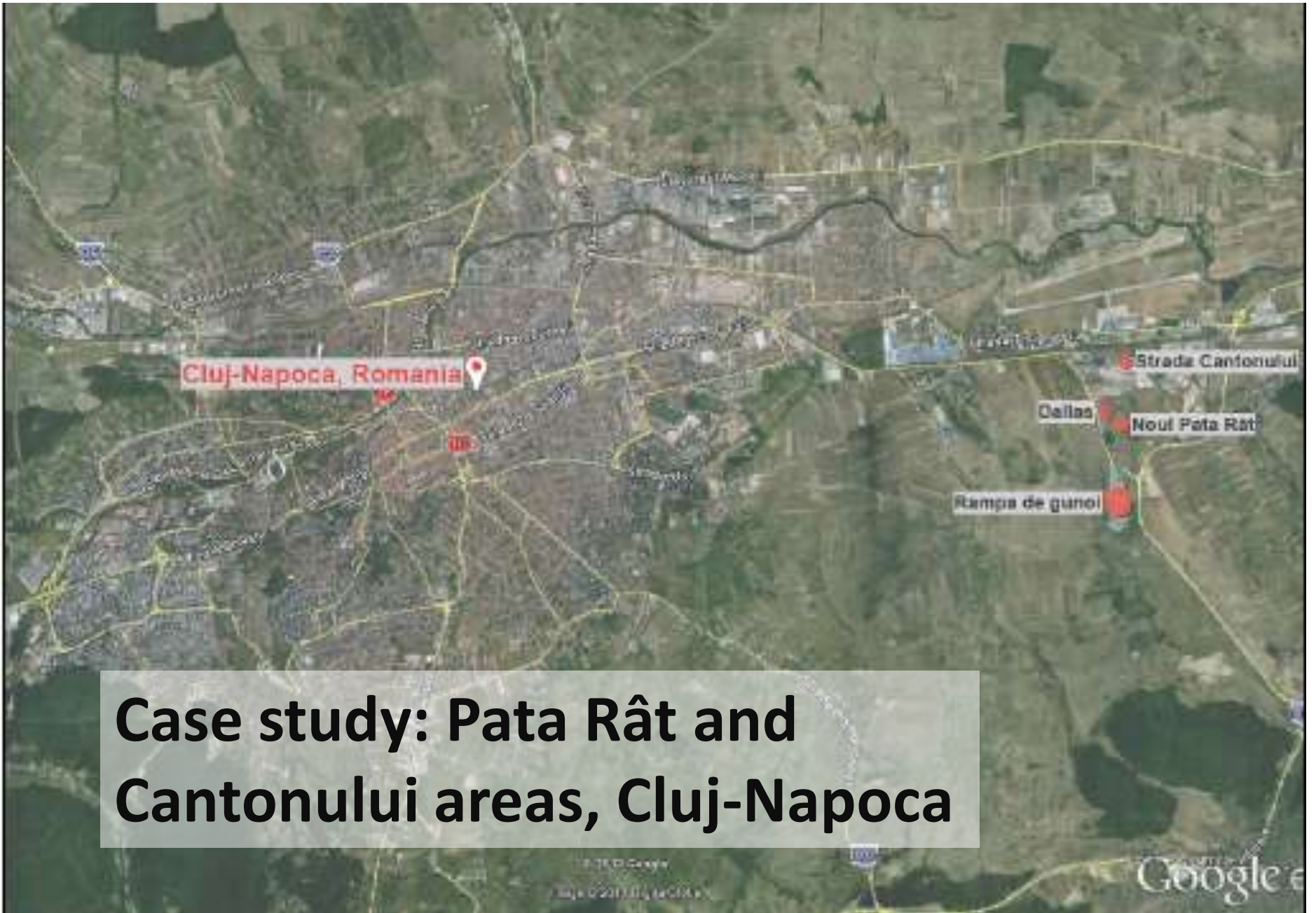
Sursă: ESPROSS, 2013.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1807&furtherNews=yes>

**Percentage of Roma and non-Roma families living in their proximity
who received social benefits in 2011**

	Roma	Non-Roma
Earnings from labour or economic activities	44.0%	48.9%
Unemployment benefits	2.1 %	2.6 %
State pensions (old-age or invalidity)	27.5%	66.0%
Social assistance benefits	26.8 %	6.9%
Child allowance	68.4%	32.6%

Source: UNDP/WB/EC Survey 2011. Author's calculations.



**Case study: Pata Rât and
Cantonului areas, Cluj-Napoca**

**Social assistance benefits received by the families from
the Pata-Rât and Cantonului area, Cluj-Napoca (October 2012).
Estimated numbers of families from the UNDP-UBB (2012) survey**

<i>Receiving social benefits according to the law on the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) and in-kind benefits from the municipality social canteen</i>		Does not receive MIG	MIG beneficiaries	Total: 273 families
Canton	Social canteen beneficiaries	5	18	23
	Not receiving social canteen	86	1	87
	Total	92	19	111
Dallas	Social canteen beneficiaries	1	2	3
	Not receiving social canteen	61	1	62
	Total	62	3	65
Colina (Coastei)	Social canteen beneficiaries	1	7	8
	Not receiving social canteen	37	2	39
	Total	38	9	47
Landfill	Social canteen beneficiaries	-	-	-
	Not receiving social canteen	50	-	50
	Total	50	-	50

Source: UNDP and UBB 2012 dataset. Author's calculations.

**Child benefits among families with children below 15 years old
in the Pata-Rât and Cantonului area, Cluj-Napoca (October 2012).
*Estimated number of families from the UNDP-UBB (2012) survey***

Child benefits among families with children below 15 years old		Canton	Dallas	Colina (Coastei)	Rampa	Total
Universal child allowance	Not receiving	12	15	2	20	49
	Receiving	65	36	32	24	157
	<i>Total</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>206</i>
Means-tested allowance for needy families with children	Not receiving	70	50	30	44	194
	Receiving	7	1	4	0	12
	<i>Total</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>206</i>

Source: UNDP and UBB 2012 dataset. Author's calculations.

Selected references:

- Special issue of *Studia Sociologia*, Vol.58(2), December 2013: Spacialization and Racialization of Social Exclusion. The Social and Cultural Formation of “Gypsy” Ghettos in Romania in the European Context. Guest editors: Eniko Vincze and Cristina Rat.
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Thank you!

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