

István György Tóth and Márton Medgyesi: Income distribution in new (and old) EU member states

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Abstract

The paper, based on recent EU-SILC data, investigates the patterns of income inequalities in “old” and “new” EU member states. Alternative measurement concepts are tested, followed by sensitivity analyses. Our results show that the group of new member states is no less heterogeneous than the EU15 was at the time of the EU enlargement. The most important difference between the two country groups is found in their GDP levels and in some measures that are directly related to economic development. Using different measures to characterize NMSs may be justified to characterise poverty rates of subgroups, but keeping the metric standard for a comparison of overall inequalities is an allowable compromise. The differential role of incomes in generating overall welfare of households warns, however, for caution in interpretations.

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