



# Bridge Building Peer Reviews and Trainings

The situation of State social assistance benefits in Armenia

Yevgine Vardanyan  
Armenia

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND RESEARCH



The project is funded by:

 Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria  
Social Affairs, Health, Care  
and Consumer Protection

# Situation in Armenia: Social Assistance scheme

- Social welfare benefits, directed towards rising the living standards of poor population,
- Social benefits based on guarantees: pensions and other social benefits

**Situation in Armenia:  
Social Assistance scheme**

☐ Monetary social assistance /family benefits, social benefits, urgent assistance/,

☐ Non-monetary social assistance

/ in-kind support, discounts or free health care, educational services and for utility costs, social housing programs, some employment programs for the families that are identified as poor/



## Poverty assessment system in Armenia

Proxy-means testing method:

- Statues based,
- income based, excluding some incomes, like the income from the agricultural activities, etc.
- 8 stop factors: property and its usage, entrepreneurial registered activities, good's export or import activities



## **Correlation of the state benefits with the minimum living standards**

Correlation of the state benefits with the minimum food basket- 49,7 %,

Correlation of the state benefits with the minimum consumer basket-  
26,9 %



## **The reasons of changing the poverty assessment system in Armenia**

New realities – necessity to count the income of the families,

New goals- overcoming extreme poverty

New approaches- income based/income assessment/ approach, ensuring the correspondence of the amount of the benefits with the minimum living standards

The chosen method is Hybrid Means Testing



## **Objectives of the new poverty assessment and social assistance benefits approach**

1. Possibility to check or approximate the income of the families,
2. Targeting the population that is under the line of the extreme poverty,
3. usage of hybrid means testing that refers to the family's welfare assessment / property, household, etc./,
4. Correlating social assistance benefits with the activation procedures and employment services,
5. Separation between the eligibilities to receive social guarantees and nonmonetary services and monetary services.



## **The Advantages of the new social assistance benefits approach**

The possibilities to rise the addressability or effectiveness of targeting,

Widening the coverage area, involving the population that is in poverty by their incomes,

Usage of the integrated case management approach for ensuring employment and activation processes.

