

# Multidimensional barometer of poverty and social exclusion for local territorial units

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## Abstract

We propose a new multidimensional barometer of poverty and social exclusion, which is an early warning system and provides information on how unfavorable the socio-economic and housing conditions are in which the population lives. The barometer usually indicates changes in the wealth of society some time in advance. The research aimed to construct a new multidimensional barometer of poverty and social exclusion of inhabitants of territorial units. In the construction of the barometer, we used financial and non-financial measures that directly and indirectly indicate the risk of poverty and social exclusion. The construction of the barometer is based on the modified TOPSIS (Technique for Order of Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution) method. The proposed barometer was developed for communes in the Mazowieckie Voivodship in 2017-2021. The study used data from the Local Data Bank of Statistics Poland. The barometer indicated that communes located far from cities were most at risk. On the other hand, the smallest risk was identified in communes located around the capital of Poland. Reducing poverty and social exclusion is one of the main objectives of social policy, therefore the barometer can be a useful tool for programming-related activities.

**Keywords:** communes, early warning system, modified TOPSIS, risk of poverty, social policy