

## **SELF-ASSESSMENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE WORKS SUBMITTED FOR THE COMPETITION**

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### **1. Theoretical understanding and analysis of neglected and poorly researched generators of poverty and social exclusion: apart from individual deficits, various "policy deficits" also contribute to poverty and social exclusion and at that are generators that are more important.**

It is known that the fight against poverty cannot be effective if main mechanisms generating poverty are not identified and if they are not addressed with adequate measures. However, mainstream research into poverty generators as well as policies for poverty alleviation, focus mainly on various individual "deficits", which hinder the inclusion of individuals in public life and labor market and their effective operation in them. A new approach is applied in researching poverty generators. Evidence is provided that poverty is also generated by components of the existing regulatory and normative frameworks, policies implemented and social actors' behaviors. The persistence of poverty in Bulgaria and in the EU is largely due precisely to these generators and their neglect.

1.1. The influence of the above-mentioned factors of poverty especially clearly stands out in the monographic study on the correspondence between labour force quality and quality of jobs. Through a comparative analysis at the European level, in the monograph it is proven that there is a significant gap between the level of human capital of the employed in Bulgaria (about a third of the EU average) and the level of their wages/salaries (four times lower). The fact that the former significantly exceeds the latter indicates that individual deficits are not the main cause of low levels of labor income and of the high proportion of working poor in the country. It is also established that both are in functional correspondence, where there is a risk that the lower quality of jobs will pull to its level and lower the higher quality of the labour force and/or will push out the labor force towards forced emigration.

#### *Publications:*

Borisova-Marinova, K., Atanasova, M., Beleva, I., Jeliaskova, M., Tair, E., Tsekov, N., Hristova, A., Nikolova, S., Banov, H., (2018 ), Demographic Development, Labour Force and Labour Resources in Bulgaria, IPHS-BAS, Measures to Overcome the Demographic Crisis in the Republic of Bulgaria, Publishing House of BAS "Prof. M. Drinov", Sofia, ISBN 978-954-322-964-2; (total 506 pages, independent monograph of M. Jeliaskova with separate protocol - 109 pages "Quality of jobs and dynamics of the correspondence between the quality of jobs and the quality of the workforce in the country"). From the month of May, 2024 the volume has a DOI: <https://zenodo.org/records/11033870>, in Bulgarian

Jeliaskova, M. (2021), Quality of Jobs and Employment in Bulgaria. Nasselenie Review, Volume 39, Number 2, IPHS-BAS, 2021, ISSN: 0205-0617 (241-265).

1.2. Theorizing and researching the effectiveness of youth employment policies. Both positive effects and a number of disadvantages of the policies are identified

*Publications:*

Ricucci, R., Ghislieri, C., Krasteva, V., Jeliaskova, M., Taru, M. & Rokicka, M. (2021), Chapter 11, How young people experience and perceive labour market policies in four European countries. In: Unt, M., Gebel, M., Bertolini, S., Deliyanni-Koumitzi, V. & Hofäcker, D. (Eds.). *Social Exclusion of Youth in Europe: The Consequences of Labour Market Insecurity*: Bristol University Press, ISBN: 978-1447358725. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv1sr6k9z.17> (263–292).

Jeliaskova, M. (2018), Elusive Effects of Youth Employment Policies, in: *Collection Inequalities and Social (Dis)integration. In search of togetherness*, Boyadzhieva, P., Kanushev, M., Ivanov, M. (eds.), Iztok-Zapad, 2018, ISBN:978-619-01-0188-8 (pp. 275-290), in Bulgarian

Jeliaskova, M., Minev, D., Draganov, Dr., Krasteva, V., Stoilov, A. (2018). *Youth employment policies in Bulgaria*. Tallinn: Tallinn University, ISBN 978-9949-29-396-4.

Minev, D., Jeliaskova, M. (2023), Chapter 4, Employment Policies after the 1980s, in: „Public Policies and Social Changes. The Difficult Road to a Good Society“, BAS Academic Publishing House "Prof. Marin Drinov", ISBN:978-619-245-277-3 (pp. 169 -214), in Bulgarian

Krasteva, V., Jeliaskova, M., Draganov, Dr. (2018). Socio-economic consequences. In: *Young adults in insecure labor market positions in Bulgaria – The results from a qualitative study*. Tallinn: Tallinn University, ISBN 978-9949-29-369-8, (28,51 стандартни страници)

Krasteva, V., Jeliaskova, M., Draganov, Dr. (2018). Social exclusion. In: *Young adults in insecure labor market positions in Bulgaria – The results from a qualitative study*. Tallinn: Tallinn University, ISBN 978-9949-29-369-8, (50,9 стандартни страници)

1.3. Poverty and social exclusion studies assess the contribution of various public policies, incl. social policy, for their levels and sustainability.

*Publications:*

Jeliaskova, M. (2024), *The Polarized Bulgarian Society: Persistent Poverty and Toxic Inequalities*, „Polis“ Publishing House, Sofia, ISBN 978-954-796-121-0, (240 pages), in Bulgarian

Jeliaskova, M. D. (2021), *Poverty in Bulgaria: Dimensions, Policies and Analyses*. *Sociološki pregled / Sociological Review*, vol. LV, 1, Serbian Sociological Association, Belgrade, ISSN: 0085-6320, (130-155).

Jeliaskova, M., Minev, D. (2023). *Bulgaria: Poverty Watch 2023 – State, Political Measures and Green Transition*, EAPN Poverty Watches, ISBN: 978-954-9534-07-8 (1-31).

Jeliaskova, M., Minev, D. (2022), *Bulgaria: Poverty Watch 2021*. EAPN Poverty Watches, 2022, ISBN: 978-954-9534-06-1 (1-26).

Jeliaskova, M. (2023), Chapter 7: *The Policy against Poverty and Social Exclusion in Bulgaria as Part of Social Policy*, in: *Public Policies and Social Changes. The Difficult Road to a Good*

Society“, BAS Academic Publishing House "Prof. Marin Drinov", ISBN:978-619-245-277-3, (pp. 262 - 286), in Bulgarian

## **2. Conceptualizing and identifying a specific type of income inequality defined as "toxic inequality."**

Theoretical studies usually consider income inequalities as a logical effect of the normal functioning of market mechanisms, and empirical studies as a rule consist in measuring inequalities. There are no criteria for assessing the economic expediency and social acceptability of the levels of inequalities. The presented sociological analysis of inequalities adds to the idea about them the presence of a specific type of inequalities that are not economically justified and socially acceptable. This type of inequality, defined as "toxic", is high, combines with high and persistent levels of poverty and is associated with slowing economic growth, erosion of democracy, harmful effects (damages) on the lives and health of significant parts of societies and decline of social progress. Analyzes show that income inequalities in Bulgaria are of a toxic type. The main generators of this type of inequality have also been identified - components of the normative framework, institutionalized corruption and norms-viruses.

### *Publications:*

Jeliaskova, M. (2024), The Polarized Bulgarian Society: Persistent Poverty and Toxic Inequalities, „Polis“ Publishing House, Sofia, ISBN 978-954-796-121-0, (240 pages), in Bulgarian

Jeliaskova, M. (2023), Inequalities and political (in)consistency, in vol. Communities and Identities, Academic Publishing "Prof. Marin Drinov", 2023, ISBN:978-619-245-323-7 (pp. 294-307), in Bulgarian

Jeliaskova, M. D. (2021), Poverty in Bulgaria: Dimensions, Policies and Analyses. Sociološki pregled / Sociological Review., vol. LV, 1, Serbian Sociological Association, Belgrade, ISSN: 0085-6320, (130-155).

**3. As a separate contribution, the establishment of a relationship between the levels of income inequalities and the state of poverty and social exclusion could be highlighted.** Although at an intuitive level, the existence of a link between income inequality and poverty seems self-evident, research on income inequality has typically not addressed this link. Undisputed authorities (for example, A. Sen) prefer to emphasize that inequalities and poverty are different things and should not be mixed. Many studies directly reject the possibility that high income inequalities breed poverty. The identification of a specific type of inequality - the "toxic" ones - establishes that there is nevertheless a certain type of inequality that is linked to poverty in the sense that it directly or indirectly increases it or gives such persistence to poverty and social exclusion that social policy cannot deal with it.

### *Publications:*

Jeliaskova, M. (2024), The Polarized Bulgarian Society: Persistent Poverty and Toxic Inequalities, „Polis“ Publishing House, Sofia, ISBN 978-954-796-121-0, (240 pages), in Bulgarian

Jeliaskova, M., Minev, D. (2023). Bulgaria: Poverty Watch 2023 – State, Political Measures and Green Transition, EAPN Poverty Watches, ISBN: 978-954-9534-07-8 (1-31).

Jeliaskova, M., Minev, D. (2022), Bulgaria: Poverty Watch 2021. EAPN Poverty Watches, 2022, ISBN: 978-954-9534-06-1 (1-26).

Jeliaskova, M., Minev, D. (2021), Bulgaria: Poverty Watch 2020. EAPN, 2020, ISBN: 978-954-9534-05-4 (1 -23).

Jeliaskova, M. (2023), Chapter 7: The Policy against Poverty and Social Exclusion in Bulgaria as Part of Social Policy, in: Public Policies and Social Changes. The Difficult Road to a Good Society“, BAS Academic Publishing House "Prof. Marin Drinov", ISBN:978-619-245-277-3, (pp. 262 - 286), in Bulgarian

Jeliaskova, M. D. (2021), Poverty in Bulgaria: Dimensions, Policies and Analyses. Sociološki pregled / Sociological Review,, vol. LV, 1, Serbian Sociological Association, Belgrade, ISSN: 0085-6320, (130-155).

#### **4. Justification and empirical verification of a broader approach to energy poverty as an expanding form of poverty in the EU and Bulgaria.**

A large-scale study of energy poverty in the EU and Bulgaria was conducted. This is a relatively new and rapidly expanding form of poverty. Moreover, this form of poverty carries a particularly high risk of increasing poverty in the near future and has potential to become a major form of poverty. Therefore, research of this kind of poverty have acquired particular importance for combating poverty and for the formation of adequate policies against it.

##### *Publications:*

Foulds, C., Royston, S., Berker, T., Nakopoulou, E., Bharucha, Z.P, Jeliaskova, M., et all. (2022), An agenda for future Social Sciences and Humanities research on energy efficiency: 100 priority research questions. Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, Volume 9, Issue 1, Springer Nature, Elsevier, ISSN: 26629992, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-022-01243-z>, SJR (Scopus):0.42, Q 2

Minev, D., Jeliaskova, M. (2022), Making a just green transition: perceptions and risks, Postmodernism Problems, Vol. 12, No. 3,, 2022, ISSN:1314-3700, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.46324/PMP2203289>, (p. 289-318), in Bulgarian

Jeliaskova, M., (2020), Vulnerable Consumers Protection Framework Paper. © ASSIST project, ISBN: 978-619-188-429-2 (120 ctp.).

Jeliaskova, M., Krasteva, V., Minev, D. (2020), Chapter 3, Inconsistencies in Policy-Making as Drivers of Energy Poverty in Bulgaria. In: Jigla, G., Sinea, A., Dubois, U. & Biermann, P. (Eds.). Perspectives on Energy Poverty in Post-Communist Europe, Routledge, ISBN: 9780367430528 (pp. 55-76).

#### **5. Identification of insufficiently researched problem fields in the field of energy efficiency and the need for an increased contribution of the social sciences and humanities (SSH).**

In collaboration with a team of European scientists (from 20 countries) and under the guidance of Cambridge researchers, problem fields have been identified that are under-researched, which is why they are affected by a pronounced knowledge deficit and there is need to activate research work on them. We have classified the identified white fields into 7 topics, each of which is developed in more details. My involvement is in all of them, but more intensively in three: Topic 2: Energy efficiency and its relation to equity, poverty and vulnerability; Topic 5: Governance, politics and policy issues; Topic 7: Interactions, unintended consequences and adverse effects of energy efficiency interventions. The marked "white" unexplored fields in the existing knowledge are provided for use by the EC in developing the programs for the development of the European research area.

*Publication:*

Foulds, C., Royston, S., Berker, T., Nakopoulou, E., Bharucha, Z.P, Jeliaskova, M., et al. (2022), An agenda for future Social Sciences and Humanities research on energy efficiency: 100 priority research questions. Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, Volume 9, Issue 1, Springer Nature, Elsevier, ISSN: 26629992, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-022-01243-z>, SJR (Scopus):0.42, Q 2

**6. Outlining opportunities for using additional tools to limit poverty and social exclusion apart from social policy.**

As an additional tool for limiting poverty and social inclusion of marginalized groups, the development of the social economy and social enterprises is highlighted. The opportunities that social enterprises can provide to limit poverty are outlined, the state of social enterprises and the normative framework regulating the use of this tool in Bulgaria are examined.

*Publication:*

Jeliaskova, M., (2019), Social Enterprises and their Ecosystems in Europe. Country report Bulgaria, European Commission. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, ISBN: 978-92-79-97826-5, DOI: 10.2767/786387 (110 pages).

**7. Contribution to the "sociologizing" of ideas about and studies of various social problems.**

For obvious reasons, studies of various social problems, as well as those of public policy, tend to remain within their subject matter. The above-mentioned studies submitted for participation in the competition contain strong emphasis on the connections and mutual impacts between different social phenomena (for example, poverty and income inequalities); different forms of poverty (e.g. energy, housing, working, child), as well as between these phenomena and forms and the way power is exercised (formation of the normative framework, formation of public policies). Identifying and emphasizing these connections and interactions contributes to the expansion ("sociologizing") of the ideas about these phenomena and to building a broader, comprehensive picture of the state of society and its structuring.

*Publications:*

Jeliaskova, M. (2024), *The Polarized Bulgarian Society: Persistent Poverty and Toxic Inequalities*, „Polis“ Publishing House, Sofia, ISBN 978-954-796-121-0, (240 pages), in Bulgarian

Minev, D., Jeliaskova, M. (2022), Making a just green transition: perceptions and risks, *Postmodernism Problems*, Vol. 12, No. 3,, 2022, ISSN:1314-3700, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.46324/PMP2203289>, (p. 289-318), in Bulgarian

Jeliaskova, M. D. (2021), *Poverty in Bulgaria: Dimensions, Policies and Analyses*. *Sociološki pregled / Sociological Review*,, vol. LV, 1, Serbian Sociological Association, Belgrade, ISSN: 0085-6320, (130-155).

Bertolini, S., Musumeci, R., Athanassiades, C., Flouli, A., Figgou, L., Deliyanni-Kouimtzi, V., Krasteva, V., Jeliaskova, M., Minev, D. (2021), Chapter 8, Is housing autonomy still a step towards adulthood in time of job insecurity?. In: Unt, M., Gebel, M., Bertolini, S., Deliyanni-Koumitzi, V. & Hofäcker, D. (Eds.). *Social Exclusion of Youth in Europe: The Consequences of Labour Market Insecurity*: Bristol University Press, ISBN: 978-1447358725. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv1sr6k9z.14> (p. 192–213).

Jeliaskova, M., (2020), *Vulnerable Consumers Protection Framework Paper*. © ASSIST project, ISBN: 978-619-188-429-2 (120 pages)

Jeliaskova, M. (2019), *Status and Significance of Policy Evaluation Studies*, in: „Science for the Benefit of Society“ collection, Jeliaskova, M., Petrunov, G. (eds.), BAS Publishing House, "Prof. M. Drinov", 2019, ISBN:978-954-322-985-7, (p. 148-164) in Bulgarian