

# STEPS TOWARDS A FAIRER FUTURE

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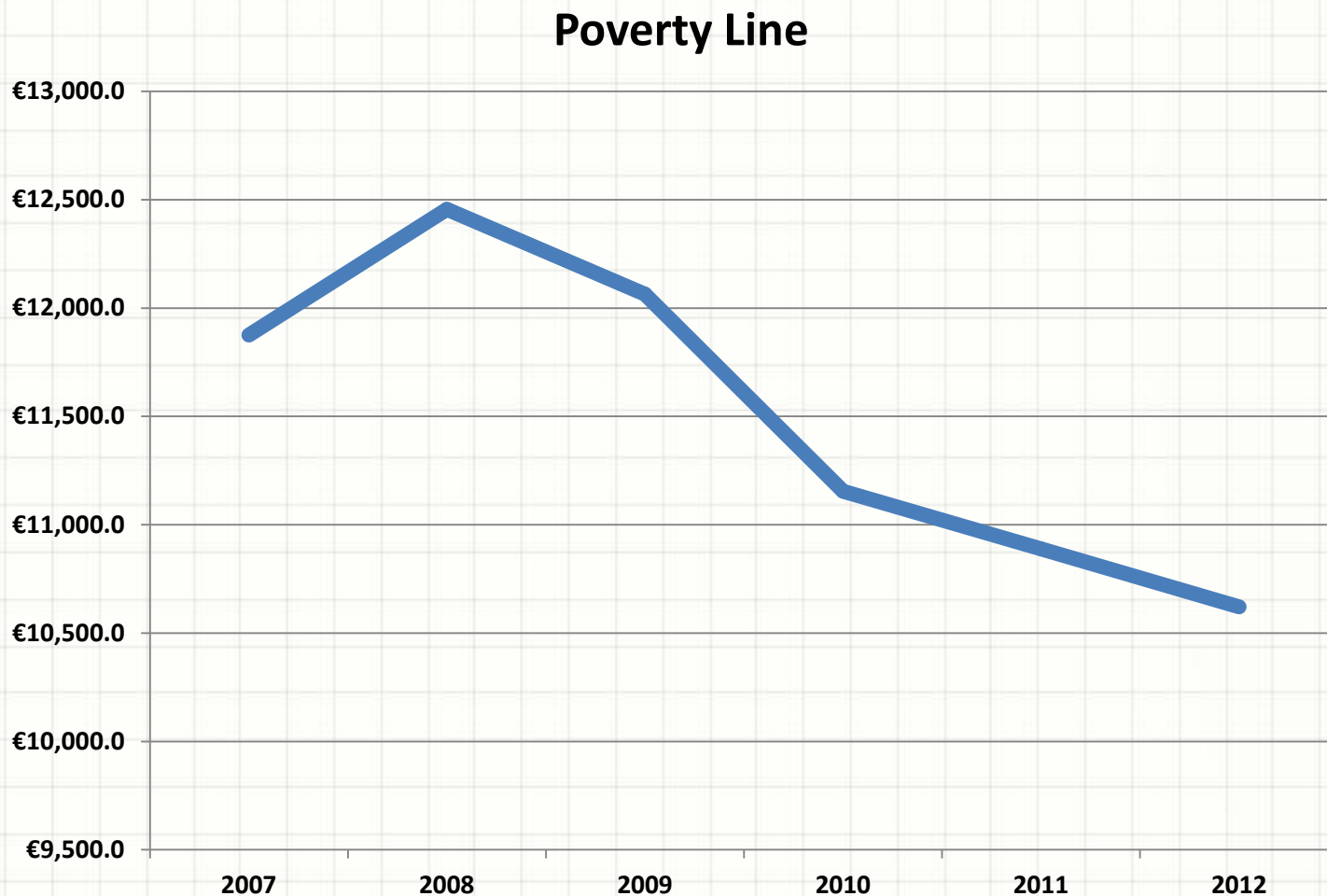
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# Overview

- Poverty – current situation and trends
- Impact of policy decisions
- Alternative policy framework
- Future actions
- Challenges

# Poverty Line 2007 2012

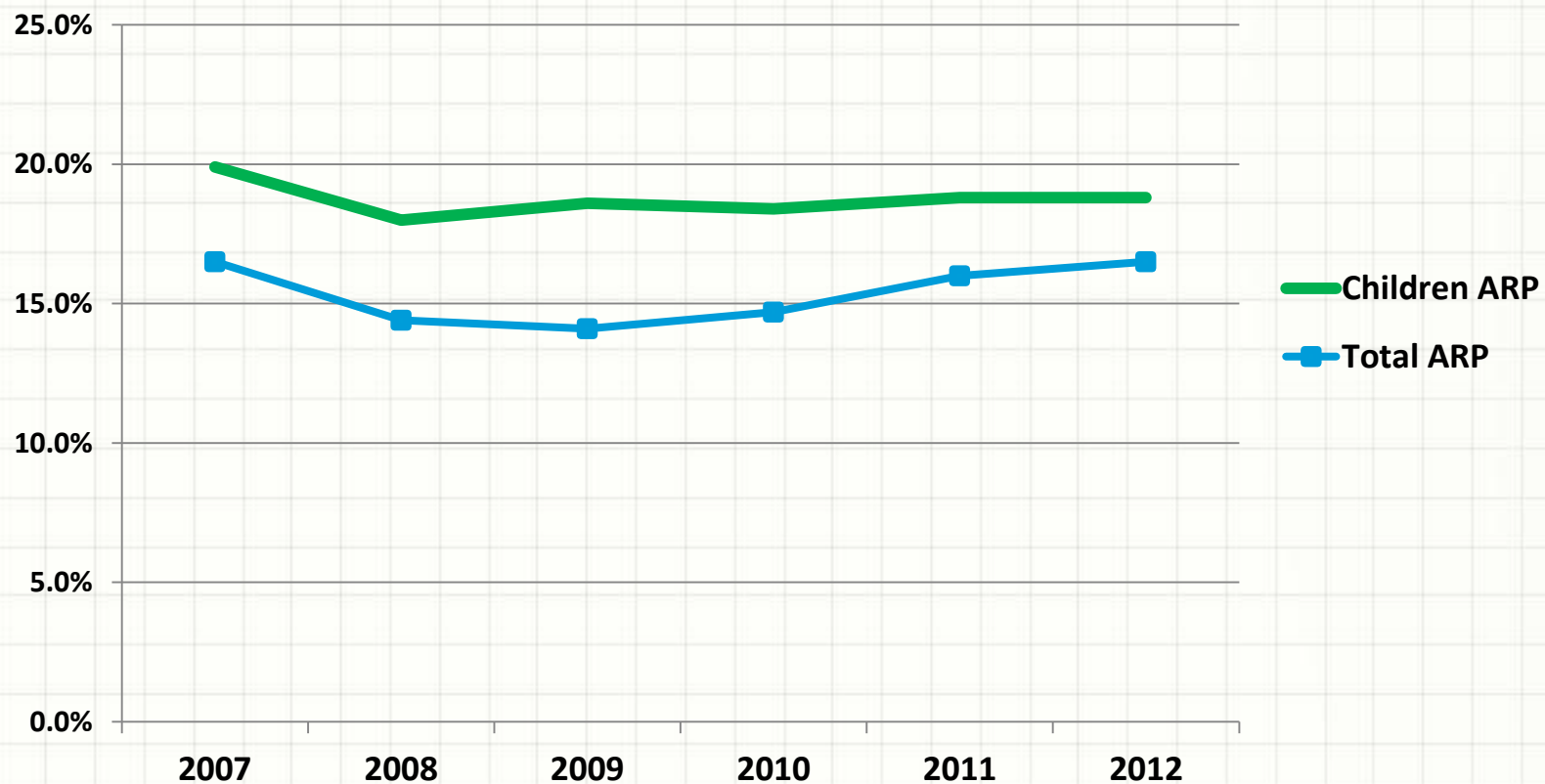


# Numbers below poverty line

Year	Poverty line	Numbers in poverty
2007	€11,876	722,007
2008	€12,455	645,854
2009	€12,064	639,209
2010	€11,155	669,556
2011	€10,889	731,984
2012	€10,621	756,591

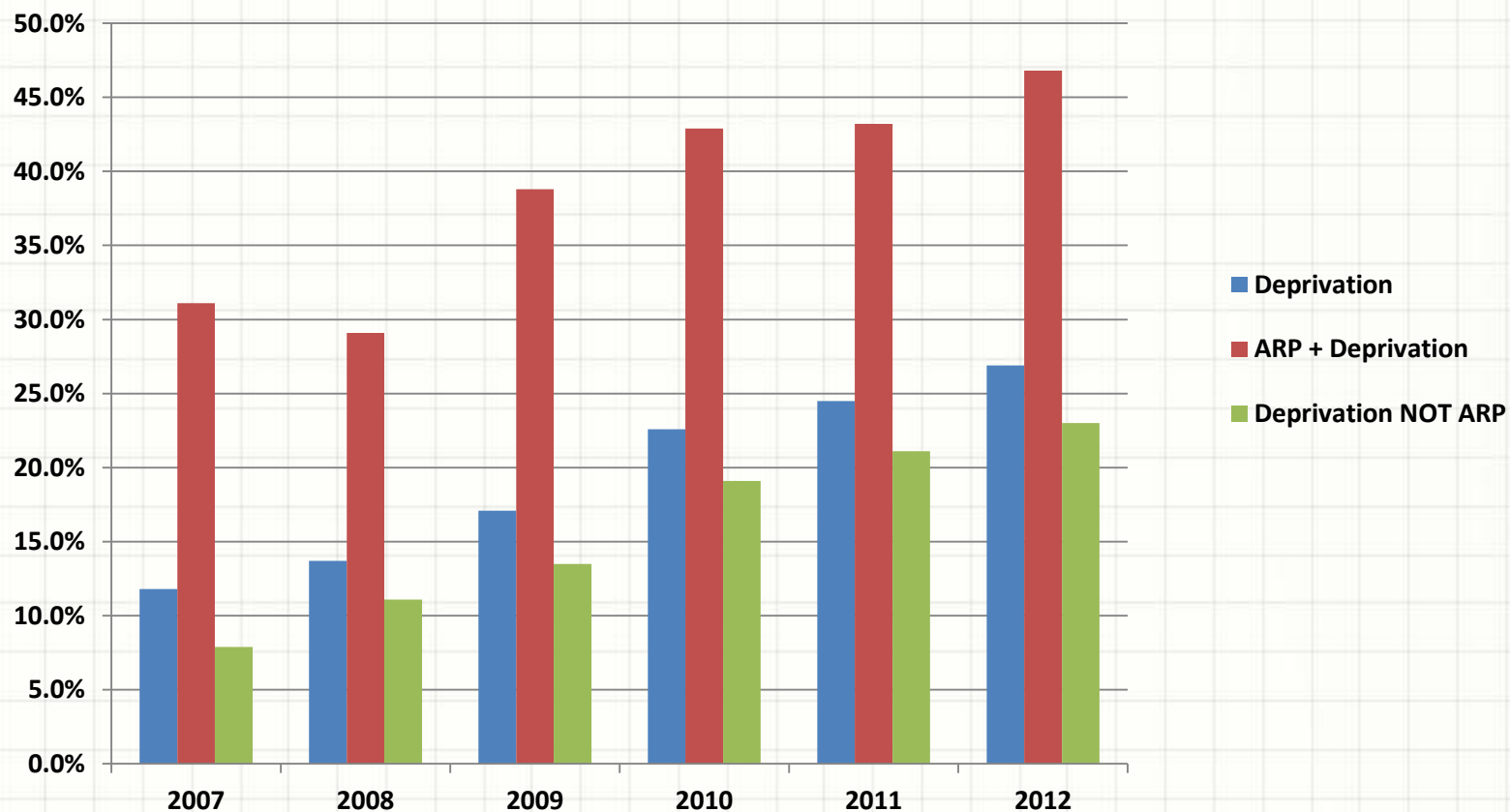
# Who is affected by poverty?

At Risk of Poverty 2007-2012



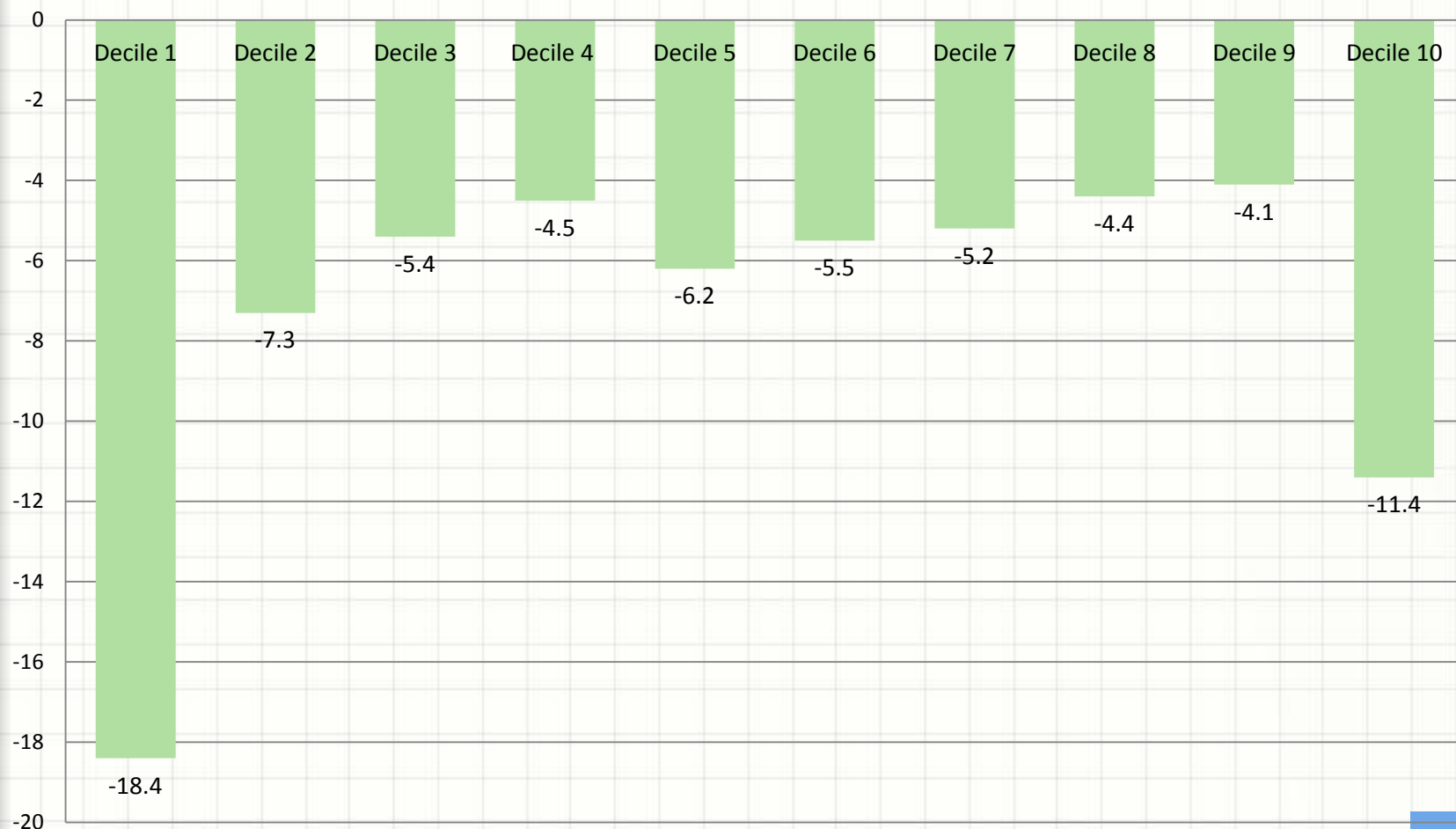
# Deprivation

Deprivation 2007 -2012



# Impact of policy decisions

**Percentage change in average real incomes by decile of disposable income per adult equivalent, 2008 and 2011**





# Reductions in services

- Public expenditure and public services have been the variable
- Cuts to healthcare, education and social welfare
- Charges introduced for services
- No progress towards the Europe 2020 targets on poverty / social exclusion and employment



# Policy reponse

- Public sector employee reductions
- Public sector wage cuts
- Fees for public services
- Reduced social welfare spending
- Increases in VAT and excise duty
- Changes to pensions
- Changes to eligibility for unemployment benefits
- Cuts to healthcare expenditure

# Policy response

- Reduction in minimum wage
- Changes to labour laws and collective bargaining
- Changes to employment terms and conditions
- Increased age of retirement
- Reductions in education spending
- Privatisation of state owned enterprises
- Expenditure ceilings introduced

# Trends

- Negative health impacts
- Unemployment now a structural problem
- Low income groups impacted disproportionately
- Increasing poverty rates
- Increasing financial distress among households
- Net outward migration

# Proposal for overarching policy framework

	Ensuring macroeconomic stability	Towards a just taxation system	Enhancing social protection	Reforming governance	Creating a sustainable Future
	Debt sustainability	Bring Taxes to European average	Protect services and the social infrastructure	Reform policy evaluation	Combat climate change and protect the environment
	Fiscal and financial stability and sustainable economic growth	Increase taxes equitably	Combat unemployment	A Rights-based approach	Balanced regional development
	Investment programme	Reduce income inequality	Poverty Reduction	Deliberative democracy	New indicators

# Common themes

- Increasing poverty and social exclusion
- Housing crisis
- Debt
- Inadequate policy response
- Alternatives required

# What could be progressed jointly?

- Sufficient income to live life with dignity
- Meaningful work
- Appropriate accommodation
- Relevant education
- Essential healthcare
- Cultural respect
- Real participation

# Challenges

- Values
- How to hold the state to account on economic, social and cultural rights?
- Emergency measures versus sustainable approaches





**THANK YOU**