

*Cold and Warm Solidarity:
Which Role for Europe?*

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*FEAD as an instrument to implement the
'European Pillar of Social Rights' *?*

** European Commission, 2018*

FEAD

- A factor in strengthening Member States' social fabric (cognitive support , Frank Vandenbroucke) ?

OR

- Discouraging Member States from investing in social protection (incentives, institutional moral hazard) ?

Two foundational questions

- **The balance between “cold” and “warm” solidarity (“rights” vs “benevolence”)** : Are rights based policies and benevolent/needs based approaches in tension, in harmony or unrelated ?
- **The role of the EU** : Should the EU help Member States on a systemic level to strengthen national social protection (e.g. through a EU framework for minimum incomes) ? And/or should the EU – in principle, as a first step and/or perforce – rather focus on supporting local social action (e.g. through an expansion of FEAD) ?

Three research questions

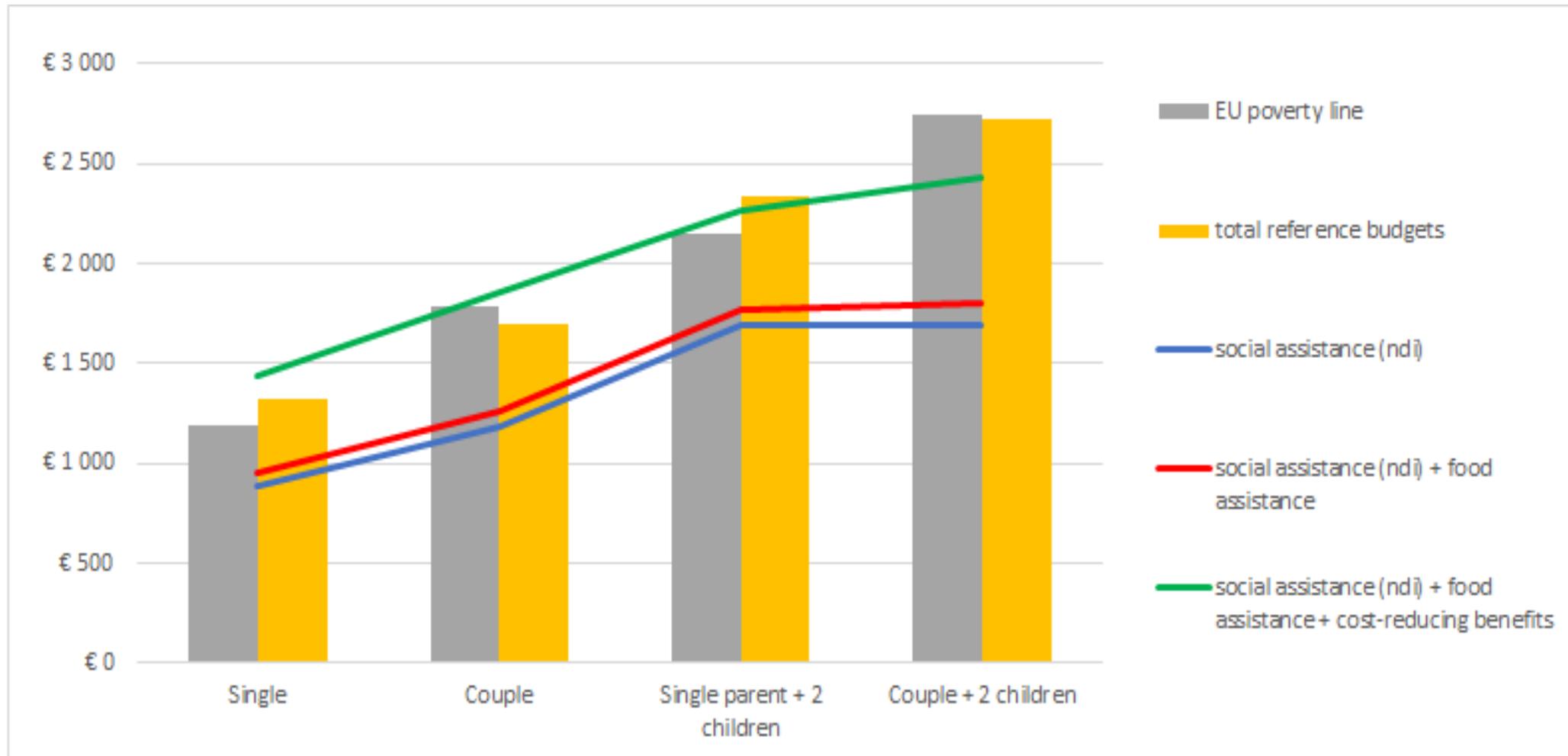
[A] To what extent does food aid alleviate financial poverty ?

[B] To which degree FEAD is a helping hand in this ?

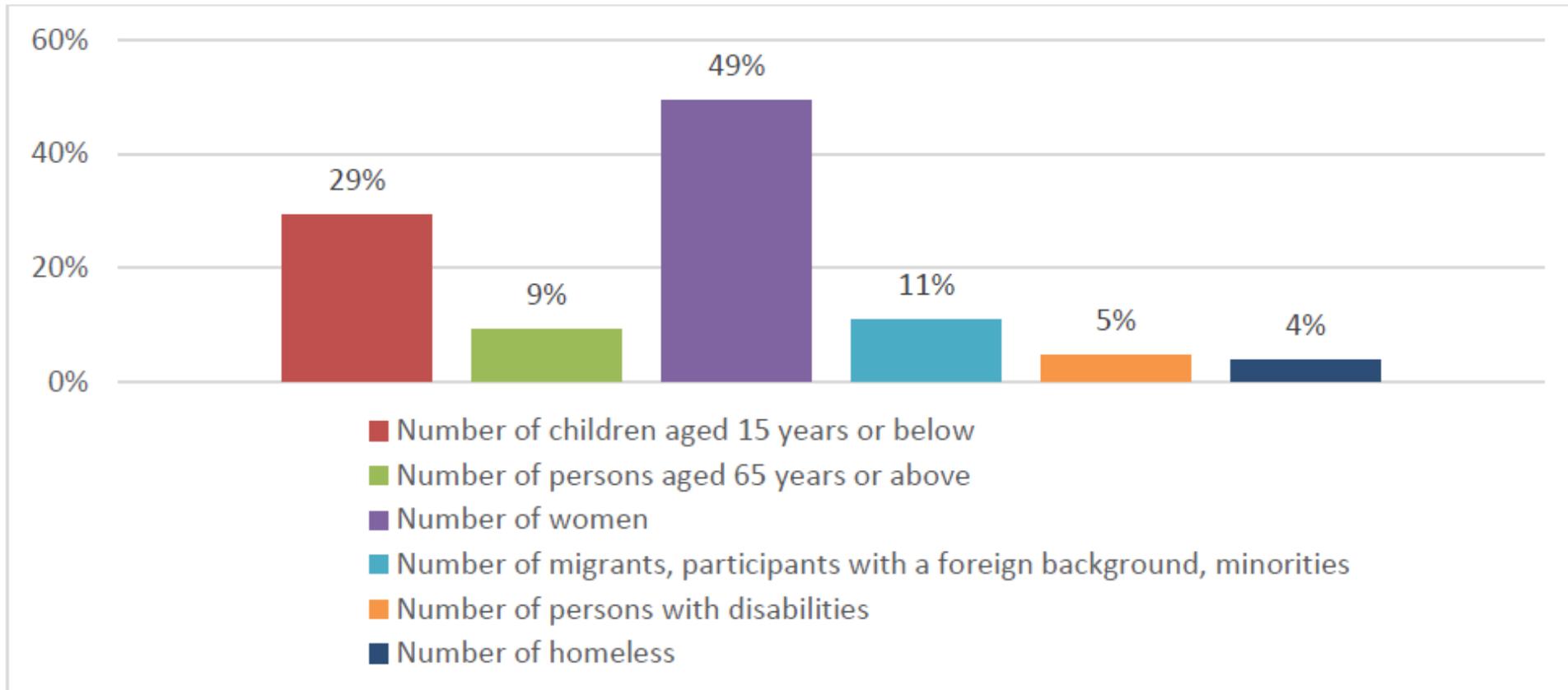
[C] How is a country's implementation of FEAD interrelated with national institutions ?

[A] To what extent does food aid alleviate financial poverty ?

Minimum Income protection food assistance vs poverty lines, Belgium (Storms, Penne, Hermans, 2019)



FEAD Target groups



Source: European Commission, Mid-term-evaluation 2019

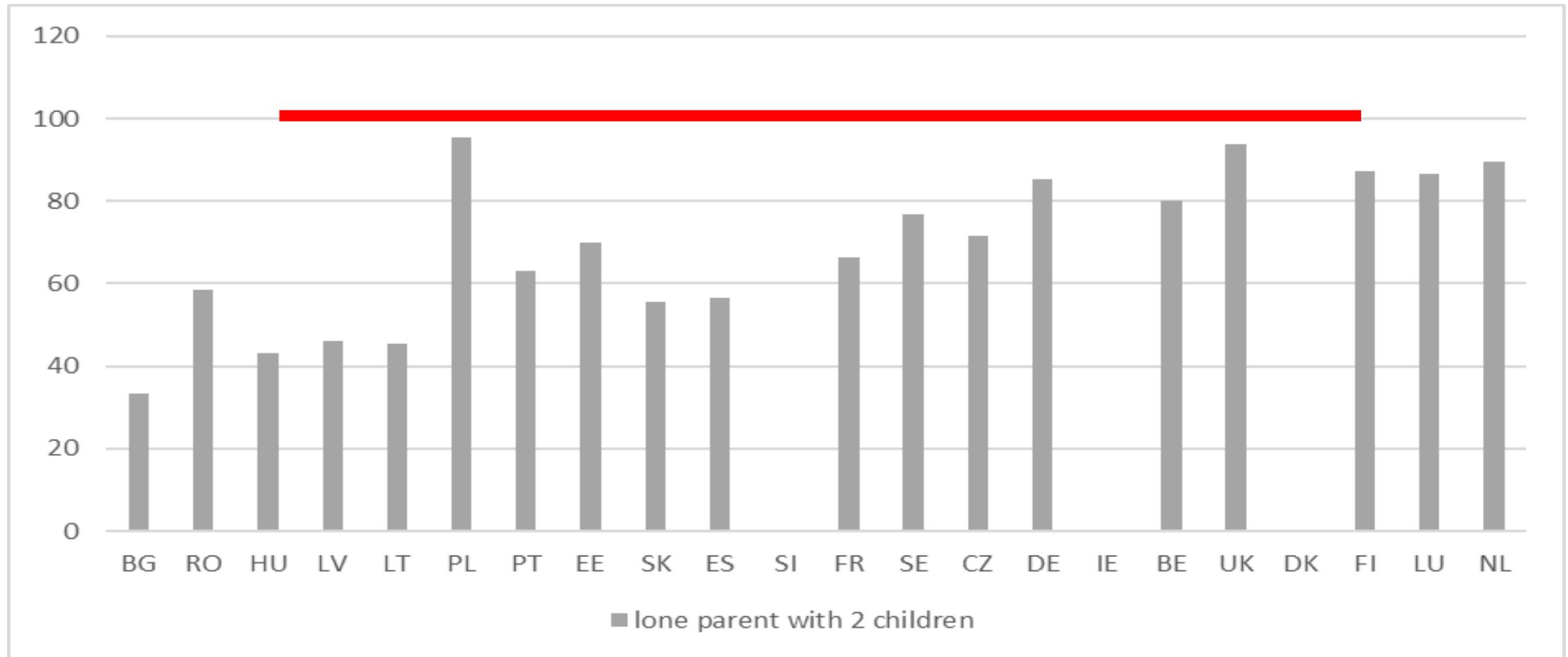
Sint-Antonius (Hermans, 2019)

- 42% 'leefloon'
- 10% unemployment benefit
- 14% sickness benefit, pension or work

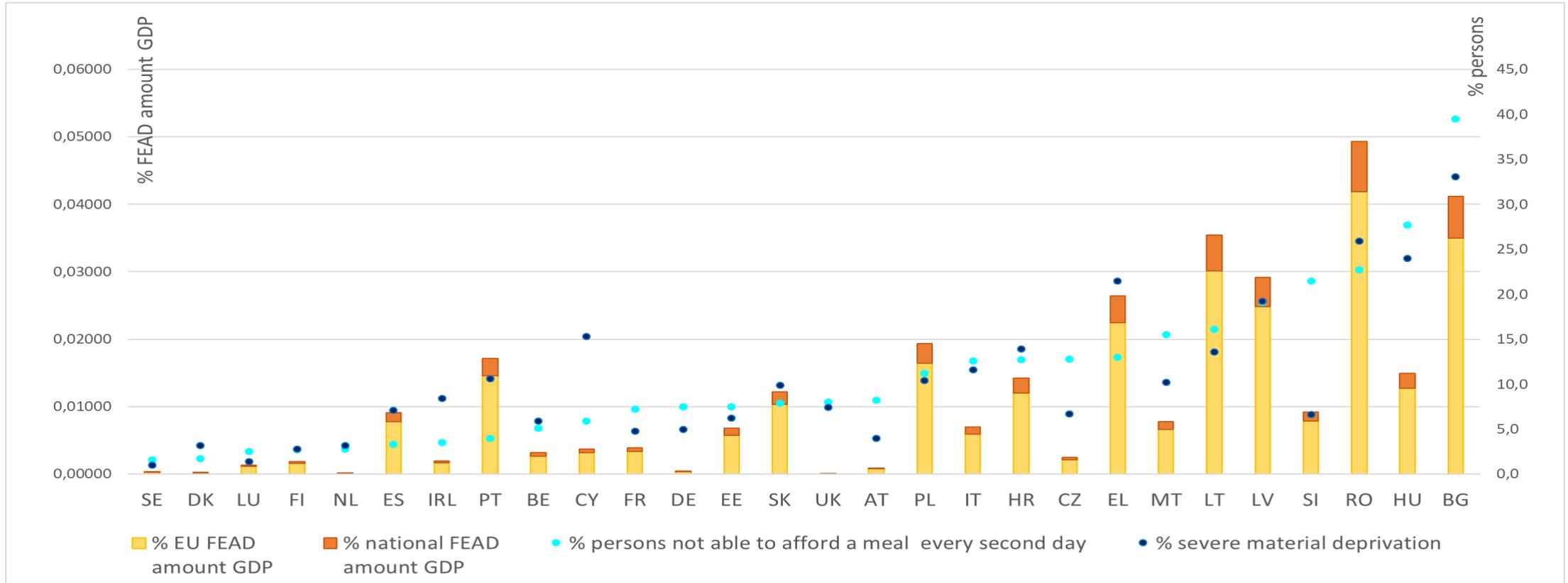
[A] To what extent does food aid alleviate financial poverty ?

- In Belgium marginally
- Signals inadequate social protection

Inadequate social floors



[B] To which degree FEAD is a helping hand in this ?



Source: Bérénice Storms, Eurostat

[C] How is a country's implementation of FEAD interrelated with the institutions of national welfare state ?

- OCMW => Food Banks
- Considered by policy makers as part of social protection ?
- Strengthening the social fabric ?

*So, is FEAD an instrument to implement the
'European Pillar of Social Rights' ?*

A Provisional conclusion

-No, not in isolation

-Yes, as part of a coherent strategy involving the implementation of EPSR-Principles on Social Inclusion (on minimum incomes, adequate minimum wages, social protection, unemployment benefits, old age income, inclusion of people with disability, on essential services, housing, health care and child care)

Ambigiuty

FEAD

Alleviates financial hardship

Signals emerging and persistent needs

Strengthens the underlying social fabric and, in doing so, might

Help to create the social and political conditions for structural and rights based poverty reduction (=> “process” Stijn Oosterlynck)

But, FEAD

As an excuse for national policy makers for not making further efforts

Keeping people in poverty

Reinforcing social divides