

Building Capacity to Promote Social Integration and Social Inclusion in the Western Balkans

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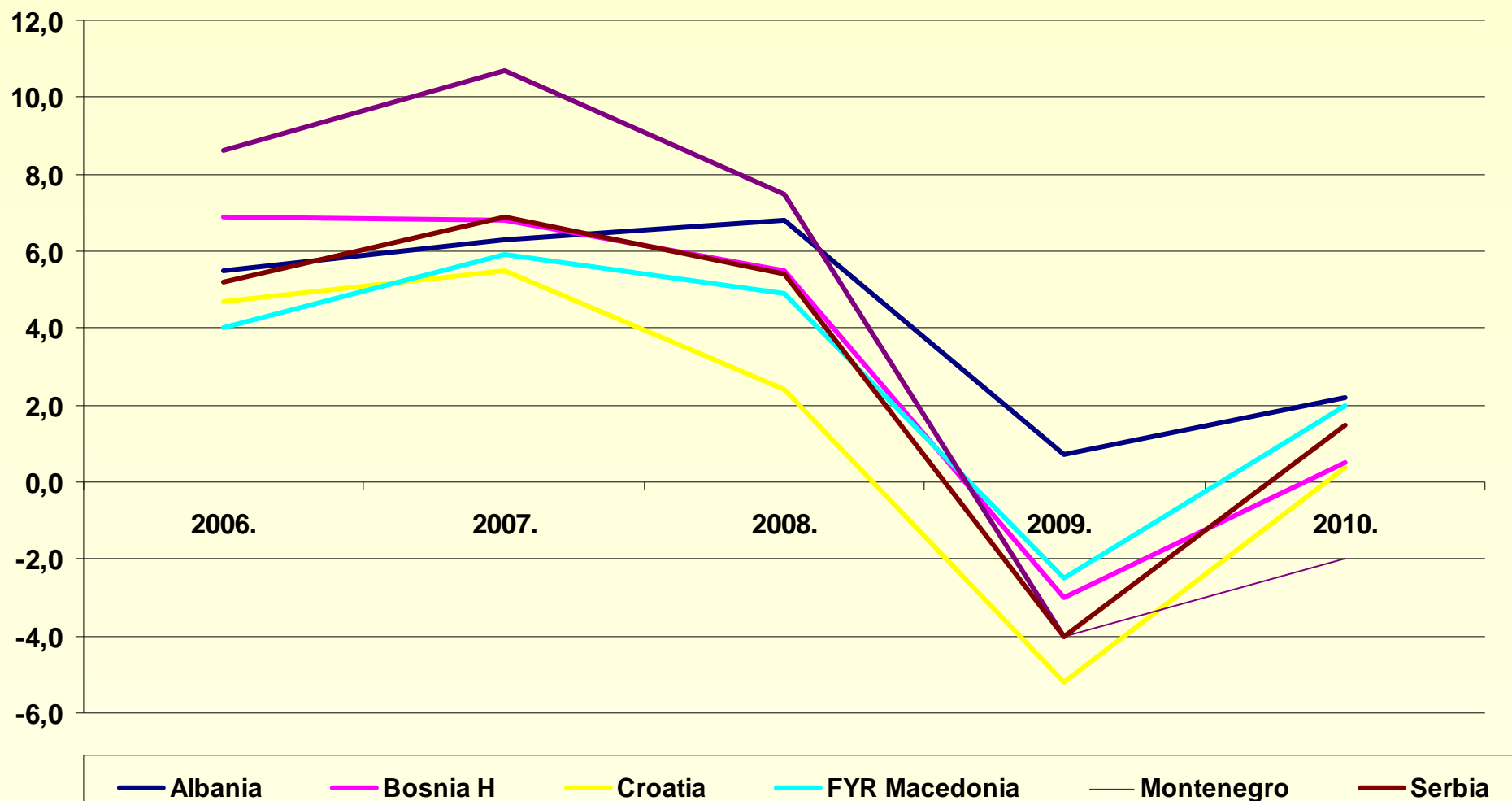
Accra, 18 November 2009

***Practical Strategies to Promote
Social Integration, UNDESA***



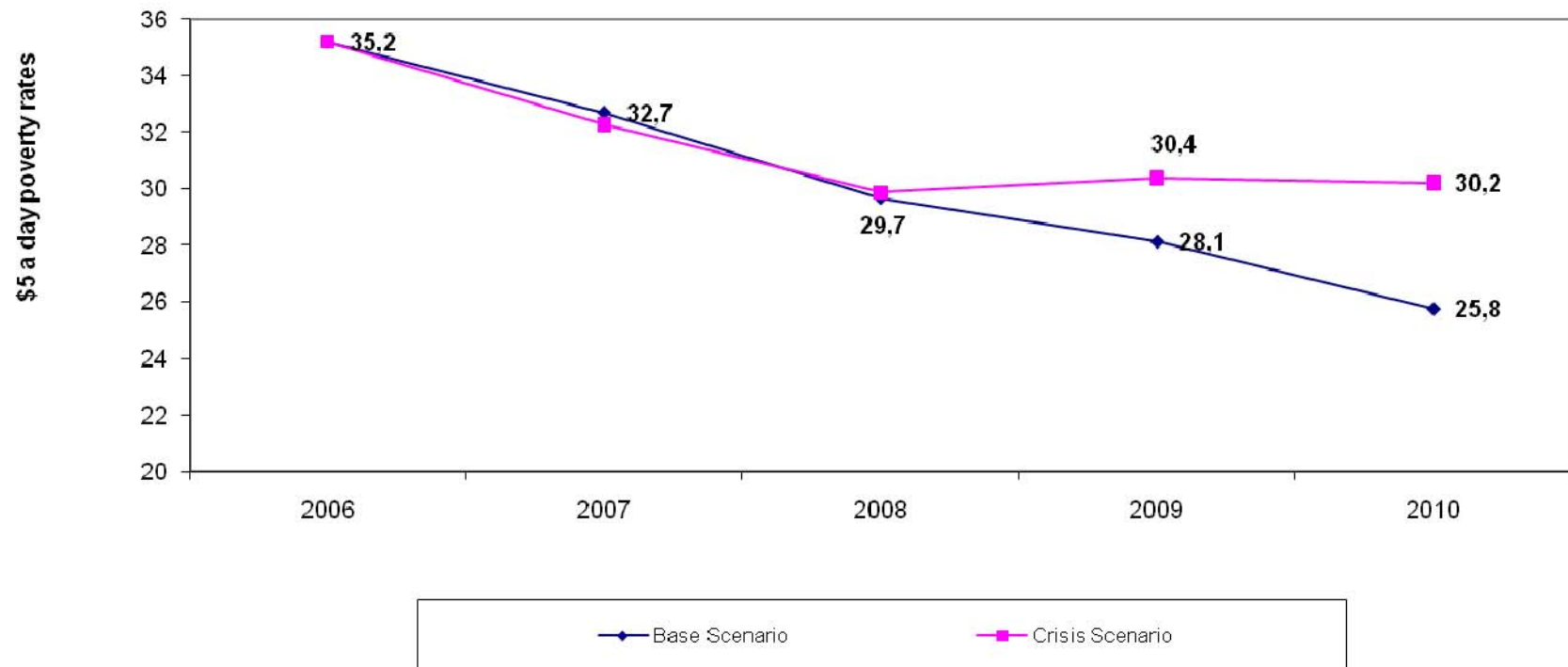
The End of Growth

Figure 1.1 IMF % annual growth in real GDP (October 2009)



World Bank PPP Poverty Rates

Western Balkans \$5 Poverty and Vulnerability Rates



Poverty and Social Exclusion

- Multi-dimensionality and inter-sectionality of exclusion (n.b. research and data gaps)
- 'At risk': (Long-term) Unemployed; Older people; Large families; Women; Children and youth; Low education levels; RDPs; Minorities (esp. Roma but also national minorities and 'small minorities'); People with Disabilities; People with long-term health issues
- Spatial dimension: Arc of exclusion; Rural – Urban; Zones of exclusion
- 'New' survival strategies eroding long-term capabilities?

The End of Bismarckism?

Insurance-based welfare has been undermined by a multi-dimensional contributions crisis (demographic ageing; high dependency ratios; grey economy; low activity rates; out migration; minimum declared wages; nature of remittances)

Drivers

- Multiple shocks: War/conflicts; Structural transition; Deindustrialisation; Erosion of social capital/solidarities;
- 'Captured' social policies
- Distortions caused by 'locked in' expenditures (tertiary health care; residential care) and new (informal) marketization
- Legacy of category-based (not needs-based) social protection
- Stigma, discrimination and over-professionalised approaches
- Political will – Fiscal space – Technical capacities

A 'Crowded Playground'

- World Bank, UN agencies and EU scramble for influence with poor co-ordination and coherence
- Too many sub-contracted consultants
- From projects via programmes to strategies but ...
- Capacity building \neq trainings + study visits
- EU Social inclusion agenda – OMC – JIM

Case Study: Croatia's JIM

- Preparation for the 'Open Method of Co-ordination' (national paths to EU objectives)
- Shifts in technologies of enumeration, participation, governance/co-ordination and reporting
- Greater attention to deinstitutionalisation
- Competing discourses, claims and representations
- Absence of the 'voice' of the excluded
- Uneven impacts in practice

Governance matters

- Governance quality and horizontal and vertical co-ordination
- Scale matters but dangers of decentralisation
- Diversification of providers but importance of the state
- Mainstreaming social inclusion policies
- PFM and gender- and child-responsive budgeting

Inclusive Planning?

- Planning orthodoxy – local social plans and stakeholder workshops
- Good practice – inclusive priorities; support to providers; good M&E
- Quality standards lacking
- Voice of service users missing
- Increased transparency and feedback through EU accession

Analytical capacity

- Competition re statistical support ...
W Bank as t'national expertised
institution (CCTs in Macedonia)
- Disempowerment of local researchers
- Importance of objectives, activities
and indicators
- Evidence-based advocacy for
regional social floor?

Conclusions

- Preventive, Promotional and Transformative social protection
- Building long-term trust (but also recognise conflict and contestation)
- Role of state and tailored universalism
- Regional social policy – redistribution, rights and social justice

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Thank-you for your attention