

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Students consider societal conditions to be the main causes of poverty**

ZAGREB – Students of the Zagreb University think that the causes of poverty are predominantly in structural or societal factors such as poor economy, consequences of political transition and war, and much less in personal inadequacy such as lack of skills or effort, poor money management, alcohol abuse etc. Bad luck, fate or God's will were seen as the least important cause of poverty, shows a study published in the new, thematic issue of Croatian Medical Journal on poverty and human development.

Researchers from Faculty of Law and Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb developed a questionnaire to survey 365 students of social work, economics and agronomics. Social work students were chosen as a group which is supposed to deal with problems of poverty in their professional life, whereas students of economics and agronomics were chosen as their controls.

When looking for causes of poverty, all students put most emphasis to structural factors. Social work students, compared to other students, placed less importance on individual factors when attributing causes of poverty.

The results published in the Croatian Medical Journal are in accordance with previous research, which showed that in developing countries there is a greater tendency of people to attribute the causes of poverty to structural factors. On the other hand, in developed countries people tend to overestimate the power of individual factors as opposed to structural, situational or external factors, since it is believed that in democratic societies with equal opportunities for all, individuals are responsible for their own situation.

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