

National Roundtable  
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# National Social Target for Poverty Reduction

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# **REVIEW OF NATIONAL POVERTY TARGET**

# Review of national poverty target

Aim: to set appropriate and achievable targets to meet national and EU commitments

- Take account of economic recession
- How target expressed (indicators & statistics)
- Learn from EU approaches
- New ambition given economic circumstances

Review involved national consultation, EU peer review & new research

# Outputs of review

- Report of review presents the analysis, findings & recommendations; has four appendices
  - Consultation paper
  - Report of public consultation
  - Technical paper by ESRI
  - Synthesis report on EU peer review by independent expert
- Policy briefing sets out the Govt decision on revised target; primary document which will guide policy
- Publication online at [www.welfare.ie](http://www.welfare.ie) and [www.socialinclusion.ie](http://www.socialinclusion.ie)

# Revised target

- New name: *National social target for poverty reduction*
- Extend timeframe for meeting existing target to 2020 (similar to EU), with new end point (2% or less)
- Express contribution to EU target in EU terms (200,000 reduction in population at risk of poverty or exclusion)
- New sub-targets for children and jobless households
- Additional indicators
- Stronger implementation
  - annual monitoring report
  - poverty/social impact assessment

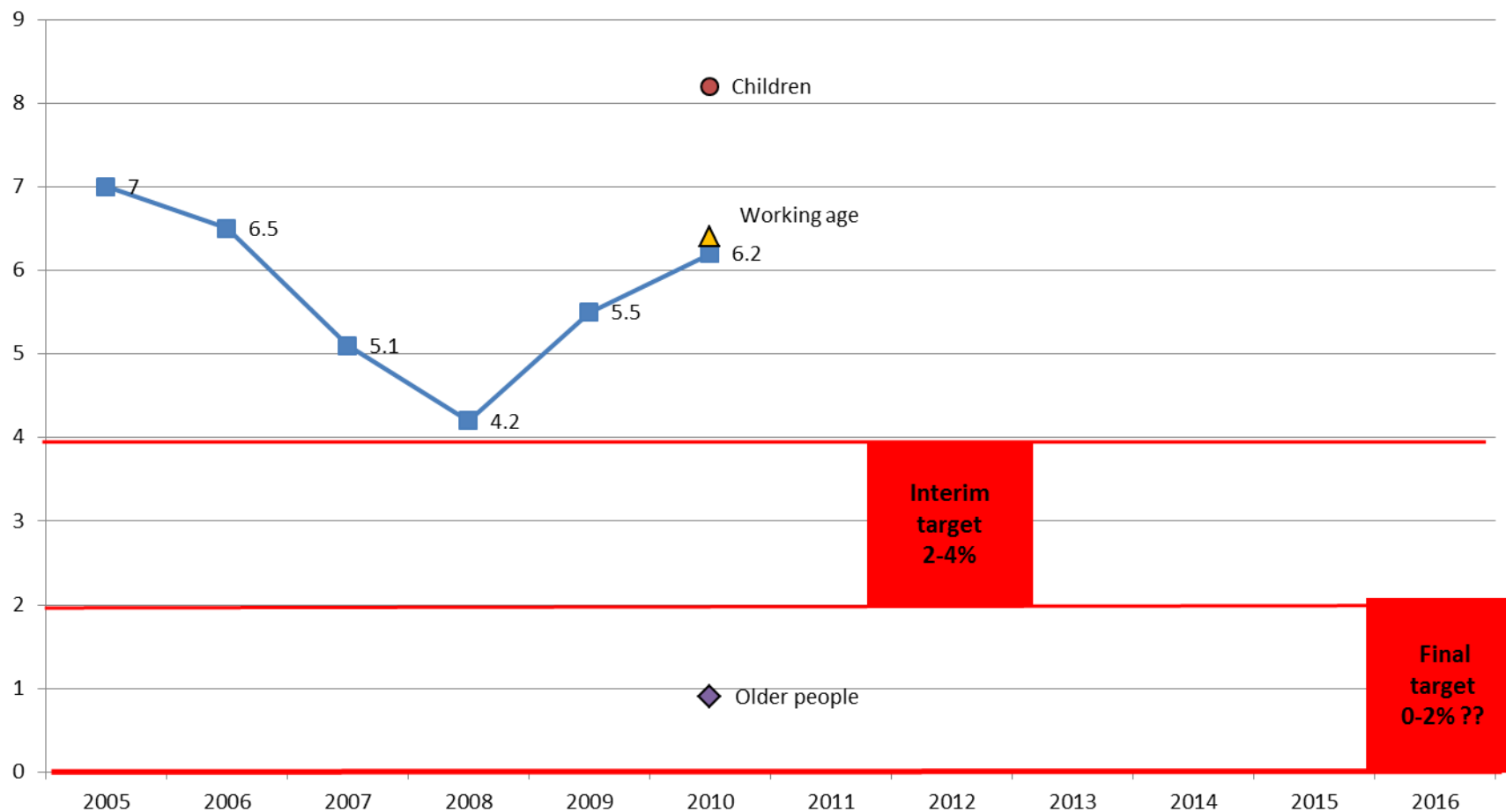
# The name

- General support for a poverty target
  - Target not well understood; often as a welfare target
  - Weak connection between target and other policy targets, eg educational disadvantage
- Re-name target as *National **social** target for poverty reduction*
  - Strengthen links with other relevant targets, notably employment and education targets in NRP

# The target

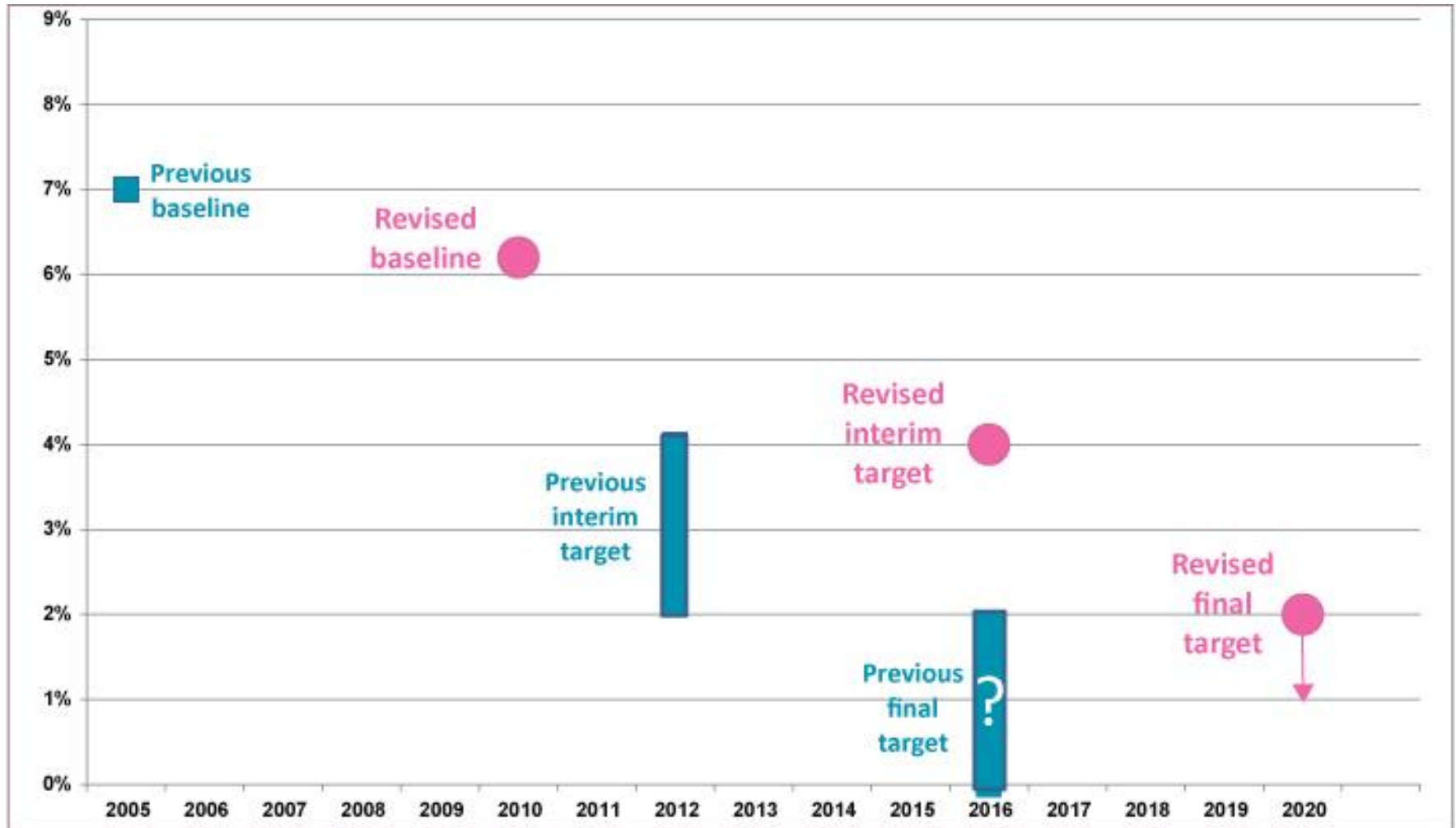
- Early progress on 2007 target (40% reduction), set back by recession
  - National and EU timelines not aligned
  - ‘Elimination’ not a measurable target
- Revised target with new 2010 baseline
  - Interim target pushed back to 2016 (4%)
  - Final target now 2020, same as EU target
  - 2% is final target

# Progress on national poverty target, 2005-2010





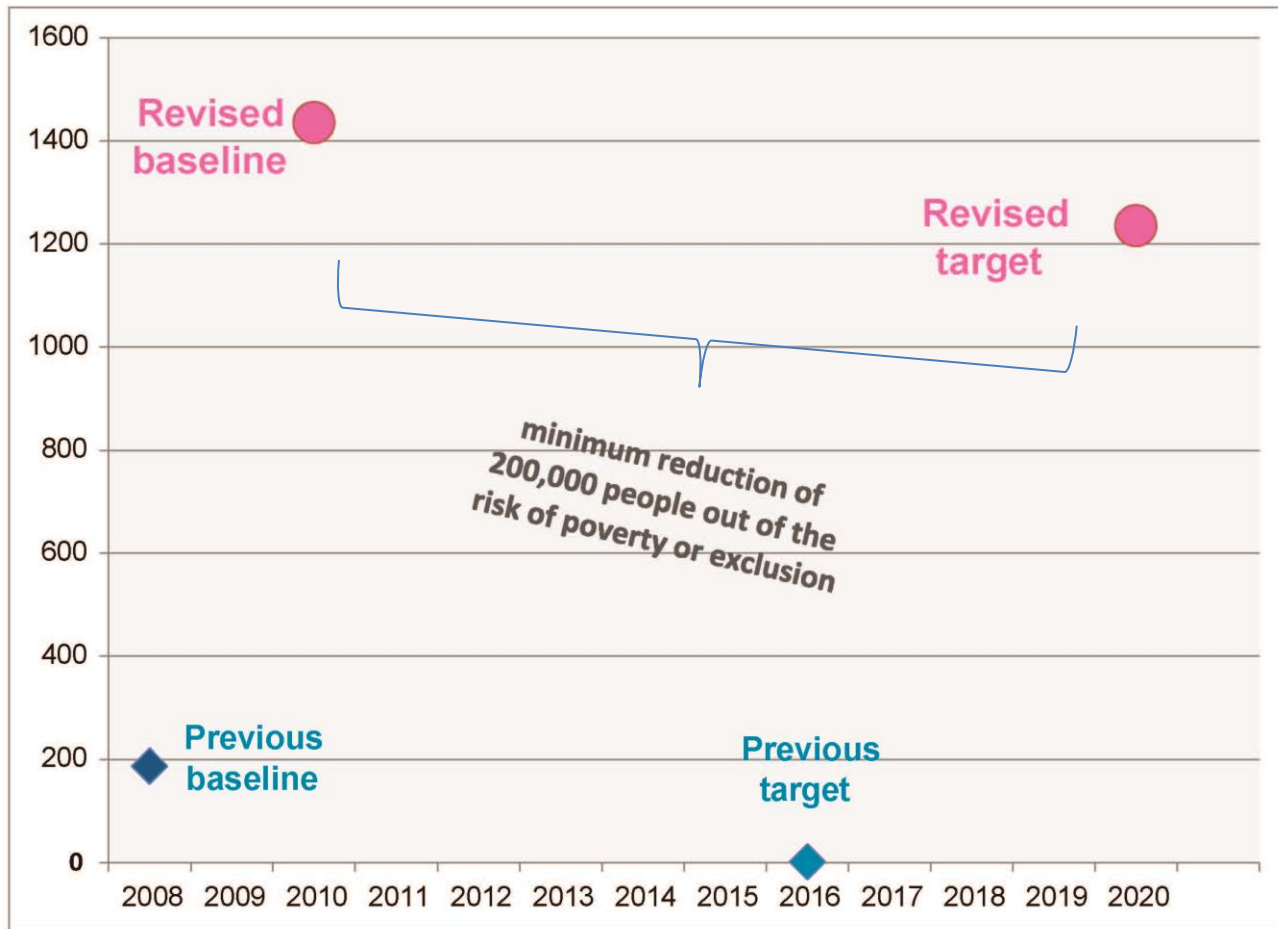
# National Social Target for Poverty Reduction



# Contribution to the EU target

- EU target population very different to IE in scale & profile
  - No EU recognition of overlaps (4 in EU)
  - EU baseline of 2008 problematic
- Set separate EU target: 200,000 lifted out of combined population (CP, ARP & BD)
  - 80% correspondence with EU population
  - Recognises reduction in ARP & BD as valuable
  - Re-set to 2010 baseline

# Ireland's contribution to the EU poverty target



# Sub-targets on children and jobless households

- While progress for lifecycle & vulnerable groups, some still carry disproportionate burden
  - Added concern about legacy beyond childhood
  - Jobless Hs highlights structural issue
- Sub-targets, not stand alone targets, to keep focus and highlight connectivity
  - Child sub-target is to reduce poverty differential with adults
  - Jobless sub-target is focused on high rate

# Additional indicators

- Consistent poverty still identifies unique group
  - Using EU indicators add nothing to this group
  - Basic deprivation only warrants attention (potential CP; ARP effect)
  - Fluctuation in at-risk-of-poverty threshold can give mis-leading reading
- Two supporting indicators to monitor progress toward target
  - Vulnerable to consistent poverty: 60-70% of median and deprived
  - Absolute poverty: at-risk-of-poverty threshold anchored in 2010 values

# Monitoring

- SILC statistics a major resource
  - Not policy friendly
  - Mixed messages
  - One-hit wonder
  - Multiple reporting requirements
- Annual monitoring report, based on SILC
  - Communication tool with policy makers & general public
  - Input from stakeholders

# Poverty impact assessment

- PIA a way to link target and policy-making
  - Application of PIA is limited
- Make PIA work better
  - Broaden as social impact assessment
  - Integrate with other forms of impact assessment

John Bohan

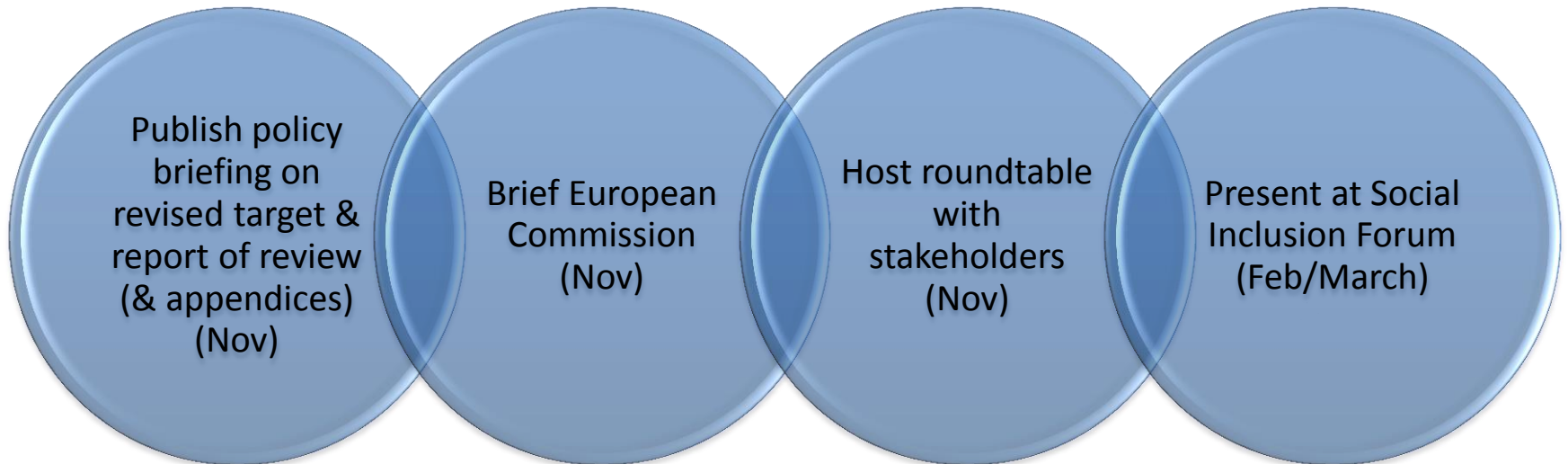
# **TOWARDS EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW NATIONAL SOCIAL TARGET**



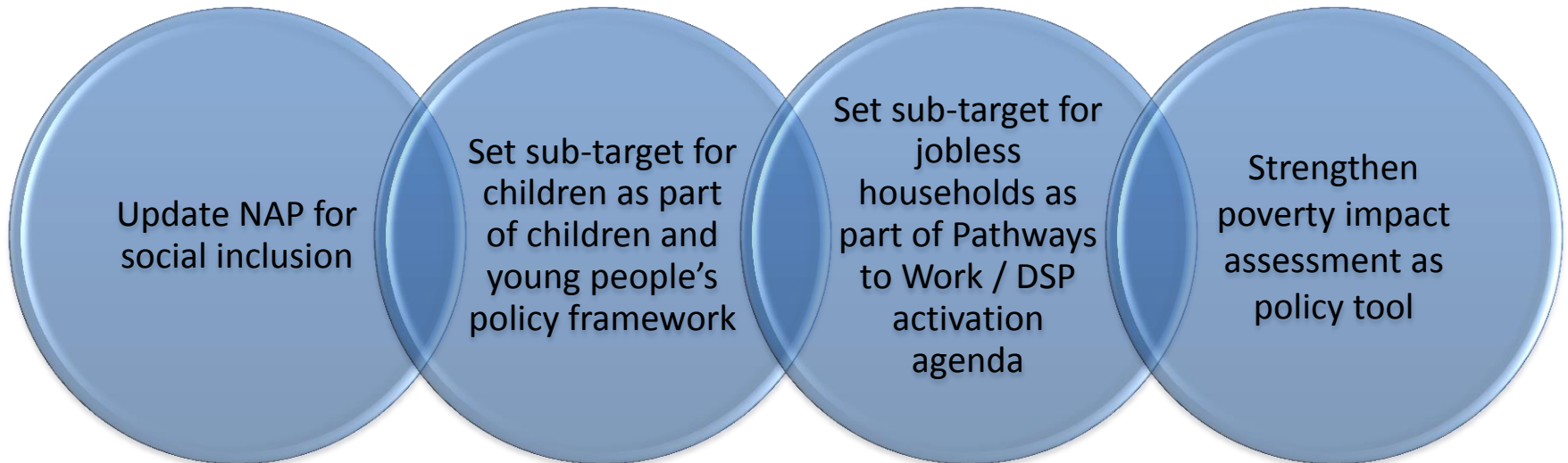
# Elements of implementation actions



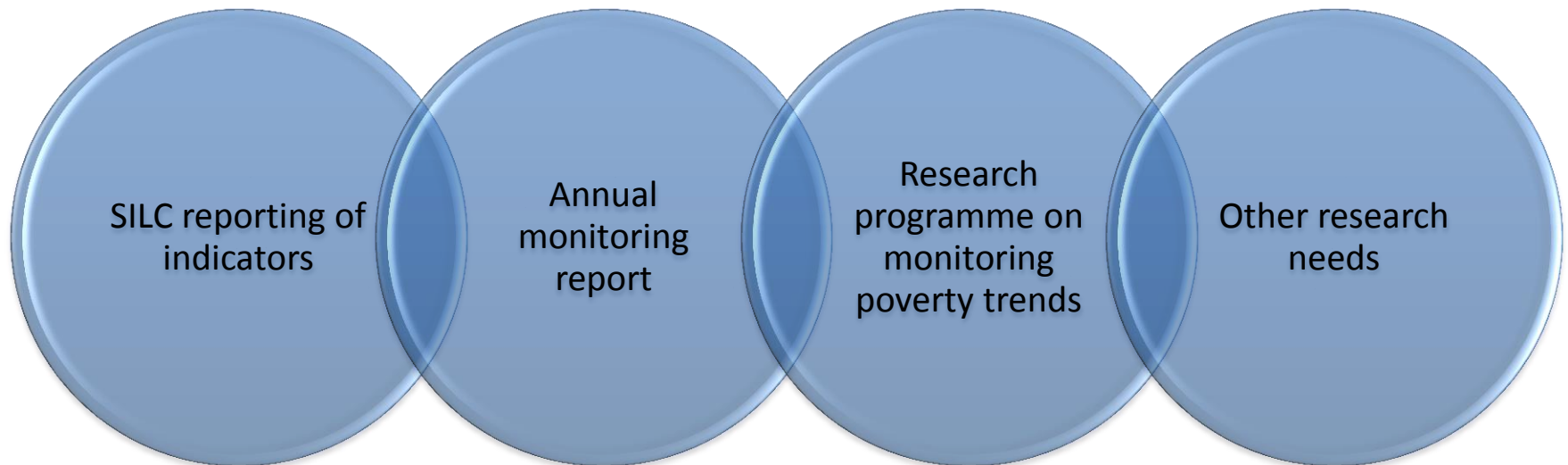
# Communications



# Policy analysis and advice



# Monitoring and research



# Reporting



