Energy poverty

Exploring the concept and current situation in the EU

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State of play in the EU

- **9.3% of population unable to keep dwelling adequately warm** (2022)

- **6.9% of population presented arrears on utility bills**, reflecting the inability to face high energy costs compared to income (2022)

- Between 2019 and 2022, on average across Member States:
  
  - the share of energy expenditure in overall household spending increased by more than one third (relative change of 34%) (transport fuel costs excluded)
  
  - low-income groups spent on average 10-13% more on energy compared to the highest income groups

- **16.7% of population reported living in a dwelling with leaking roof, damp walls, floors or foundation, or rot in window frames/floors** (2021)
What is energy poverty
How to tackle energy poverty
EU Legal framework

- Energy poverty a well established Responsibility of Member States
  - Diagnosis
  - Reporting on progress

EU Legal framework

- Price regulation
- Disconnections
- Energy efficiency obligations
- Support measures and information on access to renewable energy
Approved legislation, not yet transposed

- Recast Energy Efficiency directive, transposition deadline within 2 years of publication
- Social Climate Fund

Legislation in inter-institutional negotiations

- Review of Electricity Directive: proposal put forward in March 2023
Monitoring
Commission support to Member States

- Identification of energy poverty – Commission guidance on identification in 2020 and technical assistance/training has been made available through Energy Poverty Advisory Hub
- Coordination group on energy poverty and vulnerable consumers with Member States established in 2022
- Recommendation on energy poverty
Challenges

• The energy crisis brought the issue to the forefront

• Too early to draw conclusions – much of the legal framework not yet transposed

• For some Member States, until now, energy poverty seen as a general poverty issue, which is addressed exclusively through social policy – move from ensuring affordability to tackling energy poverty at its root causes

• Not yet addressed in all NECPs – therefore nor is reporting adequate everywhere in the EU.

• Identification of energy poverty crucial for the development of (national) Social Climate Plans to access funding under the Social Climate Fund
Best practices out there!
Thank you