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EU4Environment
Water and Data in Eastern Partner Countries

ENERGY POVERTY

Siegmond Böhmer

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WHY FIGHT AGAINST ENERGY POVERTY

In the European Union many households struggle to heat or cool their homes or to pay their energy bills on time

→ Energy poverty is a reality

The transition of the energy systems requires huge investments by individuals and the public

→ This transition affects all levels of society.

Therefore, it is vital to consider the most vulnerable groups and support the least resilient population to ensure that all EU citizens are part of and benefit from the energy transition



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ENERGY POVERTY

- Energy poverty is a complex, multifaceted challenge.
- It is commonly defined as the inability of households to ensure their energy needs (heating, cooling, electricity, water).
- Caused by a combination of contextual and personal factors.
 - geographical location, climate, dwelling type, available heating/cooling equipment or the broader geopolitical aspects affecting energy prices
 - age, health status or household composition and other socio-economic elements that can worsen the situation
- Main causes:
 - Low income levels,
 - Low energy performance of buildings,
 - Low energy efficiency (fuel type; appliances for heating, cooling, electricity)
 - High energy prices,
 - Limited options for improving the energy efficiency of their house (rented or low-quality properties)

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IMPACTS AND BENEFITS FROM A STATES PERSPECTIVE

Impacts of energy poverty

- Extreme indoor temperatures are linked with the deterioration of respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses, heat stroke or excess deaths.
- Children in energy-poor conditions can be affected by particularly low educational attainment and increased absences from school, more often develop cold related health conditions at a young age, and show lower social and emotional wellbeing.

Benefits of addressing energy poverty

- decrease in government expenditure on health,
- higher levels of educational attainment,
- better economic development,
- improved air quality and reduction in carbon emissions
 - higher building standards,
 - modern heating and cooling technologies,
 - increased energy efficiency

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POSSIBLE APPROACHES OF HOUSEHOLDS IN ENERGY POVERTY

- Household with low income covers energy needs:
 - ➔ very high share of energy expenses
(Household will not be able to cover other needs)
- Household with low income does not cover energy needs:
 - ➔ consumes less energy
 - ➔ very low (=lower than the average) energy expenses

➔ no overlaps between those two situations

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DIAGNOSIS: INDICATORS FOR ENERGY POVERTY – OBJECTIVE/SUBJECTIVE INFORMATION

Name of Indicator	Unit
Share of population at risk of poverty not able to keep home adequately warm	Population below 60% of median equivalised income (%)
Share of total population not able to keep home adequately warm	Population (%)
Share of population at risk of poverty with arrears on utility bills	Population below 60% of median equivalised income (%)
Share of total population with arrears on utility bills	Population (%)
Share of population at risk of poverty with leak, damp or rot in dwelling	Population below 60% of median equivalised income (%)
Share of total population with leak, damp, rot in dwelling	Population (%)

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Name of Indicator	Unit
Household electricity prices	ct/kWh
Household gas prices	ct/kWh
Household electricity prices, lowest consumption band	ct/kWh
Household gas prices, lowest consumption band	ct/kWh



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DIAGNOSIS: USEFUL STATISTICS

EU statistics on income and living conditions (EU SILC)

- collect timely and comparable data on
 - income,
 - poverty,
 - social exclusion,
 - living conditions.
- output is regulated (legal deadlines, agreed guidelines and procedures), thus harmonized
- participating countries send data to Eurostat

EU Building Stock Observatory (BSO)

- to provide transparent information on the EU's building stock
- support the monitoring of current EU energy policies and measures
- contribute to future policy making process.
- current version of the tool is a first step of a major revamping and covers only 3 domains:
 - building stock
 - renovation rates
 - energy consumption
- In the near future, users will be able to visualise and download more indicators and relevant data

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EU REGULATIONS AND DIRECTIVES ADDRESSING ENERGY POVERTY

- [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1999](#) on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action
- Directives
 - [\(EU\) 2019/944](#) on common rules for the internal market for electricity
 - [2009/73/EC](#) on common rules for the internal market in natural gas (amended)
 - [2012/27/EU](#) on energy efficiency
 - [2010/31/EU](#) on the energy performance of buildings
 - [\(EU\) 2018/2001](#) on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources
- to assess the state of energy poverty and to report
- to define objectives to reduce the number of households in energy poverty, if applicable
- to implement appropriate policies and measures, if applicable
- Always taking into consideration:
 - high variability across Member States regarding causes of and actions against Energy Poverty
 - social policies are within the responsibilities of Member States



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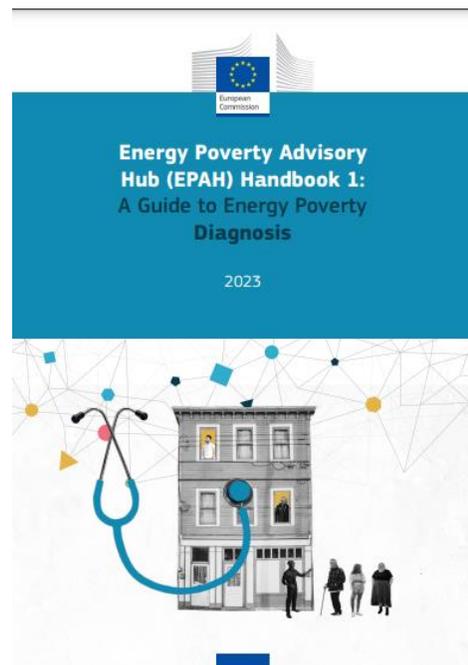
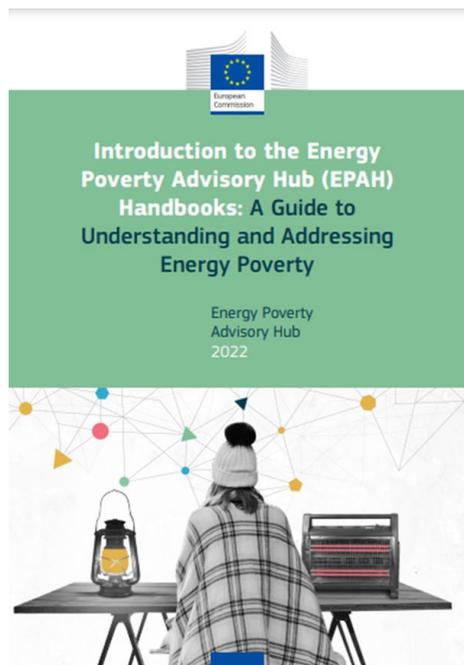
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ENERGY POVERTY ADVISORY HUB (EPAH)



- Series of practical [guidebooks](#) for local governments and practitioners to ensure that the social dimensions of the local energy transition are addressed efficiently.
- This series consists of the current introduction and three thematic handbooks focused on the phases identified for local governments aiming to tackle energy poverty.
- step-by-step guidance and activities for conducting a local diagnosis.
- Designed to be adapted for each local government,
- addresses the different sequences of the diagnosis:
 - contextualisation of the phenomenon,
 - coordination with the stakeholders,
 - collection of data,
 - formalisation of the results.

Source: https://energy-poverty.ec.europa.eu/index_en

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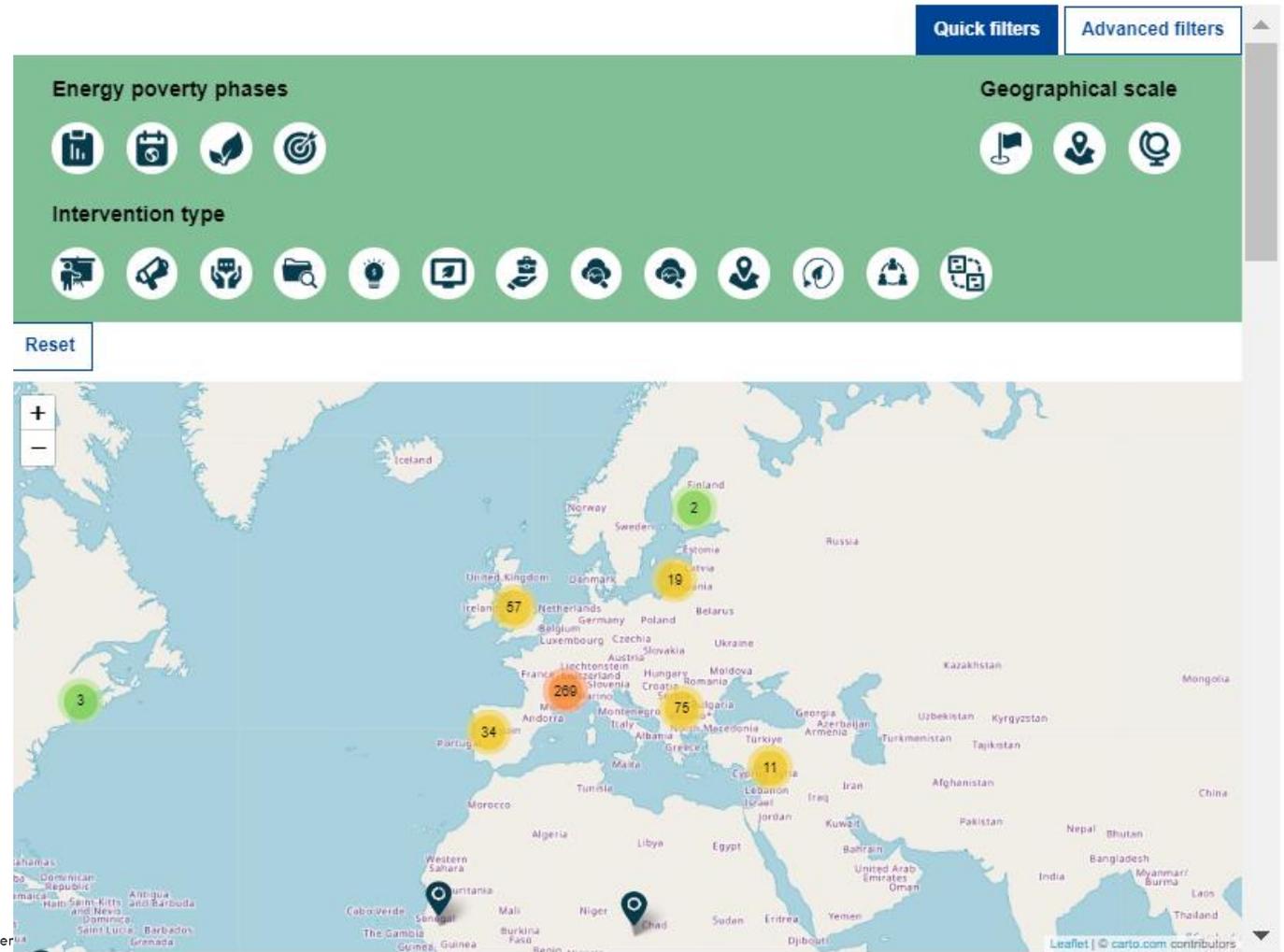




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ENERGY POVERTY ADVISORY HUB (EPAH): EPAH ATLAS

https://energy-poverty.ec.europa.eu/discover/epah-atlas_en



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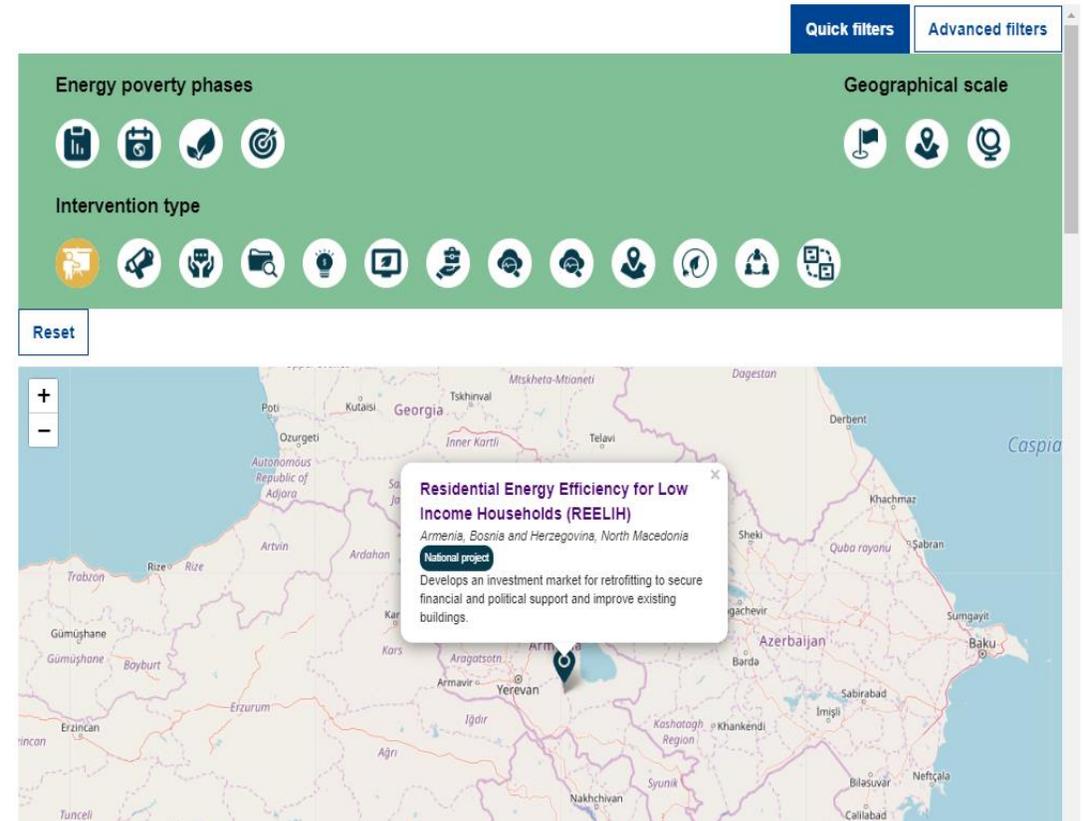
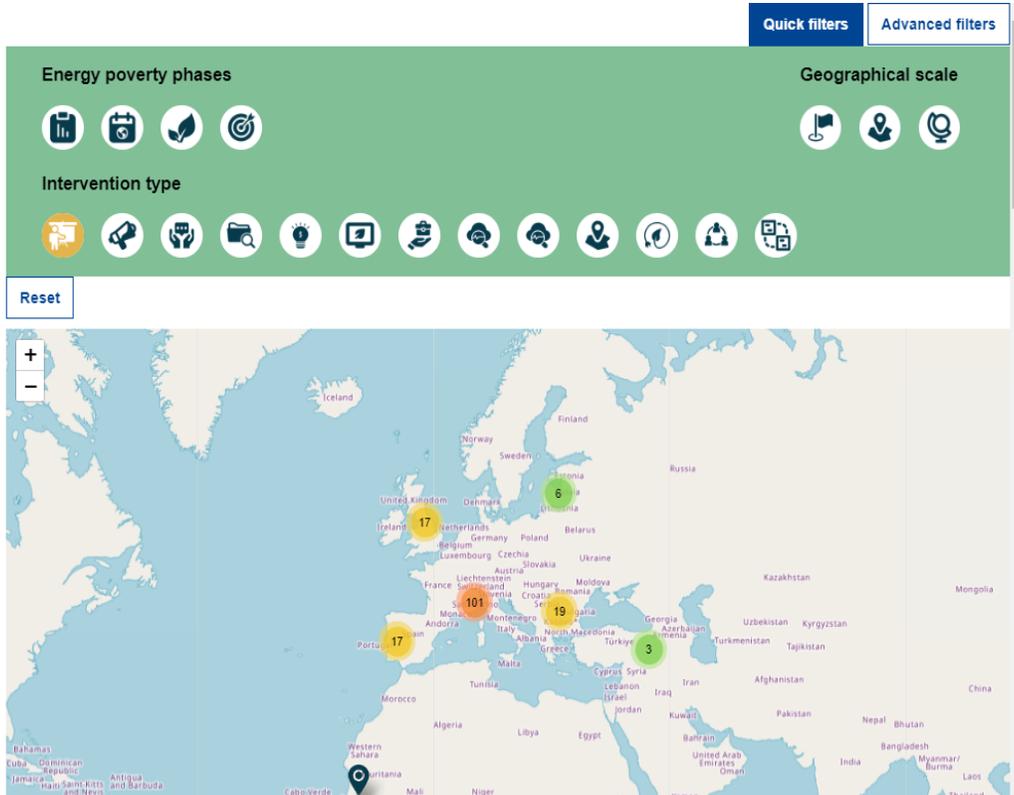


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Residential Energy Efficiency for Low Income Households (REELIH)

National project

The REELIH project is set to tackle the effects of climate change and energy poverty and improve the health and quality of life of low-income homeowners living in multi-apartment buildings in Central and Eastern Europe. The project helps establish and develop an investment market for retrofitting to secure the financial and political support of governments and to place increased focus on improving existing buildings by working with the local communities.

Capacity building, training and awareness-raising helps residents to know about energy efficiency and their right to adequate housing. The project supports homeowner associations (HOAs) in forming and planning the home improvements they need to carry out and help them identify funding solutions for their renovations.

The project works with banks and local authorities. The development of a market for residential energy efficiency retrofits is one great success of the project. It creates an opportunity for low-income households to access funding and has helped to attract subsidies from local governments. Through the REELIH project, residents in HOAs have managed to repay loans, allowing them to make real improvements to their lives.

Municipalities and government bodies participate in the project with the intent of defining best practices and policy recommendations and creating subsidy systems with potential funding option for the repayment of loans. REELIH integrates a collaborative approach combined with a focus on energy poverty mitigation that affects low-income families to achieve holistic housing improvements that have real impact on residents' life quality and the environment. The project, with a budget range of over 1 million euros has fully or partially renovated over 100 buildings and over 3,500 apartments, improving the quality of life for over 12,000 residents.

Unlocking and transforming the market for energy efficiency renovations of multi-apartment buildings remains the biggest challenge on the way to a functioning "ecosystem" between different stakeholders: municipalities, financing organisations, utility companies and the HOAs. In the CEE region, HOAs have low quality representation and credibility towards municipalities and banks and there is a need for mediators who can bridge the gap, build trust and facilitate the development of complex financing models between different stakeholders. Overcoming this challenge and securing financial aid are key steps for the sustainability of the project.

The project started in 2012 and goes on until 2022.

Main beneficiaries: the energy poor, low income people and policymakers.

It addressed the topics of: behaviour, climate change, communities, energy access and consumption, energy audits, energy efficiency, equity and justice, financing schemes, heating and



Yerevan, Vanadzor, Armenia; Banovici, Zivinice, Tuzla, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Skopje, Veles, North Macedonia

Geographical scale: National

Energy poverty phase: Diagnosis, Planning, Implementation, Impact assessment

Intervention type: Capacity building and training, Characterisation, Consumer Advice, protection and empowerment, Financial mechanisms, Household energy efficiency and refurbishment

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