

Review of EU and national policy affecting energy vulnerabilities in the participating countries

This report presents a **review of relevant EU and national policies that affect energy vulnerability** in the seven countries participating in the EnergyMeasures project. It takes an analytical perspective combining the **concepts of social resilience and environmental justice**. This enables the project consortium to attend to the ways in which policies and interventions show a recognition of the specific needs of energy poor households (relating to their capabilities and available resources), while also addressing how these policies and interventions (potentially) have distributive impacts.

The purpose of this report is to provide a more detailed starting position for subsequent work that will **further explore innovative governance practices together with relevant policy actors** in the participating countries. The social resilience perspective enables the identification of a broad portfolio of policy and governance needs, based on identified citizen needs.

Social resilience resources (Van Haar et al., 2018):

- **Personal resources** and capabilities refer to the skills and competences, as well as the motivation to make use of these (considering educational levels, income, willingness to (accept) change; trust in others and institutional trust).
- **Social resources** refer to e.g., participation in social networks, which can offer access to new opportunities that cannot be accessed individually. Participation in social networks is furthermore important for people to develop themselves – these networks can be small, local (e.g., family, football club) or larger and more open (e.g., religious community, neighbourhood, work environment).
- **Environmental resources** are strongly related to the physical structure and spatial stratification of social utility provisions, and the quality of the direct living environment. Proximity of services, of meeting places and social spaces impacts social resilience.

The **comparison of policy conclusions on energy poverty in the seven countries** highlighted several issues that were examined in terms of how social resilience resources (e.g. personal, social and environmental factors) and current policy approaches affect distribution.

- **National policies** in most countries mainly consider income when addressing energy poverty, and do not consider personal resources such as skills, awareness, competences, and knowledge. Administrative hurdles and complexities are also mentioned as barriers. Health is not often recognized as a personal resource in policy.



- **Local public and non-governmental organisations** and initiatives often help to strengthen the personal resources of energy poor households. The role of sub-national actors in addressing energy poverty is important, and national policy should acknowledge and allocate budget accordingly.
- Some countries focus on social housing in addressing energy efficiency, but the **private rental market and home-owners** are often left out. Energy literacy and awareness is recognised in some policy frameworks, but more work is needed to ensure that these programs are effective. Energy poverty policies often do not adequately consider vulnerable groups.
- **Successful approaches to addressing energy poverty** include social tariffs, bill assistance programs, and home energy efficiency upgrades. Policy-makers should consider the **distributive implications of energy poverty policies**, including the potential for policies to reinforce existing inequalities.

Please find the full report at:

www.energymeasures.eu (<https://rb.gy/saqdt2>) or [Zenodo](https://rb.gy/mhtrhg) (<https://rb.gy/mhtrhg>).

Lead beneficiary: DuneWorks BV

Contributing beneficiaries: University College Cork, Energy Action, et al.

About the EnergyMeasures Project

Between **50 and 125 million people** in the EU are at **risk of energy poverty**. Tackling this problem requires a variety of strategies that include the active participation and involvement of those affected.

The **EnergyMeasures project aims to tackle energy poverty** in seven European countries (BE, BG, IE, MK, NL, PL, UK) through a combination of **direct household involvement** and the inclusion of **innovative policy and practical measures**.

For more information, please visit www.energymeasures.eu.

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