



Tailored measures supporting energy vulnerable households

Newsletter #4

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Major Problem To Tackle

Renovation and Resilience

Building renovation is at the heart of the fight against energy poverty

Energy poverty is usually defined in energy studies in two ways: lack of access to electricity and dependence of the household energy needs on burning solid biomass using inefficient and polluting ways.

In view of the continued and rapid change of the European energy system, there is a broad question as to what this means for consumers. In line with the Energy Union's objective to provide affordable energy, there is a need for protection of the more vulnerable consumers in society. Energy poverty is estimated to affect between 50-125 million Europeans (BPIE, 2014: 11).

In Bulgaria consumers who are entitled to social assistance for heating are considered energy poor. In reality, however, all households that cannot pay to maintain comfortable heating in their home are energy poor, and they are many times more. Undoubtedly, the renovation of the building stock is the basis of the fight against energy poverty, because it removes the main cause of energy poverty - the poor condition and energy characteristics of buildings.

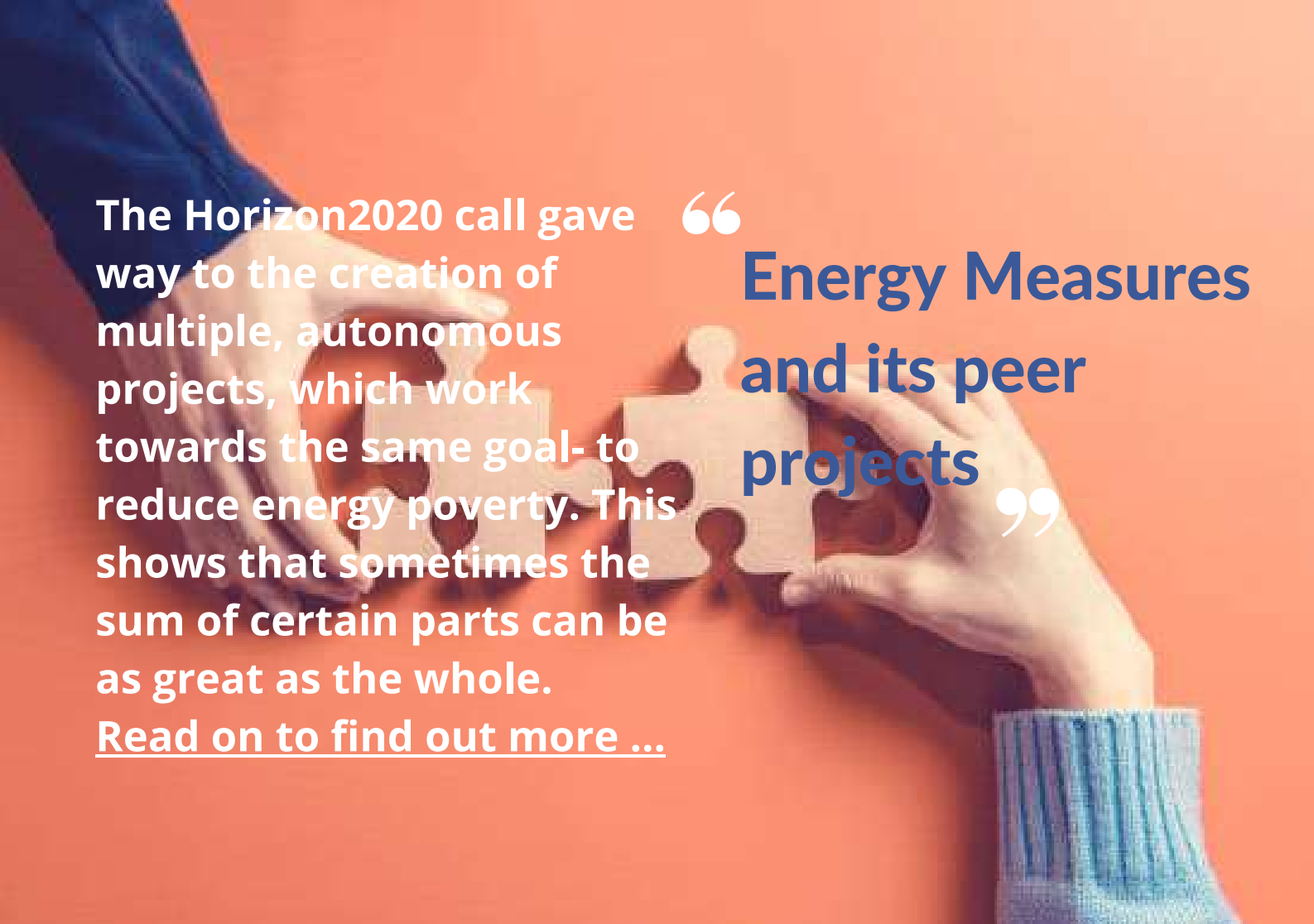
The lack of a definition of energy poverty and an easily implemented mechanism to incentivize insolvent households to participate in renovation programs are serious barriers to identifying vulnerable consumers. According to the *research of the CEE EnEffect* about 40% of Bulgarians fall into this category, and the rise in fuel prices, this number grows.

Among the most important reasons for overcoming energy poverty are the deteriorating condition of buildings and heating systems, so the *most important task is to renovate buildings so that they need less energy*. Then it will be easier and more efficient to switch to new and more ecological heating systems. Renovation is a long-term solution - to reduce bills and keep them lower not just for one heating season, but for decades to come, so that we are also protected from the inevitable rise in energy prices.

Bulgarian Recovery and Resilience Plan envisage a new scheme within the National Renovation Program which is expected to come into force by the end of 2023. It will offer a subsidy in the amount of 80% (100% grant up to now), and the remaining 20% will be at the expense of the owners. Self-participation should accelerate the pace of renovation so that more projects are completed within budget. At the same time, self-participation can be a barrier for many households, especially those who are vulnerable. EnergyMEASURES project is actively researching solutions related to enhancing the energy performance of dwellings through low-cost measures and encouraging more energy-efficient behaviours in support of the vulnerable households.



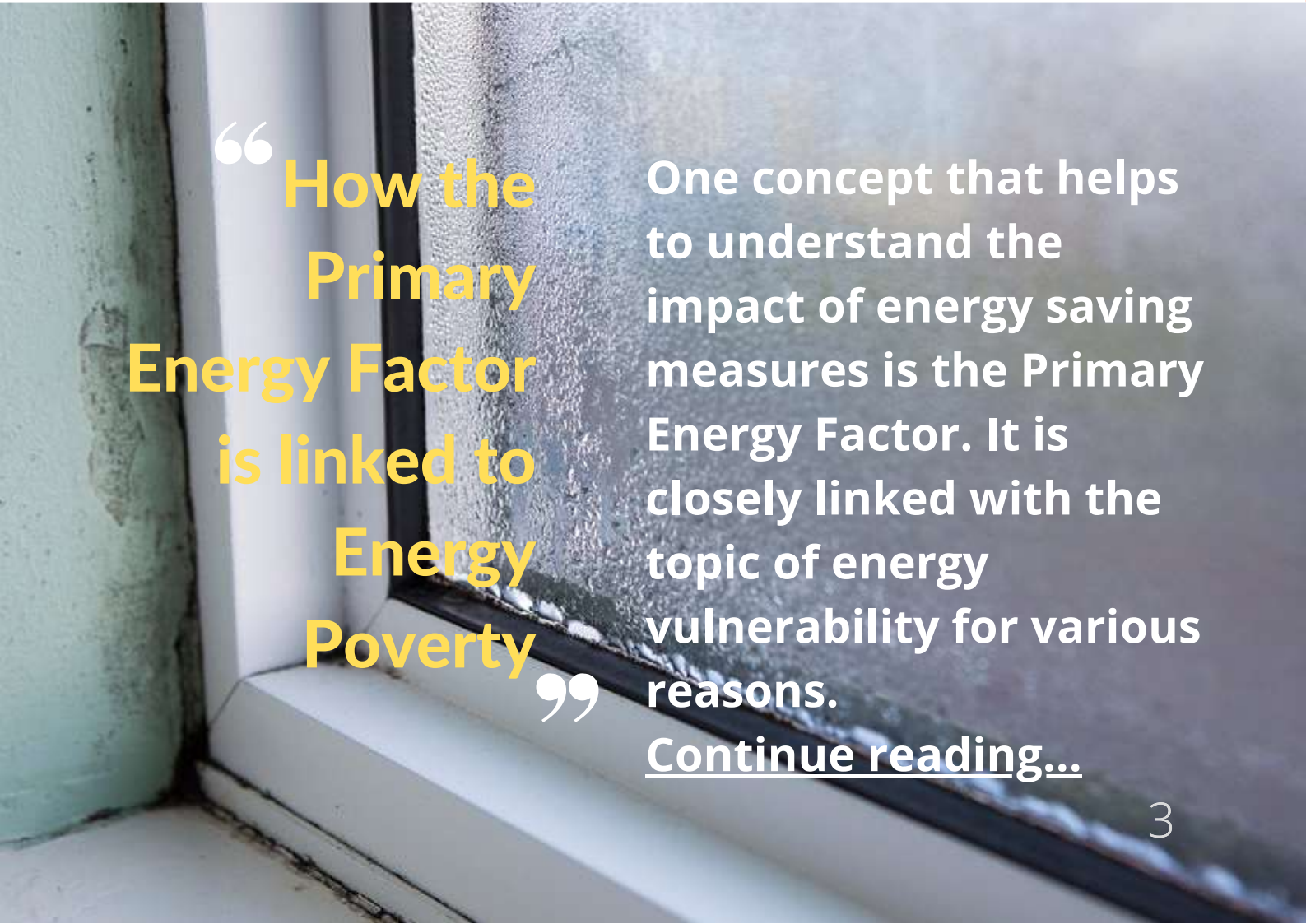
Maria Manolova
Project manager at CEE EnEffect



The Horizon2020 call gave way to the creation of multiple, autonomous projects, which work towards the same goal- to reduce energy poverty. This shows that sometimes the sum of certain parts can be as great as the whole.

[Read on to find out more ...](#)

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Energy Measures and its peer projects
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How the Primary Energy Factor is linked to Energy Poverty
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One concept that helps to understand the impact of energy saving measures is the Primary Energy Factor. It is closely linked with the topic of energy vulnerability for various reasons.

[Continue reading...](#)



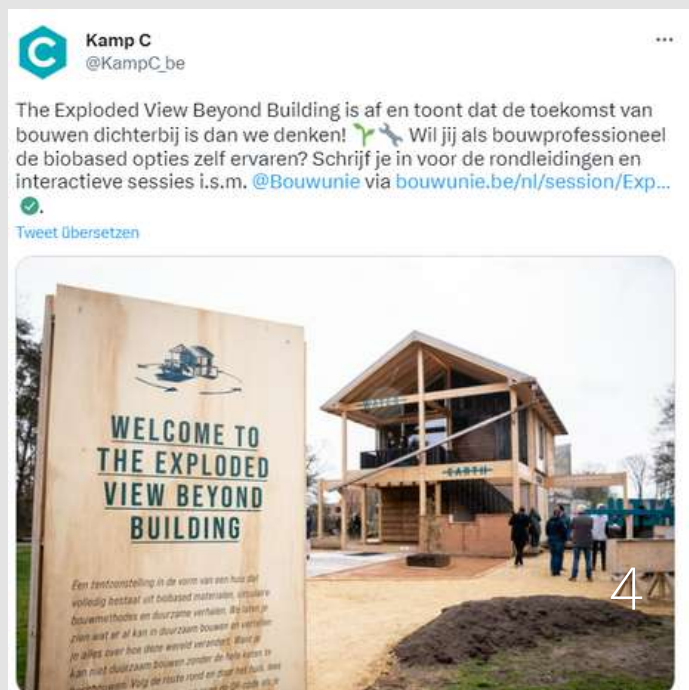
Partner Profile: **Kamp C**

Kamp C Circular Office Building

Kamp C is a centre for innovation and sustainable building in the province of Antwerp. Its core mission is to accelerate the transition towards a sustainable society. Their work focuses on actions relating to the climate challenges. **[To find out more about the work of Kamp C within Energy Measures and beyond click here...](#)**



Hans Vannuffelen, Kamp C for Energy Measures

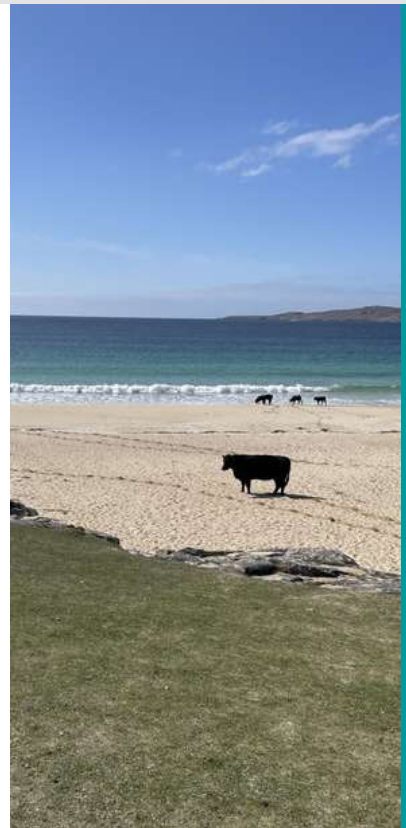


Outer Hebrides Feature

“**The Possibilities of an Island**”

In the Outer Hebrides of Scotland, energy poverty has long been a central issue in the everyday lives of the shrinking population.

EnergyMeasure’s partner Tighean Innse Gall provides concrete measures for people’s everyday lives. [Click here to continue reading...](#)



Visiting Bielsko Biąta

Reportage



In February 2023 the Oikoplus team, accompanied by Patrycja Płonka, project lead for PNEC (Polish Network Energie-Cités) travelled to southwestern part of Poland.

[Read on to find out more ...](#)



How are residents adjusting to the current energy crisis and how do they work as a community to combat its adverse effects?



How complex is it to come up with a universal definition of energy poverty?

Considering the development of recent geopolitical situation the issue of energy poverty is increasingly pressing. There are many governmental and small initiative efforts to combat this problem, yet one element, which affects the effectiveness of those efforts, persists. Namely, what is energy poverty and can we establish a universal definition? [Continue Reading...](#)



Are small initiatives the right force to reduce energy poverty?

The susceptibility of experiencing energy poverty and the stability of energy supply and prices in Europe have been in the recent years strongly influenced by post-pandemic recovery, energy crisis and the war in Ukraine. There are many efforts to combat this issue and this article explores how small initiatives can be the emerging power to alleviate energy poverty. [Click to find out more...](#)



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