

## **EU Project to Combat Energy Poverty: Electricity and Heating May Not Become a Luxury**

A growing number of people in Europe can hardly afford energy. A project in seven EU countries is developing measures to combat energy poverty.

Following a widespread definition of energy poverty, household having to spend more than a third of their income on energy costs, are energy poor. Between 50 and 125 million people in the EU are affected or acutely threatened by this problem.

The EU-funded EnergyMeasures project aims to combat energy poverty in seven European countries (BE, BG, IE, MK, NL, PL, UK) - with direct involvement of affected households. It aims to open up ways for them to improve their energy efficiency through a combination of cost-effective measures and changes in their energy-related behavior. Over the next three years, the project is expected to reach 3,650 households directly.

*"EnergyMEASURES combines the commitment to a sustainable European energy policy with the social aspects of energy system transformation. Electricity and heating should not become a luxury. Households threatened by energy poverty can actively participate in this. This is all about empowerment," explains project coordinator Dr. Niall Dunphy, who heads the Cleaner Production Promotion Unit at University College in Cork, Ireland.*

In addition, EnergyMEASURES will establish indicators for the households most at risk of energy poverty and develop energy policies to help reduce energy poverty institutionally and across Europe. The project group will work in cooperation with local authorities, energy agencies, housing associations and other relevant stakeholders. The project is guided by the question of how technical, political and bureaucratic measures affect the alleviation of energy poverty in the seven participating EU countries. The project also focuses on gender-specific differences in the relationships of those affected to institutional actors and in their experiences with energy.

*"EnergyMeasures is intended to help reduce the risk of energy poverty throughout Europe, while at the same time reducing household energy consumption and the associated greenhouse gas emissions. It is good to have gathered so many interesting European partners from different contexts in the project," said Dunphy.*

Among the institutions involved in the project are the University of Cork, the city of Eindhoven, and municipal energy industry players from Ireland, Great Britain, Poland, Macedonia, Bulgaria and Belgium.

*EnergyMeasures receives funding by the EU Framework Programme for Research and Development Horizon2020. The project has a duration of three years.*

*Further information: [www.energymeasures.eu](http://www.energymeasures.eu)*