



Project REACH: Practical and structural measures to address energy poverty in South-East Europe

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Outline

- Project REACH
- Limitations of practical measures
- South-East European context
- Policy recommendations



Energy poverty



- Energy poverty is a mix of social, energy and housing problems
- Convergence of the following inter-related factors:
 - low income, which is often linked to general poverty,
 - high energy prices, including the use of relatively expensive fuel sources, and
 - poor energy efficiency of a home and of used appliances
- Energy poverty mostly affects low-income households – retired people, unemployed or poorly paid, dependent on social benefits and single parent households
- Economic disadvantage often linked to social isolation, poor health



REACH: Aim and objectives

The aim is to contribute to energy poverty abatement at practical and structural level.

Overall objectives are:

- a) to empower energy poor households to take actions to save energy and change their habits
- b) to establish energy poverty as an issue that demands tailor-made structural solutions at local, national and EU level





REACH: Partners and countries

Focus Association for Sustainable Development

SLOVENIA

Energy Agency of Plovdiv (EAP)

BULGARIA

CROATIA

Society for Sustainable Development
Design (DOOR)

MACEDONIA

Macedonian Centre for Energy Efficiency (MACEF)



REACH: Key activities

- Analyse energy poverty in 4 countries to form definition and policy recommendations
- Connect local actors to tackle energy poverty in 5 pilot areas
- Train 20 teachers and 250 students of vocational schools to be energy advisors
- Empower 1600 households to reduce energy and water use, hence reducing their energy use by averagely 10% and cutting their CO2 emissions by 200 kg/year on average
- Engage 160 decision-makers in tackling energy poverty as an issue that demands structural solutions





Expected results	Results so far
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overview of energy poverty for 4 countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 workshops for local actors • networks established between at least 5 local actors in each pilot area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ • over 40 local actors engaged
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 training events for teachers and 10 training events for energy advisors, • 20 trained teachers and 250 trained energy advisors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ • 42 teachers, 200+ trained energy advisors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1600 visits of energy poor households • savings of about 1280 t CO₂, 768 toe of energy and 512.000 EUR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • together 1025 visits ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 national and EU level policy recommendations • 160 decision-makers engaged in tackling en. poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • action presented to about 500.000 people across EU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38 events, 90+ media appearances; outreach of 150.000+ people



Average savings per year and household

		Slovenia	Bulgaria	Croatia	Macedonia	ACHIEVE
Electricity	kWh	251	332.5	68	531	331
	€	40.2	58.7	8.5	45.8	49
	%	6.8	8	1.5	NA	9.5
Water	m ³	12.5	9.75	19.7	18.5	21
	€	22.6	17.4	31.25	9	53.1
	%	11.9	9.8	11.7	NA	18
Heat energy	kWh	669.2	226	600	111.6	592.1
	€	21.3	24.5	15	60.4	41.5
	%	4.3	4.8	2.3	NA	6.3
Total	€	84.1	100.6	54.75	115.2	163.6
	kg CO ₂	158.2	340	60	18.6	300

Energy poverty in SEE (I)

- No EU wide definition, no definition in the REACH countries
- Applying the '10% definition' to some SEE countries results in almost the entire population to be energy poor
- Buzarovski: energy poverty is a situation where a household is unable to access a materially and socially–necessitated level of energy services in the home
- In SEE up to 50% and more households are under threat of energy poverty (project EVALUATE)



Energy poverty in SEE (II)

- Energy poverty an issue of low or no political interest in the region
- Often people are not poor, yet cannot afford adequate energy services
- Housing stock in poor state, living conditions sometimes shockingly poor
- Very limited social or other support, funds granted for purchase of low-quality coal, burnt in inefficient heaters
- No clear division between social and non-social housing
- Switch from subsidized energy prices to market based prices
- High share of home ownership (between 80-96%)





Key policy recommendations (I)

Definition and monitoring

- More specific analysis of the problem at national level
- Measurable definition of the problem and indicators
- Improvement of statistical data collection





Key policy recommendations (II)

Energy efficiency measures

- Energy poverty in national energy efficiency programmes
- Low-cost energy efficiency and energy saving measures
- Replacement of household appliances (“old for new”)
- Replacement of inefficient heating system (renewables)
- Deep renovation of the buildings (replacement homes)
- Subsidies, which are suitable and useful for energy poor
- Loans with no interest, mainly for deep renovation
- Renovation of state owned social housing
- Ensure access to electricity (e.g. installation of off-grid PV)
- EU and national funding for energy poverty





Key policy recommendations (III)

Pathways to structural solutions

- Long-term strategies, not only short-term measures
- Recognize locality-specific nature of the problem
- Switch the responsibility from NGOs to decision-makers
- Participatory manner, involving a wide range of stakeholders
- Connect social issues, energy, health and environment
- Align energy poverty with other policies





Results of policy work

- Recommendations sent to governments, mainly on the following:
 - financing measures from EU funds,
 - energy poverty definition and monitoring,
 - adjustments in regulation for support to energy poor households,
 - terms and conditions for granting heating allowances,
 - financial incentives targeting energy poor households,
 - demand for energy suppliers to implement part of their energy efficiency measures in energy poor households
- Slovenia: national program for households visits and establishment of cooperation with the Ecofund on the design of new program





Thank you!

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