

Reconnecting Citizens: European Solutions for Energy Poverty

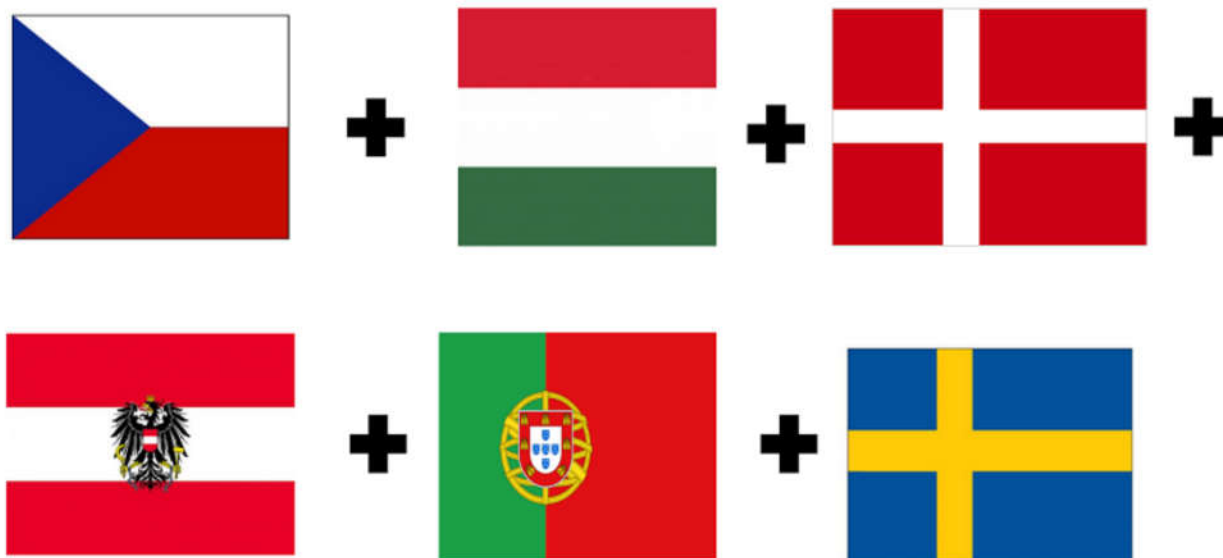


Energy Poverty Group

The Evropaevm

Geneva, November, 2019

57,000,000 people throughout Europe...



...are deprived of heating, cooling, lighting, cooking.

...a pan-European problem...



Vier Tote beim Wohnungsbrand Familie im Dunkeln

Weil ihr Strom abgedreht wurde, zündete in Saarbrücken eine Romafamilie Kerzen an. Weil ihr Strom abgedreht wurde, zündete in Saarbrücken eine Romafamilie Kerzen an. Wie kam es soweit?



Το τέλος του καλοριφέρ: Η ζωή στα σπίτια της ενεργειακής φτώχειας - Ποιοι πλήττονται, πώς διαβιούν

της Χριστίνας Τσαμουρά - δημοσίευση 1 Μαρτίου 2019, 16:00 / Ανατύπωση 1 Μαρτίου 2019, 16:18



ESTUDO FALA DE FALTA DE ISOLAMENTO DAS CASAS Portugal é um dos países da UE onde mais se morre de frio

Lusa - 13 de Fevereiro de 2010, 12:53



La pobreza energética cuesta vidas

Cinco bomberos denunciaron que el 70% de los incendios en viviendas está causado por artilugios que gente sin suministros usa para cocinar o calentarse



Incendio en un piso de El Vendrell (Tarragona) donde murieron cuatro hermanos de entre 4 y 12 años en 2014. JOSEP LLUÍS SELLART

...in need of a pan-European solution

We have done it before...



...we can do it again!

An interdisciplinary approach

- Quantitative analysis of 263 existing energy poverty-related policy measures
 - European Energy Poverty Observatory
- Qualitative study of local initiatives tackling energy poverty
 - 13 interviews with vulnerable citizens and their local advisers (Spain, Germany, UK)
 - Participant observation during:
 - House visits
 - Energy cafes
 - Canvassing
 - Assemblies

- 1 Disconnection is the greatest harm
 - Physical and mental health, shame, isolation, despair...
- 2 Most EU member states do not prohibit disconnections
 - Prohibition for extreme cases/during winter/selected groups (**10 member states**)
 - Prohibition for regions (**3 member states**)
 - No prohibition (**15 member states**)
- 3 Existing policy measures mainly include income enhancement and are limited to the national level
- 4 Tailored on-the-ground support to vulnerable citizens by local initiatives
 - Ensuring policy implementation, connecting stakeholders, education, empowerment

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Key findings

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Disconnection prohibition is a neglected policy measure.

Support by local initiatives for vulnerable citizens is essential.

- ① Prohibit disconnections for vulnerable households
 - All-season prohibition
- ② Vulnerability tests prior to disconnections
 - Households should be considered vulnerable until proven otherwise
 - Use of power limiters
- ③ Long-term (sustainable) funding for diverse local initiatives
 - Assistance to access available support, advice, counselling
 - Peer-to-peer and group learning

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What about climate change?

- "Just" energy transitions: preventing social harm
- Lower income households emit less carbon; less responsibility
- Take energy poverty seriously to prevent social unrest (e.g. gilets jaunes)
- Integrate efforts to fight climate change and reduce energy poverty