



Innovative Practices in Tackling Energy Poverty in Europe

Literature Review on Innovation

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The context



- Within the WG4 aiming to carry out a meta-analysis of existing strategies to tackle energy poverty and innovation check on the basis of elaborated methodology and indicators
- To support answering the main research questions:
 - What does the literature say about innovative policies to tackle energy poverty?
 - How is “innovation” used in the literature on policies and strategies to reduce energy poverty?

Sources



- General publications
- EU Energy Poverty Observatory engine www.energypoverty.eu
- BUILD UP The European Portal for Energy Efficiency in Buildings engine www.buildup.eu
- Relevant projects outputs

Selection criteria



The following main criteria were selected and adopted considering the scope and limitations of the review:

- Recent publications, publication date starting from 2015
- Publications focus on the specific topic of innovations and energy poverty policies
- Free access on the web or an already available text in disposal of the reviewer
- To be written in English

Review criteria



A policy is considered to be innovative when it fulfils two basic criteria:

- The policy should contain a new idea/problem area, solution, device or method to tackle energy poverty
- The policy should push the status quo in a positive direction, e.g. it should be considered as more effective in mitigating energy poverty than previous approaches (important conditionality)

Analytical criteria



- Regarding the context of the policy: mode of action, framing, targeting, participatory aspects, anticipatory aspects
- Regarding the framework conditions of the policy: funding, implementation, evaluation

Comparative analysis



- Does appear/define the term “innovation” or any synonym such as change, novelty, newness, transformational, ground-breaking?
- Contributions to “innovation” in policies to tackle energy poverty/ Contribution to build up innovation criteria
- Geographical diversity
- Socioeconomic context
- Long term/short term policies

As a result



The comparative analysis of selected sources revealed that “innovation” in tackling energy poverty is predominantly defined as **innovation areas of policy intervention** in which innovative actions, approaches and tools should be further developed in accordance with the recently adopted EU strategic documents

Clustering the policies



- New technologies/ ICTs (e.g. new technology which reduces the consumption of energy in private households)
- Energy efficiency measures
- Energy efficiency refurbishment and renovation
- New measure which affects the available income for energy-related household's expenses
- Grassroot innovation and participatory approach
- Behaviour transformation from a holistic approach that includes habits and practices

Highlights & outcomes



- Policy shift from policies relying on funding utility bills to policies supporting tailored energy efficiency renovation programmes under the EED and within the long-term renovation strategies in the EPBD
- Low cost energy efficiency measures for low-income households
- Enabling citizens to become prosumers & to change to a green-behaviour and improving the utilisation of smart technologies to change the energy conduct
- Importance of grassroots innovation understood as forms of community action to combat energy poverty

And more



- An innovative approach escapes from the short-term solutions and emergency policies in severe energy poverty situations and focuses on long-term, holistic solutions with a significant transformation in the future
- Different climates, infrastructures and social practices (buildings, heating/cooling practices and systems available, etc.) require differentiated approaches to tackle energy poverty



Thank you!