

Policy brief on innovative policies and measures in tackling energy poverty in Europe

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COST Workshop: Innovative practices in tackling energy poverty in Europe

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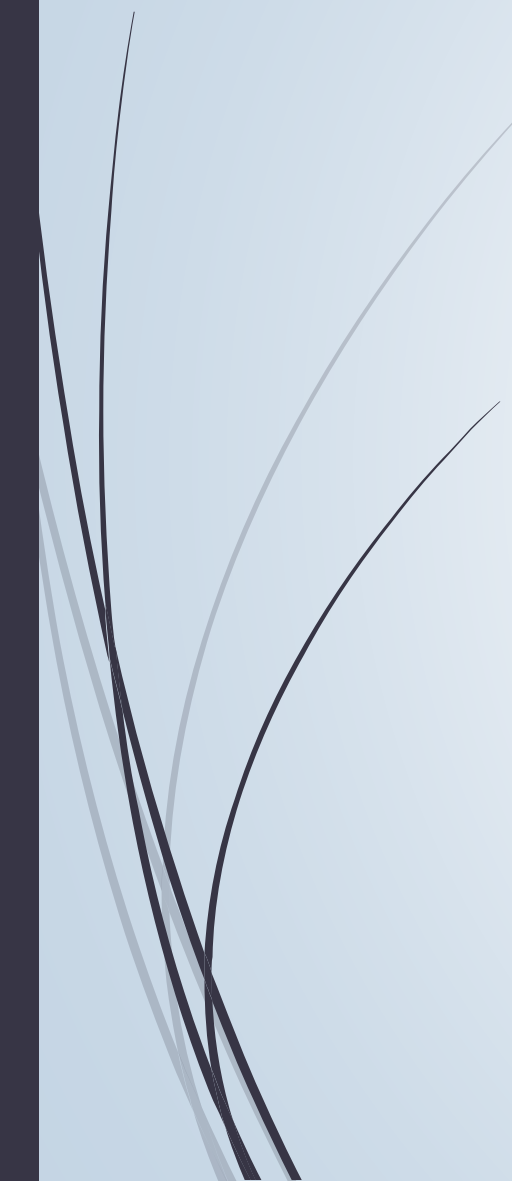


Framework and requirements

- 4 pages
- Defined structure: bullet point overview, context, key gaps, way forward
- To be delivered by end of November
- Integrating the innovation criteria
- Synchronized with other deliverables: literature review, case study



Target groups

- Decision-makers working on energy poverty
 - Stakeholders at EU level
 - Researchers
 - COST website, Energy Poverty Observatory
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Context



- Externality of existing production/consumption patterns and economic and social system
- Geographies of energy poverty
- Size of the problem: 50 million EU citizens affected by energy poverty
- Distinct from monetary/economic poverty
- Multidimensional issue (technical, social...), but addressed by sector or partially
- Understanding the energy poor: engagement with them (their needs and practices) and their empowerment




Gaps




- Mismatch between the problem and existing policies needs to be addressed
- Sectoral and partial solutions
- Segmented actors reinforcing sectoral policies
- Definitions of energy poverty exclude some groups; hidden energy poverty; difficult to identify the energy poor
- Many energy measures not targeting the energy poor or are not suitable for the energy poor
- Connection between indicators/data is missing
- Focus is on mitigation, not on prevention of energy poverty
- Many climate and energy policies do not tackle energy poverty, so synergies are really important
- Financing of policies/measures is not proper with a trend of state funding withdrawal and a delegation of responsibilities to non-governmental sectors



Innovative solutions/recommendations

- Prevention and mitigation in different European countries
 - Long-term policies to prevent from energy hikes
 - Deep and tailored energy efficiency programs combined with behavior change
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Innovative solutions/recommendations

-Integrated approach


- ▶ Aligning of energy and social policies and linking energy poverty policies with employment, housing or pension policies
- ▶ Combining technological innovation (smart metering, solar panels, mini-grid, electricity or heat storage) with deep energy efficiency measures, face to face advice and social support
- ▶ Choosing measures to best suit the energy poor - supply side or demand side measures, and size of the intervention
- ▶ Not only access to energy per se, but access to sustainable energy sources and energy efficiency measures
- ▶ Mix of actions is needed



Innovative solutions/recommendations

-Partnerships

- Overcoming segmented interventions by single-sector actors by broader partnership between actors from different sectors
- Stimulate social, energy, health and environmental stakeholders to exchange data
- Ensure the sustainability of the energy poverty measures by switching the responsibility from local actors and NGOs to high level decision makers
- Build capacities of decision makers to take the leading role in addressing energy poverty



Innovative solutions/recommendations

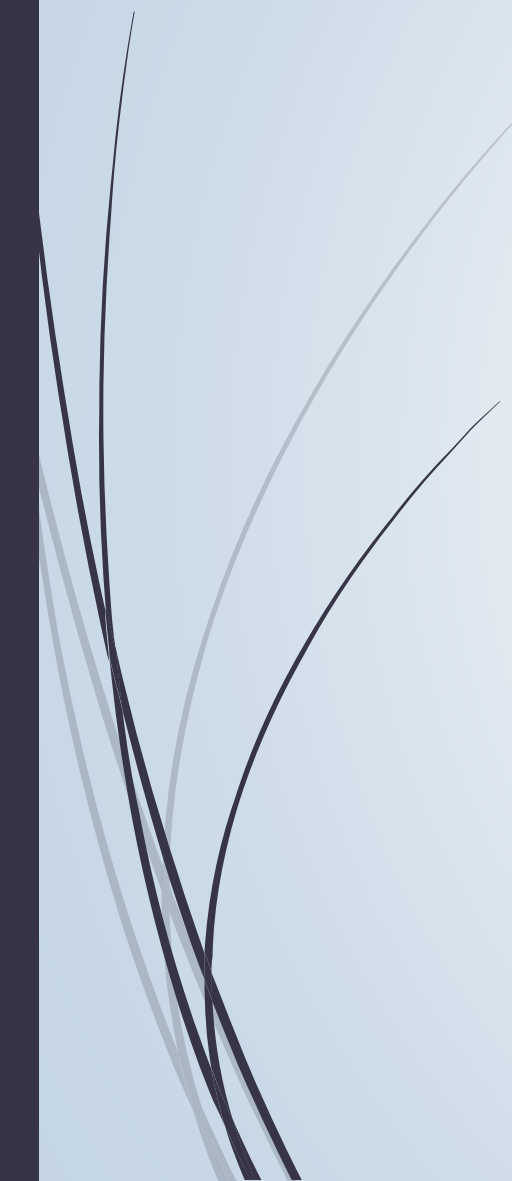
-Inclusion of the affected group

- Develop long-term strategies and recognize locality-specific nature of the problem involving local actors into designing strategies
- Design, implement and monitor energy poverty related policies involving wide range of stakeholders, especially creating links between the social, energy and environmental sectors
- Strengthen the social actors, public authorities, researchers and academia and NGOs through funding targeted for energy poverty
- Empower the energy poor
- Sharing knowledge and experiences to help better understand energy poverty, better target the energy poor, improve the holistic approach and better address the problem identified



Innovative solutions/recommendations

-Funding

- ▶ Alternative forms of funding more adapted to the situation of the energy poor
 - ▶ Programs that support the payment of energy bills or heating fuel to be transformed into longer-term ones including energy efficiency or renewables measures
 - ▶ Minimize bureaucracy for applications for support for energy efficiency
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Innovative solutions/recommendations

-Monitoring

- Need a mix of criteria to target the policies
- More specific analysis of the problem on the local and national level
- Improve the data collection based on selected universal indicators so that results could be comparable between countries
- Change to be monitored throughout different time periods and energy poverty statistics continuously



Feedback, inputs and comments?

Thank you!

