

TACKLING ENERGY POVERTY THROUGH A HOLISTIC SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY POLICY

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European Energy Poverty: Agenda Co-Creation and Knowledge
Innovation (ENGAGER 2017-2021)

Tackling energy poverty through a holistic social, environmental and energy policy

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- Energy poverty key-facts
- Energy poverty drivers/policies in Greece
- Energy poverty multifaceted nature
- Holistic policy scenario
- Steps ahead
- Questions

Energy Poverty key-facts (1)

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- Inability to keep homes warm/cool or pay the bills

No common European definition

- Root causes:

Low income

High energy prices

Poor buildings efficiency

- limits access to old or poor quality buildings -

- Scale:

50-125 million people in the EU are at risk of energy poverty

Energy poverty in Greece close to 36% (2015)

One in three households in Greece faced housing overburden in 2013

Low-income households, women, single-parent and multi-child families, elderly, vulnerable groups

Energy Poverty key-facts (2)

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□ Impacts:

SOCIAL

- Health problems
- Excess mortality (winter/summer)
- Absence from work/school
- Stress
- Depression

ECONOMIC

- Increased operating costs of public health system
- Misuse of public financial resources
- Undermined collectability of tax and bank liabilities of citizens
- Tax evasion due to increased smuggling

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Smog
- Increased illegal wood cutting

- 2,8-6% annual deaths attributed to EP in Greece (2003-12)
- 650 mil. Euros spent on heating oil benefits (2012-14)
- Not dealing sustainable with energy debts affects market liquidity (security of supply risk)
- 30% increase of suspended particles in Athens (winter 2012)

Energy Poverty drivers and policies in Greece (1)

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CAUSES	DRIVERS	POLICIES
Low income	Austerity policies as a response to the financial crisis led to high unemployment (esp. women, youth), salary reductions, increased taxation	Rent subsidy

- The highest unemployment rates in the EU: 20,9% and 43,7% among youth
- Social housing is limited but holds huge untapped energy efficiency potential
2012: Workers' Housing Organisation is abolished

Energy Poverty drivers and policies in Greece (2)

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CAUSES	DRIVERS	POLICIES
High energy prices	Regulatory measures (taxation on property that was collected via power bills, CO2 rights emissions), slow pace of islands interconnections, energy imports costs	Oil benefits Social electricity tariff Free power for vulnerable households (300kW,2015)

- Increased taxation on heating oil in 2012 led to a decrease in consumption (from ~66% to ~38%)
- Smog appeared in the winter of the same year
- Greek state responds with unsustainable policies in the form of benefits

Energy Poverty drivers and policies in Greece (3)

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CAUSES	DRIVERS	POLICIES
Poor buildings efficiency	Old buildings, inefficient systems, energy consumption behaviour, unfavorably investment conditions, lack of capital, owner-tenure conflicts	Energy performance of buildings regulation Savings at Home program I, II Energy Efficiency Contracts Energy Savings Obligations

- Savings at Home I: bureaucratic, banks had a central role, complex application process for multi-apartment buildings
Savings at Home II about to commence with improvements
- ESCOs have been active in projects with low risk (street light upgrade, municipalities)

Energy Poverty drivers and policies in Greece (4)

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- Law 4513/2018 on Energy Communities to promote social and solidarity economy and innovation in the energy sector

Example 1: Home owners/tenants set up an EC, install RES technology, apply net-metering or virtual net-metering to counterbalance their own consumption

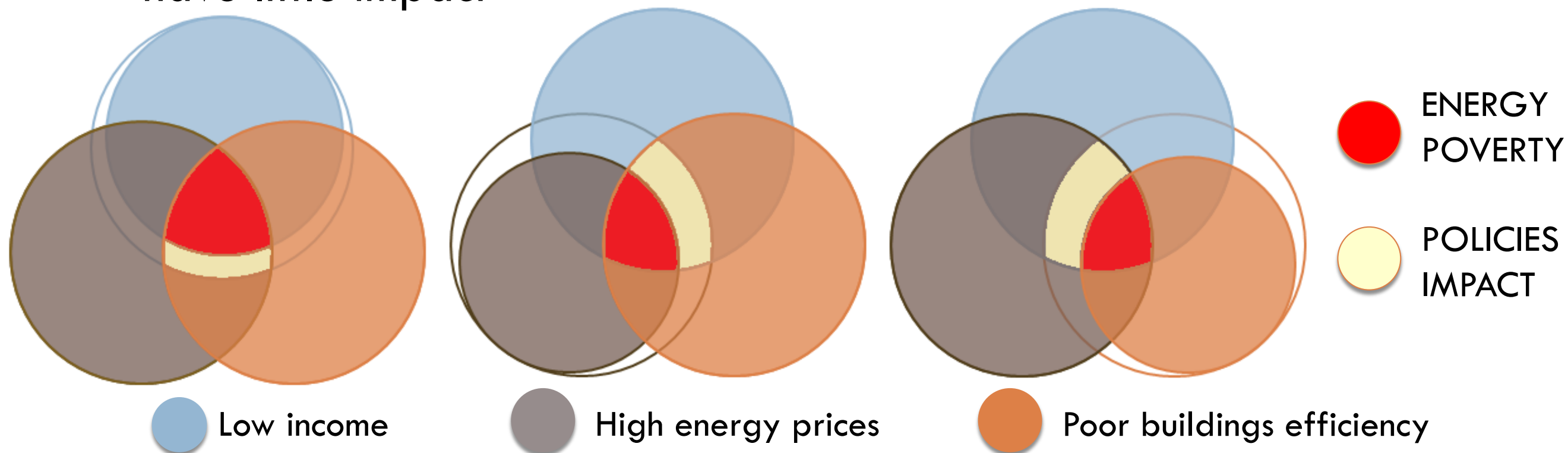
Example 2: Three municipalities found an EC, install RES technology, apply virtual net-metering to provide affordable clean energy to vulnerable citizens

Example 3: Citizens, municipality, local businesses etc of an island set up an EC, install RES+storage system and pursue island's energy autonomy

Energy Poverty multifaceted nature

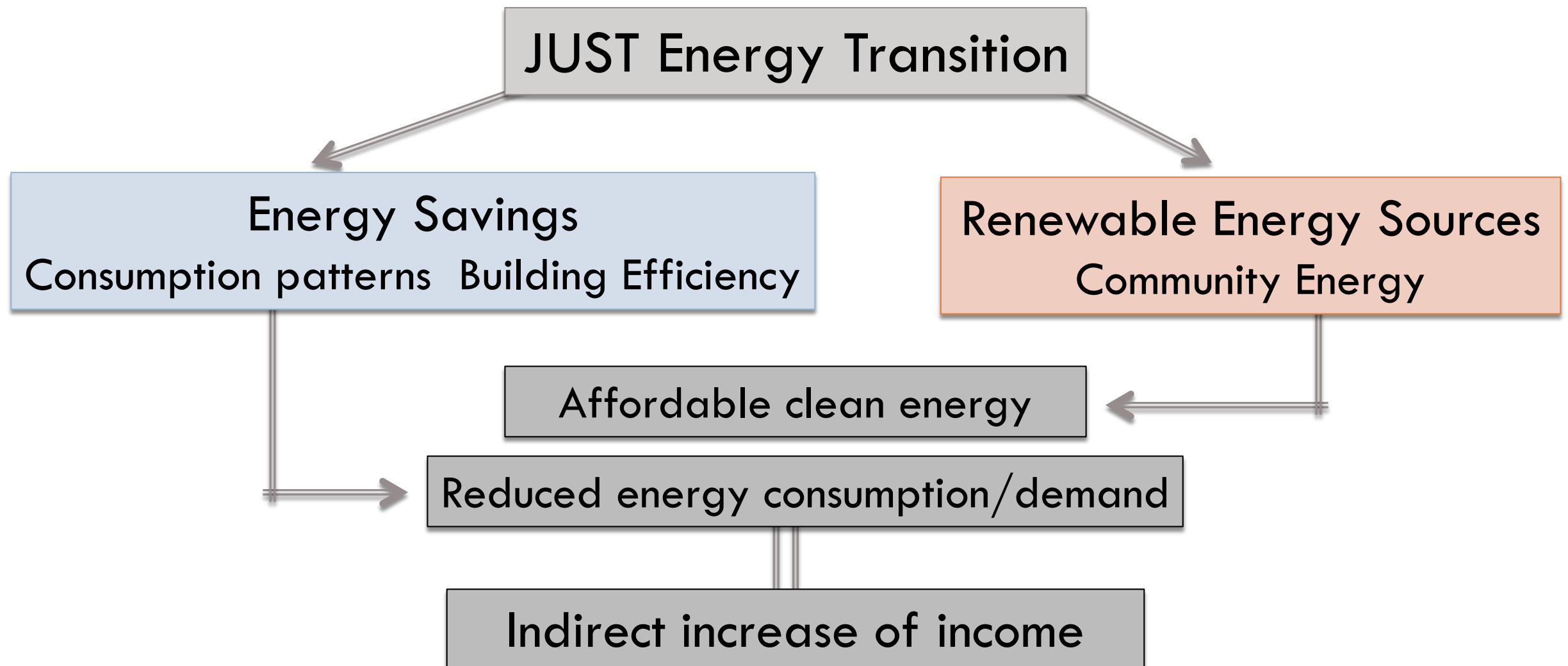
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- Energy poverty has been introduced to the political agenda only recently
- Awareness over the multifaceted nature of the phenomenon is still low among policy makers (local, regional, state level), business actors, wider society
- Policies that deal with one root cause of energy poverty at a time have little impact



Holistic policy; social, environmental, energy mix

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Energy Poverty Mitigation

Steps ahead for Greece...

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- Agree on an official definition on Energy Poverty that takes into account its multifaceted nature, European experience and specify monitoring indicators
- Draft an energy poverty mitigation roadmap
 - Outline steps for the transition from a benefit-based social policy to a holistic, social green innovative policy based on the investment of many
 - Do it in a participative way to ensure that affected groups and relevant stakeholders voices are taken into consideration
- Enhance the National Observatory of Energy Poverty (CRES) and its collaboration with the European Observatory of Energy Poverty

Raising awareness & education

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- Citizens in the centre of the solution
Passive position – informed consumer – prosumer
- Energy consultants training program
Installation of smart meters
Raise awareness campaigns, platform, mediums
- Benefits: Small initial investment costs, opportunities for the unemployed, promoting new technologies, innovative services

Improvement of energy efficiency of buildings

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- Maximise energy savings and facilitate energy renovation decision making (Building Renovation Passports)
- Link mortgage loans with energy upgrade
- Promote collective schemes for energy efficiency measures
- Energy performance contracting + EU funds to reduce the risk of investing on energy renovation of vulnerable household's homes

Utilising renewable energy sources

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- Self-generation and self-consumption from RES
Strengthening existing policies, funding schemes
- Setting up and strengthening of energy coops at the local level
- Promote collective schemes to help citizens achieve better supply deals from RES

Emphasis on collective formations and partnerships between households, municipalities, small and medium-sized businesses and so on

THANK YOU

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"Energy poverty in Greece today"
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The [report](#) is available in Greek
An [executive summary](#) is available in English

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