

# Students Achieving Valuable Energy Savings 2



## **Analysis of current trends in the EU rental accommodation market for students and their implications for fuel poverty - Preliminary findings**

**I. Kousis, M. Laskari, V. Lontorfos, V. Ntouros, M. Assimakopoulos**  
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece

**COST Action-Energy Poverty, Athens Workshop**  
**6-8 March 2018**

- **Overview** – fuel poverty among young adults
- **Methodology** (SAVES2 provision/selection of private student accommodation and implications for fuel poverty)
- **Results** (questionnaire surveys)
- **Conclusions**

# Fuel poverty: Identifying the problem - Students

Students are characterized by specific housing demand requirements, which set it apart from other social and age groups

Young people have **low awareness** about energy conservation and efficiency measures in the home

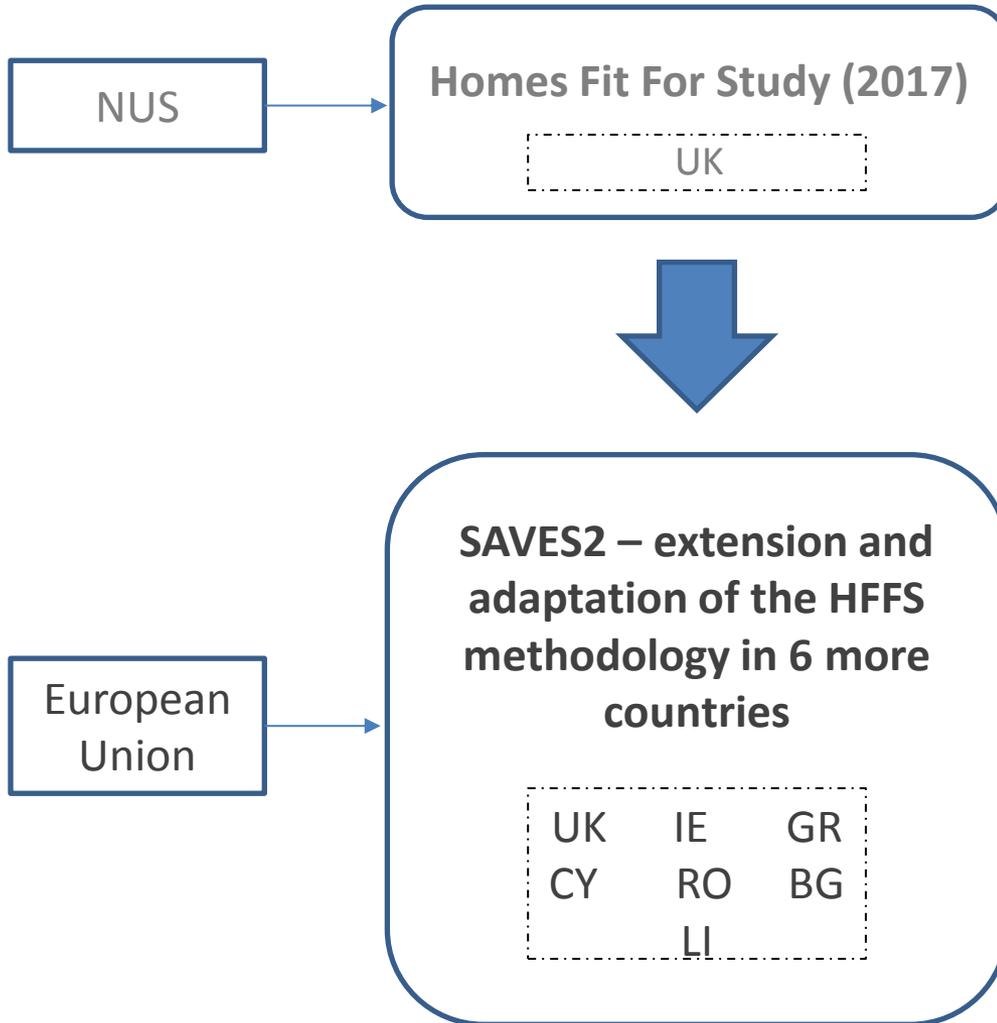
Economic inequalities among young people at school-leaving age are on the rise, while their opportunities for earning an independent income are decreasing

1. Under reported/supported group
2. "Students squalor"
3. Poor knowledge of thermal comfort and energy efficiency standards

Households living in private rented accommodation – common among young people – are twice more likely to fall in fuel poverty

Reference Title	Year	Author(s)
Young People, Housing and Social Policy	1999	Julie Rugg
Critical Dimensions of Sustainability in Higher Education	1999	Richard M. Clugston and Wynn Calder
Cool Places: Geographies of Youth Cultures	1998	Tracey Skelton and Gill Valentine
Fuel Poverty among young adults in multiple occupancy housing.	2012	Stefan Bouzarovski et all.
poverty.org.uk		

# Fuel poverty: Approaching the problem



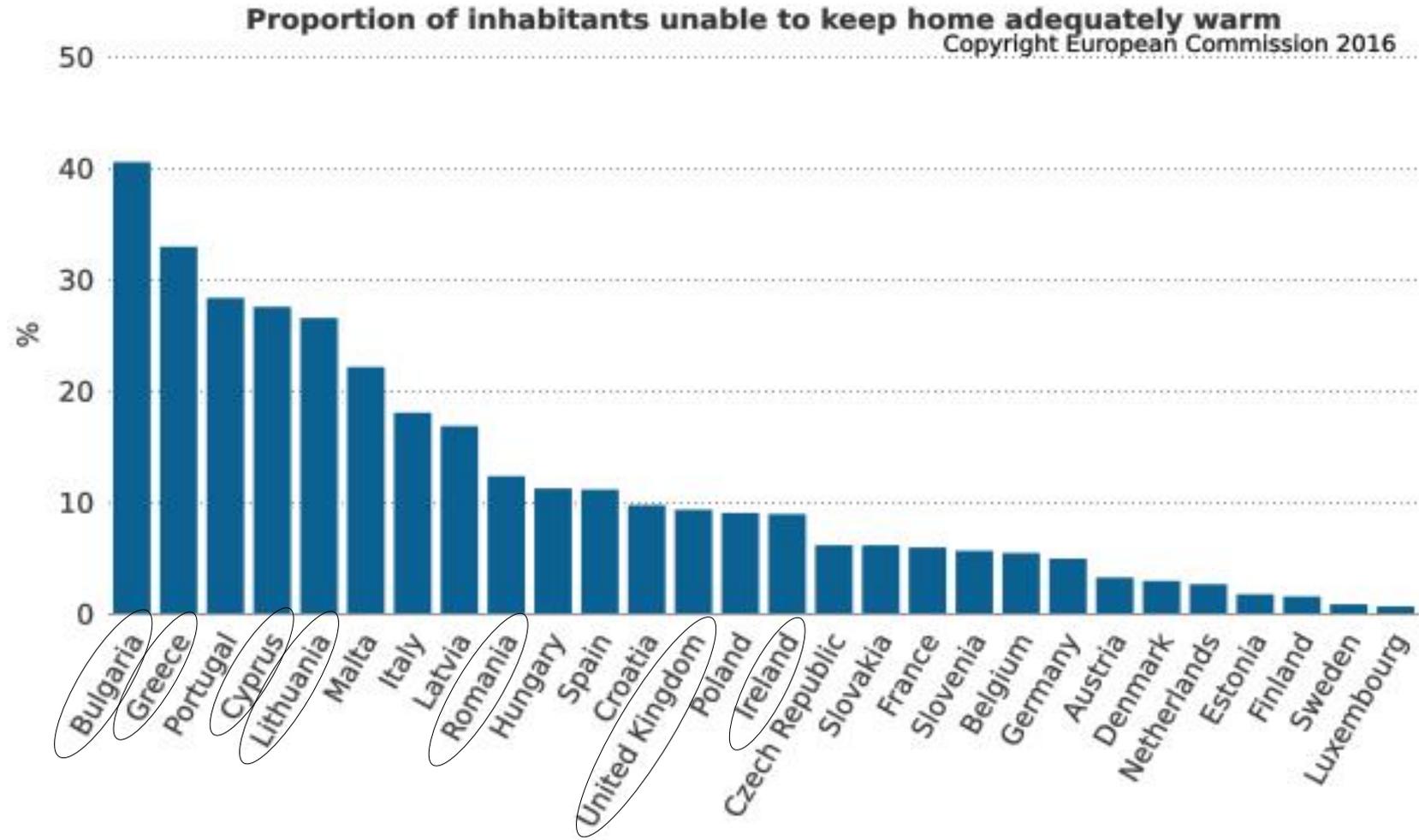
## Results:

- Over half of UK students lived in household with damp/condensation/mould
- Cold homes intensify students' mental and physical wellbeing

## Targets:

- Understand and evaluate the experience of students living in the private rented sector in six additional EU countries
- Formulate recommendations of tackling fuel poverty amongst them

# Fuel poverty: Approaching the problem



# Methodology

## AIM

- **ANALYZE** current trends in provision/selection of private students accommodation
- **IDENTIFY** their implications for fuel poverty

Attempt to help Students decrease their exposure to fuel poverty

## APPROACH

### Quantitative

- Questionnaires

### Qualitative

- Focus Groups
- Interviews

Students  
and  
Landlords

- Thoughts about energy efficiency
- Drivers for choice of housing and/or appliances
- Availability of financial motivation for the selection of better performing homes and /or appliances

- Perception of importance of energy efficiency
- Motivation to improve the quality of property
- Experience with students as tenants

## DATA COLLECTION

Students : 12/2017 – 01/2018

Landlords : 10/2017 – 01/2018

## COMMUNICATION

- Students Unions
- Regional and national landlords' associations
- Local students' letting agents
- Private rental agencies

# Demographics of the respondents

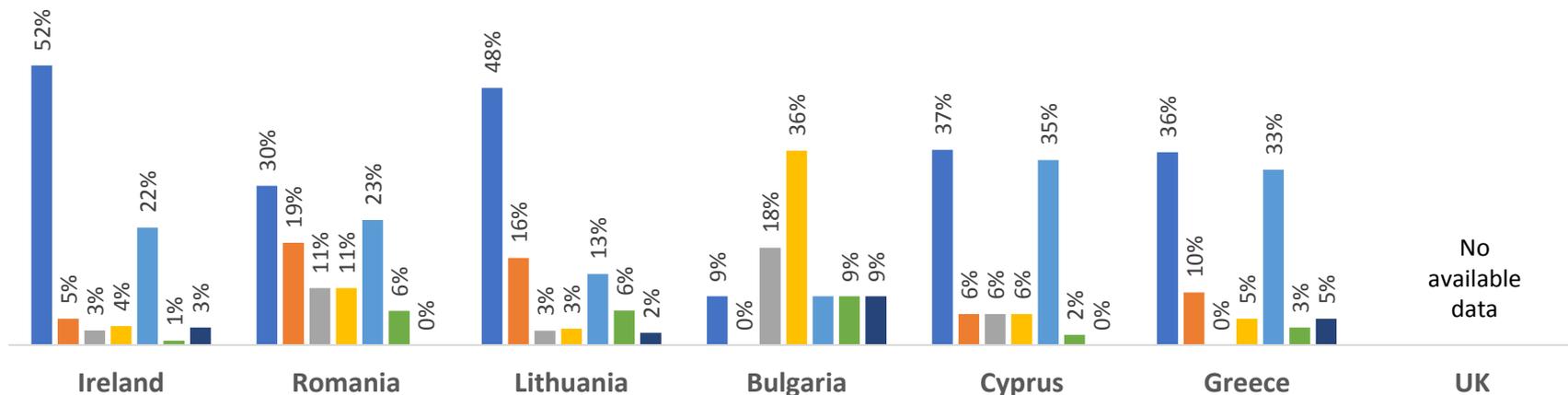
	Bulgaria	Cyprus	Greece	Ireland	Lithuania	Romania	UK	Total
<b>Students participating in survey</b>	12	64	67	437	336	59	2870	3845
Gender								
<b>Female</b>	65%	78%	67%	72%	45%	71%		
<b>Male</b>	35%	21%	30%	27%	55%	27%		
<b>Other</b>	0%	1%	3%	1%	0%	2%		
Age								
<b>Under 18</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		
<b>18-20</b>	5%	76%	45%	52%	39%	45%		
<b>21-24</b>	45%	19%	27%	33%	48%	47%		
<b>25-29</b>	20%	2%	20%	8%	9%	2%		
<b>30+</b>	30%	2%	5%	6%	4%	5%		
<b>I'd rather not say</b>	0%	0%	2%	1%	0%	0%		
<b>Landlords Participating in Survey</b>	29	8	161	7	9	16	42	272
Gender								
<b>Female</b>	54%	43%	40%	33%	44%	56%	37%	
<b>Male</b>	39%	57%	53%	67%	56%	44%	54%	
<b>Other</b>	7%	0%	7%	0%	0%	0%	9%	
Age								
<b>Under 30</b>	29%	0%	7%	0%	11%	0%	0%	
<b>30-45</b>	18%	71%	38%	33%	44%	7%	15%	
<b>45-60</b>	39%	29%	41%	50%	33%	0%	32%	
<b>60+</b>	7%	0%	10%	17%	11%	67%	41%	
<b>I'd rather not say</b>	7%	0%	4%	0%	0%	27%	12%	

## Difficulties on dissemination process

- Lack of public awareness towards energy efficiency and fuel poverty
- Some found the questionnaire longer than they expected
- Not direct communication /connection with landlords

# Finding an accommodation: Criteria

Important criteria for choosing a house



■ Cost of rent

■ Appearance of accommodation i.e. design, style of furnishing

■ Location and convenience

■ Has an Energy Performance Certificate

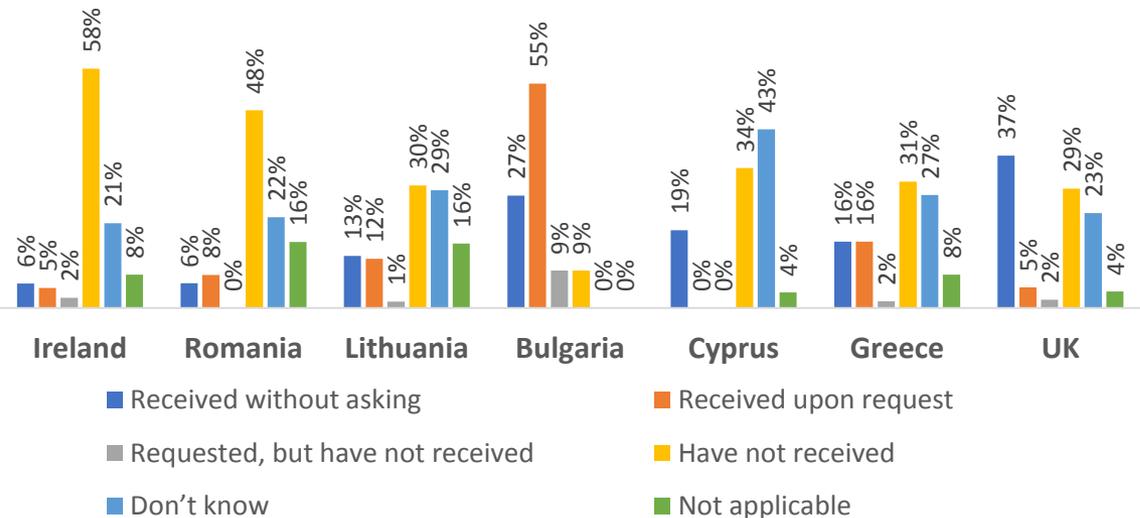
■ Condition of accommodation i.e. state of repair

■ Size of accommodation

■ Good energy efficiency

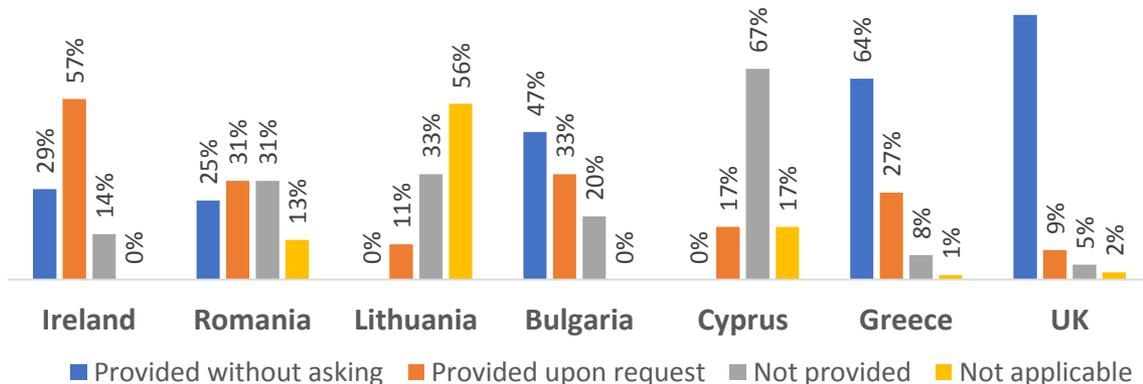
# Finding an accommodation: Provision of EPC

Did you receive or request an EPC at your current accommodation?



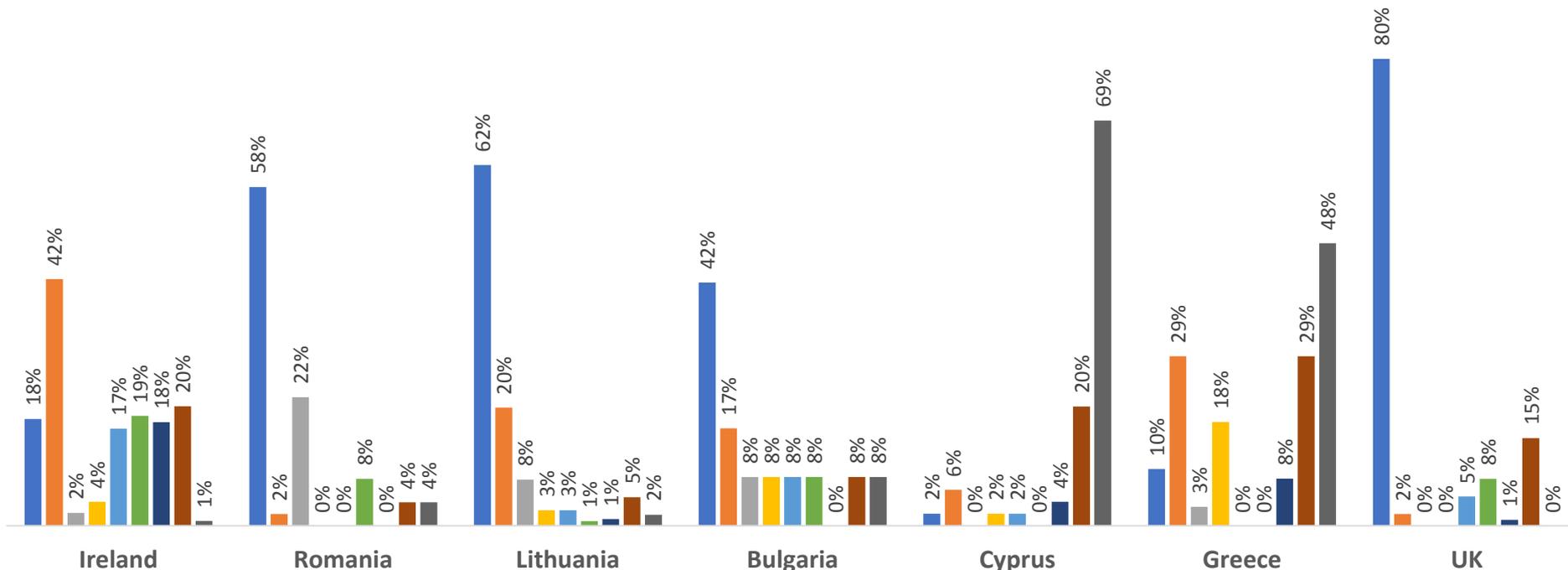
Do you provide an EPC to your tenants before they move in?

**Landlords**



# Living: Available Heating systems

What kind of heating system/s do you have in your accommodation?

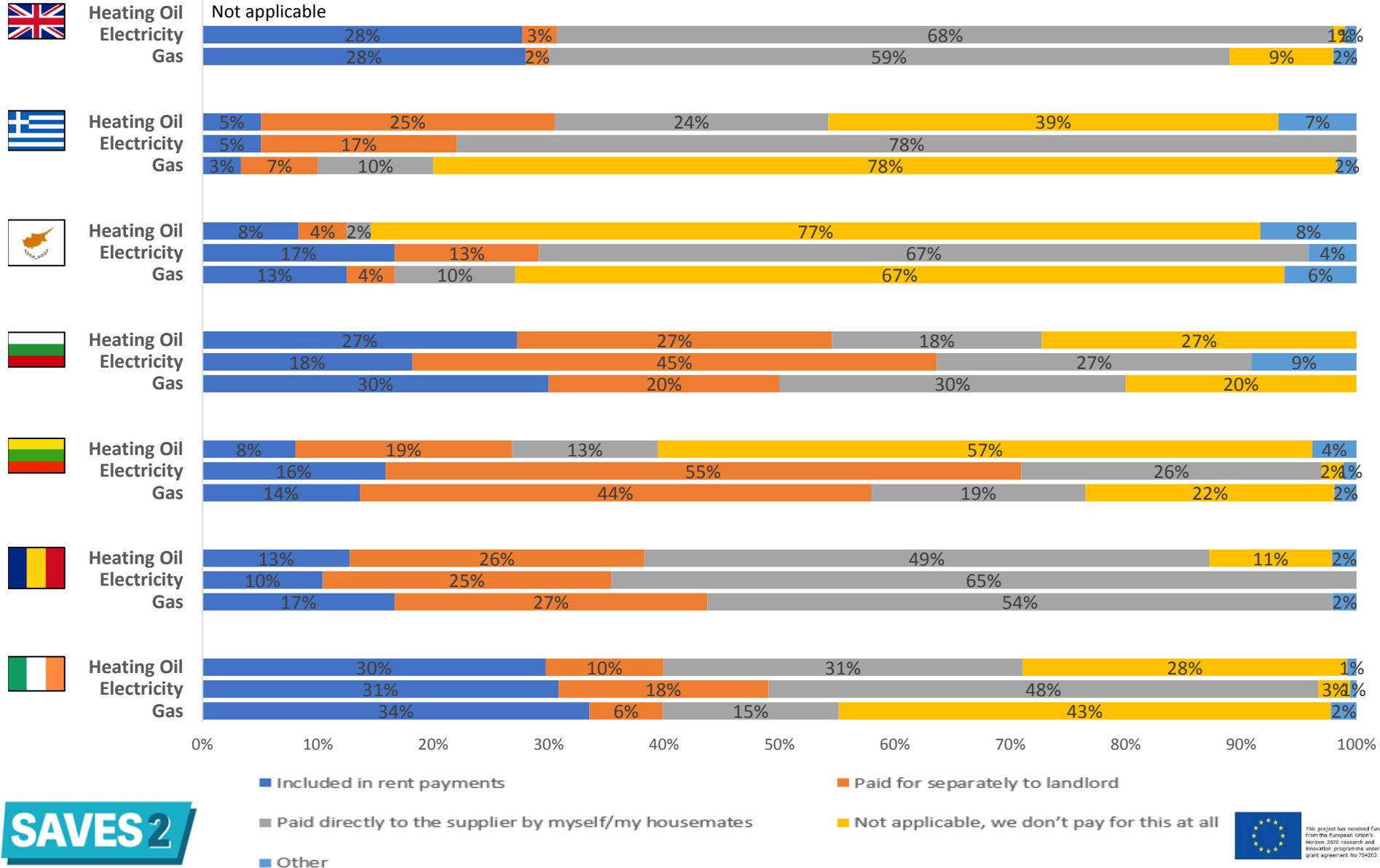


- Gas-fired central heating
- Gas-fired autonomous heating
- Night storage heaters
- Open fires or stoves (solid fuel)
- Air-conditioning units

- Oil-fired central heating
- Oil-fired autonomous heating
- Fixed room fires or heaters
- Portable Heaters (Electric, Bottled gas, oil-filled)

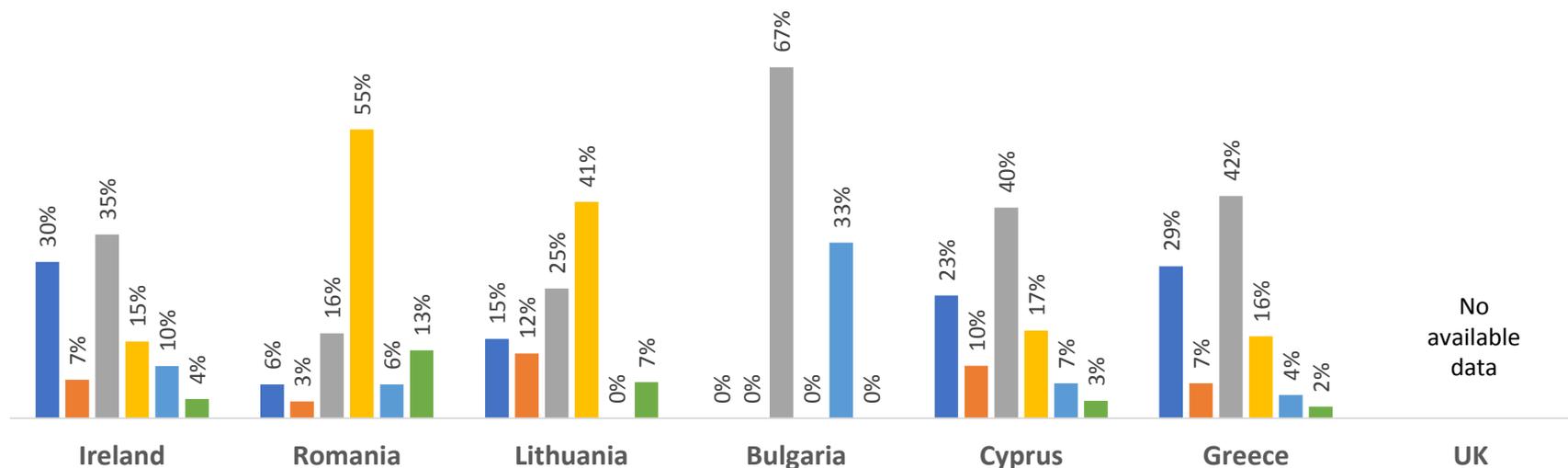
# Living: Energy Bills

How do you pay for the following household bills?



# Living: Energy Bills

Costs of Energy Bills (electricity, gas, heating oil) paid seperately by the tenant



■ High - I make significant effort to use less energy

■ High - I don't take any action to reduce it anyway

■ Neither high neither low - I make significant effort to use less energy

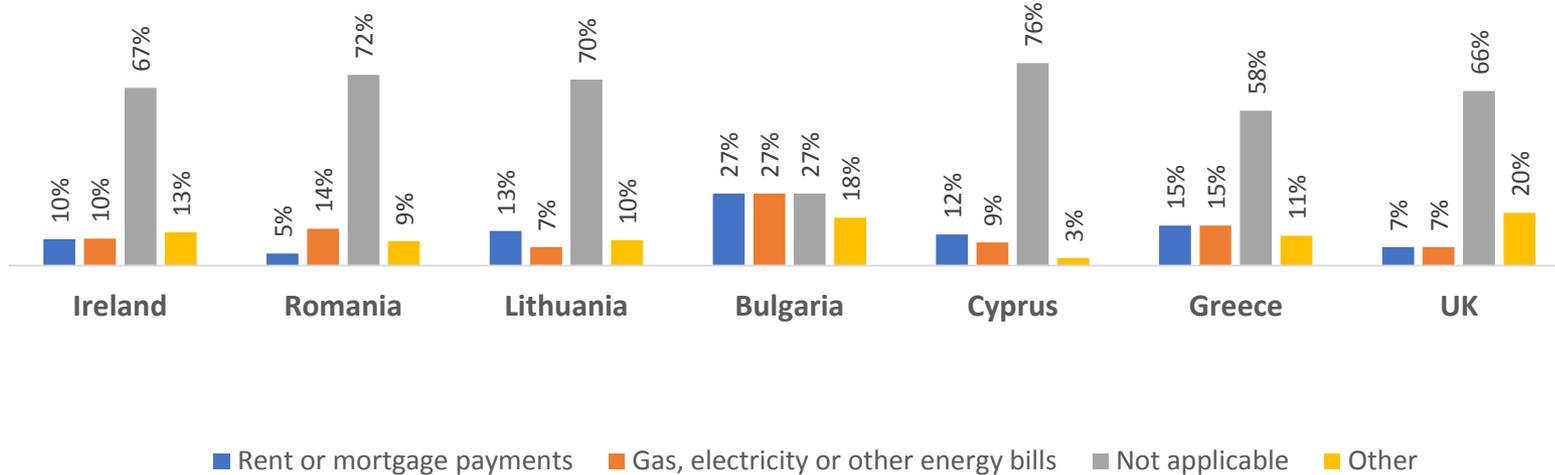
■ Neither high neither low - I don't do much to use less energy

■ Low - I make significant effort to use less energy

■ Low - I don't do much to use less energy

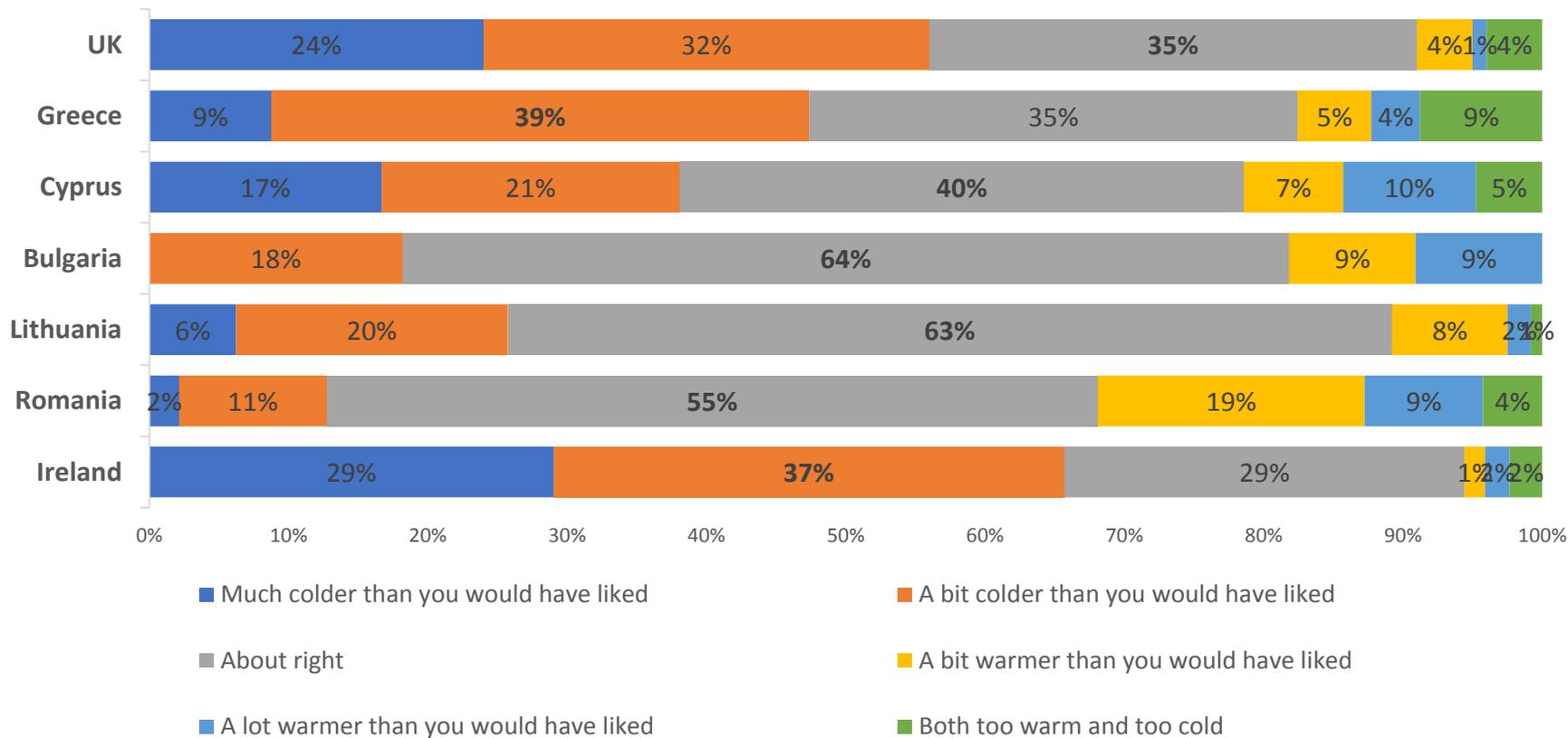
# Living: Arrears in Bills

Arrears in Bills due to lack of money



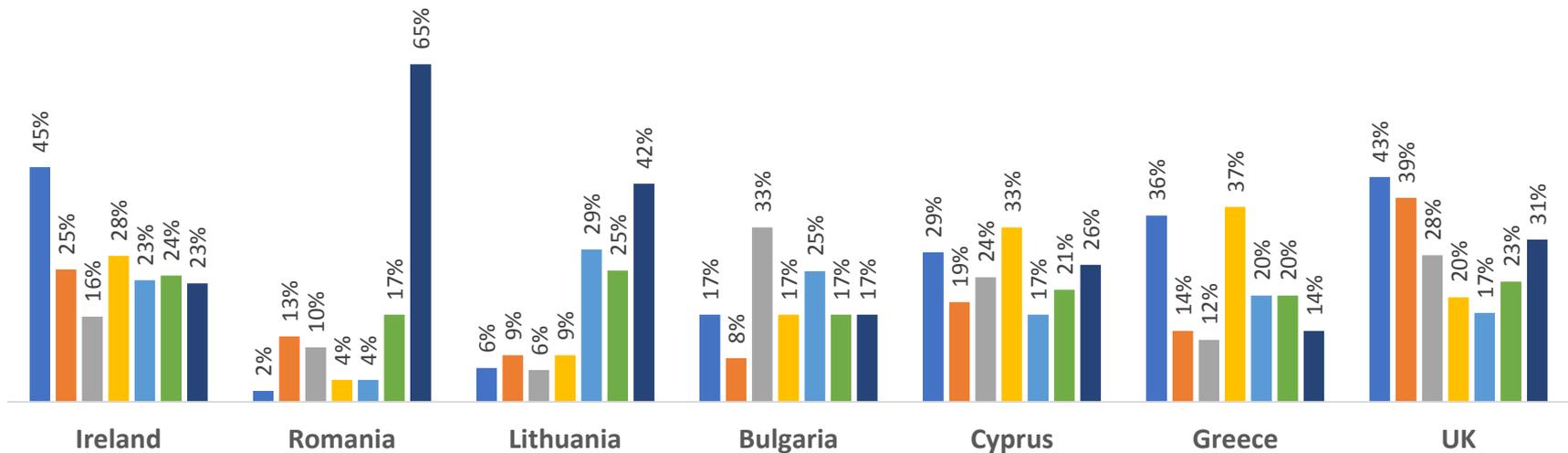
# Living: Overall comfort

Overall level of comfort in current accommodation during winter



# Living: Cut back on energy use

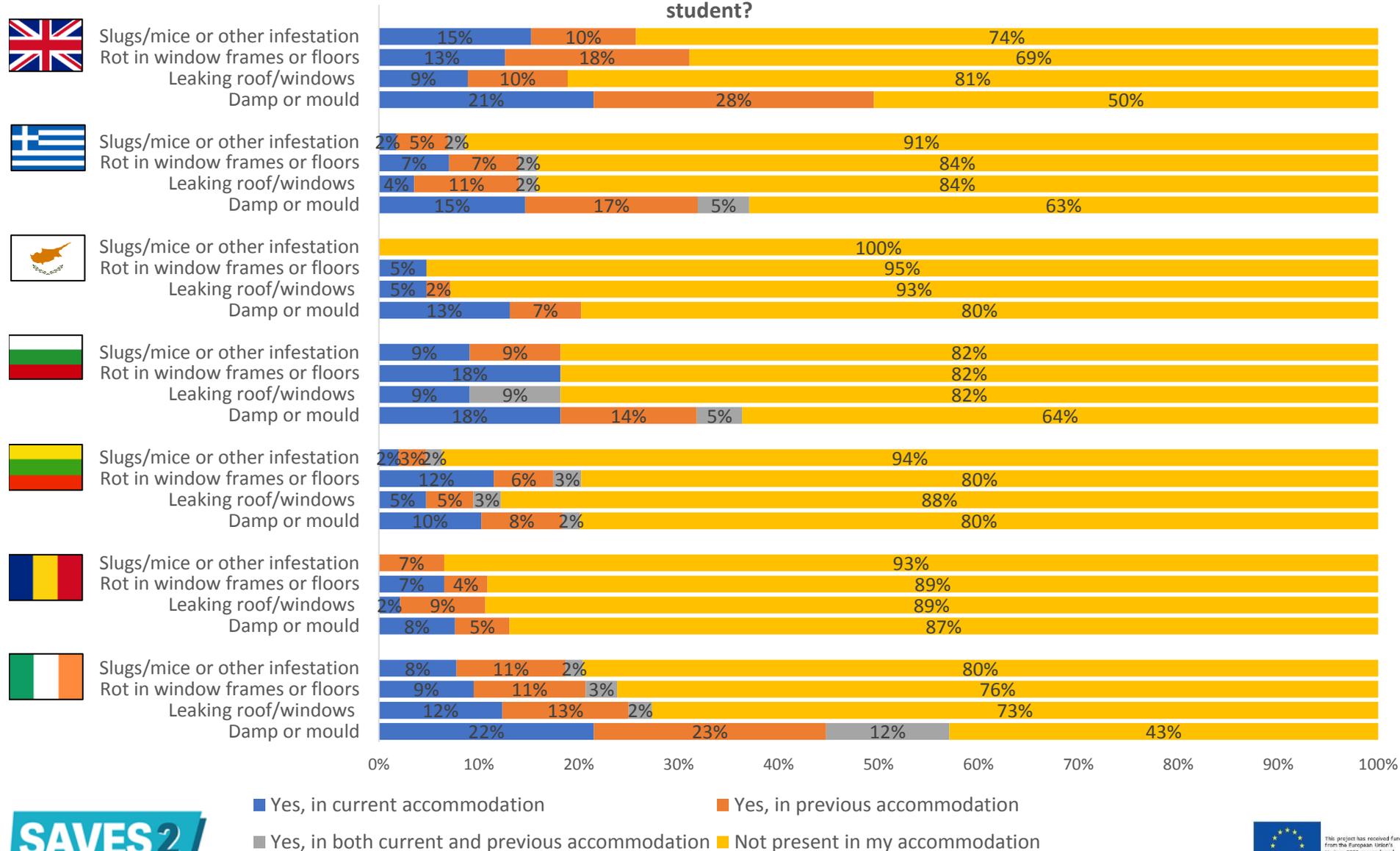
Have you cut back energy use in any of these ways this winter because you were concerned about the costs?



- Turned heating off, even though I would have preferred to have it on
- Turned the heating down, even though I would have preferred it to be warmer
- Turned the heating down or off in some rooms but not others, even though I would have preferred not to
- Only heated and used one room in my accommodation for periods of the day
- Used less hot water than I would have preferred
- Turned out lights in my accommodation, even though I would have preferred to have them on
- None of these

# Living: Housing condition

Are/were the following present in your current, or previous homes you have rented whilst you have been a student?



■ Yes, in current accommodation

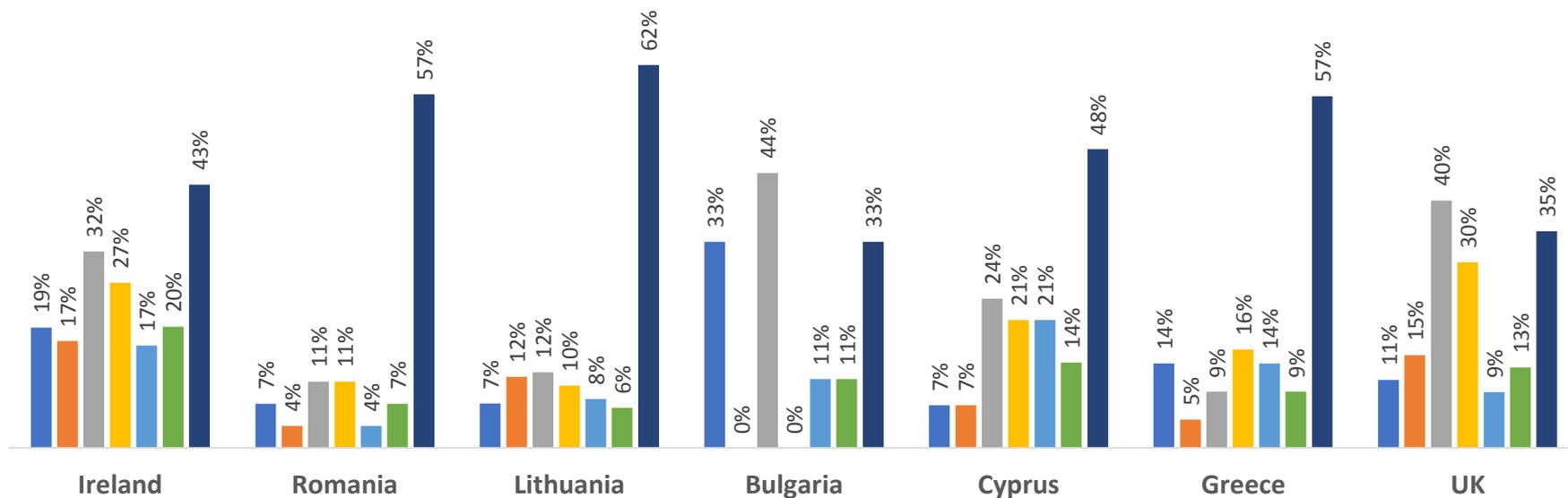
■ Yes, in previous accommodation

■ Yes, in both current and previous accommodation

■ Not present in my accommodation

# Living: health impacts

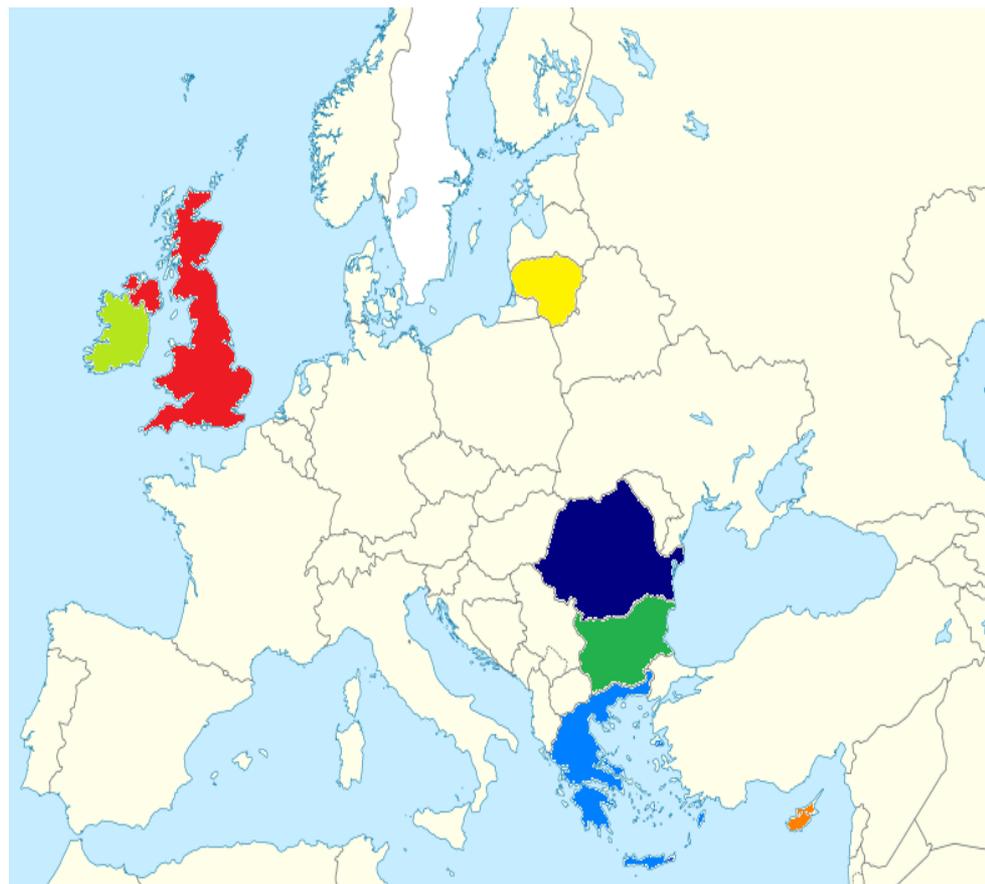
You said you have problems with your current accommodation (damp, mould, etc) and/or that your home is colder/warmer than you would have liked. Does this affect you in any of the following ways?



- Has worsened existing health problem/s
- Has brought on new health problem/s
- It makes me feel miserable
- It makes me feel anxious or depressed
- I don't feel able to invite friends or family to the house
- I have spent as much time as possible away from the house
- None of these

# Conclusions

Students	IE	RO	LT	BG	CY	GR	UK	Comments
<b>Energy efficiency awareness</b>								
Importance of energy efficiency of the dwelling when house hunting	4%	6%	8%	18%	2%	8%	-	Low efficiency awareness
Have <b>not requested</b> (and have not received ) an <b>EPC</b> at current accommodation	58%	48%	30%	9%	34%	31%	29%	Low efficiency awareness
<b>Indications of fuel poverty</b>								
High costs of energy bills paid seperately by the tenant	37%	9%	27%	0%	33%	36%	-	Significant indications of high costs
Arrears in energy bills due to luck of money	10%	14%	7%	27%	9%	15%	7%	Low but not negligible indications of arrears
Feeling colder than would like in current accommodation durig winter	66%	13%	26%	18%	38%	48%	56%	Significant indications of thermal discomfort
Have <b>turned heating off</b> being concerned about the costs	45%	2%	6%	17%	29%	36%	43%	Significant indications of not adequately warm due to costs
Damp or mould present in current and/or previous homes	57%	13%	20%	37%	20%	37%	49%	Significant indications of poor housing conditions



# Thank you for your attention!



“Access to energy for all will be guaranteed when the public social welfare and energy authorities start working together.”  
(EU Meeting of People Experiencing Poverty, 2014)