

APE, Catalonia and its collective action to develop an integrated approach of energy vulnerability



22/10/2018

Energy poverty in numbers in Spain

Público

INICIA SESIÓN

ÚNETE A P

SOCIEDAD SUCESOS EDUCACIÓN SANIDAD IGUALDAD INMIGRACIÓN MEDIO AMBIENTE DERECHOS HUMANOS MÁS

POBREZA ENERGÉTICA

Una de cada diez personas en España no puede calentar su hogar

Tras las bucólicas estampas nevadas de estos días hay personas sufriendo por casas que no aíslan bien del frío y muchas familias que no pueden hacer frente a sus facturas de calefacción, luz o agua caliente.

Legal Framework

Law 24/2013 on the electricity sector

Describes energy as a “service in the general economic interest” and has serve to further desregulate the electricity market

DIRECTIVE 2009/72/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity

Spain did not comply with Directive 2009/72 / EC which states that an effective separation between producing, distributing and commercializing electricity companies must be ensured.

The deadline for transposing the Directive was March 3, 2011.

15/10/2012 The Commission warned Spain that it was still not complying with the Directive

Energy in private hands



Billionaire profits

BENEFICIOS DE LAS ELÉCTRICAS

Relación entre los promedios de los beneficios de las empresas y EBITDA (ganancia antes de intereses, impuestos, depreciación y amortización) de las principales empresas eléctricas de España, Alemania, Francia y Reino Unido (2013, 2016)

	EBITDA / FACTURACIÓN	RESULTADOS / FACTURACIÓN
ESPAÑA	18%	8%
ALEMANIA	11%	-4%
FRANCIA	23%	4%
REINO UNIDO	7%	1%

Fuente: Observatorio de la Sostenibilidad.

What is the role of the administration?





OFICINA COMERCIAL

LA LLUM ES
UN DRET
NO UN LLEGOSI

QUAN MÉS
LA FACTURA
LLUM, SEM
ELC

Pressure on Catalan government and energy companies





Assemblies for collective advice



Context

- Unpaid bills and energy and water supply cuts
- Other abuses:
 - Excessive collecting (improper fees charging), changes of tariffs, phone harassment, denial of new contracts, etc.
- Lack of information about:
 - Our rights
 - Meaning of our bills
- Companies taking advantage of this opacity

Context

Under this vulnerability situation of families:

- Means of communication and administrations have certain imaginary:
 - Victimization and assistencialism (payment of bills without giving any further tools or solutions)
 - Blaming (“it’s families that consume too much”, “they don’t know how to manage their spending”, “they don’t want to pay”, “they don’t understand bills”...)
- Need of mutual support, empowerment and collective construction of knowledge

Description

APE's collective counselling:

- Welcoming space
- Biweekly sessions
- Continuity between sessions
- Possibility of territorial replication
- Breaks with unidirectionality and expert logic (everybody has something to share about their experience and case)
- Finding solutions to cases + learning together
- Accompaniment visits

Results

- Empowerment
- Transformation of roles
- Collective construction of knowledge
- Responsibility is shared
- Creation of a network of mutual support, that stays in time (continuity), that transforms at the same time than the changing context (breaks with a static view of the matter).

Limitations

- Changing and complex context
- Infinite cases
- Difficulty of arriving beyond most common cases and collectives (not everybody knows APE) → flyers
- We don't have solutions for everything!
- Certain intermittence of participants
 - Depending on personal situation,
 - Depending on motivation,

Strengths

- Affected people are now “experts”
- Immediacy, link with reality on real time, ability to react (telegram, twitter actions, direct actions)
- Thinking together solutions and strategies
 - “What works for me can work for somebody else”, “we tried this and didn’t work, so we have to try something new”, historical accumulation of knowledge, etc.
- Feeling of belonging to a network, to a family
 - Emotional support, feeling of collective strengthvs.
 - Isolated and assistencial counselling

Cut Rights

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VelpStJ8uel>



ALIANÇA CONTRA
LA POBRESA ENERGÈTICA

Català

INICI

QUI SOM

TENS DRETS!

ACCIONS

CRÒNIQUES

DOCUMENTS

PARTICIPA!

**Volen tallar-te
l'aigua, la llum o el gas?
Segueix els nostres consells!**

Últimes entrades

Tret de sortida de la ILP de mesures per

www.pobresaenergetica.es/descarregues/

www.pobresaenergetica.es

#DERECHOSCORTADOS



ILP HABITATGE

Un país sense talls

No thirst, no cold, no darkness



Our demands:

- **Guarantee of no more cuts on supplies.** Apply the precautionary principle by which there will be no cuts without prior approval of the Social Services of the municipality. The precautionary principle should be applied in view of the relevance to the health of people.
- **Access to a minimum level of services/utilities** for all families who are unable to pay for them, to live in dignity
- **Costs of warranty of this basic service should be assumed by the company itself**
- **Energy Audit**
- **Data about supply cuts** should be available in every municipality
- **Reconsideration of the provision of basic supplies.** We need a management model that has a vocation for public service and ensures its universality, therefore we study the implementation of remunicipalization and non-profit models.