



Project REACH in a nutshell

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www.reach-energy.eu

Energy poverty in SEE

- No EU wide definition, no definition in the REACH countries
- Applying the '10% definition' to some SEE countries results in almost the entire population to be energy poor
- EPEE definition: an energy poor household is one that cannot afford their energy/electricity bill and/or keep their flat/house adequately warm at reasonable cost
- Buzarovski: energy poverty is a situation where a household is unable to access a materially and socially–necessitated level of energy services in the home
- In SEE over 30% households are under threat of energy poverty



Some SEE specifics

- Energy poverty an issue of low or no political interest in the region
- Often people are not poor, yet cannot afford adequate energy services
- Housing stock in poor state, living conditions sometimes shockingly poor
- Very limited social or other support, funds granted for purchase of low-quality coal, burnt in inefficient heaters
- No clear division between social and non-social housing
- Switch from subsidized energy prices to market based prices
- High share of home ownership (between 80-96%)





Partners and countries

Focus Association for Sustainable Development

SLOVENIA

Energy Agency of Plovdiv (EAP)

BULGARIA

CROATIA

Society for Sustainable Development
Design (DOOR)

MACEDONIA

Macedonian Centre for Energy Efficiency (MACEF)



Aim and objectives

The aim is to contribute to energy poverty abatement at practical and structural level.

Overall objectives are:

- a) to empower energy poor households to take actions to save energy and change their habits
- b) to establish energy poverty as an issue that demands tailor-made structural solutions at local, national and EU level



Key activities

- Analyse energy poverty in 4 countries to form definition and policy recommendations
- Connect local actors to tackle energy poverty in 5 pilot areas
- Train 20 teachers and 250 students of vocational schools to be energy advisors
- Empower 1600 households to reduce energy and water use, hence reducing their energy use by averagely 10% and cutting their CO2 emissions by 200 kg/year on average
- Engage 160 decision-makers in tackling energy poverty as an issue that demands structural solutions



Expected results	Results so far
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overview of energy poverty for 4 countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 workshops for local actors • networks established between at least 5 local actors in each pilot area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ • over 40 local actors engaged
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 training events for teachers and 10 training events for energy advisors, • 20 trained teachers and 250 trained energy advisors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ • 42 teachers, 200+ trained energy advisors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1600 visits of energy poor households • savings of about 1280 t CO₂, 768 toe of energy and 512.000 EUR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • together 1025 visits ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 national and EU level policy recommendations • 160 decision-makers engaged in tackling en. poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • action presented to about 500.000 people across EU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38 events, 90+ media appearances; outreach of 150.000+ people



Average savings per year and household

		Slovenia	Bulgaria	Croatia	Macedonia	ACHIEVE
Electricity	kWh	251	332.5	68	531	331
	€	40.2	58.7	8.5	45.8	49
	%	6.8	8	1.5	NA	9.5
Water	m ³	12.5	9.75	19.7	18.5	21
	€	22.6	17.4	31.25	9	53.1
	%	11.9	9.8	11.7	NA	18
Heat energy	kWh	669.2	226	600	111.6	592.1
	€	21.3	24.5	15	60.4	41.5
	%	4.3	4.8	2.3	NA	6.3
Total	€	84.1	100.6	54.75	115.2	163.6
	kg CO ₂	158.2	340	60	18.6	300



Key policy recommendations (I)

Definition and monitoring

- More specific analysis of the problem at national level
- Measurable definition of the problem and indicators
- Improvement of statistical data collection

Energy efficiency measures

- Energy poverty in national energy efficiency programmes
- Low-cost energy efficiency and energy saving measures
- Replacement of household appliances (“old for new”)
- Replacement of inefficient heating system (renewables)
- Deep renovation of the buildings (replacement homes)
- Subsidies, which are suitable and useful for energy poor





Key policy recommendations (II)

- Loans with no interest, mainly for deep renovation
- Renovation of state owned social housing
- Ensure access to electricity (e.g. installation of off-grid PV)
- EU and national funding for energy poverty

Pathways to structural solutions

- Long-term strategies, not only short-term measures
- Recognize locality-specific nature of the problem
- Switch the responsibility from NGOs to decision-makers
- Participatory manner, involving a wide range of stakeholders
- Connect social issues, energy, health and environment
- Align energy poverty with other policies



Results of policy work

- Recommendations sent to governments, mainly on the following:
 - financing measures from EU funds,
 - energy poverty definition and monitoring,
 - adjustments in regulation for support to energy poor households,
 - terms and conditions for granting heating allowances,
 - financial incentives targeting energy poor households,
 - demand for energy suppliers to implement part of their energy efficiency measures in energy poor households
- Slovenia: national program for households visits and establishment of cooperation with the Ecofund on the design of new program





Partners



Focus Association for Sustainable Development, Slovenia

www.focus.si



Society for Sustainable Development Design, Croatia

www.door.hr



Energy agency of Plovdiv, Bulgaria

www.eap-save.eu



Macedonian Centre for Energy Efficiency, Macedonia

www.macef.org.mk



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