

## How to support energy transition and reduce energy poverty?

### What is energy poverty and what are the causes?

Energy poverty occurs when a household cannot achieve the minimum level of domestic energy consumption required for satisfying basic needs and for an effective participation in society. Energy poverty is a multi-dimensional phenomenon, considered to be caused by a combination of **low-income**, **high-energy expenses**, and **poor energy efficiency in buildings**.



#### Energy poverty can lead to:

- unsuitable indoor temperatures (too hot or too cold)
- deficient air quality
- inadequate comfort and sanitary conditions
- disproportionate energy expenses forcing them into undesirable decisions (for example the 'heat or eat' dilemma)
- precarious access to energy (depending on unstable, insecure supply)
- significant psychological stress over unaffordable energy bills



almost **7%** of the EU population have arrears on their utility bills



over **41 million** Europeans are unable to keep their homes adequately warm



almost **15%** lives in dwellings that leak, damp or rot

The ongoing energy transition to a climate-neutral EU economy requires addressing energy poverty and mitigating the transition's social aspects, to guarantee affordable energy prices and social inclusion.



#### 1. Diagnosis

*How to diagnose if your municipality is affected by energy poverty?*

- Collect relevant indicators
- Map internal and external stakeholders and host meetings to identify potential synergies - bridge the distance between upper-level policies (national governments, EU) and the local communities
- Define the character of your local energy poverty and communicate it



#### 2. Planning

- Set a vision with a timeframe
- Create a list of possible actions for tackling energy poverty from emergency measures to long-term actions. - What suits best within the specific local context and the citizens' needs
- Develop a local Social Action Plan (that addresses the following key questions: What? Who? How? When? How much?)



#### 3. Implementation

*Implement the action plan with addressing the definition of barriers and opportunities.*

- Prioritize properly - select appropriate actions with matrix method
- Awareness campaign - consistent communication with clear messaging; and empathy with the target audience
- Home visits to the vulnerable households - sharing tips
- One-stop shops - centralized hubs, either physical or virtual, where consumers can find information about various energy-related services and information.
- Home renovation actions to improve energy efficiency

	Short timeframe	Medium timeframe	Long timeframe
Low impact	Home visits; Awareness campaign	Awareness campaign	Behavioural changes
High impact	Subsidies, financial instruments	Integrating energy poverty in SECAPs; Crowdfunding campaign	One-stop shops; Renovation of buildings