SocialWatt December 2020 Newsletter

SocialWatt utilities developing schemes to alleviate energy poverty

SocialWatt aims to enable energy suppliers and utilities across Europe to develop, adopt, test and spread innovative energy poverty schemes. More specifically, the project aims to build the capacity of energy suppliers and utilities and enable them to use the decision support tools developed within the framework of the project to effectively target energy poor households and implement energy efficiency schemes.

Eight utilities and energy suppliers from Croatia (HEP ESCO), France (EDF), Greece (PPC), Ireland (ESB), Italy (EVISO), Latvia (FORTUM), Romania (CEZ VANZARE) and Spain (NATURGY) are currently developing their Energy Poverty Action plan, which will outline innovative schemes and actions that they will implement to alleviate energy poverty.

In this newsletter, you can find information on a number of activities implemented so far and learn more about the project.

SocialWatt, a project funded by the EU's Horizon 2020 programme, aims to enable obligated parties under Article 7 of the Energy Efficiency Directive across Europe to develop, adopt, test and spread innovative schemes to alleviate energy poverty.

Brief on actions and schemes to consider for tackling energy poverty

As mentioned above, SocialWatt aims to support the development of sustainable and effective schemes to tackle energy poverty. As such, different schemes have been reviewed and numerous stakeholders have been actively engaged to help identify robust schemes that may have a considerable economic and social impact on energy poverty.

This report outlines the key characteristics of the numerous schemes and actions reviewed that have been/are being implemented to tackle energy poverty.

Download full report

SocialWatt Report

Evaluation of Schemes to tackle energy poverty

To further support utilities and energy suppliers, three decision support tools are being developed within the framework of SocialWatt. Two have been already fully developed and tested, more specifically:

- SocialWatt Analyser - This tool supports the identification of energy poor households among utilities' clients, based on real household energy consumption and cost data, as well as other readily available data.
- SocialWatt Plan – This tool supports the evaluation of several energy efficiency and renewable energy actions/schemes and recommends the optimal ones to implement (in terms of cost and risk), in order to alleviate energy poverty.

The eight SocialWatt utility partners have used these tools to inform the development of their energy poverty action plans which will guide their energy poverty alleviation work for the duration of the project and beyond.

This report presents the utility partners' analysis of energy poverty and the assessment of schemes to alleviate it, using these two tools. Key lessons learnt on the role that calculation tools can play in identifying energy poor households and designing schemes are also presented.

[Download full report]

EVENT

The first capacity building workshop

The first SocialWatt capacity building workshop on alleviating energy poverty took place virtually on the 28th of May 2020.

The workshop focused on how utilities, energy companies and social services can help alleviate energy poverty. Experts on energy poverty and representatives from utilities and academic institutions presented their experience and knowledge. The SocialWatt project, its objectives, target groups and key outputs were also presented.

[Find out more]

EVENT

The second capacity building workshop

The second SocialWatt capacity building workshop on alleviating energy poverty was successfully organised virtually on the 24th of August 2020 and on the 15th of October 2020.

On the 24th of August 2020, the workshop focused on how to best engage with energy poor households, by describing and discussing the experience of the UK and Austria. In addition, different options for financing energy efficiency schemes to tackle energy poverty were also presented.

On the 15th of October 2020, the workshop focused on effective and innovative schemes utilities in Europe and beyond, have implemented to alleviate energy poverty. Particular emphasis was given on how schemes have been financed and designed.

Find out more

Workshop in Spain

Naturgy presented SocialWatt at a national level

Naturgy recently presented SocialWatt during two online national events organised on the 20th of October and the 18th of November 2020 on "Initiatives of the Naturgy Foundation to fight against vulnerability", as well as during a bilateral meeting with the EPIU project, funded by the UIA initiative, on the 12th of November 2020.

The project objectives and planned activities were described, followed by discussions on the different aspects of the work, such as ways to identify energy poor customers. Overall, the events successfully promoted SocialWatt and effectively engaged stakeholders and interested parties.

Our warmest wishes for a merry holiday season and a happy, healthy and prosperous new year!

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