



# Webinar 1: Energy efficiency schemes to tackle energy poverty

## Guest Speakers and Panelists

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Javier Tobias  
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Sarah Coupechoux  
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(IEECP)

## Introduction to the new provisions in the EED recast about energy poverty // Veronika Jirickova, DG ENER

New Article 8 (3) and Article 22 address how energy efficiency is the most effective solution to alleviate energy poverty and overcome negative impacts of pricing measures.

When no national indicator to define energy poverty, Member States should refer to the following:

Inability to keep home adequately warm

Arrears on utility bills

Share of disposable income spent on energy

[More resources on current Article 7 \(future Article 8\)](#)

[Fit-for-55 Package](#)

Article 22: "Vulnerable consumers and energy poverty." :

Identify those who are in need

Obligation to implement energy efficiency measures as priority amongst vulnerable groups.

Broader to Art 8 (3) from indicators to concrete fields for action



## Energy poverty – What's next in the energy efficiency directive : hot topics in the Council's and Parliament's positions // Marion Santini, RAP

So far, Member States are required to take into account energy poverty alleviation. Only 2 Energy Efficiency Obligation Schemes (EEOS) include ringfences for energy savings for energy poor households (France and Ireland).

### Current challenges

- Utilities find it hard to prioritise energy poor households;
- Few alternative measures are designed to tackle energy poverty.

Therefore, the Commission has proposed a new mandatory sub-target ringfence where Member States can decide which measures fit for target populations, and can decide their own target groups. This is more flexible and adaptive to implement for Member States.

### Amendments being processed by Commission and Parliament

- Ringfence calculations: parliament proposes new method with more savings from 6% to 10% at EU level of the energy savings obligation at EU level;
- Addition of new target groups: low-income households (by Parliament) and financially weak households (by Council) ;
- Provision of energy savings calculations specific to measures tackling energy poverty by Council ( topic also tackled by the [Streamsave project](#)).

## Lessons learnt from the SocialWatt energy efficiency schemes // Andriana Stavrakaki, ICCS

SocialWatt, a project funded by Horizon 2020, aims to enable energy companies, utilities and obligated parties under Article 7 of the Energy Efficiency Directive across Europe to develop, implement and replicate innovative schemes to alleviate energy poverty. More information on the website: <https://socialwatt.eu/>

### Challenges

- Often no national definition of energy poverty
- Developing a convincing business case
- Securing financing
- Engaging energy poor households
- Complexities in setting up and designing schemes

### Lessons learnt

- Utilities find it hard to prioritise energy savings for energy poor consumers, as these actions are more costly to deliver (e.g higher grants needed)
- Policy stability is needed
- Alleviating energy poverty through EEOS is not sufficient
- A shift towards deep renovation is needed
- Combined funding and financing should be facilitated (e.g EEOS and public grants).

More about the [SocialWatt Schemes here!](#)

**Panel discussion** with **Ioanna Giannouli** (PPC, main Greek electricity supplier), **Javier Tobias** (ECODES, Spanish NGO) and **Sarah Coupechoux** (Fondation Abbé Pierre, French NGO)

Ioanna Giannouli

- Obligation schemes are important but pushing energy savings and behavioural changes cannot generate long term changes and building renovations are difficult for utilities to trigger.
- Ringfences have proved to be very useful but should they be part of EEOS? It can be easier to have alternative measures to address this as it is a struggle for energy suppliers to have it as an obligation.
- Stopping fossil fuel technologies with the EED recast was very important for energy to avoid locking energy poor households in fossil fuel dependency with increasing prices.
- We need support from the State and support on financing so that investments for energy poor households are 100% covered with combined financing.
- There is a need for more technical measures to address energy poor households, but 40% of energy poor households live in rented houses which is a big issue, we need a framework to split incentives. Tenants tend to be very reluctant to do things by fearing a higher rent if there are renovations, so the change is slow.

Sarah Coupechoux

- Challenge of identifying energy poverty in France: ONPE has a number of 6 million energy poor households whereas the Fondation from Abbé Pierre identified more than 12 million. We can see that depending on indicators, policies can also be different.
- In terms of EEOS, France increased the package for heating systems and decreased the renovation package (insulation and windows). It is however important to promote global deep renovation works and not switch priorities in energy efficiency and savings, and change the way we calculate savings.
- Example of successful programme since 2012 called Toits D'abord. The idea was to create social housing for very vulnerable people, and social housing that has good energy performance in partnership with EDF. It has been funded through white certificates, 5300 dwellings renovated in 10 years and 600 per year now.

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Javier Tobias

- Ringfencing funding is necessary as vulnerable consumers struggle to have access to aid. Grants for energy efficiency are indeed mostly used by households with higher income when there is no ringfence.
- We need to harmonise parameters and have national definitions for a common framework that should respond to territorial challenges, EPCs are different per regions for example.
- Since 2015, ECODES has been supporting low-income households with energy advice and home renovation, it is important to highlight that 2/3 of Spanish households live in multi apartment buildings so the means of necessity is much higher. We also need obligations for landlords and social safeguards for tenants so that housing remains affordable after renovations.

## Possible effects on low-income households of other upcoming energy transition policies // Marco Peretto IEECP

Following from a previous study of IEECP for the European Climate Foundation, the degree to which three different policies proposed in the Fit for 55 package to alleviate energy poverty in the EU would be beneficial for low-income groups was analysed again using static simulations. This time seven countries from the EU were analysed, namely: Bulgaria, Czechia, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia. Additionally, the results obtained in the previous study were verified and confirmed.

The study provided an analysis of 3 policies:

- Introduction of carbon price / ETS on heating fuels
- Introduction of a ban on the installation of oil, coal and gas boilers in new and/or existing buildings
- Introduction of a minimum energy performance standard

IEECP found that upgrading the energy performance standards of buildings up to energy label D by 2030 and then to label C by 2035 would reduce low-income households' energy bills and consumption by 2050 across the seven countries analysed compared to when no additional policies are implemented. The reduction in energy consumption and expenses would be further amplified by both combining the phase out of fossil fuel boilers with the refurbishment of buildings or by combining all three proposed policies. If no additional policies are implemented to decarbonise Europe's buildings, the EU would not only fail to reach its climate targets but low-income households in the seven countries would present higher energy consumption and expenditures in 2050 than in the current situation and would be left out of the energy transition.

