

*Lessons learnt from the SocialWatt
energy efficiency schemes*

17th of November 2022

SocialWatt

Energy companies designing and implementing
schemes to alleviate energy poverty

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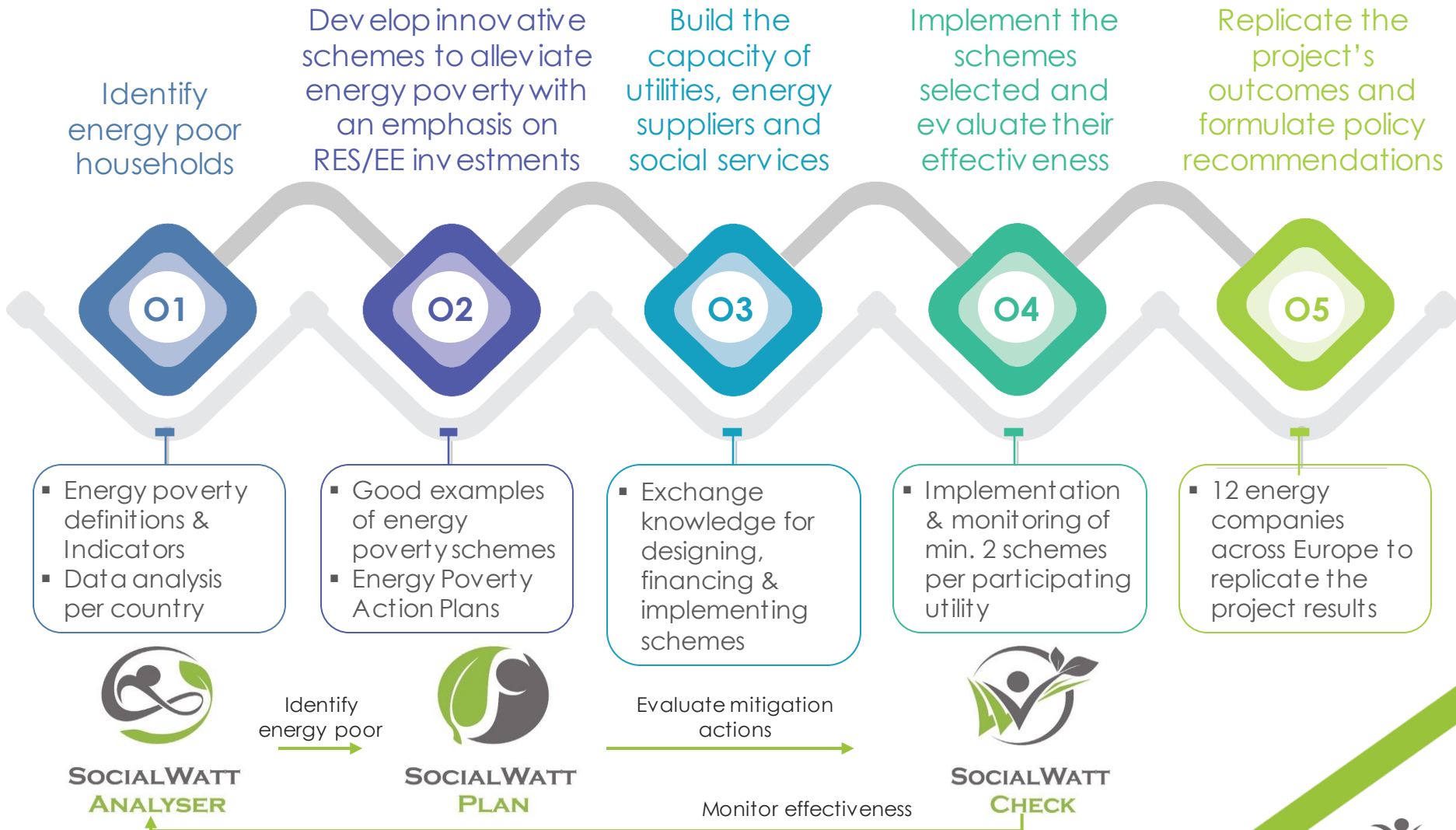
SocialWatt in a Nutshell

SocialWatt aims to:

- ▶ Enable **utilities, energy suppliers and energy service companies** across Europe to develop, adopt, test and spread **innovative schemes to alleviate energy poverty**
- ▶ Develop **appropriate tools** for helping them identify energy poor households and work towards alleviating energy poverty
- ▶ **Build their capacity** and **promote collaboration** with social services and other stakeholders



SocialWatt in a Nutshell



The SocialWatt project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 845905



Examples of SocialWatt Schemes

Smart control systems in social housing – Fortum in Latvia

- ▶ Installation of a software to automatically optimize energy use based on data from smart sensors within the building and weather forecasts
- ▶ Partnership with a Municipality and collaboration with a retailer

Subsidy programme for heating system renovation – PPC in Greece

- ▶ Heat pumps uptake facilitated through a subsidy, a guaranteed low price, a technically sound and economically appropriate installation, and a financing programme for the matching funds required
- ▶ Collaboration with major heat pump technology providers

Smarter home scheme – CEZ Vanzare in Romania

- ▶ Thermostats offered to customers who pay for them in fixed rates without interest through bills (on-bill financing)
- ▶ Collaboration with thermostat providers



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Challenges faced

- ▶ Uncertainties when there is **no national definition of energy poverty** or where there are ongoing processes to define energy poverty
- ▶ **Developing a convincing business case** to invest in energy poor households, which is not cost effective when compared to other options
- ▶ **Securing financing to support** energy poor households (both from internal resources and third party financing) – especially when high investments per household are required
- ▶ **Engaging energy poor households** so that these benefit from the schemes
- ▶ **Complexities in designing and setting up schemes** and other unforeseen events

Lessons Learnt

- ▶ Without a **firm obligation**, utilities find it hard to prioritise energy savings for energy poor households within an EEOS as they are more costly to deliver than savings in other sectors.
- ▶ **Policy stability is needed**, given the length of time needed to set up partnerships and finance mechanisms to delivery comprehensive support for energy poor households.
- ▶ **Alleviating energy poverty through an EEOS alone is not sufficient**, in particular since low cost and single measures are preferred.
- ▶ **A shift towards deep renovation is needed in national legislation and policy**, e.g. reaching performance standards.
- ▶ **Combined funding/financing should be facilitated**, so that costs are not prohibitive for energy poor households



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