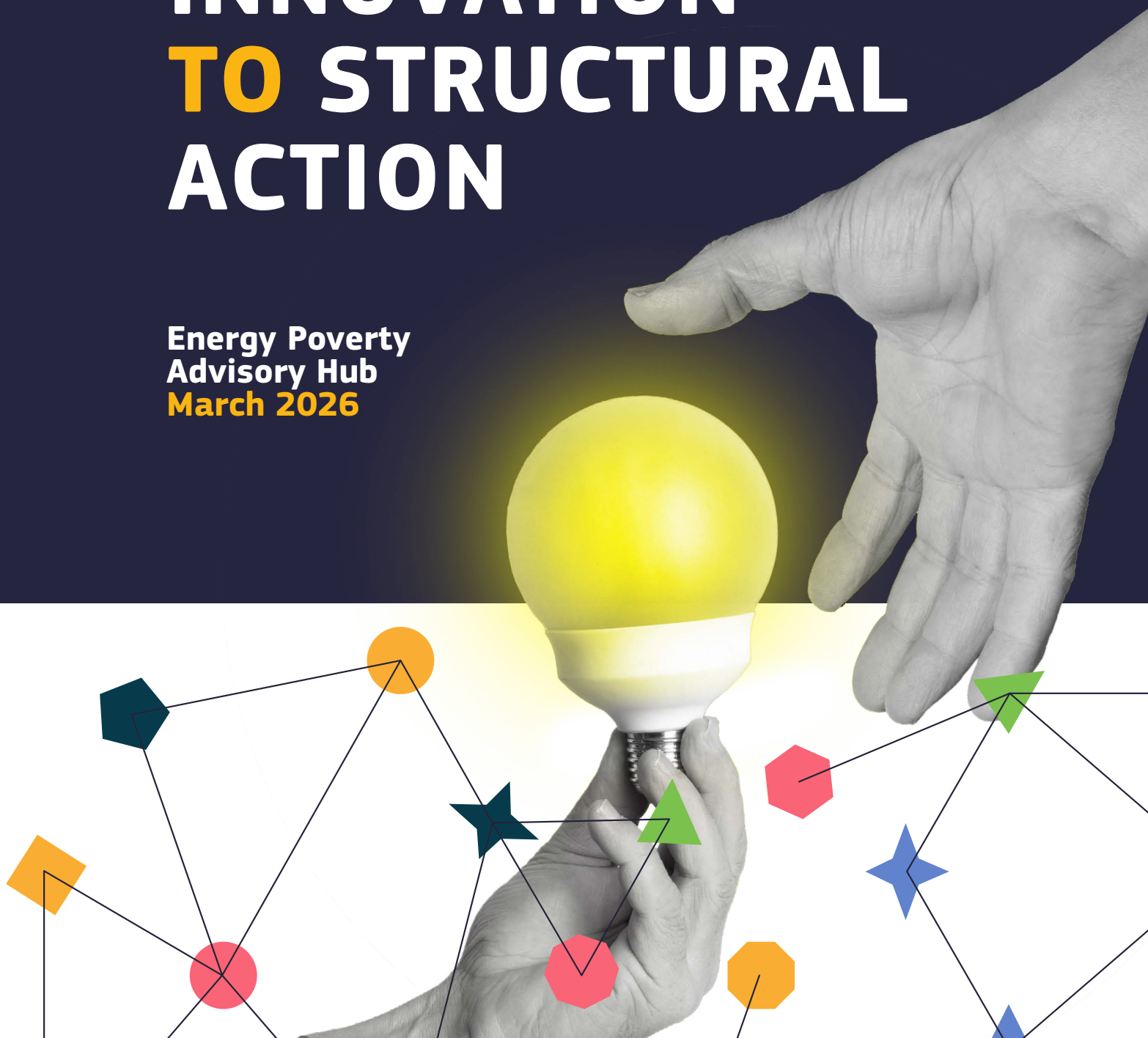




INSPIRATIONAL CASES

FROM LOCAL INNOVATION TO STRUCTURAL ACTION

**Energy Poverty
Advisory Hub
March 2026**



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Energy

Directorate B – Just Transitions, Consumers, Efficiency and Innovation

Unit B.1 – Consumers, Local Initiatives, Just Transition

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Published in: March 2026, Brussels

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FOREWORD

BY **DAN JØRGENSEN**

**COMMISSIONER FOR ENERGY
AND HOUSING, EUROPEAN COMMISSION**



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Addressing energy poverty is not only a challenge, it is a social imperative for a fairer and more resilient Europe. No one in the European Union should have to choose between heating and eating, or between keeping cool and paying the bills.

In 2024, 9.2% of people in the EU were unable to adequately heat their homes during winter. At the same time, cooling needs are rising, and more households are struggling to stay safe and comfortable during increasingly hot summers. Yet these figures capture only part of the reality. Energy poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon. It is driven by a combination of low incomes, high energy prices, inefficient buildings and appliances, and households spending a disproportionate share of their budget on energy.

This publication brings these dimensions to life through a set of pioneering projects that show what works on the ground. The cases presented here span energy renovations, advice and awareness-raising, and community-led solutions with social objectives, along with many other practical approaches. Together, they demonstrate how effective action can be designed and delivered across the full cycle of intervention, from diagnosing needs and targeting support, to planning measures, mobilising partners, and implementing solutions.

Local and national authorities are at the forefront of this work. Many of the initiatives showcased here succeed because they strengthen multi-level governance and build partnerships, among public bodies, civil society, social actors, and the private sector. These collaborations are essential to deliver lasting impact and accelerate progress. Several examples began as local initiatives and evolved into national programmes, proving that with commitment, sound design, and strategic vision, solutions can be scaled up and replicated.

The projects also show that there is no single funding pathway. Support can come from a variety of sources: from municipalities, public bodies, and national governments to philanthropic organisations, private investors, and European programmes such as LIFE and Horizon. What matters is combining resources with strong implementation — and ensuring that support reaches those who need it most.

The Commission remains fully committed to tackling energy poverty. We will continue to support and spotlight measures that are sustainable, accessible, and replicable. We will also promote cooperation across sectors, levels of government, and organisations. Our ambition is clear: an Energy Union in which everyone has access to affordable, clean energy; where consumers can actively participate in the energy market; and where vulnerable households are protected and supported.

These inspirational cases capture the essence of that ambition. They demonstrate tangible results, sometimes modest in scale, but always meaningful in impact. They offer methodologies that can be adapted to different contexts across Member States, from dense urban neighbourhoods to remote rural regions. Finally, they strengthen community resilience, improve living conditions, and help to ensure that Europe's clean energy transition is fair and inclusive.

I congratulate each and every person involved in these projects. And I hope that this collection will inspire continued action and innovation as we work together to eradicate energy poverty and to deliver a strong and sustainable Energy Union for all.

I wish you an enlightening and inspiring read.

INTRODUCTION

Energy poverty remains one of the most urgent social challenges of Europe's energy transition. The recent energy crisis exposed structural vulnerabilities across Member States, but it also accelerated innovation. Municipalities, civil society organisations, energy communities, and research institutions have developed concrete solutions that combine social protection, climate action, and citizen engagement.

This new edition of the EPAH Inspirational Cases reflects how the field has evolved recently. While the [previous publication](#) highlighted pioneering initiatives, this collection showcases a more mature phase of action. Many of the featured cases are no longer pilot projects. They have scaled up and been replicated. They are embedded within institutional structures, supported by stable financing mechanisms, and aligned with European policy frameworks such as the Energy Efficiency Directive and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.

The cases demonstrate a clear shift from ad hoc measures to systemic approaches. Tackling energy poverty increasingly involves coordinated governance, reliable data, structured financing models, inclusive energy communities, and long-term renovation strategies. Local action is becoming structural action.

The selected cases illustrate complementary dimensions that cut across the three thematic parts of this publication:

- Institutional anchoring, governance, and financing mechanisms: Permanent one-stop shops, national frameworks, and municipal services that embed energy poverty action within public administration, combined with financing and redistribution mechanisms that ensure vulnerable households benefit from the energy transition.

- Inclusive renewable and renovation models: Energy communities and prosumer schemes designed to expand access and strengthen participation.
- Monitoring, advisory and capacity structures: Robust data systems and trained advisors that enable evidence-based and targeted interventions.

FROM INSPIRATION TO REPLICATION

This publication presents a curated selection of cases with strong transferability potential. Several of the cases show how initial pilot actions have strengthened institutional capacity over time, leading municipalities to embed energy poverty within their governance structures, become signatories of the Covenant of Mayors, and integrate findings into SECAPs and local strategies. Through structured exchange formats such as EPAH Practitioner events, Lunch Talks, and the Annual Conference, as well as broader EU support and peer learning, these approaches have been replicated across territories and transferred to other countries, demonstrating that energy poverty action can move from experimentation to durable institutional practice.

At the same time, this collection represents only a fraction of ongoing innovation across Europe. Many more examples are available in the [EPAH Atlas](#), which provides a digital repository of practices, tools, and local experiences. The Atlas complements this publication by offering a broader landscape of action and facilitating peer learning across territories.

THE ROLE OF EPAH

The European Commission's Initiative Energy Poverty Advisory Hub continues to support local communities through knowledge exchange, technical assistance, and capacity-building. By highlighting practical and scalable models, this publication contributes to the growing evidence base for fair and inclusive energy transition policies.

The cases presented here confirm a central message: sustainable solutions to energy poverty require long-term commitment, institutional anchoring, and cross-sector collaboration. Europe's energy transition is advancing,

and these initiatives demonstrate how it can be implemented in an equitable, resilient, and socially inclusive way.

To enhance coherence and readability, the cases are grouped into **three thematic parts** reflecting the core components of effective energy poverty policy: institutional and financial frameworks, monitoring and advisory structures, and empowering vulnerable households. This configuration mirrors the progression from structural governance and funding mechanisms to targeted support systems and finally to socially embedded energy transition models.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATION	FULL NAME
CBS	Statistics Netherlands (Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek)
EAP	Energy Advice Point
EU	European Union
EUKI	European Climate Initiative
EPAH	Energy Poverty Advisory Hub
EPBD	Energy Performance of Buildings Directive
ESF+	European Social Fund Plus
HOA	Homeowners' Association
LAG	Local Action Group
LIFE CET	LIFE Clean Energy Transition
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OHU	Odesa Housing Union
PV	Photovoltaic
REER	Rural Energy Efficiency Roadmap
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SECAP	Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan
TED	Tutor dell'Energia Domestica (Household Energy Tutor)

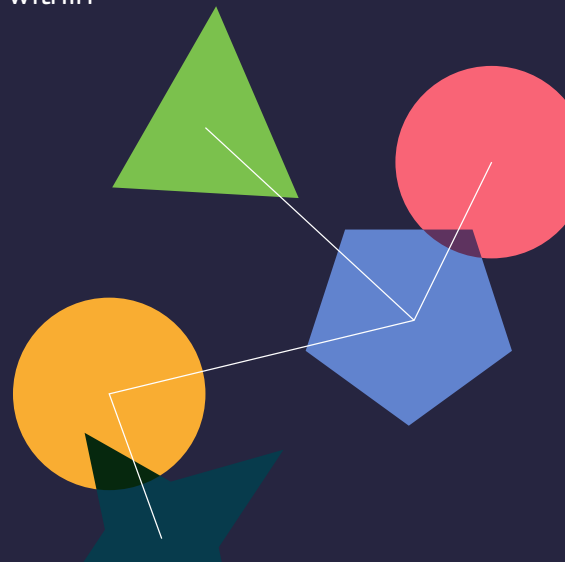
PART I

INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL FRAMEWORKS

Tackling energy poverty demands institutional anchoring, stable financing mechanisms, and clear governance structures. The cases in this section demonstrate how local, regional, and national actors are embedding energy poverty action into public administration, regulatory systems, and long-term funding schemes.

These initiatives move beyond temporary relief measures by creating durable frameworks: municipal one stop shops, national detection systems, dedicated transition funds, and multi-stakeholder financing models. By integrating social objectives into structural policies and public budgets, they ensure continuity, scalability, and alignment with broader climate and social strategies.

Together, they illustrate how energy poverty action becomes sustainable when it is institutionalised and financially secured. These frameworks create an enabling environment within which targeted and inclusive action can take place.



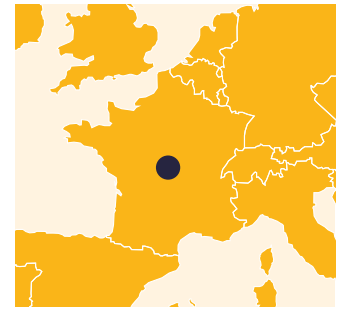
THE SLIME PROGRAMME TO DETECT SITUATIONS OF ENERGY POVERTY AND IMPROVE ACCESS TO RIGHTS

DESCRIPTION

SLIME is a national programme to tackle energy poverty that enables local authorities to co finance their actions through the French Energy Saving Certificates scheme. Its methodology is designed at national level and implemented locally by municipalities and regions. The programme operates in three complementary stages: identifying vulnerable households through a coordinated network of social workers, charities and energy actors; conducting home visits to assess needs, improve comfort and install small energy-saving equipment; and guiding households towards the most appropriate local or national support schemes. By combining detection, personalised advice and structured referral, SLIME strengthens access to rights and promotes lasting solutions.

SUSTAINABILITY

Since 2013, SLIME has been financed through the Energy Saving Certificates scheme, which enables long period deployment across territories. The current financing is 56M€ for 2022 – 2027. Cler Solutions is working towards its renewal for the 2028 – 2031 period. Its institutional anchoring within local authorities and its integration into social and renovation policies strengthen its continuity beyond individual funding cycles.



GEOGRAPHICAL SCALE

France

National

RESULTS

SLIME has supported nearly 100,000 households and is implemented by 95 local authorities, covering around 40% of French households. The programme has significantly improved access to social and energy-related rights, with one in three beneficiaries reporting that they no longer suffer from cold after the intervention. By combining early detection, personalised advice and structured referral to renovation and financial support schemes, SLIME increases uptake of existing assistance measures and strengthens local coordination. It has become a nationally recognised framework for identifying and addressing energy poverty at the territorial level.



TARGET GROUP

Low-income households facing energy poverty.

2013

2027

TIME FRAME



PROMOTER

Local authorities.

STARTING FROM

SLIME emerged from the political will of French local authorities to better coordinate fragmented local actions and actors addressing energy poverty. It built on territorial diagnoses that highlighted gaps in detection and access to rights and initially operated as a structured pilot to organise local intervention chains. The programme was featured in the previous EPAH Inspirational Cases handbook and has since evolved into a nationally consolidated framework.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

To date, around 40% of French households live in a territory covered by a SLIME scheme. The objective is to further expand the programme nationwide so that all households experiencing energy poverty can access a home visit and structured support. Continued scaling would strengthen territorial coverage and consolidate SLIME as a national framework for early detection and coordinated intervention.

FUNDING

Funded through energy saving certificates (French white certificates scheme).

PARTNERS

Cler solutions, local authorities implementing the programme, and their operational partners.



REASON OF INSPIRATION

SLIME is selected as an inspirational case because it demonstrates how a structured detection mechanism can be institutionalised and scaled at national level. Over more than a decade, it has evolved from a local coordination tool into a financially calibrated and widely deployed framework, covering a large share of French households. By linking early identification, personalised support and access to existing schemes, SLIME shows how local authorities can move from ad hoc responses to systemic, evidence-based action against energy poverty.

LINK

programme-slime.fr

DRIVING SUSTAINABLE URBAN RENEWAL

DESCRIPTION

Amiestas translates the EU “Renovation Wave” into a seamless and proactive municipal service. Acting as a one stop shop, it supports homeowners from the initial consultation and investment planning through financing, procurement and construction. Amiestas coordinates legal procedures, prepares subsidy and loan applications, and oversees all technical and administrative steps. By centralising expertise within a trusted municipal body, it reduces complexity and risk while building confidence. Residents receive clear, step-by-step guidance, making renovation transparent, manageable and achievable.

SUSTAINABILITY

Amiestas continues to operate as a permanent municipal service. Anchored within the local administration and supported by a dedicated budget, the one stop shop model functions on a stable and sustainable basis. The initiative is steadily expanding its activities, enabling more residents to undertake energy-efficient renovations and contributing to long-term decarbonisation goals.



GEOGRAPHICAL SCALE

Vilnius, Lithuania

Local

RESULTS

By 2024, 227 renovation projects had been completed or launched, delivering annual savings of 77 GWh of energy and reducing emissions by 18,480 tonnes of carbon dioxide. This impact is equivalent to removing approximately 4,000 cars from the road or supplying energy to around 64,000 people. Beyond climate benefits, the programme accelerates progress towards net-zero targets while improving urban quality and community well-being.



TARGET GROUP

Vulnerable homeowners of multi-apartment buildings in Vilnius.

2020

ONGOING

TIME FRAME

PROMOTER

Atnaujinkime miesta (Amiestas).

STARTING FROM

Amiestas was inspired by the recognition that many renovation projects fail before they begin due to complexity, uncertainty and lack of guidance. The city identified the need for early, structured intervention and dedicated technical assistance to support homeowners from the outset. Rather than leaving residents to navigate fragmented rules and financing procedures alone, Vilnius institutionalised support within a municipal structure, making renovation proactive, coordinated and accessible.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

Amiestas is ready to scale. The model can be replicated in other municipalities, as it is based on clear processes, centralised support and strong public governance. Through EU-funded initiatives, the service aims to expand its reach, support more residents and help other cities adopt similar one stop shop systems to accelerate renovation and decarbonisation.

FUNDING

Funded by Vilnius City Municipality, the Environmental Projects Management Agency and EU-funded initiative.

PARTNERS

Vilnius City Municipality.



REASON OF INSPIRATION

This one stop shop was selected because it demonstrates how political commitment can be translated into an operational structure that delivers concrete results. Rather than relying on fragmented actors or short-term schemes, it embeds coordination, accountability and continuity within the municipal system. It shows how trust between residents and local authorities can be built through clear processes and stable support, aligning policy ambition, financing and community engagement within one coherent framework.

LINK

amiestas.lt

JUST ENERGY TRANSITION FUND FOR FAMILIES

DESCRIPTION

Rising energy costs are straining household budgets, deepening energy poverty and limiting access to energy-efficient living, especially for low- and middle-income families. In response, Cascais launched Portugal's first Just Energy Transition Fund for Families, combining financial support, technical guidance and community engagement. The Fund supports energy efficiency interventions, helping residents reduce energy bills, improve thermal comfort and adopt renewable solutions, while promoting efficient energy use and sustainable habits. Two one stop shops were created to support its implementation. As part of Cascais' broader strategy to combat energy poverty and advance the SDGs, the Fund represents a long-term investment in people, the environment and resilient, empowered communities, offering a model for other municipalities.

SUSTAINABILITY

The project is designed for long-term sustainability and is firmly anchored within the City Council, with a second dedicated budget of EUR 3 million allocated for a new edition. It also includes family and community capacity-building actions, enabling beneficiaries to sustain improvements and adopt more efficient and sustainable consumption habits.

RESULTS

The Support Fund for Families allocates EUR 3 million to reduce energy bills and improve household thermal comfort. Since December 2024, 550 low-income and 200 middle-income families have benefited from energy efficiency upgrades such as insulation, window replacement, and efficient appliances. These measures reduce energy poverty while contributing to Cascais' carbon neutrality goals.



TARGET GROUP

Residents, homeowners and tenants in the municipality of Cascais up to the 6th income tax tier.

PROMOTER

Cascais City Council.

STARTING FROM

The initiative was developed following a benchmarking process of local, national and EU funding programmes. The municipality identified structural barriers, particularly high upfront investment costs and low participation in deep renovation schemes and designed the Fund to overcome these gaps.

The Fund was developed as an improvement on previous national funding schemes, which had low participation rates in deep renovation measures such as insulation and limited uptake among vulnerable households due to the high upfront costs required.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

The one stop shop network will be expanded to ensure coverage in each parish of Cascais. The project can be replicated and scaled up to reach more families locally and in other municipalities. Future steps include strengthening partnerships with social solidarity institutions, expanding technical support services and reinforcing dedicated staff capacity to ensure long-term sustainability and impact.

FUNDING

Grant allocated from the municipal budget.

PARTNERS

Cascais City Council, Social solidarity institutions, CENSE, FCT-NOVA University of Lisbon, Residents' associations.



REASON OF INSPIRATION

The Municipality of Cascais recognises the strategic importance of the Fund in addressing energy poverty. The scheme promotes the uptake of energy efficiency measures among low-income households, with social solidarity institutions managing the full application process on their behalf. A comprehensive set of interventions is supported, ranging from window replacement and insulation to heat pump installation and appliance replacement. At the same time, the Fund contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions across the municipality. By combining municipal financing, social intermediary support and renovation incentives, the Fund demonstrates how local authorities can design socially targeted climate investment mechanisms that are both scalable and politically anchored.

LINK

energy-poverty.ec.europa.eu/discover-community/epah-atlas/fundos-verde-de-apoio-familias



GEOGRAPHICAL SCALE

Cascais, Portugal

Local

2025

ONGOING

TIME FRAME

BANCO DELL'ENERGIA FOUNDATION: A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PROJECT TO TACKLE ENERGY POVERTY

DESCRIPTION

Banco dell'energia is a non-profit organisation founded in 2016 by the A2A Group and its foundations. It supports individuals and families experiencing economic and social vulnerability, with a particular focus on energy poverty, by financing concrete assistance measures, promoting social partnerships and mobilising public and private resources to ensure access to essential energy services.

SUSTAINABILITY

The project's sustainability is ensured through broad multistakeholder governance that brings together major energy companies and non-profit organisations, securing stable financial resources and technical expertise. It combines immediate relief measures, such as energy bill support, with long-term interventions including energy efficiency upgrades and energy use education. This integrated approach empowers vulnerable households, reinforces local partnerships and enables replication across different territories.



GEOGRAPHICAL SCALE

Italy

National

RESULTS

Since 2016, Banco has raised and donated more than 13 million euros, promoted more than 160 territorial projects, and helped more than 17,000 beneficiaries.



TARGET GROUP

Socio economically vulnerable individuals and families, as well as service organisations engaged in social activities.

2016

ONGOING

TIME FRAME

PROMOTER

The A2A Group together with its three Foundations, AEM, ASM and LGH.

STARTING FROM

Banco dell'energia was inspired by the understanding that the energy transition must integrate a strong social responsibility dimension, ensuring that vulnerable individuals are not left behind and can benefit from the transformation. It also acknowledges that private entities can have a significant role to fulfil.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

Banco dell'energia offers a scalable and transferable model that could be replicated across Europe through dedicated EU funding instruments and cross sector partnerships. Future development may focus on expanding the approach to additional territories, strengthening cooperation with local authorities and social services, and integrating the model into broader just transition and energy poverty strategies.

FUNDING

Funds encompass private sector contributions (from founders and board members), allocated income tax shares, bill payment donations and individual private donations.

PARTNERS

A2A, AEM Foundation, LGH Foundation and ASM Foundation act as founding members, while Edison, Eni Plenitude and Iren serve as board members. In addition, the initiative is supported by more than 100 signatories of the "Manifesto to Tackle Energy Poverty," reflecting broad commitment from across the energy and civil society landscape.



REASON OF INSPIRATION

Banco dell'energia is selected because it demonstrates how multi-stakeholder governance can mobilise private and public resources at scale to address energy poverty. Its blended financing model and territorial partnerships provide a replicable blueprint for other regions seeking to institutionalise solidarity within the energy transition.

LINK

bancodellenergia.it/il-manifesto-en

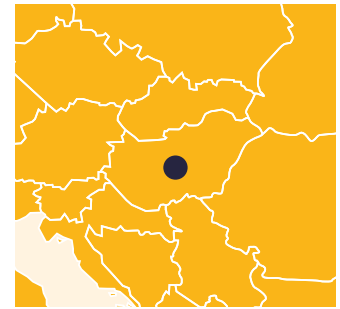
EMERGING SETTLEMENTS

DESCRIPTION

The Emerging Settlements Programme, launched in 2019, promotes social inclusion in Hungary's 300 most disadvantaged settlements. It follows a long-term, locally embedded and integrated approach addressing education, employment, healthcare and housing conditions simultaneously. A strong emphasis is placed on children and families, focusing on early intervention and equal opportunities from an early age. The programme brings together civil society, church-based organisations and local authorities within a coordinated framework to strengthen local capacities and support self-sustaining development. It is led by the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta in partnership with more than twenty organisations nationwide.

SUSTAINABILITY

The programme is institutionally anchored at the national level and implemented through a stable consortium of civil and church-based organisations, ensuring long-term continuity beyond a single project cycle. Since 2023, funding has been secured through European Union instruments, providing structural financial backing.



GEOGRAPHICAL SCALE

Hungary

National

RESULTS

To date, 20 social solar power plants have been established across 19 municipalities, generating revenue that is reinvested to reduce household energy costs. Around 1,000 vulnerable families receive targeted heating support through this mechanism. Additional solar installations are under development, alongside plans for energy storage systems to enhance stability and long-term efficiency. The initiative has also contributed to legislative proposals aimed at enabling and strengthening energy communities in Hungary.



TARGET GROUP

Residents of the 300 most disadvantaged settlements in Hungary.

2019

ONGOING



TIME FRAME

PROMOTER

Hungarian Government in partnership with the Hungarian Charity Service of the order of Malta and a national consortium of civil and church-based organisations.

STARTING FROM

The programme builds on a longer development trajectory and earlier national initiatives, notably the Children's Chance Programme, which implemented targeted social inclusion measures in Hungary's least developed districts with a strong focus on children and early intervention. This experience laid the foundation for a more integrated and territorially anchored approach.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

Building on its results, the programme can be further scaled and replicated in other disadvantaged municipalities in Hungary and across Europe. Expanding the renewable energy component could increase solar capacity, extend heating support to additional households and integrate energy storage solutions. Complementary measures, including energy efficiency advice and renovation support, could further strengthen long-term reductions in energy poverty.

FUNDING

Since 2023, funded exclusively through European Union grants under the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+).

PARTNERS

Consortium leader: Hungarian Charity Service of the order of Malta. Participants: 28 civil and church-based organisations.



REASON OF INSPIRATION

The Emerging Settlements Programme was selected because it integrates energy poverty action within a comprehensive territorial development strategy. Renewable energy solutions are embedded in broader interventions on housing, employment and social inclusion. Its social solar power plant model links renewable energy production directly to heating support for vulnerable households, creating a locally anchored redistributive mechanism. The case shows how EU funding can combine climate action with long-term social impact in disadvantaged rural areas.

LINK

fete.hu/app/uploads/2023/06/FeTe_EN_22_01.pdf

ENERGY POVERTY ALLEVIATION OFFICE, TALLINN

DESCRIPTION

The Energy Poverty Alleviation Office serves as a central contact point for addressing energy poverty in apartment buildings in Estonia. Individuals and housing associations can access information, attend training sessions, assess their energy vulnerability and receive guidance on low-cost efficiency measures, funding opportunities and practical behavioural changes. The office also distributes materials in Estonian, including leaflets and brochures, and engages stakeholders such as local authorities through thematic events and public discussions, strengthening awareness and coordinated action nationwide.

SUSTAINABILITY

Following the completion of the [POWERPOOR project](#), the office was embedded into the permanent structure of the Estonian Union of Co-operative Housing Associations. Funded through the Union's own resources rather than public budgets, the initiative has become a stable, long-term service supporting apartment associations across Estonia.



GEOGRAPHICAL SCALE

Tallinn, Estonia

Local

RESULTS

The office supports more than 1,000 apartment associations annually through trainings, consultations and information services. It has strengthened renovation readiness, improved awareness of funding schemes and enhanced behavioural energy savings in multi-apartment buildings across Estonia.



TARGET GROUP

Non-profit apartment associations and their members in multi-apartment buildings.

2022

ONGOING

TIME FRAME

PROMOTER

Union of Apartment Associations.

STARTING FROM

The initiative originated from the need to provide technical assistance to apartment associations seeking to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings. Many associations lacked the expertise and confidence to navigate renovation options and funding schemes. The office was created to offer structured guidance and capacity building, translating complex energy efficiency requirements into practical and accessible support.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

The approach of the Energy Poverty Alleviation Office can be adapted and replicated in other regions and countries. Key elements include establishing a central point of contact, providing expert consultations, engaging communities and stakeholders, developing tailored training programmes, promoting behavioural change and sharing practical knowledge and resources to strengthen local capacity.

FUNDING

Initially funded under the Horizon 2020 project POWERPOOR. Activities are now financed through the budget of the Estonian Union of Co-operative Housing Associations.

PARTNERS

The Energy Poverty Alleviation Office is owned and operated by the Estonian Union of Co-operative Housing Associations, a nationwide non-profit housing federation.



REASON OF INSPIRATION

This case is inspirational because it demonstrates how an EU-funded pilot can transition into a nationally sustained advisory structure without relying on public budgets. By embedding technical assistance within a representative housing federation, the model ensures credibility, sector-wide reach and long-term continuity. It provides a transferable pathway for institutionalising energy poverty advisory services beyond project cycles.

LINK

ekyl.ee/en/2022/02/06/ekyl-opened-an-energy-poverty-alleviation-office-in-tallinn/

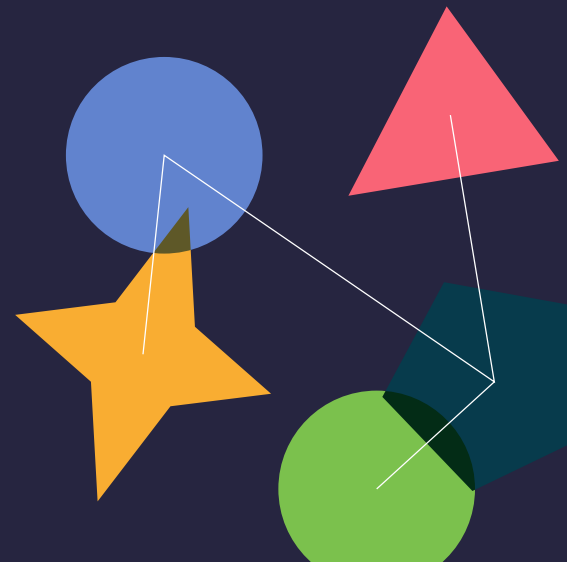
PART II

MONITORING AND ADVISORY STRUCTURES

Effective action depends on accurate identification and targeted support. This section highlights initiatives that strengthen the evidence base, improve operational efficiency, and build professional capacity to address energy poverty.

The cases presented here show how monitoring systems, data integration, energy advisory services, and trained frontline professionals enable more precise, measurable, and adaptive interventions. By linking diagnosis with personalised guidance and referral mechanisms, these models ensure that vulnerable households are identified early and connected to appropriate support.

They demonstrate that robust data, digitalisation, and capacity building are essential foundations for equitable and effective energy poverty policies. These mechanisms ensure that structural frameworks translate into effective, targeted support.



DUTCH NATIONAL ENERGY POVERTY MONITOR

DESCRIPTION

The Dutch National Energy Poverty Monitor (Landelijke Monitor Energiearmoede) provides national energy poverty figures based on linked administrative data covering approximately 85 percent of Dutch households. It combines information on income, housing quality, energy consumption, and energy costs. The latest edition also identifies energy underconsumption as a potential indicator of hidden energy poverty and highlights low- to middle-income households at risk if energy prices rise again.

SUSTAINABILITY

The Monitor was developed as part of a broader four-year national research programme on energy poverty. Its work will continue through the Dutch Energy Poverty Observatory, financed by several ministries. This institutional anchoring ensures ongoing data collection, regular updates and long-term policy relevance beyond the initial research period.



GEOGRAPHICAL SCALE

Netherlands

National

RESULTS

The Monitor analyses the effects of energy price fluctuations and compensation measures during the energy crisis, supports targeted action for vulnerable and at-risk households, ensures consistent national monitoring over time, and underpins the Dutch Energy Poverty Observatory.



TARGET GROUP

The Monitor primarily serves policymakers and public authorities.

2022

2025

TIME FRAME

PROMOTER

Netherlands Enterprise Agency, Association of Netherlands Municipalities.

STARTING FROM

In 2021, the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO), conducted the first national calculation of energy poverty. The strong media and political response led to the creation of a yearly national monitor, developed in close cooperation with Statistics Netherlands, establishing a structural and reliable evidence base for energy poverty policymaking.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

The continuation of the work under the Dutch Energy Poverty Observatory will ensure regular data updates and deeper analytical capacity. Future development may include improved regional disaggregation, integration of additional vulnerability indicators, and stronger links with municipal policy design.

FUNDING

Funded under a national research programme supported by the Ministries of Climate and Green Growth, Social Affairs and Employment, and Housing and Spatial Planning, as well as the provinces of North Holland, South Holland, Flevoland and North Brabant, and the Hart van Brabant region.

PARTNERS

Statistics Netherlands (CBS).

REASON OF INSPIRATION

The Monitor is selected for its robust and comprehensive evidence base. Using linked administrative microdata from Statistics Netherlands, it covers almost all Dutch households rather than relying on small self-reported surveys. This ensures high accuracy, national coverage and strong policy relevance. Trend data since 2019 allows policymakers to assess price effects, evaluate compensation measures, and track structural improvements in housing quality and energy efficiency.

LINK

energy.nl/landelijk-onderzoeksprogramma-energiearmoede/

FROM AD HOC MEASURES TO EVIDENCE-BASED ENERGY MANAGEMENT FOR HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS

DESCRIPTION

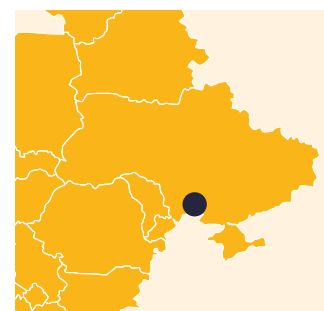
The approach to improving energy efficiency is built on a continuous management cycle. Each building undergoes instrumental assessment to identify energy saving potential for Homeowners' Associations (HOAs) and households. Energy consumption is systematically monitored and recorded in a central electronic database covering all participating buildings. Based on these data, tailored technical solutions are developed and integrated into a building specific renovation plan. Odesa Housing Union (OHU) works jointly with beneficiaries, donors and stakeholders to implement the plan and evaluate results. After completion, which may take six months to two years depending on the building, the cycle begins again, ensuring continuous improvement.

SUSTAINABILITY

The project is running on the long term and focused on identifying optimal solutions. Donor financial support plays a key role in ensuring the project's sustainability, particularly for testing and implementing the effectiveness of planned solutions.

RESULTS

From December 2023 to April 2025, 42 buildings were renovated, reducing energy use by 1,266 MWh per year and carbon dioxide emissions by 329 tonnes, benefiting 4859 households (9,806 people), including vulnerable households. From September 2025 to January 2026, 49 additional buildings were energy upgraded. Results will be available in April 2026.



GEOGRAPHICAL SCALE

Odesa, Ukraine

Local



TARGET GROUP

HOAs and housing cooperatives managing multi-apartment buildings, as well as households experiencing energy poverty, particularly in war-affected urban areas of Odesa.

2024

ONGOING

TIME FRAME

PROMOTER

Odesa Housing Union, a non-profit NGO supporting HOAs and housing cooperatives.

STARTING FROM

OHU is the only organisation in Ukraine providing organisational, legal, technical, and financial support to homeowners' associations and housing cooperatives through a one stop energy consultation centre established under the EU funded [ComAct project](#). This service is part of its core mandate. In the context of war and widespread energy poverty, protecting health, securing basic living conditions and strengthening community resilience has become a central priority.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

Further development will focus on improving systems for collecting and processing data on the operational performance of buildings and apartments, developing methodologies, and acquiring measurement equipment. The project will also seek alternative financing sources for energy efficiency improvements and gradually increase beneficiary contributions as energy costs for energy-poor households decrease.

FUNDING

The initiative is implemented by OHU in cooperation with Habitat for Humanity International, HOAs, and Housing Building Cooperatives of the City of Odesa.

PARTNERS

Habitat for Humanity International, HOAs and housing cooperatives in the city of Odesa, Odesa State Academy of Civil Engineering and Architecture (OSACEA), construction contractors implementing building works, Odesa City Council, State Energy Efficiency Fund of Ukraine.

REASON OF INSPIRATION

The introduction of energy management in buildings managed by HOAs and housing cooperatives responds to interrelated organisational, technical, legal and financial challenges. In Odesa, many residents are affected by energy poverty, making structured support essential. There are currently no specialised organisations on the market able to provide comprehensive assistance. OHU fills this gap through an integrated and data-driven approach, offering a replicable model for post-crisis urban contexts where institutional capacity is limited but the pressures related to energy poverty are strong.

LINK

[Bulgaria – ComAct](#)



RETE ASSIST - SUPPORT NETWORK FOR HOUSEHOLD ENERGY SAVING

DESCRIPTION

RETE ASSIST is a non-profit association set up to continue and scale up the work started by the EU H2020 project ASSIST, which tested the Household Energy Tutor (TED) approach to fight energy poverty. Building on that legacy, RETE ASSIST trains and updates TEDs through its Academy, connects them with public bodies, NGOs and companies, and supports local actions that give practical guidance to households on energy use, comfort, efficiency, contracts and access to support schemes. It also develops shared tools and coordinates partners so best practices can be replicated across territories, nurturing a national community via CommuniTED with regular online sessions.

SUSTAINABILITY

The association RETE ASSIST is now self-sustaining, financing its activities mainly through participation in new projects and support from foundations. It continues to train TEDs, assist local operators and provide practical tools and guidance. In this way, RETE ASSIST ensures that there is a reference actor for the training and networking specifically on energy poverty.



GEOGRAPHICAL SCALE

Italy

National

RESULTS

As of December 2025, RETE ASSIST has grown into a national network of 30 partner organisations and has trained over 300 TEDs. It is active in 14 Italian regions and runs 50+ monthly training/ community sessions via its Academy and CommuniTED. The network has supported 10+ national and international projects and has organised 3 annual national conferences on energy poverty. A TEDess (TED-essential) introductory course is also available, but the deck does not report a total number of TEDess graduates.



TARGET GROUP

Frontline energy advisors and operators as well as volunteers working with vulnerable consumers interested in becoming TED, and stakeholders interested in joining the network as partner.

2022



ONGOING

TIME FRAME

PROMOTER

The association RETE ASSIST.

STARTING FROM

RETE ASSIST was established following the 2020 completion of the EU project ASSIST, to retain the methods and skills developed with the TED pilots. In Italy there was no stable figure able to provide structured, on-the-ground support to households in energy poverty, so a non-profit association was set up to train and update TEDs, connect local actors, and scale coordinated actions through a shared community, open access learning, and common tools.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

RETE ASSIST will continue strengthening the ecosystem by expanding the Academy and CommuniTED, onboarding new regions and stakeholders, and reinforcing the entry pathway via the TEDess course. Next steps focus on replicating local actions, improving shared tools, and monitoring outcomes to sustainably upscale impact.

FUNDING

Self-funded thanks to the participation in European/National projects (no fee is asked to join the association).

PARTNERS

RETE ASSIST.

REASON OF INSPIRATION

RETE ASSIST is inspirational because it builds up on an EU project, developed at national level. It also institutionalised a new professional profile in Italy, the TEDs, demonstrating how structured training and coordinated networks can transform fragmented advice into a sustainable national support system.

LINK

www.reteassist.it

ENERGY ADVICE POINTS IN BARCELONA: IMPROVING SERVICES THROUGH DIGITALISATION

DESCRIPTION

Energy Advice Points (EAPs) are a key energy poverty service implemented in several EU countries. These one stop shops operate within national, regional and local requirements, which can make them challenging to manage, replicate and scale. The digitalisation of Barcelona's services has enabled the integration of databases, improved operational efficiency, empowered both users and professionals, and facilitated replication in other regions of Catalonia. Since April 2025, the *My Energy Platform* has been successfully demonstrated at Barcelona's Energy Advice Points, validating a solution co-created with stakeholders across the energy poverty lifecycle.

SUSTAINABILITY

The digitalisation process has been fully integrated into the service structure and budget, ensuring continuity beyond project-based funding. By embedding the *My Energy Platform* within municipal operations, Barcelona has strengthened long-term efficiency, transparency and scalability.



GEOGRAPHICAL SCALE

Barcelona, Spain

Local

RESULTS

Following the activation of the *My Energy Platform* application in June 2025, the number of citizens supported increased from 10,092 in 2024 to 10,322 under the same operational conditions. At the same time, the average number of visits per person decreased from 1.86 (18,765 visits) to 1.59 (16,364 visits), indicating a more streamlined advisory process. These results demonstrate a measurable improvement in service capacity and consultation effectiveness without additional human resources.



TARGET GROUP

End users and service providers.



2016

ONGOING

TIME FRAME

PROMOTER

Barcelona municipality.

STARTING FROM

EAPs have operated in Barcelona since 2016, reflecting the city's early commitment to tackling energy poverty through local one stop shop services. Over time, implementation experience revealed the need to modernise and digitalise the model, leading to the development of an integrated platform that improves coordination, efficiency and accessibility.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

Since 2016, Barcelona's EAPs have demonstrated the value of local one stop shop services in tackling energy poverty. Building on this experience, the city developed a digital model to enhance efficiency, expand outreach and enable replication. The digital platform enhances scalability, enabling the service to be transferred to smaller municipalities and adapted to diverse territorial contexts.

FUNDING

Funded by the local government, with additional grants from the Generalitat de Catalunya and the ICLEI Action Fund supported by Google (digitalisation).

PARTNERS

Ecoserveis Association, ABD, CIMNE, Barcelona City Council and BitGenoma.



REASON OF INSPIRATION

Barcelona Energy Advice Points provide a transferable model for modernising existing advisory services through digital integration without increasing staffing costs, making it particularly relevant for municipalities seeking efficiency gains under budget constraints.

LINK

www.barcelonaenergia.cat/es/home | climatereadybcn.eu/en/my-energy-app

FIXBRIGADE AMSTERDAM

DESCRIPTION

FIXbrigade was founded in Amsterdam by Jungle Amsterdam and is built on two core pillars: creating work and training opportunities for unemployed people and providing structural improvements to indoor living conditions for households facing energy poverty. The team addresses issues such as draught, mould, poorly functioning central heating systems, and high energy bills. Sustainability is embedded in both the mission and the method. In line with this approach, the team travels by cargo bike to carry out interventions across the city. In 2023, the initiative expanded to increase its impact, leading to the creation of FIXbrigade Nederland. This new entity operates independently while maintaining close ties with FIXbrigade Amsterdam.

SUSTAINABILITY

In October 2023, FIXbrigade joined forces with other Amsterdam-based initiatives addressing energy poverty. This collaboration has secured structural funding from the Municipality of Amsterdam until at least mid-2027. The project also maintains close partnerships with local housing corporations, strengthening its long-term institutional anchoring and operational continuity.



GEOGRAPHICAL SCALE

Amsterdam, Netherlands

Local

RESULTS

Since its creation, FIXbrigade has supported thousands of households through small-scale technical interventions that deliver immediate improvements in thermal comfort and energy efficiency. The expansion into FIXbrigade Nederland demonstrates the model's transferability and growing national relevance. Its combination of labour market inclusion and energy poverty mitigation creates measurable social and environmental impact.



TARGET GROUP

Households experiencing energy poverty, including students, single parent families and elderly residents from diverse socio-economic backgrounds.



PROMOTER

Amsterdam Municipality, housing corporations and foundations.

STARTING FROM

In 2018, the initiative began with infrared assessments conducted across Amsterdam. These measurements revealed significant deficiencies in indoor thermal conditions in many households. In response, a small volunteer team was established to implement targeted measures addressing draught and heat loss identified through the scans.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

Optimising central heating boiler settings has become an increasingly important focus area. Team members have been trained to carry out these adjustments in a technically sound manner and to transfer this knowledge to partners, including FIXbrigade Nederland. This continuous capacity building strengthens the quality of interventions and enables further scaling of the model.

FUNDING

Funded by the European Union through the Kansen voor West programme, private foundations including Start Foundation, Anton Jurgensfonds and ASN Foundation, and the Municipality of Amsterdam (funding secured until 2027).

PARTNERS

Energiewending, Groene Hub, Weesp Duurzaam and additional local partners.



REASON OF INSPIRATION

FIXbrigade is inspirational because it proves that low-cost, small-scale technical interventions can deliver immediate and measurable benefits for energy-vulnerable households. Its combination of outreach, direct implementation, and labour market inclusion offers a practical and replicable model for municipalities seeking fast and socially integrated solutions.

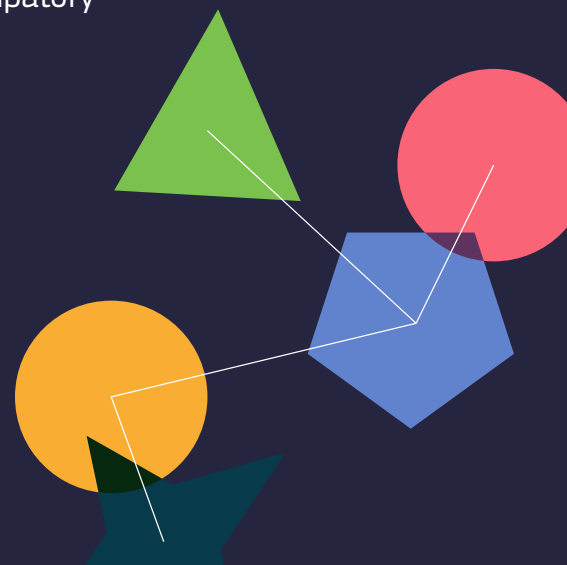
LINK

fixbrigade.nl

PART III

EMPOWERING VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS

The energy transition creates new opportunities to combine climate ambition with social justice. The initiatives in this section show how renewable energy deployment, energy communities, and renovation strategies can be designed to include and benefit households experiencing energy poverty. From solidarity-based energy sharing to gender-responsive governance models and socially inclusive prosumer schemes, these cases demonstrate that access to clean energy can be expanded through participatory and community-driven approaches. They highlight how renewable energy revenues, local engagement, and tailored support mechanisms can reduce vulnerability while strengthening local resilience. Together, they illustrate how climate action and social inclusion can reinforce one another when inclusion is embedded into the design of energy systems. These initiatives demonstrate how structural support can lead to inclusive, participatory outcomes in the energy transition.



FROM DIAGNOSIS TO FOLLOW-UP OPPORTUNITIES IN KATO PYRGOS TYLLIRIAS

DESCRIPTION

Through EPAH technical assistance, the Community Council of Kato Pyrgos Tyllirias strengthened its capacity to address energy poverty at the local level. Two social care employees, previously unfamiliar with energy-related issues, received targeted mentoring and training from the Cyprus Energy Agency during the first three months of the project. Following the training, the local authority explored ways to integrate energy poverty actions into its core responsibilities. On a practical level this happened using the first version of a methodological toolkit for an empirical/hands-on experience. In this way residents implemented a household survey to diagnose energy poverty levels in their community. The expert worked with the local authority to identify future actions to address energy poverty in the area, drawing on collected data and continuing to advise residents.

SUSTAINABILITY

The diagnostic phase directly informed structural measures. Survey findings revealed extremely low roof insulation rates, with only 4 percent of respondents reporting insulated roofs. This evidence led to the integration of a roof insulation sponsorship scheme into the business plan of the first Energy Community in Cyprus. In addition, favourable participation terms were designed within the Energy Community to support vulnerable households, ensuring long-term social impact beyond the technical assistance period.

RESULTS

The technical assistance strengthened dialogue and coordination among local stakeholders on energy poverty. The local authority proceeded with the development of a joint Sustainable Energy and Climate Plan (SECAP) for the area and became a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors. With expert support, the municipality also identified relevant grant schemes to finance further actions.



GEOGRAPHICAL SCALE

Kato Pyrgos Tyllirias, Cyprus

Local



TARGET GROUP

Residents of the community, with particular focus on vulnerable consumers.

2023

2024

TIME FRAME



PROMOTER

Community Council of Kato Pyrgos Tyllirias.

STARTING FROM

The project started with EPAH Technical Assistance, through which the municipality was selected due to the evident need for support in a rural context with limited human resources and the strong commitment of the local authority to address energy poverty.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

The approach can be replicated in other remote rural areas, particularly where local authorities lack technical expertise but have strong proximity to vulnerable households.

FUNDING

EPAH technical assistance 2023 - 2024.

PARTNERS

Cyprus Energy Agency.



REASON OF INSPIRATION

This case shows how short-term technical assistance can trigger long-term structural change in a remote rural area. In Kato Pyrgos, where there was no prior familiarity with energy poverty, the diagnostic phase proved crucial. The support generated valuable local data on building typologies and the share of energy poor households, creating an evidence base for action. It strengthened coordination among stakeholders, helped the municipality identify grants to finance further measures, and led to joining the Covenant of Mayors and the development of a joint SECAP.

LINK

energy-poverty.ec.europa.eu/discover-community/epah-atlas/kato-pyrgos-tyllirias-epah-technical-assistance

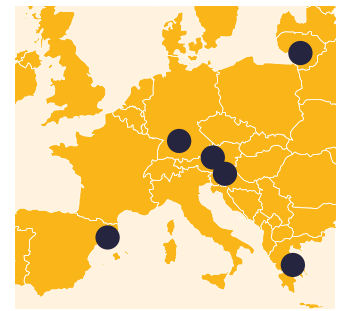
GENDER4POWER

DESCRIPTION

The GENDER4POWER project improves living conditions and energy efficiency in households affected by energy poverty through a holistic, gender-responsive and people-centred approach. It promotes renewable energy and renovation solutions that align with EU priorities, such as the Gender Equality Strategy and the Energy Efficiency Directive. By integrating gender mainstreaming and intersectionality into local actions and actively involving citizens, the project strengthens public acceptance, builds community trust and fosters the meaningful participation of women and marginalized groups in decision making. It demonstrates how gender responsive approaches can enhance the social impact and long-term effectiveness of energy poverty policies.

SUSTAINABILITY

The project is embedded within a consortium of experienced European organisations and implemented through structured local demonstrators. By integrating gender-responsive governance models into existing energy communities and municipal processes, it aims to institutionalise inclusive practices beyond the project lifetime. Its alignment with EU policy priorities, including the Gender Equality Strategy and the revised Energy Efficiency Directive, strengthens its long-term policy relevance and replication potential.



GEOGRAPHICAL SCALE

Athens, Greece; Barcelona, Spain; Hrastnik, Slovenia; Munich, Germany; Vienna, Austria; Vilnius, Lithuania

Local

RESULTS

As the project is ongoing, interim results include six country-specific and one EU-level guide on citizen-led initiatives, six national reports on local renovation challenges linked to energy poverty, and a practical guide on gender-responsive methods for local and national implementation. Over 60 key stakeholders have been mobilised across the six demonstrators, and 12 "Shine On Ambassadors" have been selected and trained to support project activities, strengthening the participation of women and marginalised groups in energy communities and renovation initiatives.



TARGET GROUP

People affected by energy poverty (especially women), local actors, energy communities, energy experts, decision makers and policymakers.

2024

ONGOING



TIME FRAME

PROMOTER

Local actors, energy communities.

STARTING FROM

The project builds on lessons from EU-funded initiatives, such as EmpowerMed, RENOVERTY, SHARES, W4RES, EUWES and Shared Green Deal. These earlier projects highlighted the gender dimension of energy poverty and the need for inclusive energy communities. Drawing on their findings, GENDER4POWER moves from awareness and pilot actions towards more structured, gender responsive governance models and community-based implementation.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

The methodologies and governance models developed under GENDER4POWER can be integrated into national energy and climate plans, Social Climate Fund implementation, and local renovation strategies. Future replication could extend gender-responsive energy community models to additional municipalities, ensuring that inclusion becomes a structural component of the energy transition across Europe.

FUNDING

This project is funded under the European Union's LIFE Clean Energy Transition (LIFE CET) programme.

PARTNERS

Wirtschaft und Infrastruktur GmbH & Co. KG (Germany), Women Engage for a Common Future (Germany), Austrian Energy Agency (Austria), Enginyeria Sense Fronteres (Spain), Electra Energy Cooperative (Greece), VšĮ Atnaujinkime miestą – Amiestas (Lithuania), B-NK GmbH (Austria), Energy Community La Bordeta (Spain), Focus, društvo za sonaraven razvoj (Slovenia).



REASON OF INSPIRATION

GENDER4POWER is inspirational because it demonstrates how gender-responsive governance can be systematically integrated into energy communities and renovation strategies at local level. By moving beyond awareness towards structured participation models, it offers a transferable framework for municipalities seeking to align energy poverty action with equality objectives under EU legislation.

LINK

www.wecf.org/gender4power

ROBIN POWERHOOD

DESCRIPTION

Robin Powerhood is a social energy initiative that addresses energy poverty by redistributing surplus renewable electricity within energy communities. Photovoltaic system owners donate excess power, which is digitally allocated to households experiencing energy poverty through legally established energy communities. By combining technical infrastructure, social partnerships and digital allocation tools, the initiative ensures that clean energy reaches those most affected by rising energy prices, while strengthening local energy autonomy and community solidarity.

SUSTAINABILITY

The project is designed as a long-term model rather than a time-limited project. It is embedded within established energy communities and social organisations, reducing reliance on short-term funding cycles. Operational processes are standardised and supported by digital allocation tools, enabling efficient scaling and continuity. Partnerships with municipalities and social actors provide institutional anchoring and strengthen long-term stability.

RESULTS

The initiative enables vulnerable households to directly benefit from locally generated renewable electricity, reducing energy bills and increasing access to clean energy. At the same time, it maximises the use of surplus photovoltaic production within communities, strengthening both local energy autonomy and social solidarity.



GEOGRAPHICAL SCALE

Austria

National



TARGET GROUP

Households experiencing energy poverty and other vulnerable persons, including private households and social housing residents.

2022



ONGOING

TIME FRAME

PROMOTER

A non-governmental social energy initiative, implemented in cooperation with energy communities and municipalities.

STARTING FROM

The initiative builds on earlier pilot projects and technical assistance activities focused on energy communities and social energy support. It was further inspired by the sharp rise in energy poverty during the energy price crisis and the largely untapped potential of surplus renewable electricity within local communities.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

The model is currently being expanded to additional regions and social partners. Future steps include replication at national and European levels, the integration of battery storage solutions, and stronger links with social housing and renovation programmes.

FUNDING

Funded through private donations from photovoltaic system owners, in-kind contributions and voluntary work, as well as project-based public funding at the regional and EU levels.

PARTNERS

Energy communities and renewable energy cooperatives, social organisations such as Caritas, Red Cross, Volkshilfe and social housing providers, municipalities and local authorities, technical partners responsible for metering, data management and energy sharing.



REASON OF INSPIRATION

Robin Powerhood represents a highly replicable, low-threshold and socially innovative approach to tackling energy poverty. It directly links the energy transition with social justice by embedding energy sharing within existing legal frameworks and local social support systems. The initiative shows how energy communities can act as instruments of social inclusion, extending their role beyond purely technical or market-based functions.

LINK

www.robin-powerhood.at

KEYWORD

Inclusive renewable energy communities, energy sharing, solar power, identification of vulnerable households

TELHEIRAS/ LUMIAR RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY: AN INCLUSIVE ENERGY COMMUNITY IN PORTUGAL

DESCRIPTION

The Telheiras/ Lumiar Renewable Energy Community is a pioneering energy community in Portugal, promoted by the Viver Telheiras Partnership (a network of around 20 NGOs in Telheiras, Lisbon) and the Lumiar Civil Parish, with the support of Coopérnico and CENSE (NOVA-FCT). It promotes collective investment in solar photovoltaic systems and energy sharing among local families, small businesses, condominiums and the local government. The community has introduced tailored conditions for households experiencing energy poverty, including exemptions from entry fees and reduced annual contributions covered through a solidarity mechanism among members and the local government. Targeted identification processes are carried out in cooperation with local social services.

SUSTAINABILITY

The project is anchored in local NGOs and the municipal government, which are committed to expanding the community to additional buildings and supporting more households experiencing energy poverty. Operational costs are covered through annual membership fees, which are significantly lower than the energy bill savings generated through energy sharing.

RESULTS

The energy community began energy sharing in June 2025, becoming one of the first in Portugal to reach this milestone. It currently operates three solar PV units with a total installed capacity of 40 kWp, supplying renewable energy to around 80 members, including 10 households experiencing energy poverty.

**GEOGRAPHICAL SCALE**

Lisbon, Portugal

Local**TARGET GROUP**

Local energy consumers, including families, households experiencing energy poverty, multi-apartment buildings, small and medium-sized enterprises and public authorities.

**PROMOTER**

Viver Telheiras Association.

STARTING FROM

The initiative emerged from a co-creation process with local citizens in 2020, during which the idea of producing and sharing renewable energy within the community was developed. A volunteer group led the initial planning phase, later reinforced through EPAH Technical Assistance, which helped structure and formalise the project.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

The Telheiras/ Lumiar Renewable Energy Community is planning a third phase of expansion, including the installation of additional solar PV units and the participation of more local energy consumers, including households experiencing energy poverty, in the energy sharing scheme. The community is also developing open-access tools for data processing and visualisation, optimisation of energy sharing and improved member communication, which can be adopted by other energy communities.

FUNDING

Supported by EPAH Technical Assistance (2022–2023), the DUT Partnership Urban Doers Programme (2023–2024), the European project Sun4All Community of Practice (2024) and the European Energy Communities Facility (2026), with additional local funding from the municipality and energy community members.

PARTNERS

Viver Telheiras Partnership, Lumiar Civil Parish, Coopérnico, CENSE, FCT-NOVA University of Lisbon.

**REASON OF INSPIRATION**

This case is selected as one of the first renewable energy communities to operationalise energy sharing in Portugal while ensuring the meaningful participation of households experiencing energy poverty through tailored conditions and targeted engagement. It demonstrates that energy communities can simultaneously advance renewable energy uptake, citizen participation and energy poverty mitigation. By developing a practical 10-step guide for replication, it provides a concrete pathway for inclusive community energy models across Portugal and the EU.

LINK

energy-poverty.ec.europa.eu/discover-community/epah-atlas/lumiar-epah-technical-assistance

SUNRISE: PROSUMER SOLAR ENERGY – HOUSEHOLDS PRODUCING ENERGY FROM THE SUN

DESCRIPTION

The SUNRISE project in Bulgaria tackles energy poverty by enabling households in multi-apartment buildings to install plug-in photovoltaic micro-systems. It allows energy-vulnerable residents to generate part of their own electricity, lowering energy costs while contributing to the low-carbon transition. The project addresses key barriers such as complex administrative procedures, regulatory uncertainty for small-scale installations, limited access to financing, and low stakeholder awareness. In response, SUNRISE promotes simplified permitting, regulatory improvements, the introduction of net-metering options for micro-installations, and targeted measures to ensure the inclusion of energy-poor households. By combining technical, regulatory, and social measures, the initiative advances social equity and aligns local renewable energy action with EU climate and sustainability objectives.

SUSTAINABILITY

The SUNRISE project established a replicable model for deploying plug-in solar PV systems in multi-apartment buildings. Its methodologies, training materials and pilot experience continue to support resident communities and local administrations in adopting small-scale renewable energy solutions. The lessons learned are already informing municipal planning and outreach activities. By embedding technical know-how and regulatory improvements at the local level, the initiative contributes to the long-term decarbonisation of Bulgaria's residential building stock and demonstrates that socially inclusive renewable energy measures can be sustained and scaled up beyond the pilot phase.

RESULTS

SUNRISE installed 12 plug-in PV systems in Dupnitsa and Botevgrad, enabling participating households to generate up to 30% of their electricity needs. The pilot demonstrated measurable cost savings, increased self-consumption and the feasibility of scalable solar deployment in multi-apartment buildings.



GEOGRAPHICAL SCALE

Dupnitsa and Botevgrad,
Bulgaria

Local



TARGET GROUP

Homeowners, HOAs, civil society organisations, small and medium-sized enterprises, energy and facility management companies, public authorities and residents of multi-apartment buildings including households experiencing energy poverty.

2022

2025

TIME FRAME

PROMOTER

Habitat for Humanity Bulgaria (NGO), in cooperation with the municipalities of Dupnitsa and Botevgrad.

STARTING FROM

Families in Dupnitsa were burdened by high electricity bills and outdated meters that recorded fed-in energy as consumption, leaving them with limited control over their energy use. Through SUNRISE, plug-in PV systems and smart monitoring tools were introduced, enabling households to generate, track and consume their own electricity. As a result, families reduced energy costs and gained greater energy autonomy.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

Building on the pilot results, the approach can be expanded to additional municipalities and integrated into national regulatory frameworks for micro-installations. The planned SUNBOX initiative, including battery storage solutions, will enhance self-consumption and system flexibility. The model provides a blueprint for socially inclusive prosumer policies in multi-apartment buildings across Bulgaria and beyond.

FUNDING

This project is supported by the European Climate Initiative (EUKI), a funding instrument of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, implemented by the German Agency for International Cooperation to strengthen climate cooperation within the European Union.

PARTNERS

Housing Initiative for Eastern Europe (IWO) and partners from Habitat Bulgaria, Lithuanian Consumers Alliance, Habitat for Humanity International, German Solar Energy Company and Habitat Macedonia.



REASON OF INSPIRATION

SUNRISE is inspirational because it demonstrates that prosumer renewable energy models can be adapted to multi-apartment buildings, a segment often excluded from energy community benefits. By combining regulatory simplification, technical solutions, and the targeted inclusion of energy-poor households, it provides a scalable pathway for socially inclusive solar deployment across Central and Eastern Europe.

LINK

sunriseproject.hfh.bg

RENOVERTY RURAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY ROADMAPS

DESCRIPTION

RENOVERTY developed and tested a co-creation methodology to build Rural Energy Efficiency Roadmaps (REERs), locally tailored, step-by-step guides that support rural households and authorities in planning, financing, and implementing energy renovations. By bridging technical, financial, legal and social dimensions, the project translates EU renovation ambitions into practical and locally owned solutions.

SUSTAINABILITY

RENOVERTY has generated lasting impact beyond the LIFE funding period (2022-2025). Its core outputs, the REERs, are publicly available in multiple languages and designed for continued use by municipalities, Local Action Groups and energy agencies to guide renovation planning and financing. Its methodology has been embedded in 60 policies, strategies and initiatives across governance levels, including local and national strategies. This institutional anchoring strengthens long-term uptake, supports continued application without dedicated project funding and enables replication across rural regions.



GEOGRAPHICAL SCALE

Sveta Nedelja, Croatia; Tartu, Estonia; Bükk-Mak and Somló-Marcalmente-Bakonyalja, Hungary; Zasavje, Slovenia; Parma, Italy; Coimbra, Portugal; Osona, Spain

Local

RESULTS

RENOVERTY trained 293 households and local stakeholders and developed 16 REERs for households and 16 for stakeholders. Based on these roadmaps, 30 concrete measures have been implemented. To date, 70 households and multi-household buildings have been renovated, started renovation or are preparing to begin shortly with renovations. The project has also influenced 60 policies, guidance documents and related initiatives.



TARGET GROUP

Rural households (homeowners and renters), energy efficiency stakeholders, energy agencies, policymakers and Local Action Groups (LAGs).



PROMOTER

LAGs and municipalities.

STARTING FROM

RENOVERTY was inspired by the lack of practical and locally tailored renovation support in rural areas, where standard schemes often fall short. The project built on energy modelling and stakeholder needs analyses to connect technical solutions, financing options and social realities. This formed the basis for co-creating REERs with local actors and authorities.

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

REERs are designed to be scalable and replicable beyond the pilot regions. Public, multilingual roadmaps and capacity-building tools support uptake across EU rural areas. Embedding REERs in national renovation strategies, Social Climate Plans, and EPBD implementation can accelerate impact. Networks of local authorities, LAGs, energy agencies and NGOs, combined with EU funding (e.g. SCF, Cohesion, CAP), are key to long-term deployment.

FUNDING

Funded under the European Union's LIFE programme.

PARTNERS

IEECP, REGEA, Climate Alliance, UPRC, TREA, AISFOR, Ecoserveis, ELARD, REFLEX, FOCUS, ISR-UC.



REASON OF INSPIRATION

RENOVERTY was selected for demonstrating how rural and peri-urban energy poverty and energy injustice can be addressed through a practical, people-centred and evidence-based approach. By combining tailored REERs with local capacity building, on-the-ground renovation support and policy uptake, the project reduces technical, financial, legal and social barriers to action. It translates EU ambitions into locally anchored solutions that are transferable and replicable beyond the pilot regions.

LINK

<https://ieecp.org/projects/renoverty/>

CONCLUSIONS

The cases presented in this publication show that energy poverty action in Europe is becoming more structured, institutionalised, and replicable. What were once isolated initiatives are increasingly embedded within governance systems, supported by stable funding mechanisms and aligned with broader climate and social policies.

Three core lessons stand out.

First, lasting impact depends on **institutional anchoring and sustainable financing**. Permanent one stop shops, national detection frameworks, and dedicated transition funds demonstrate how energy poverty measures can move beyond short-term relief.

Second, **evidence and capacity matter**. Monitoring systems, data-driven approaches, and trained advisors enable targeted and effective interventions, ensuring that support reaches those most in need.

Third, **the energy transition can advance social inclusion**. Energy communities, renewable redistribution models, and inclusive renovation strategies show that climate ambition and social justice can reinforce one another when inclusion is built into policy design.

Together, these cases reflect a broader shift: combat against energy poverty is increasingly recognised as a structural dimension of energy and climate policy rather than a standalone social issue.

This publication highlights selected examples, while many more initiatives are documented in the [EPAH Atlas](#), which continues to map innovation across Europe.

Addressing energy poverty requires long-term commitment, cross-sector collaboration, and integration into mainstream energy policy. The transition is underway. The task ahead is to ensure that it is fair, inclusive, and resilient.



EU
Energy Poverty
Advisory Hub

THE LEADING EU INITIATIVE ON LOCAL
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Publications Office
of the European Union

PDF ISBN 978-92-68-38012-3

