

Energy Poverty in Europe: a Mastered Chaos

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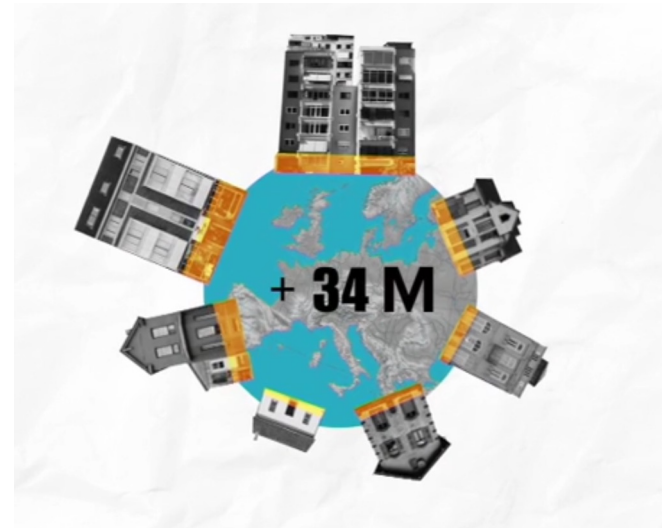
Energy Poverty in Europe

Between 30 and 100 million Europeans are currently experiencing one or more of the multiple dimensions of energy poverty:


- Not being able to heat or cool like their homes
- Arrears in the payment of energy bills
- Very high energy costs
- Living in rooms with problems of humidity and mold.


Aggravated in recent years by:


- Covid19 Pandemic
- War in Ukraine
- Energy Crisis
- Inflation




Latest data on Energy Poverty

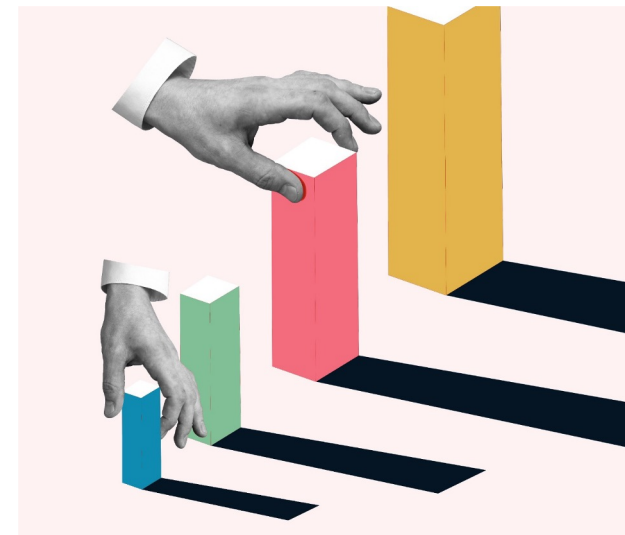
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In 2021, **6.9%** of the EU population reported inability to keep their home adequately warm, corresponding to **30.8 million** Europeans.
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In 2021, **6.4%** of the EU population presented arrears on utility bills, corresponding to **29.9 million** Europeans.
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In 2020, **14.8%** of the EU population lived in dwellings with leak, damp or rot, corresponding to **66.2 million** Europeans.
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In 2020, **21.5%** of the EU population were at risk of poverty and social exclusion, corresponding to **96.2 million** Europeans.



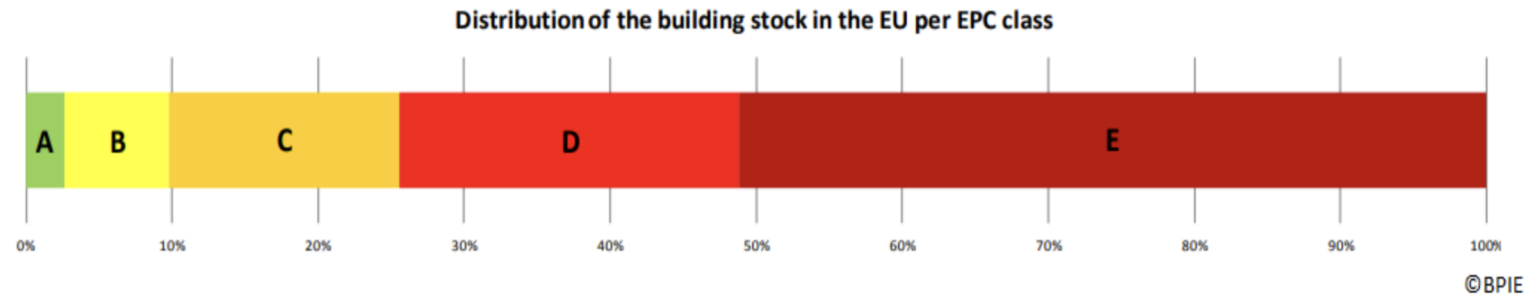
(EPAH, 2023)

For these common EP indicators, updates are annual (or less) and with delayed publication




Energy Efficiency in Buildings

- The share of the annual building stock that undergoes a major renovation is very low:
- below 1% in Spain, Poland, Italy or Sweden;
 - around 1% in the Netherlands or Lithuania;
 - above 1.5% in other countries like Germany, France or Austria.




97% of the building stock must be upgraded to achieve the 2050 vision

Household Electricity Prices

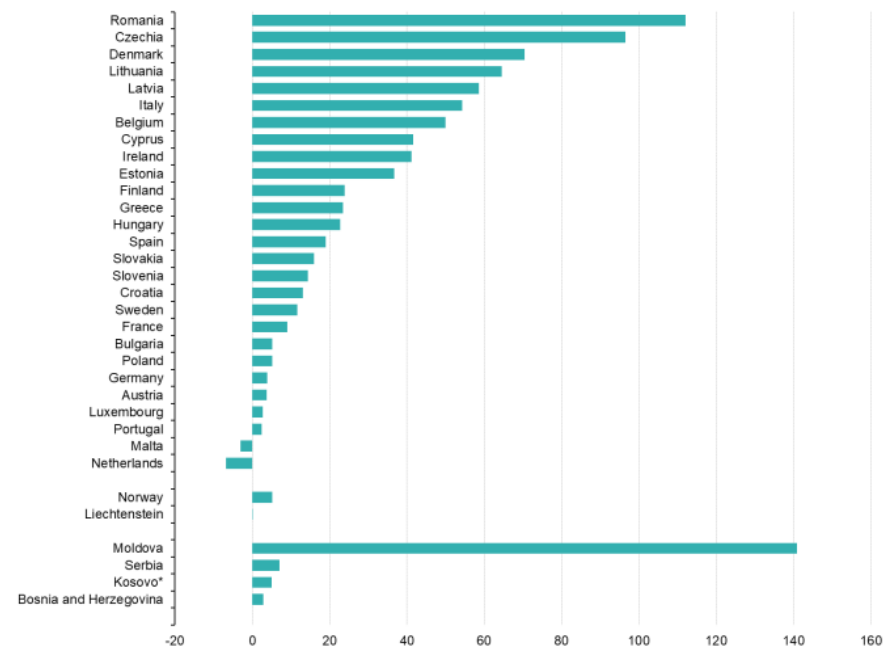
 Household electricity prices increased in all but two EU Member States in the second half of 2022, compared with the second half of 2021.

 Sharpest increase in Romania (112 %)

 Largest decrease was in the Netherlands (-6.8%) which paid 38% less than the EU avg.

In the second half of 2022, **Greece and the Netherlands** gave allowances with the most impact on household consumers.

Change in electricity prices for household consumers compared with previous year, same semester, second half 2022



(*) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.
 Source: Eurostat (online data codes: nrg_pc_204)

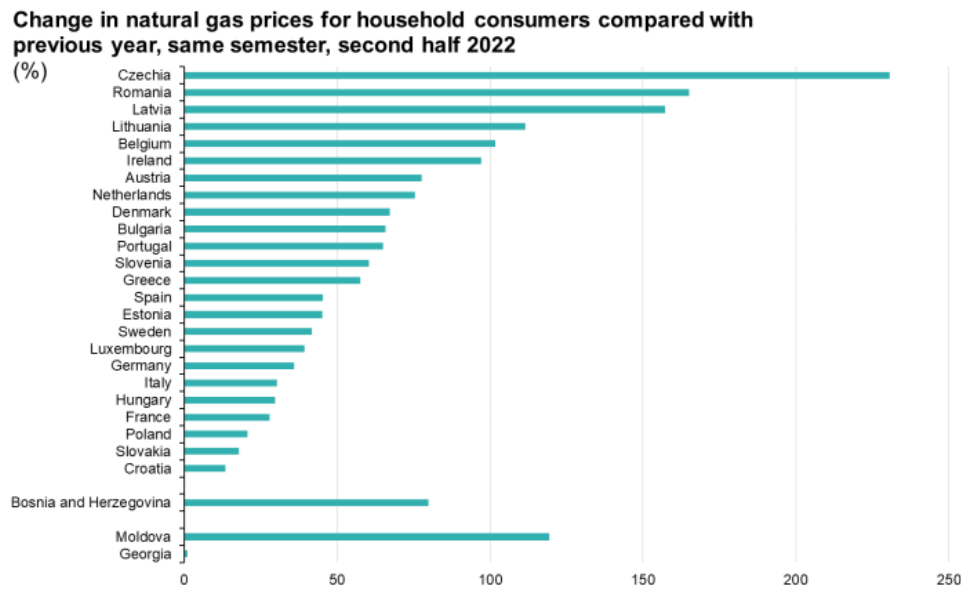
Household Gas Prices

Household gas prices in the second half of 2022 increased in **all of the 24 EU Member States** that reported their prices.


 Household gas prices in the EU were **highest** in Sweden (€0.2751 per kWh)

 **Lowest** in Hungary (€0.0349 per kWh) in the second half of 2022.

The largest increases were observed in Czechia (231%), Romania (165%) and Latvia (157%).



Source: Eurostat (online data codes: nrg_pc_202)

The cost of energy was the main driver of the increases. 

EPAH Indicators Dashboard

Browse data by indicator or by country

by indicator

Browse data by indicator

Inability to keep home ade

Disaggregate data by

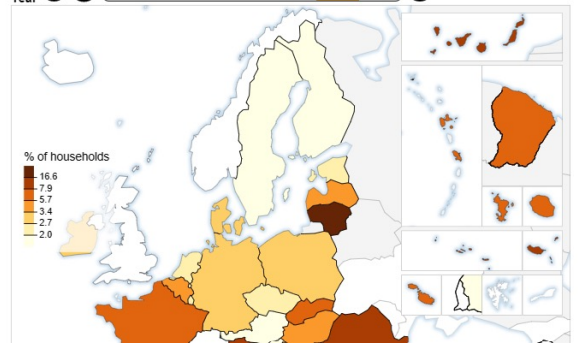
No disaggregation - Count

Inability to keep home adequately warm

No disaggregation - Country average

The inability to keep home adequately warm indicator represents the share of (sub-) population /households not able to keep their home adequately warm, based on the question "Can your household afford to keep its home adequately warm?".

Year 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022



Unit % of households OR % of population

Source EU-SILC and JRC

Last update 2021

Download
Dataset: [CSV / EXCEL](#)
Map: [PNG](#)
Map, graph and info: [PDF](#)

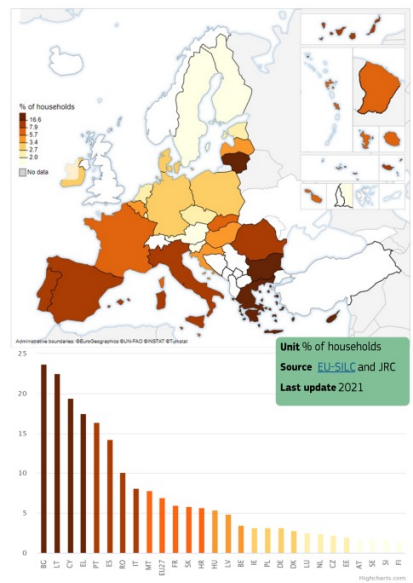
Compare countries

Select an item

Bear in mind
This indicator refers to an individual's perception of 'adequately' which may differ from one country to another or between age-groups, etc. The indicator only refers to the warmth and does not cover summer energy poverty. The indicator does not provide information on the causes for the inability; hence it should be analyzed together with other indicators, such as energy expenditures, for identifying potential causes. [Learn more](#)

EU Energy Poverty Advisory Hub

National indicator - Inability to keep home adequately warm



DEFINITION

The "inability to keep home adequately warm" indicator represents the share of (sub-) population not able to keep their home adequately warm, based on the question "Can your household afford to keep its home adequately warm?".

The indicator is regularly measure and it provides important self-assessment of the household's energy poverty situation. However, it contains **limits**.

- LIMITS**
- It does not provide the causes for inability
 - Adequate warmth is subjective and varies across countries, regions and households
 - The dichotomous results do not capture the intensity and frequency of the problem
 - Denial of reality in poor households might hinder the results

NUMBERS

In 2021, **6.9%** of the European Union population presented **inability to keep home adequately warm** (EUROSTAT, 2022) corresponding to 30.8⁺ millions of Europeans.
**considering that the European Union population in 2021 was 447.0 million, according to EUROSTAT (2022)*

EXAMPLES

An elderly person living alone, without any working heating equipment, only using blankets to keep warm.

A person in Germany, used to central heating, might find a particular temperature to be too cold, while a person in Portugal might find it comfortable and acceptable, as it is used to colder inside temperatures.

Two flat mates living in the same apartment with different social habits and standards of thermal comfort as a consequence.

More details and additional insights on the indicator are available in the EPAH report ["Energy Poverty National Indicators: Insights for a more effective measuring"](#).

Interactive database that enables visitors to navigate through the different energy poverty indicators available for EU countries.

Using the new features, visitors can compare data by years and by countries, or obtain all the data available for a single country.

Examples from Portugal

- Four periods of excess mortality were identified at national level, totaling 6,135 excess deaths, with a total of 124,602 deaths in Portugal.
- These periods coincided with several events with potential impact on mortality (covid-19, periods of extreme cold and heat and flu epidemic), some of which occurred simultaneously, and which will be associated with increased mortality observed in these periods (INSA, 2023)

“Demand for firewood rises amid skyrocketing energy prices”



2022

Idoso morre carbonizado após cair para a lareira a arder
25 de Outubro de 2022

2023

Idoso morre carbonizado depois de cair a lareira em Cabeceiras de Basto
27 de Janeiro de 2023 às 18:25

2023

Idosa de 90 anos morre depois de cair sobre lareira no concelho de Vinhais
6 Março 2023

Multiple Stakeholders for On the Ground Action

Addressing energy poverty is like playing chess.

We need to consider all pieces, employ multiple strategies and see the whole board.

But unlike chess we have to play this “game” collaborative to win.

