

Powering energy vulnerable people by closing the gaps: WELLBASED policy recommendations



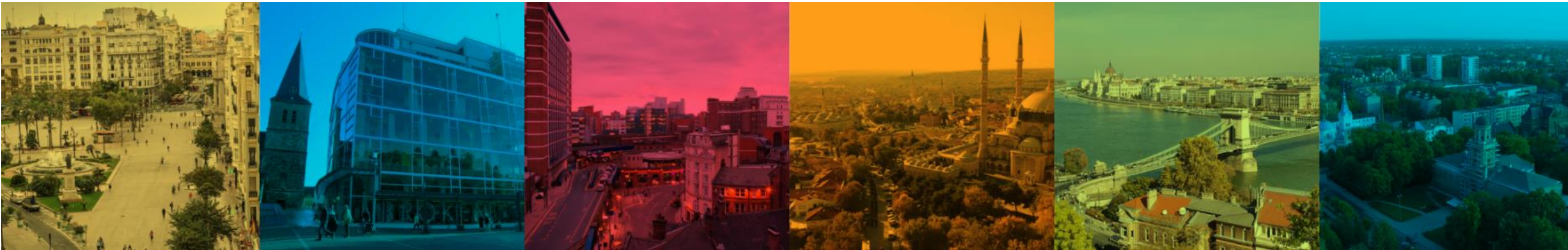
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“Right to Energy, Right to Health: Policy and research insights from the WELLBASED project”
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TACKLING ENERGY POVERTY AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITY: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Context and strategic aims

- Grant Agreement says:

*“The aim of the Policy Recommendations document is to **equip decision makers at local, national and EU level** with the knowledge built within WELLBASED and its policy implications to make best informed decisions about defining evidence-based urban policies to tackle energy poverty.”*

*“Foster at local/regional/national/EU level and internationally the adoption of **urban programmes aimed at reducing energy poverty considering health as a horizontal issue.**”*

- Aim to consolidate all the learnings from the project, beyond evaluation and surveys:
 - Implementation of the WUPs in the pilots: best practices, lessons learned
 - WUPs as policy tool
- Make this knowledge usable and replicable for other municipalities, countries, regions... The EU.

TACKLING ENERGY POVERTY AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITY: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Introduction

2. Effects of Energy Poverty on health and benefits of urban programs interventions

3. Review of main EU health and energy policies: identifying the gaps to mitigate energy poverty effects on health

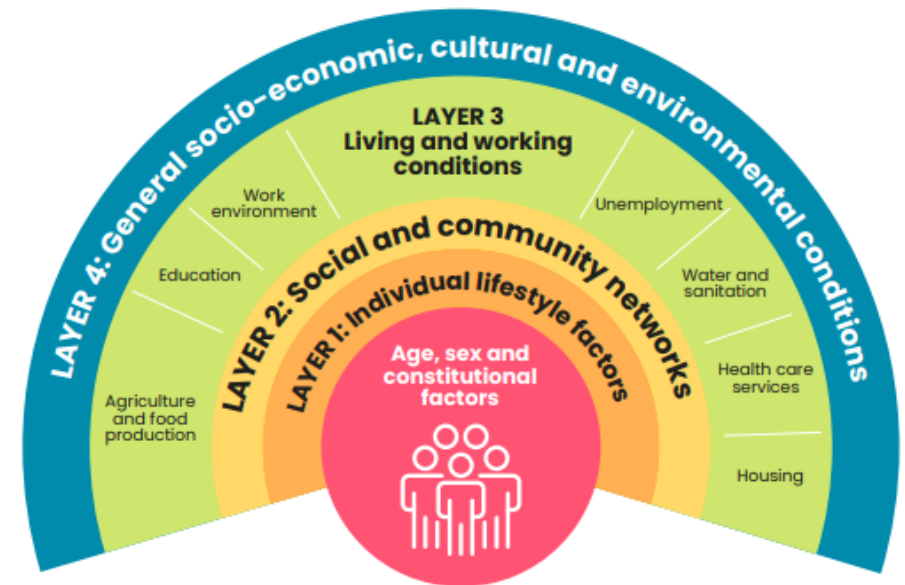
- Energy Poverty policies under the health lenses: identifying the gaps.
- Health policies under the Energy Poverty lenses: identifying the gaps.
- Bridging EU energy and health policies for action against energy poverty

4. Policy recommendations for local action

5. WUPs Energy Poverty interventions for better health

- Tips & lessons learnt in interventions
- Best practices

6. Lessons learnt for future research projects



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- a. Energy Poverty policies under the health lenses: identifying the gaps.
- b. Health policies under the Energy Poverty lenses: identifying the gaps.
- c. Bridging EU energy and health policies for action against energy poverty

4. Policy recommendations for local action

5. WUPs Energy Poverty interventions for better health

- a. Tips & lessons learnt in interventions
- b. Best practices

6. Lessons learnt for future research projects

European Commission (2023): Recommendation (EU) 2023/2407 of 20 October 2023 on Energy Poverty.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOCAL ACTION

ACTION FIELD 1	Local action: urban programs to fight against energy poverty through health lenses
ACTION FIELD 2	Effective Governance to implement Urban Programs
ACTION FIELD 3	Capacity Building
ACTION FIELD 4	Monitoring and evaluation
ACTION FIELD 5	Funding



TACKLING ENERGY POVERTY AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITY: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Methodology

- Consultation with experts, including Work Package leaders and the External Advisory Board
- Desk research
- Attendance and organisation of forums and events
- Contributions from members of consortium and pilot sites through specific workshops and templates.



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Review of main EU health and energy policies: identifying the gaps to mitigate energy poverty effects on health

EU ENERGY POLICIES

Policy/Directive

Energy Efficiency Directive (2012)

Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) (2018)

Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action (2018)

Social Climate Fund (2021)

Commission Recommendation on Energy Poverty (2023)

EU HEALTH POLICIES

Policy/Initiative

EU Health Strategy (2008)

EU4Health Programme (2021)

Healthier Together – EU Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Initiative (2022)

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan (2021)

EU Strategy on Mental Health (2023)

EU Patients' Rights Directive (2011)

Health Professional Education Programme (Ongoing)



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Review of main EU health and energy policies: identifying the gaps to mitigate energy poverty effects on health

CONCLUSIONS

Lack of integration that prevents a comprehensive approach to tackling the health effects of Energy Poverty.

- **In Energy Policies:** Policies often acknowledge potential health benefits but lack specific measures or mandates to address health impacts directly related to energy efficiency improvements.
- **In Health Policies:** There is a general lack of recognition of Energy Poverty as a significant social determinant of health.

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Review of main EU health and energy policies: identifying the gaps to mitigate energy poverty effects on health

BRIDGING EU ENERGY AND HEALTH POLICIES FOR ACTION AGAINST ENERGY POVERTY

- Mainstreaming Health in Energy Transition policies
 - Require national energy efficiency plans to include measures to specifically target improvement of health of vulnerable people affected by Energy Poverty.
 - Include health impact assessment (both mental and physical health) as part of environmental impact assessments of energy policies and housing retrofits.
- Establish common objectives between the health and energy sectors in European strategies to facilitate a more coherent and coordinated response.
 - Health targets in the European Green Deal
 - Health targets as part of progress reports on EU energy transition targets.
- Inclusion of Energy Poverty as a social determinant of health within European Public Health policies.

TACKLING ENERGY POVERTY AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITY: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM WELLBASED PROJECT

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOCAL ACTION

ACTION FIELD 1	Local action: urban programs to fight against energy poverty through health lenses <ul style="list-style-type: none">- CONTEXT- NEEDS FOR ACTION- CONCRETE ACTION POINTS
ACTION FIELD 2	Effective Governance to implement Urban Programs
ACTION FIELD 3	Capacity Building
ACTION FIELD 4	Monitoring and evaluation
ACTION FIELD 5	Funding

TACKLING ENERGY POVERTY AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITY: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION
FIELD

1

LOCAL ACTION: URBAN PROGRAMS TO FIGHT AGAINST ENERGY POVERTY THROUGH HEALTH LENSES

1. Integrate Health in All Policies (HiAP) from the start
2. Use WELLBASED Urban Programs (WUPs) as Strategic HiAP Tools
3. Recognize Energy as a Right, Not Just a Service
4. Strengthen Local Community Participation
5. Identify and mobilize Health Assets within the community to implement effective, community-driven solutions against Energy Poverty
6. Enhance Intersectoral Collaboration
7. Empower Health Professionals as Agents of Change
8. Promote Energy and Health Education to Build individual and community Resilience
9. Engage Affected Individuals as Change Agents
10. Apply a Gender Lens to Energy Poverty Policies
11. Prioritize Mental Health in Energy Poverty Interventions
12. Develop Long-Term, Crisis-Resilient Public Policies
13. Leverage Digital Technologies for Monitoring Energy Consumption and Health
14. Conduct Health Impact Assessments for Energy, Housing, and Social Welfare Policies

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ACTION
FIELD

2

EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE TO IMPLEMENT URBAN PROGRAM

1. General principles for effective governance of urban programs
 - Establish Strong and Cross-Sectoral Leadership
 - Build a Shared Understanding of Energy Poverty and Health
 - Strengthen Capacity Building for Effective Governance
 - Break Institutional Silos and Foster Collaboration
 - Ensure Inclusive and Representative Governance Structures
2. Map Stakeholders, Policy and Legal Frameworks to Guide Action
3. Create a WUP Intersectoral Committee on Energy Poverty and Health
4. Open Decision-Making Processes to Non-Governmental Actors
5. Integrate Health Professionals into Energy Poverty Policies
6. Establish Citizen Participation Mechanisms
7. Promote Education and Empowerment for Energy Resilience
8. Form an Interdisciplinary Advisory Council for Strategic Guidance



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ACTION
FIELD

3

CAPACITY-BUILDING

1. Adopt the WHO methodology for strengthening capacities at the political level
2. Promote knowledge sharing and collaboration
3. Strategic training for frontline workers: detecting and preventing Energy Poverty with practical tools and a health-focused approach
4. Disseminate good practices
5. Improve information and advice on energy poverty and health
6. Clear and accessible guidelines for people affected by Energy Poverty: key to addressing energy poverty and ensuring social justice
7. Community health promotion
8. Social awareness campaigns



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ACTION
FIELD

4

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. Establish Energy Poverty Observatories with a Health focus.
2. Use urban platforms to visualize localized data.
3. Disaggregate data to capture vulnerable population groups.
4. Select meaningful health impact indicators for energy poverty. If possible, disaggregated by gender and age.
5. Foster cross-sector collaboration to develop indicator systems.
6. Measure intervention outcomes with ex-ante and ex-post indicators.
7. Capture broader wellbeing improvements in energy assistance programs.
8. Create platforms for professionals to share information
9. Strengthen Energy Poverty data collection at the EU level.
10. Regularly update and expand EPAH indicators.
11. Integrate health and Energy Poverty monitoring with climate challenges.



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ACTION
FIELD

5

FUNDING

1. Integrate the impact of Energy Poverty on health as a key criterion in distribution and implementation of European funds related to energy transition, such as the European Social Fund, the Just Transition Fund or the Social Climate Fund.
2. Conditional access to funds: Ensure that EU-funded projects in the field of energy and housing include public health components.
3. Create dedicated funds for projects that address Energy Poverty and health together, especially in rural areas and vulnerable communities.
4. Introduce Energy Poverty among the topics to be addressed through investment tools and EU funding programs, such as INTERREG.
5. Ensure government support measures address Energy Poverty without compromising health and environment.
6. Incorporate health and wellbeing metrics in financing mechanisms for Energy Poverty
7. Explore innovative tools for financing Energy Poverty solutions, such as Urban Financial Metabolism (UFM) and Social Impact Bonds (SIBs).



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1

ACTION FIELD

Local action: urban programs to fight against energy poverty through health lenses

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2

ACTION FIELD

Effective Governance to implement urban programs against energy poverty through health lenses

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3

ACTION FIELD

Capacity building

WELL

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4

ACTION FIELD

Monitoring and Evaluation

WELLBA

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5

ACTION FIELD

Funding



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Policy Recommendations: Tackling Energy Poverty as a Public Health Priority

After 4 years of gathering evidence on the ground, WELLBASED shares its learnings. They are designed to guide local and other policymakers in shaping comprehensive, impactful policies that promote a healthier, more equitable future for all.

Policy brief 1: Local action programs to fight against energy poverty through the health lens

Download

How to design effective urban programs to fight against energy poverty through health lenses

Policy brief 2: Collaborative governance with a Health in All Policies approach

Download

Suggestions on how to promote collaborative frameworks for multilayer and multidimensional action at local level to ensure urban programs implementation from a HiAP (Health in All Policies) approach.

Policy brief 3: Capacity-building pathways

Download

Pathways to increase capacity of stakeholders to identify and address the health implications of energy poverty

Policy brief 4: Monitoring and evaluation around the health-energy poverty-nexus

Download

Advice for decision-makers and practitioners on how to improve monitoring and evaluation to track energy poverty and health indicators

Policy brief 5: Funding to fight against energy poverty through the health lens

Download

How to adjust and optimise funding streams to tackle energy poverty considering health



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