

# SocialWatt & ENSMOV Workshop Wrap up

## The Energy Efficiency Directive: Energy Savings Obligation and Energy Poverty Alleviation

**April 29, 2022**

The workshop gathered experts to discuss the Energy Efficiency Directive and its role and limits in alleviating energy poverty. Examples and good practices on energy efficiency were showcased to raise a rich discussion on how we can tackle energy poverty at different levels.

### SPEAKERS

- Samuel Thomas (RAP)
- Jean-Sébastien Broc (IEECP)
- Raymond Breen (Electric Ireland)
- Christos Tourkolias (CRES)
- Ester Sevilla Garcia (NATURGY)

### Article 7 and its role in alleviating Energy Poverty with Samuel Thomas

The Energy Savings Obligations (EEOS) of [Article 7 EED](#) require Member States to achieve a quantitative target for end-use energy savings through national energy efficiency policy measures, with attention to energy poverty as well. **35% of EEOS go through energy efficiency supply schemes to alleviate energy poverty.**

The [ENSMOV Project](#) revealed that **only 7 out of 16 EEOS make provision for energy poverty alleviation** including 3 ringfences (savings that must be delivered to households) and 5 uplifts (savings made in low-income households to promote delivery).

Ringfences have valuable impact compared to uplift measures since Member States face penalties if ringfences are not applied, whereas there are no consequences if uplift measures are not implemented.

### Recommendations

- Combining national or local funding with utility support can work for higher cost measures, with partnerships across different levels of governance.
- Many uncertainties can also be reduced with better estimates for better impacts on policy measures, data analysis and smart meters. These technologies provide useful data that is not centered around energy savings and allows new ways to identify and measure energy poverty (health impacts, comfort of living, etc.).



Implementing the Energy Efficiency First principle considers the long-term and multiple benefits of energy efficiency. Learn more about this principle through the [ENEFIRST project](#).

You can also look at the [streamSAVE project](#) that is focused on energy savings calculations.

### Review of policies to tackle energy poverty in 10 EU countries with Jean-Sébastien Broc

In partnership with ADEME and ONPE, IEECP elaborated [10 country factsheets](#) on policies tackling energy poverty in 10 European countries. Overall, **29 policy measures on energy access were identified as well as 26 policy measures on energy efficiency.**

Mr Broc noted that a small amount of energy efficiency measures was used to alleviate energy poverty. The national approaches included:

- Energy efficiency addressed as one aspect to tackle energy poverty in Bulgaria, Germany, and Romania.
- Intermediate approach, with recognition of energy poverty but no use of energy efficiency in Italy, Poland, and Spain.
- Comprehensive approach with measures dedicated to energy efficiency in Belgium, France, Greece, and the UK.

The factsheets show that **most measures focus on renovations through financial aids to help with energy expenses to tackle energy poverty.** The challenge of energy efficiency measures used to tackle energy poverty is that renovations are often out of reach for vulnerable households.



## Delivering energy efficiency schemes for energy poor households with Ray Breen

The priorities for EEOS from 2021 to 2030 have shifted and will include **free energy upgrades, one stop shop services and individual energy upgrade grants**. The new scheme has measures with a mandatory assessment of the home and then energy savings measures can be applied, which requires full renovations and is too expensive for most households. The new scheme also promotes the one stop shop model and heat pumps. However, homes with existing changes may not be qualified to apply since the source of energy credits is diminished.

Furthermore, there is no incentive for landlords to upgrade homes and no mechanism installed in Ireland to protect renters, so if people want cheaper rent, they will have to live in homes that are not well renovated, or else pay rent that is much higher and not affordable to most renters, pushing more people into energy poverty.

## Projects tackling energy poverty in Ireland

- Climate installations in Local Authority Homes (energy credits financed the installation, built relationships with local authorities)
- Supporting works with housing associations (financial supports in turn for credits) with the Leagh Trust.
- The Better Energy Communities scheme, which covers both a portion of commercial and residential works, comes up with a plan to upgrade properties with local authorities and look for funding through the department of housing and department of environment, for local authorities.
- Electric Ireland Super Homes, in partnership with Tipperary Agency, deliver all obligation schemes targets in the residential sector through one stop shops to promote retrofitting of homes and help energy poor households.

## Fostering the alleviation of energy poverty in Greece through Energy Efficiency Obligation Schemes with Christos Tourkolias

Greece plans to tackle energy poverty in their action plan with the goal to reduce **50% of energy poverty in 2025 compared to 2016, and 75% in 2030**.

Two provisions of policies to tackle energy poverty focus on energy efficiency in the action plan:

- Promotion of low-cost energy efficiency measures through the use of an increase factor including demand-response programs, through the design and initiation of a support scheme for fostering energy efficiency interventions.
- Conduction of awareness-raising measures providing targeted advice for the rationale use of energy, with simplified audits to identify the most cost-effective energy efficiency measures.

EEOS were not so effective during the 2017-2020 period (only 7.9 Ktoe of savings were achieved), due to a lack of definition thus identifying the qualified households, and lack of motivation by obligated parties. It was also highlighted that tenants have a higher possibility to be affected by energy poverty. The EEO scheme for 2022-2030 is based on three types of measures:

- Horizontal awareness-raising measures
- Targeted awareness-raising measures
- Technical measures (including RES)

The percentage of households in energy poverty is expected to **decrease by 7% in 2025 and 3% in 2030 (approximately 420 000 households)**.


**ENSMOV**  
TOWARDS BETTER ENERGY EFFICIENT POLICIES

ENSMOV supports public authorities and key stakeholders in 14 Member States on the design and implementation of their national energy efficiency policies by developing resources on practical and strategic issues arising from the Article 7 EED.

SocialWatt enables obligated parties under Article 7 of the Energy Efficiency Directive across Europe to develop, adopt, test and spread innovative schemes to alleviate energy poverty.


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