

Highlights from the joint CEER-FSR workshop on Energy Poverty

Panel 1: Drivers of energy poverty and what is government's role in addressing it?

- Energy Poverty (EP) is a multi-faceted issue which needs a multi-party dialogue to address it.
- Government policy (e.g. climate change) can have unintended consequences that worsens energy poverty with the non-energy (taxes, levies, RES fees etc.) components of the energy bill making for higher prices for consumers, putting a burden on the poor.
- Energy poverty is part of the EU's Clean Energy's proposals with a governance model being developed and communication channels being opened. Provisions on disconnection and regulated prices are being discussed.
- Single definition of EP won't exist because the economic and weather conditions across Member States are different. We can only set proxy indicators (see the [EU Energy Poverty Observatory](#)) like those on the such as the inability to keep housing warm, percentage of energy expenditure to total income etc.
- 11% (54 million) energy poor in Europe, different severity levels and different measures have been taken. For example, in Portugal new housing regulation is introduced to help alleviate EP; in France has launched the French observatory for EP; Spain is taking actions at local level, at city administration levels.
- There are different drivers for EP, hence the measures to resolve it vary accordingly.

Panel 2: Solutions to end energy poverty in Europe and the opportunities offered by the Clean Energy Package

- Energy communities or cooperative are a new market model. Cooperatives are the cheapest electricity suppliers in Belgium.
- Big consumers benefit from liberalization. All consumers should benefit from competition.
- Retail market solutions – dynamic pricing, removing barriers and opening the market for new players and new business models.
- Address the cost shifting issue, which is increasing the share of taxes and levies in the electricity bill, making it unaffordable for some.
- Regulatory solutions such as schemes to promote energy efficiency, well-functioning markets and tariffs is top of the agenda of regulators.

Panel 3: Energy Poverty in the World

- Bottom up initiatives are blooming but the challenge is to make them mainstream, to share best practice and to have inclusivity (by design)
- Top-down approach makes it difficult to be flexible and what is needed is flexible policy, regulation and definitions
- The customers that are likely to face EP have changed and some customers might transition into and out of energy poverty depending on changing circumstances - indicators have to change
- Energy poverty is systemic – it is not a consequence of poor choices
- Behaviour change at the household level will not on its own alleviate energy poverty. Collective and comprehensive approaches are key
- The benefit of energy poverty mitigation extends beyond the energy domain
- Integration and innovation is key to address the multifaceted issue of providing energy access.

Digital footprint of the workshop (selection)

Blake @EU_Consumer: **#EnergyPovertyEU** is a multi-faceted issue which needs a multi-party dialogue at national level to address it.

With 40% in rented accommodation – how do you incentivise landlords to improve energy efficiency?

Blake @EU_Consumer. With subsidiarity, it is up to MSs to deal with split incentives. Easier to deal with authorities on social housing than with private landlords.

@FSR_Energy - @CEERenergy **#EnergyPovertyEU** event - If EU and @EU2018AT wants to tackle energy poverty, government cannot keep adding (tax, levies) to the energy bill. Regulators ask should certain policy goals be financed via #energy bill or through government's general budget?

Argyriou @Energy4Europe at @CEERenergy @FSR_Energy **#EnergyPovertyEU** event: 11% of EU population suffers from #EnergyPoverty but with big differences in (and remedies for) #EnergyPoverty from one country to another.

Argyriou @Energy4Europe at @CEERenergy @FSR_Energy event on **#EnergyPovertyEU** - a clear definition of #EnergyPoverty does not exist. The EU Energy Poverty Observatory @EPOV_EU (#EPOV) benchmarks #EnergyPoverty through proxies.

Vereecke @EU_ACER at CEER-FSR **#EnergyPovertyEU** event: non-energy components of the energy bill (e.g. taxes, levies, RES fees etc) are key drivers of energy prices, whereas energy component of household energy bill is falling.

Dolige @eurelectric at @CEERenergy-@FSR_Energy on drivers of **#EnergyPovertyEU** - - energy bill (driven by taxes, levies). Solution: decarbonisation costs need to be allocated to other sources (not only electricity bills) - household income. Role for #energyefficiency programmes.

Dolige @eurelectric Network tariffs, taxes and levies are largely fixed costs -need to make sure the #energy transition does not create winners and losers. Everyone must pay their fair share. CEER-FSR **#EnergyPovertyEU** event.

#behaviourchange in relation to #energy use will not end #energypoverty. Some vulnerable #households are already under consuming. #investment in #energyefficiency and other #social action needed.

@EPOV_EU **#EnergyPovertyEU**

Darcy @SustainFirst on regulators-FSR event on #EnergyPoverty. We need more flexible policy and regulatory approaches to vulnerability. Tailored approaches needed. Technology can help for those with access issues e.g. large print, brail etc.

@srkbhagwat @FSR_Energy shares good solutions to #EnergyPoverty. "Pay as you go" in Africa offer solar home system. Menu of choices for persons. As it is digital, consumer builds up a credit history – in turn local banks can help them finance other projects.

Sharon Darcy @SustainFirst shares example to tackle #EnergyPoverty. e.g. in Africa blockchain is being used to open up the possibilities for change. CLP (HongKong) - when affluent consumers reduce consumption in summer, the companies redistributes the savings to the vulnerable.