

Presented by

Consumers at the center of heating policies

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ec.europa.eu/eurostat

In 2016, the **residential sector** accounted for **25.4%** of final energy consumption

On average, **6.4%** of the European household budget is devoted to energy





Energy poverty remains a huge problem

Energy poverty is caused by high costs, poor energy efficiency, low incomes & many other structural factors.

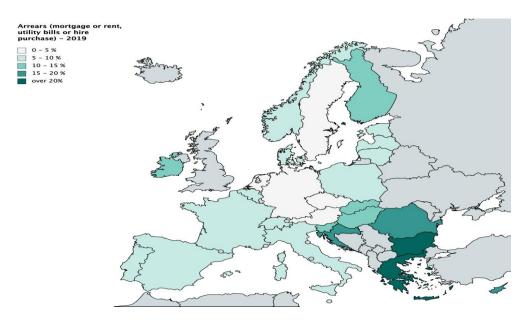
More than 30 millions people are affected

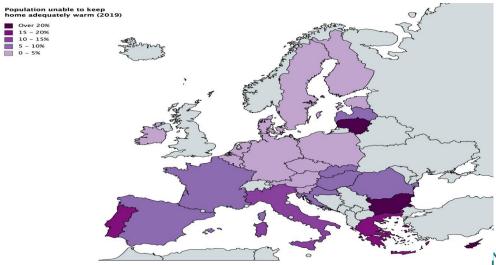
- 30.3 million people were unable to keep up with utility bills, including energy bills (2018)
- 34 million Europeans were unable to heat their homes adequately in winter (2018)

The building stock is deteriorating

- 75% of the EU building stock is energy inefficient
- On average, less than 1% of the national building stock is renovated each year.

There are huge discrepancies between MS – and this is pre-COVID!









Source: Eurostat

CONSUMER

The EU is working on a "just transition" that "leaves no one behind"

Energy Efficiency First

• principle since the 2000's

Clean Energy for All Package (adopted in 2018-19)

- new series of future-proof rights (information, empowerment, energy communities, demand-response, better consideration of EP)
- consumers at the "driving seat"

European Green Deal (2019)

- become climate-neutral by 2050, and improve the well-being of people
- comprehensive **Renovation Wave** to accelerate energy performant renovation & reduce EP







Affordability is key

Are the objectives bold enough?

- EU's housing stock renovation objectives remain very low (3%/year!)
- hardly enough to help the people and save the planet
- Costs of increasing buildings efficiency: need for targeted financial support and tailored advice
- Subsidiarity principle remains strong, e.g. on tax policies

Social support and Consumer protection

- Social acceptance can be challenging
- No one-size-fits-all: lack of disaggregated data on household fluid characteristics, location, gender, habits, etc.
- Need for the right consumer protection framework (e.g. opting out of flexibility plans, use of ADR)







Thanks.

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