

Energy poverty in Europe: combatting infrastructural injustices

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A definition of energy poverty

The inability

to secure

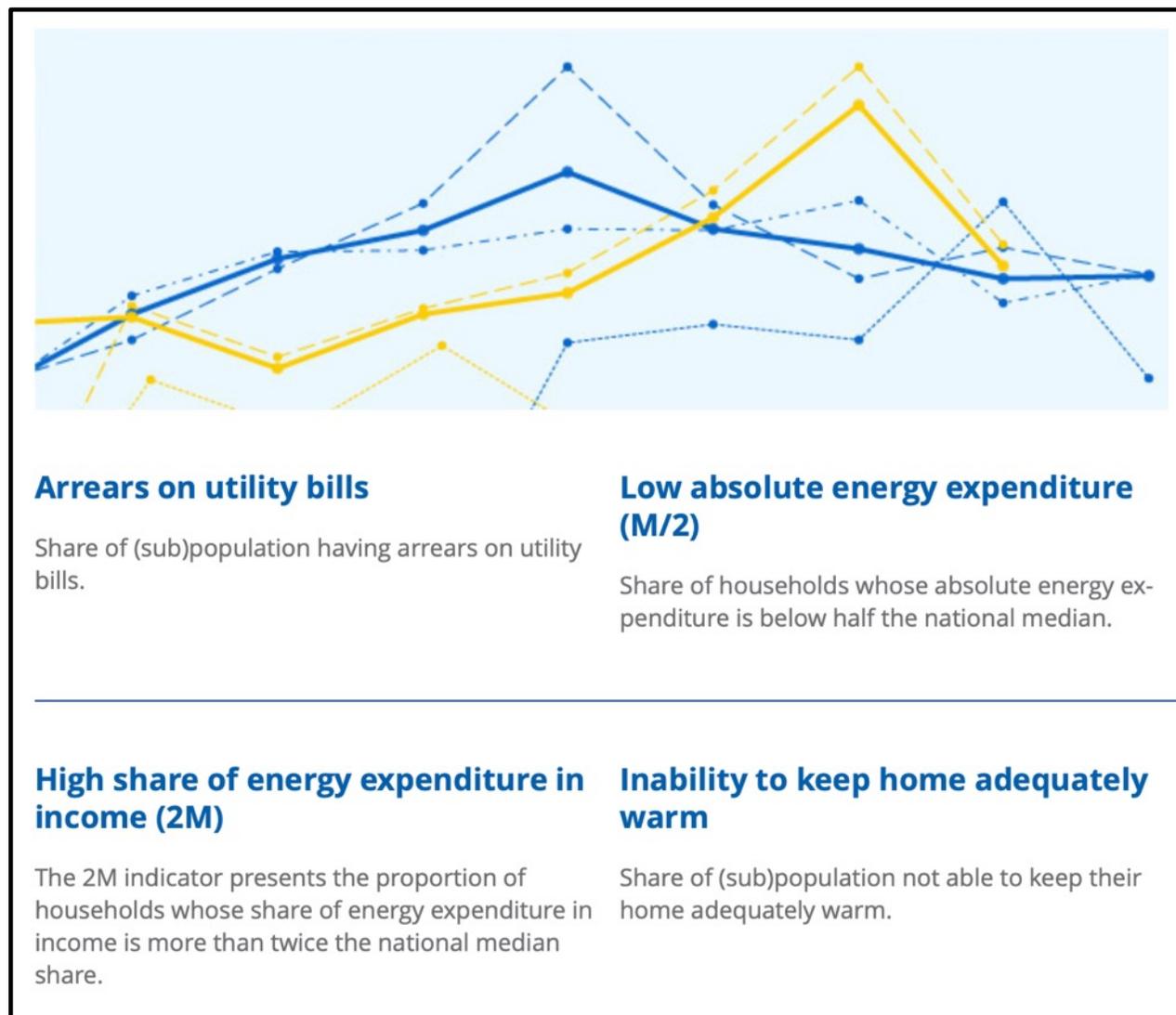
an adequate level

of energy services

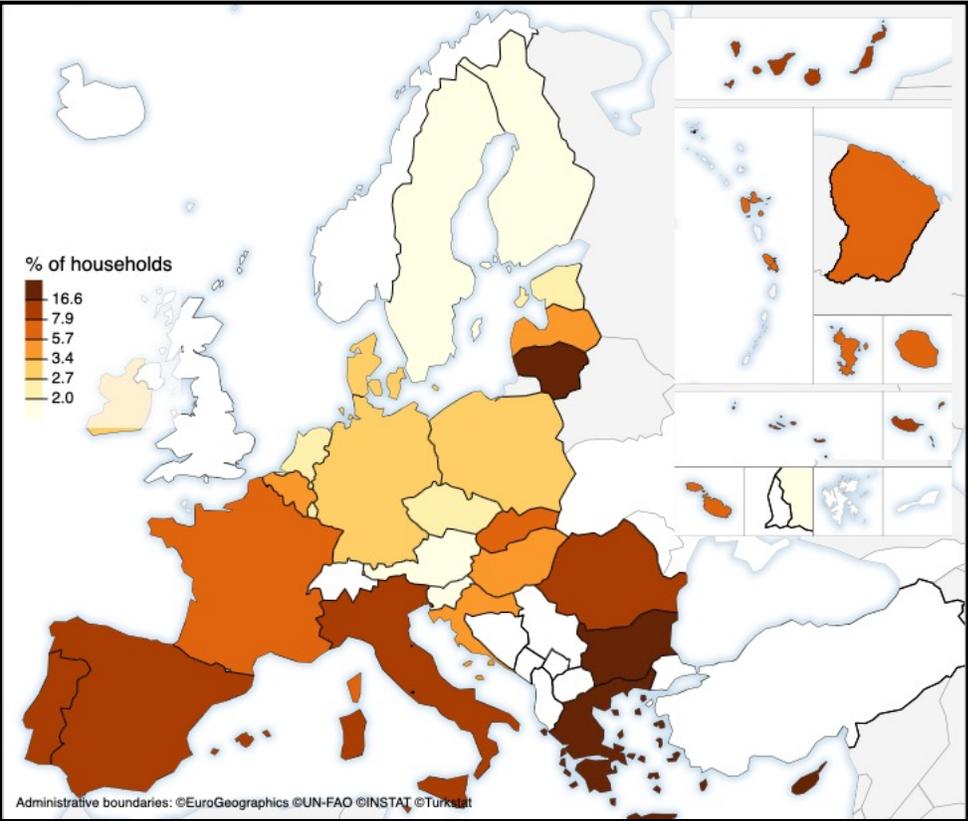
in the home.

Energy poverty indicators

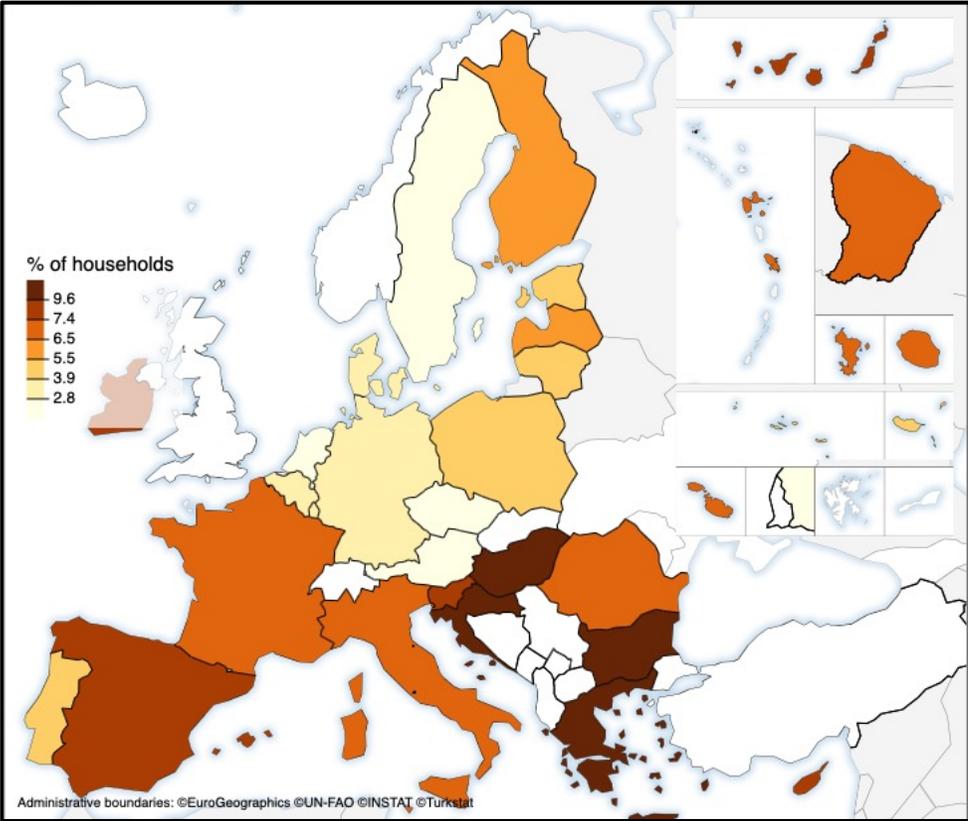
- Key question: at what point does deprivation occur?
- Direct measurement
- Indirect measurement
 - Expenditure-based methods
 - Self-reported ‘objective’ housing indicators
 - Consensual indicators



Energy poverty geographies, 2021 (Energy Poverty Advisory Hub / SILC)



Inability to keep the home adequately warm



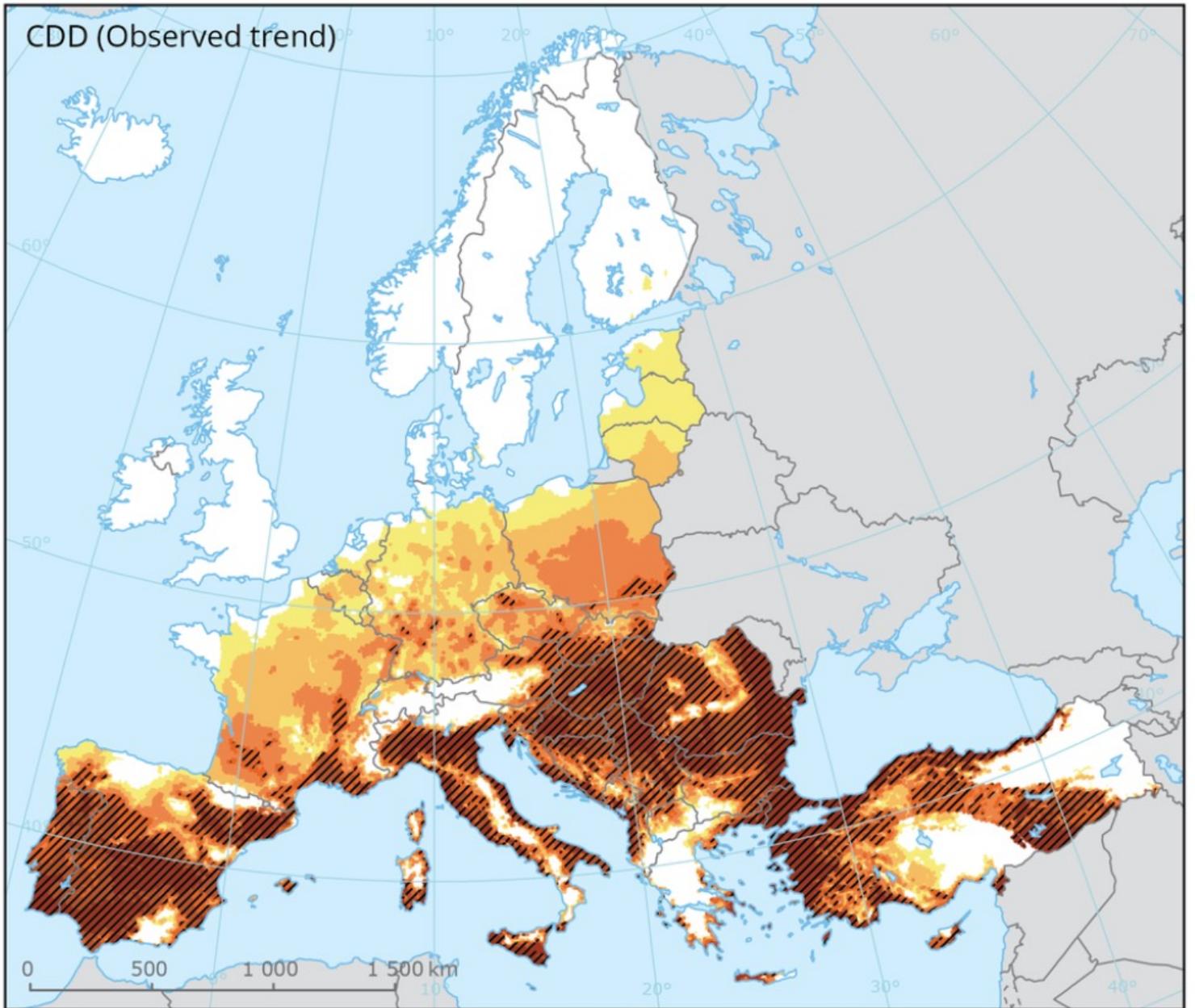
Arrears on utility bills

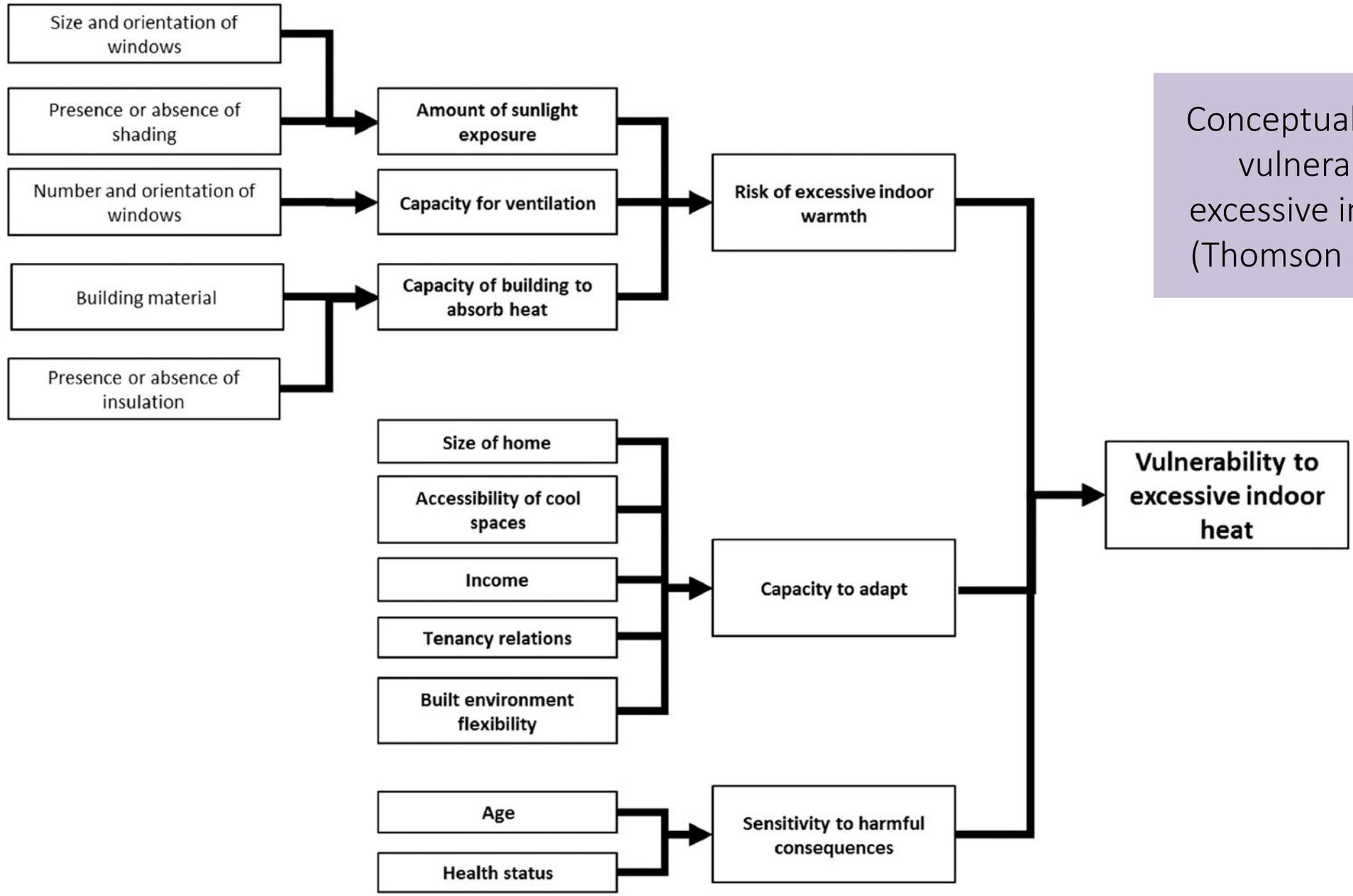
Structural challenges – energy poverty

- Formulation of energy poverty as a technical and behavioural, rather than a political and infrastructural challenge
- Tendency to treat the energy poor as needing to be ‘fixed’ through greater ‘resilience’
- Widely varying responses across nations, regions and cities – often as a result of limited resources, awareness and capacity
- Decarbonisation policies promote further inequalities

- Geographical differences in space cooling patterns
- Some scenarios foresee cooling demand reaching the North of England
- Cooling is often needed throughout the day
- Urban heat islands exacerbate the problem
- Beyond technology

(Image source: European Environment Agency)





Conceptual diagram – vulnerability to excessive indoor heat (Thomson et al 2019)

Criterion	BE	ES	FR	LT	BG	GR	IT	MT	HR	CY	PL	RO	AT	HU	FI	PT	SK	CZ	LV	DE	EE	NL	DK	SI	LU	SE
EP recognised	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		2	2	2	2	2	2		2	2	2	2					2		
EP defined		2		2			1	1		2			2		2											
Explicit EP indicator(s)	2	2	2	2			2	2		2		2	2	2				2	2		2	2				
Direct EP policies	2	2	2		2	2	2	2	2	2		2		2						2	1					
Tariff bill EP measures	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		2				2	1						2			
EE for EP	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		2	2	1	2	1				1		1			
Market regulation	2			2	2		2				2			2			1						1			
Infra. investment	2	2	2	2	2	2		2			2	2					1						1			
New financing	1		2			2					2															
EU funding for EP	1			2	2	2	1		2		2								2							
National BPs for EP	2	2	2					2							2					2						
Local/regional BPs	2														2			2								
Engagement mechanisms		2	1	1					2			2	2		2	2	2			1						
Summative score	19	18	17	17	14	14	14	13	12	12	12	12	10	10	9	8	8	6	6	5	4	4	3	2	0	0

A summative assessment of energy poverty considerations across the NECPs (Bouzarovski et al 2020)



Addressing energy poverty in Europe in the just transition context – key challenges

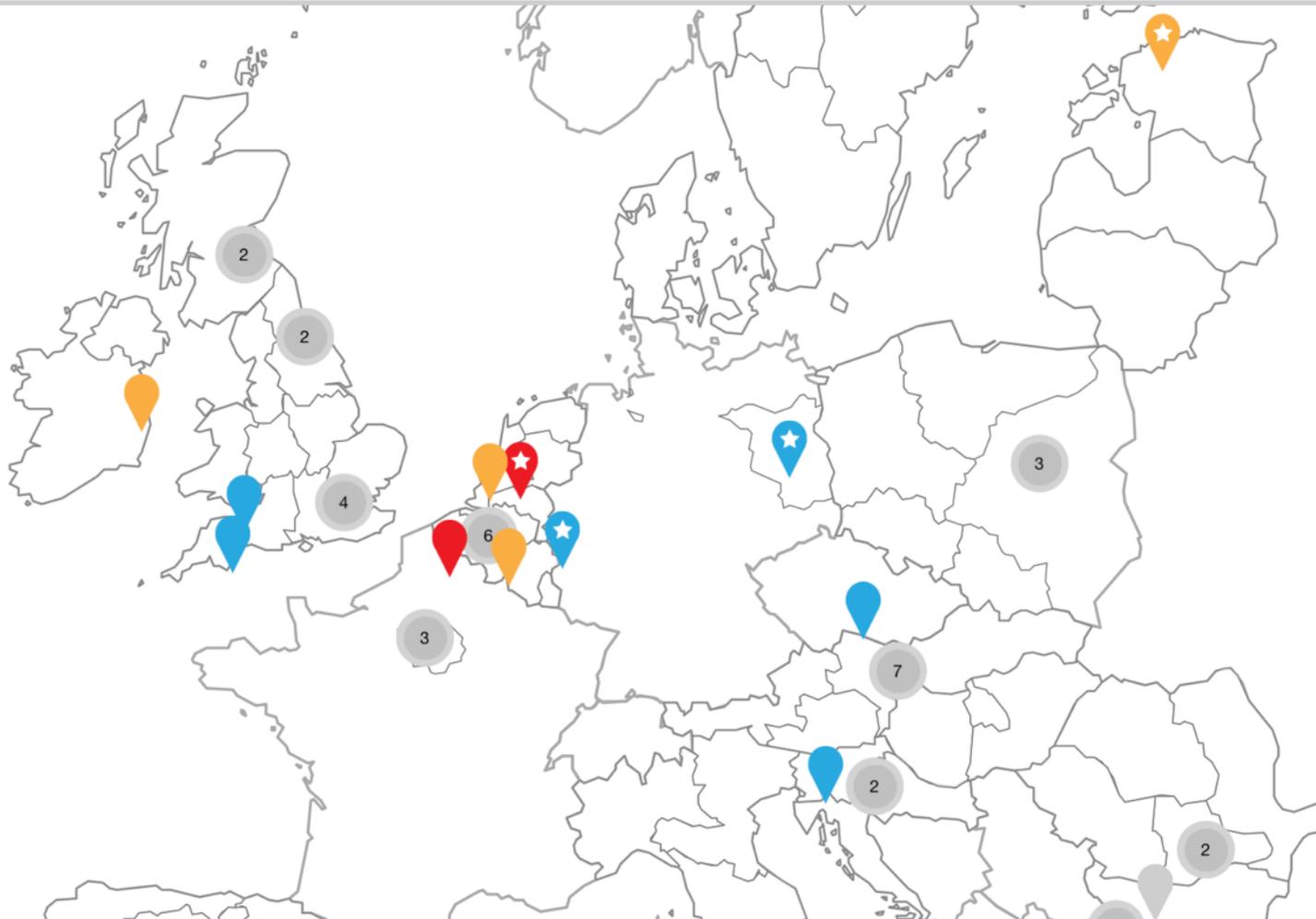
- **Data:** gender, ethnicity, inadequately cooled homes, sub-national level indicators and observatories, energy ‘basket’
- **Nexus connections:** transport, food, water, urban and regional planning
- **Co-operation and participation:** Engagement with the social sector, representation of vulnerable groups
- **Just transitions:** Integration with regional development

Questions for discussion

- Who are the most vulnerable groups in the constituencies you work with?
- How does energy poverty impact your work, and what is your view on the co-operation between voluntary and government agencies to help reduce energy poverty?
- What do high energy costs mean for your work and your future ability to provide services?

The Energy Poverty Dashboard: Mitigating Energy Poverty in Europe's Private Rented Sector

Country/Region
Hover over a country for more details



Show Policies & Measures

Indicators
Relative risk of asthma

Nuts Level
NUTS1

Reference Group
Population



☆ ENPOR REACT Group Policy ● EEO Scheme ● Grant for Renovation ● Programme Support ● Training and Information ● Other

No data 0 - 10% 10 - 20% 20 - 30% 30 - 50% 50% +

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THANK YOU



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www.energystudies.net

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