

INTERREG NORTH _ WEST EUROPE PROJECT SCEPA: SCALING UP THE ENERGY POVERTY APPROACH

DELIVERABLE D1.7.5: KEY INSIGHTS LOCAL ACTION PLANS

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This infographic was produced in collaboration with SCEPA partners



WVI (Belgium)

- Focus: one-stop shop for renovation advice and personalized plans
- Key feature: drone with thermographic camera, mobile energy van, renovation coaches
- Target groups: families with multiproblems, older people, renters
- Strength: comprehensive technical advice; risk of top-down approach

SEEA (Ireland)

- Focus: mixed approach; awareness raising and retrofitting
- Key feature: developing blueprint for energy communities
- Target groups: elderly, students, low-income families
- Strength: concept development for scaling up energy communities
- households to the appropriate solutions

APC Paris (France)

- Focus: network-based approach to address energy vulnerability through remote socio-technical assessment and coordination
- Key feature: Paris Énergie Solidarité - qualification of households by phone, followed by tailored guidance and referral to relevant stakeholders (technical, financial and social)
- Target groups: low-income households, vulnerable households
- Strength: strong local stakeholder network; ability to coordinate actors and channel households to the appropriate solutions

ALDA European Association for Local Democracy (France)

- Capitalization and replication of good practices to mitigate energy poverty across Europe

Leeuwarden (Netherlands)

- Focus: participatory approach with energy coaches recruited from target groups
- Key feature: voucher system for appliance replacement and bill support
- Target groups: single-parent households, pensioners, rural dwellers
- Strength: trust-based engagement and bottom-up design

Arnhem (Netherlands) Gemeente

- Focus: holistic strategy combining energy coaches, handymen, and neighborhood companies
- Key feature: personal support + technical fixes + social assistance
- Target groups: low-income households, immigrants, people with chronic conditions
- Strength: strong integration with social policy and local initiatives

Arnhem/Nijmegen (Netherlands) HAN university of Applied Sciences

- Analyzing and monitoring energy poverty interventions and approaches

Liège (Belgium)

- Focus: ecosystem model mobilizing multiple actors; landlord collaboration
- Key feature: energy relay for budget management and empowerment
- Target groups: low-income households, immigrants, precarious youth
- Strength: strong network culture; challenge in defining collective action



KEY-INSIGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

KEY-INSIGHTS

- Energy poverty is a multidimensional problem shaped by poor housing, low income, high energy prices, and inefficient energy use
- A large part of the problem remains hidden, as many households reduce energy use to harmful levels without appearing in official data
- Because energy poverty is deeply connected to general poverty, technical fixes alone are insufficient.
- Current policies focus mainly on distributive justice, while procedural and recognition justice receive far less attention
- Communication is often mistaken for engagement, even though meaningful change requires codesign and active participation
- Evidence on intervention effectiveness is limited; monitoring tends to track outputs, not outcomes.

SCEPA-partners use a mix of strategies

- Energy coaches offering personalized home-based support
- Technical measures such as retrofitting, appliance replacement, and energy vouchers
- Financial support to help with renovation costs and energy bills
- Community-based initiatives (energy communities, local partnerships, one-stop shops) that create accessible entry points

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Frame energy as a human right linked to health, dignity, and wellbeing
- Integrate energy-poverty approaches with broader social policies
- Combine quantitative data with lived experiences to build a richer understanding of needs
- Prioritize genuine participation through codesign and cocreation
- Develop robust monitoring and evaluation tools to understand why interventions work, for whom, and under which condition
- Avoid the rollout trap by ensuring interventions are adapted to local contexts
- Strengthen local networks and cross-sector collaboration
- Continue developing context-specific, flexible approaches
- Focus on empowerment, not only technical fixes
- Use monitoring and evaluation to support learning and scaling
- Build community-based entry points that are accessible, trusted, and inclusive