

EU
ENERGY POVERTY
Observatory



The EU Energy Poverty Observatory



Campaigning for Warm Homes

Energy poverty – definition and drivers

Multi-dimensional phenomenon that occurs when a household is unable to secure materially- and socially-necessitated levels of domestic energy services

(Bouzarovski and Petrova, 2015)

Core drivers include:

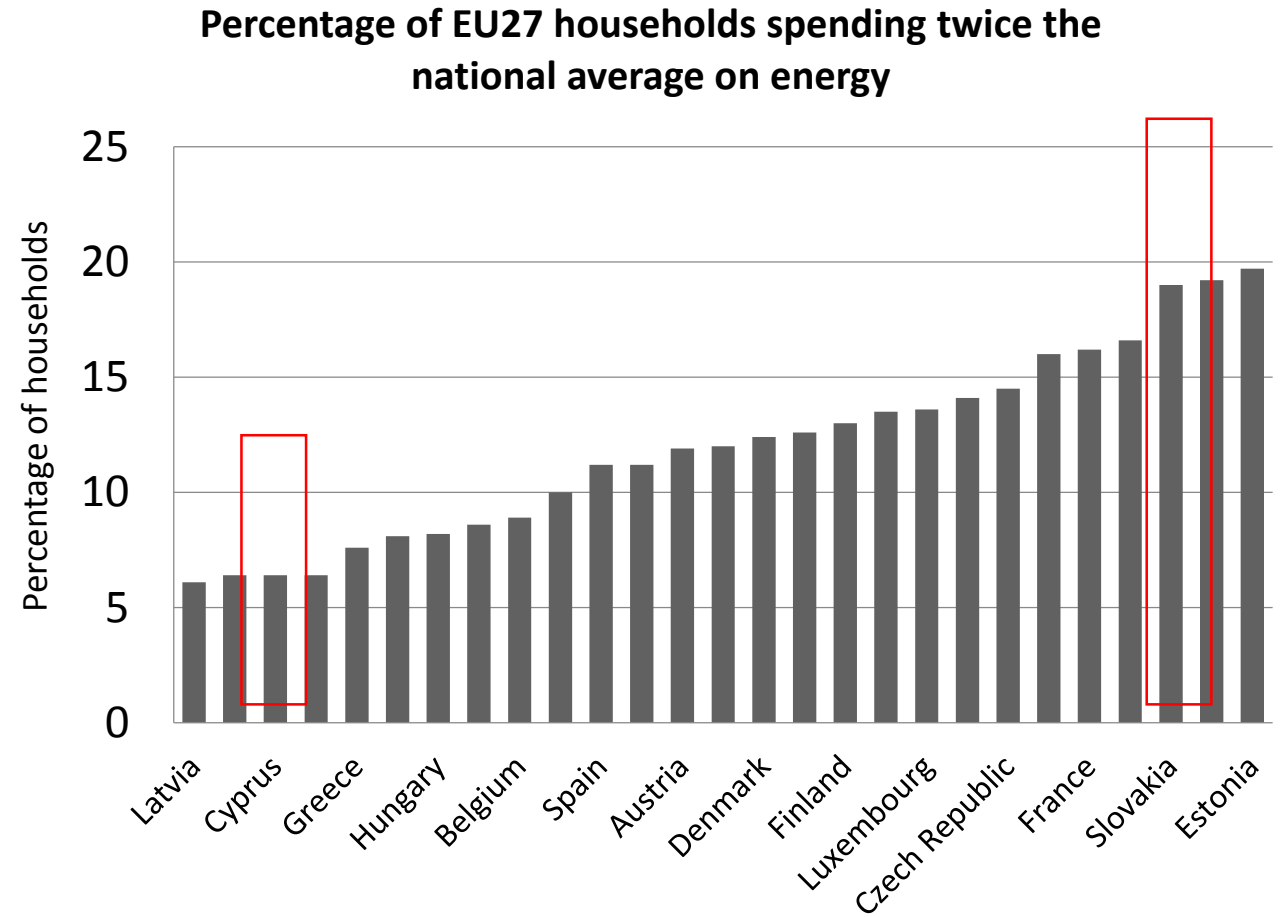
- Energy prices
- Efficiency of dwellings
- Household income

Core outcomes include:

- Physical and mental health consequences
- Social exclusion
- Indoor air pollution
- Dwellings deterioration
- Arrears and energy debt

Energy poverty - indicators

1. Expenditure-based indicators
2. Consensual or self-reported indicators
3. Direct measurement



Energy poverty: a European context

- No common definition or understanding
- No dedicated survey of energy poverty

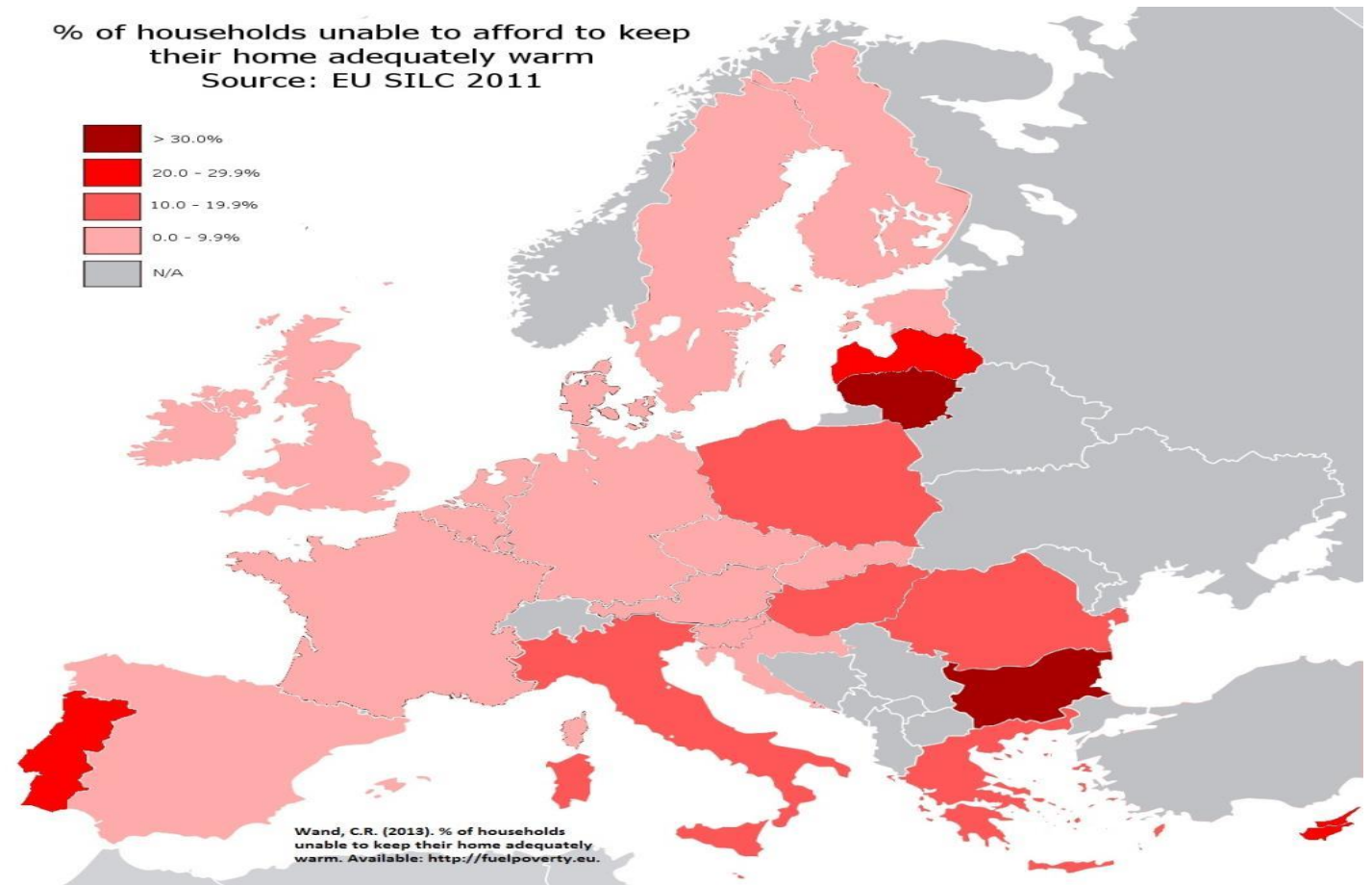
Data

- Household Budget Survey (HBS)
- EU Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC)
- European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS)
- Eurobarometer

- National definitions
 - UK: >10% income to keep adequately warm
 - IE: >10% income for energy consumption
 - FR: >10% income for energy consumption
 - EN: costs > average + income net of energy expenditure < poverty threshold

Geography of energy poverty in Europe

- 52 million households in EU27 (Thomson, 2015)
- Reflects regional structural inequalities (Bouzarovski and Tirado Herrero, 2015)
- Southern, Central and Eastern Europe most at risk of fuel poverty



Regions at risk: Southern Europe

- Poor energy efficiency standards
- Prolonged fiscal austerity = real loss of household income & cuts in financing for energy-related infrastructure
- High levels of dependence on imported energy in island states of Cyprus and Malta
- Growing electrification for indoor cooling and appliances

Regions at risk: Central and Eastern Europe

- Restructuring to move towards a market-based economy: fiscal austerity, privatisation, and deregulation
- Income inequalities and decreased purchasing power
- Poor housing stock quality
- Liberalisation of energy markets resulted in removal of subsidies, but no safety nets

The European Energy Poverty Observatory

- 40 month project, started December 2016
- Funded by the European Commission, ca. €813,000
- Led by the University of Manchester, in partnership with five partners from across Europe
 - Ecofys
 - European Policy Centre
 - Intrasoft International
 - National Energy Action
 - Wuppertal Institute

EPOV objectives

- **Improve transparency** by bringing together the disparate sources of data and knowledge that exist across the EU
- Provide a **user-friendly and open-access resource** that will promote public engagement as well as informed decision-making
- Enable networking and **facilitate knowledge sharing and co-production** among Member States and relevant stakeholders
- **Disseminate information and organise outreach work** that will connect and build on existing initiatives
- **Provide technical assistance** to the widest possible range of interested parties, based on a holistic approach.

Knowledge & Resources

Knowledge & Resources about energy poverty—the most extensive database on the internet



Publications

Scientific articles, reports and other documents categorized according to country, language, theme and publication type.

[View Publications](#)



Policies & Measures

Policies & Measures categorized according to country, type of measure, target groups, financing method and energy carrier.

[View Policies & Measures](#)



Training Resources

A collection of material for training. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet.

[View Training Resources](#)



Relevant Organisations

Organisations active in energy poverty research, policy-making or field work.

[View Relevant Organisations](#)



Guidance for Policymakers

Guidance for policymakers on how energy poverty can be defined and measured, what policies could be implemented and how these could be funded.

SUBMIT KNOWLEDGE & RESOURCES

The Observatory is actively accepting contributions from its members to enrich the Knowledge & Resources section.

Use the links below to submit new content for review.

- [+ Submit Publications](#)
- [+ Submit Policies & Measures](#)
- [+ Submit Training Resources](#)
- [+ Submit Relevant Organisations](#)

Policies & Measures

This section contains information about policies and measures addressing energy poverty.

Order by:

▶ "Living better" programme (Programme Habiter Mieux)

 France

The Habiter Mieux programme aims to provide financial support to renovate dwellings of low income households to improve energy efficiency. It includes different types of grants and loans financed by different parts of the government, including the National Housing Agency (Anah), the General...

▶ Action in low-income households to improve energy efficiency through visits and energy diagnosis (ACHIEVE)

 Bulgaria  France  Germany  Slovenia  United Kingdom


In ACHIEVE, long-term unemployed people, volunteers or students are mobilized and trained to develop a large-scale energy advice service towards low-income households facing difficulties with their energy bills.

▶ Agreements on energy education and consultation for energy consumers (Energijos vartotojų švietimo ir konsultavimo susitarimų sudarymo tvarkos)

 Lithuania


This measure requires energy suppliers to establish an agreement with the national government, where these suppliers commit to educate and advise household on energy efficiency measures.

▶ Assistance in case of material distress (Pomoc v hmotnej núdzi)

 Slovakia

This measure provides general income support to low-income households to cover living expenses.

▶ Basic income support (Perustoimeentulotukea)

 Finland

Basic income support is provided to households to cover their necessary daily expenses. In

FILTER POLICIES & MEASURES

Country

Organisation type [?]

Type of measure [?]

Target socioeconomic group [?]

Target housing situation [?]

Energy carrier

Funding method [?]

Financing method

Geographic scope [?]

Policy/Measure
started in year from To year



Guidance for Policymakers

This page gives a short overview of essential points to consider for policymakers when drafting policies to address energy poverty: [Measurement](#), [Definition](#), [Policies & Measures](#) and [Financing & Funding](#).

MEASUREMENT

The **measurement of energy poverty** is important to assess the current situation in terms of energy poverty. Energy poverty is notoriously difficult to quantify and measure, as it is a multi-dimensional phenomenon. Different indicators are possible:

- **Energy costs and income:** quantify energy poverty by looking at the energy expenditure of households in relation to an income measure (e.g. number of households spending more than a certain share of their income on domestic energy services)
- **Self-assessment:** assess energy poverty by asking households directly to what extent they feel able to afford energy (e.g. ability to keep home adequately warm in wintertime and cool in summertime)
- **Direct measurement:** measure physical variables to determine adequacy of energy services (e.g. room temperature)
- **Proxy indicators:** give an impression of the energy poverty situation through related factors, such as arrears on utility bills, number of disconnections and housing quality.

See the report for the European Commission on [Selecting Indicators to Measure Energy Poverty](#) for more information on the measurement of energy poverty. Read more about the measurement of energy poverty in publications related to the theme [Measurement](#) in the [Publications](#) section.

DEFINITION

The **definition of energy poor and/or vulnerable households** is essential to target policies to those households that need assistance. This definition should be tailored to the specific situation in terms of climate, housing quality, economy and the structure of energy costs. The definition can also differ for particular types of policies: for example, disconnection protection during wintertime is often associated with targeting of physically more vulnerable households, such as disabled and pensioners, as these are most at risk in case of disconnection.

In general, targeting can be based on multiple parameters, which are related to some important causes behind energy poverty:



Publications

This section contains scientific articles, reports and other documents related to energy poverty.

Order by:

► **Low Carbon Heat and Rural Fuel Poverty – Lessons from across Europe**

Community Energy Plus
2017

European Union [Policies & Measures](#)



► **Energy Poverty in Greece: Social Innovation Recommendations to tackle the phenomenon**

Corovessi, A., Touloupaki, E., Chrysogelos, N., and Metaxa, K.
2017

Greece [Policies & Measures](#) [Impacts](#)



► **The energy poverty barometer (2016) (Barometer Energiearmoede (2016))**

Delbeke, B., and Meyer, S.
2017

Belgium [Measurement](#)



► **The energy poverty barometer (2017) (Barometer Energiearmoede (2017))**

Delbeke, B., and Meyer, S.
2017

Belgium [Measurement](#)



► **Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency (Fuel Poverty ed Efficienza Energetica)**

Federesco, Federconsumatori, Unione Nazionale Consumatori, AiCARR
2017



FILTER PUBLICATIONS

Country

Please select

Theme [?]

Please select

Language

Please select

Publication type [?]

Please select

From year

1983

To year

2017

Search

To bring the most relevant results on top, combine with Order by: "Search relevance".

Show only highlighted publications

SUBMIT NEW
PUBLICATION



Relevant Organisations

Abbé Pierre Foundation (Fondation Abbé Pierre)

France NGO

Tags: **NGOs**

This Foundation aims to provide access to a decent dwelling to the vulnerable households, regardless of the resources or social status they possess. With the programme « Toits d'Abord » (Roofs First), the Foundation aims to reduce energy poverty and increase access to affordable housing in both rural and urban zones.

<http://www.fondation-abbe-pierre.fr/>

Accompany cities in energy strategy (ACCENT)

Spain Research & Consultancy

Tags: **Municipalities, Area-based targeting**

In this project, a tool is developed that will allow local public administrations to define energy strategies at city scale based on the estimated energy consumption of the buildings. The tool will enable the city to locate areas where buildings have low energy efficiency and those areas where there is a high percentage of domestic energy poverty.

<http://www.accentproject.com/>

Austrian Institute for Sustainable Development

Austria Research & Consultancy

The Austrian Institute for Sustainable Development is a research institute that has carried out work on energy poverty.

<http://oin.at/?lang=en>

Building retrofit potential (ENERFUND)

Cyprus Denmark Ireland Bulgaria Romania Austria Slovakia
 Greece France United Kingdom Spain Slovenia

Research & Consultancy

Tags: **Municipalities, Area-based targeting**

This project is developing a tool that will rate and score deep renovation opportunities – like a credit score used by banks to rate clients. The tool will be based on a set of parameters such as EPC data,

FILTER RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS

Organization type

Please select

Country

Please select

SUBMIT NEW RELEVANT ORGANISATION

Are you aware of relevant organisation that should be included in this section?

Please submit these using the link below (Submit Relevant Organisation).

Training Resources



Alleviating fuel poverty. The role of the energy café

[National gov](#)
[Regional/local gov](#)
[Policy makers](#)
[Elected officials](#)
[Frontline workers](#)
[Practitioners](#)
[Guidance/toolkit](#)
[Information pack](#)
[Literature](#)

A policy briefing which explores 'energy cafes' (community-based advice sessions) to inform relevant bodies of their benefits and how to set up their own energy café.



Community Action on Fuel Poverty: Resource Hub

[Elected officials](#)
[Frontline workers](#)
[Practitioners](#)
[Advice](#)
[Guidance/toolkit](#)
[Information pack](#)
[Audio-visual](#)
[Interactive tool](#)
[Literature](#)
[Presentation](#)
[Slide deck](#)

A resource hub to enable innovative and positive action. The site provides a wide range of toolkits, resources, 'how to' guides and materials including posters, presentations, advice leaflets which...



Fuel poverty Action Guide

[Frontline workers](#)
[Practitioners](#)
[Elected officials](#)
[Advice](#)
[Guidance/toolkit](#)
[Literature](#)

A practical guide to help frontline workers and elected officials deliver advice and answer common queries on energy and fuel poverty related matters



Fuel Poverty Action Guide Wales

[Frontline workers](#)
[Regional/local gov](#)
[Practitioners](#)
[Elected officials](#)
[Advice](#)
[Guidance/toolkit](#)
[Literature](#)

A practical guide to help frontline advice workers and elected officials in Wales to answer queries on energy bills, fuel debt, heating, home insulation and energy efficiency. Available in English...

FILTER TRAINING RESOURCES

Audience [?]

Elected officials

Type of resource [?]

Guidance/toolkit

Resource format [?]

All formats

Show only EPOV produced resources

RECENT TRAINING MATERIALS

18 Dec 2017 Advice Guidance/toolkit
Information pack
ACHIEVE

01 Dec 2017 Advice
ADEME Guide 40 tips and tricks for saving energy

18 Dec 2017 Guidance/toolkit
Information pack
Alleviating fuel poverty. The role of the energy café

18 Dec 2017 Guidance/toolkit
Training (F2F)
Build and run collective workshops for households in fuel poverty

18 Dec 2017 Advice Guidance/toolkit
Information pack

SWITCH INDICATOR

(Primary) Inability to keep home adequately warm

Indicators & Data

Inability to keep home adequately warm

Share of (sub-) population, based on question "Can your household afford to keep its home adequately warm?"
Source: SILC, HS050

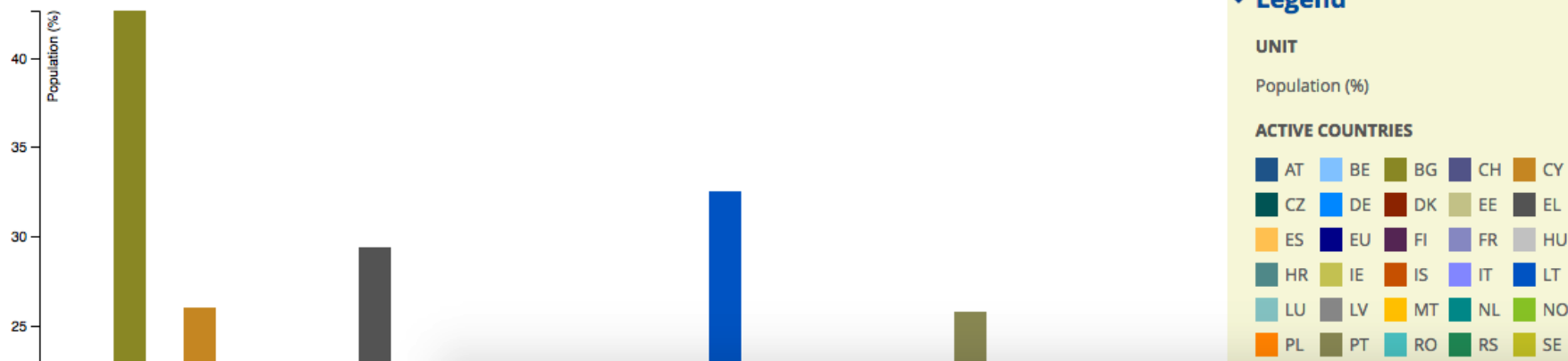
VISUALISATION OPTIONS

Line graph

Bar chart

Map

INABILITY TO KEEP HOME ADEQUATELY WARM | 2015

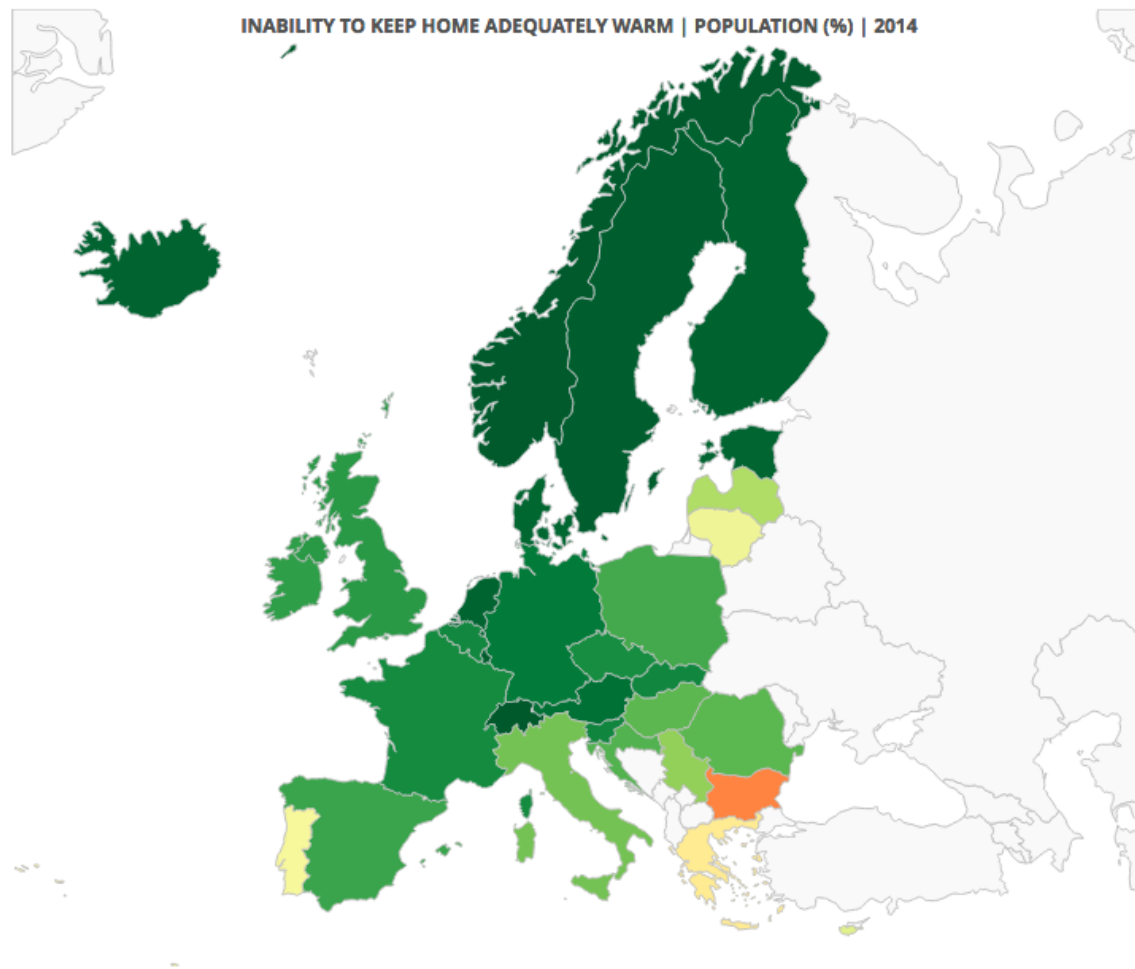


▸ VISUALISATION OPTIONS

Line graph

Bar chart

Map



▾ Legend

UNIT

Population (%)

ACTIVE COUNTRIES

AT	BE	BG	CH	CY
CZ	DE	DK	EE	EL
ES	EU	FI	FR	HU
HR	IE	IS	IT	LT
LU	LV	MT	NL	NO
PL	PT	RO	RS	SE
SI	SK	UK		

COLOUR CODE

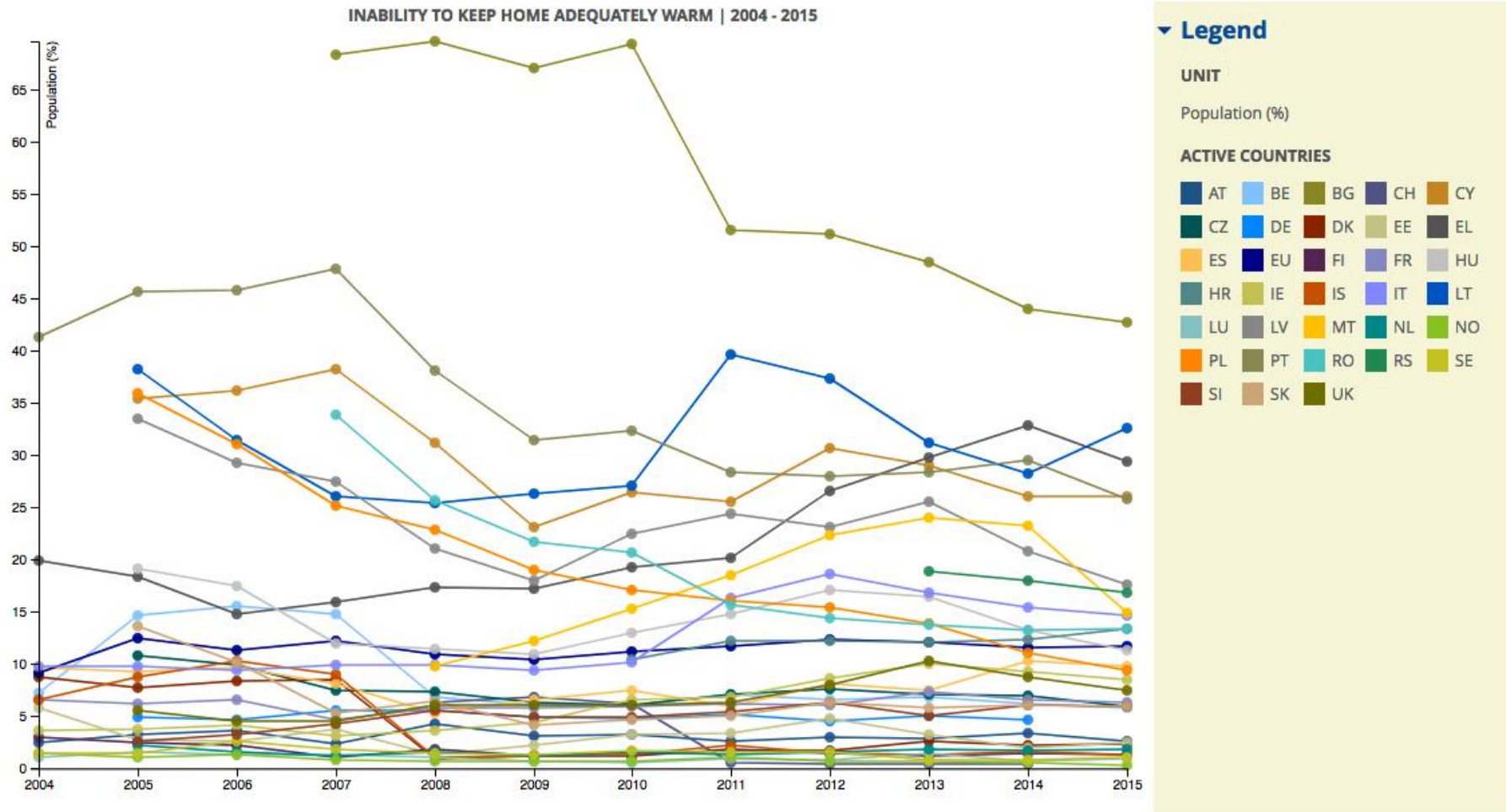
0 - 10
10 - 20
20 - 30
30 - 40
40 - 50
50 - 60
60 +

▸ VISUALISATION OPTIONS

Line graph

Bar chart

Map



Keep in contact

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