

EN
ANNEX 2

Pilot Project: “Fuel/Energy poverty – assessment of the impact of the crisis and review of existing and possible new measures in the Member States”

1.1. Introduction

The objective of this new EU pilot project is to identify common indicators and criteria for assessing energy poverty and vulnerability and based on that to collect comparable information (e.g. through an observatory) mapping the energy poverty in Europe. The findings of this pilot will build on the results from the two ongoing Commission studies on closely related topics¹ and from the conformity assessments of the Third Energy package. Together they will contribute to consideration of further measures to combat energy poverty.

1.2. Procurement

The budgetary allocation reserved for this procurement amounts to EUR 1,000,000.

1.2.1. Pilot project: “Fuel/Energy poverty – assessment of the impact of the crisis and review of existing and possible new measures in the Member States”

1.2.2. Legal basis:

Pilot project within the meaning of Article 54.2 (a) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) n° 1605/2002 (OJ L 298, 26.10.2012).

Budget line:

32.027708

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged:

Study to better detect energy poverty and assess financial schemes and different options for increasing energy efficiency measures to combat vulnerability and energy poverty.

Type of contract and type of procurement:

It is currently foreseen to sign two contracts. As indicated in the indicative timetable, the first contract is expected to be signed in September 2015 and the second one in November 2016.

¹ 1) "Energy poverty and vulnerable consumers in the energy sector: analysis of policies and measures" commissioned by ENER; 2) "Consumer Vulnerability across key markets in the European Union" commissioned by JUST.

For the latter, a global commitment is foreseen before the end of 2015. In terms of the type of contracts, it is currently expected that the first contract will be a specific contract based on a framework contract and the second contract will be a new contract following an open call for tender.

Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 2

Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure:

Step	Date
First invitation to submit tenders	12 May 2015
Deadline for submission of tenders	12 June 2015
Information to tenderers on the results of the evaluation	15 July 2015
Signature of the contract	September 2015
Second invitation to submit tenders	1 April 2016
Deadline for submission of tenders	Late May 2016
Information to tenderers on the results of the evaluation	October 2016
Signature of the contract	1st week November 2016

Implementation:

DG ENER

Overall objective and purpose of the action

Energy poverty levels are rising in some Member States as the effects of the economic crisis continue to be felt. However, some Member States are still unable to either identify or quantify accurately vulnerable consumers in their jurisdiction, and therefore cannot target the assistance and deal adequately with all aspects of energy poverty. Energy poverty impacts quality of life and can exacerbate long-term health issues. Increasing the energy efficiency of housing is recognised as one of the most effective ways to lift consumers out of energy poverty. While

energy efficiency measures offer social and environmental benefits to all and create jobs, housing should remain affordable for the vulnerable consumers notably by avoiding disproportionate increases of rents.

A study on energy poverty is currently pursued under an ongoing INSIGHT-E research action of DG ENER, with final results expected in April 2015. It analyses existing data on those affected by energy poverty, the measures already put in place by Member States as well as definitions and indicators and it will provide recommendations on the most effective measures and tools to support vulnerable consumers. Expected outcomes include a feasibility assessment / SWOT analysis of introducing a single, common EU-wide definition of energy poverty and indicators for monitoring evolution of energy poverty.

As vulnerability is a phenomenon that cuts across sectors, DG JUST (formerly SANCO) is now conducting a study to identify vulnerability patterns across key consumer markets, including energy. The study findings, to be published in August/September 2015, should help identify possible future policy actions to mitigate vulnerability.

The EU pilot project will be built on the results of the two studies above as much as possible as well as from the conformity assessments of the Third Energy package.

The Pilot Project will be implemented in two stages:

First stage in 2015 will focus on increasing transparency into the problem i.e. identifying and comparing different monitoring options incl. an observatory as well as proposing comparable metrics to monitor energy poverty and mitigation measures across the EU. The deliverable will be a comparative analysis of concepts for a monitoring tool by June 2016.

The **second stage** would start in 2016 and implement the design proposed in the first study and commented by the stakeholders (notably the Vulnerable Consumers Working Group under Citizen's Energy Forum). This ca. 10-month study could include also an activity relating i.a. to energy poverty mitigation options such as financing schemes for increasing energy efficiency measures which will be cost neutral for tenants.