Project REACH
Reduce Energy Use and Change Habits

Slavica Robić

Society for Sustainable Development Design

About DOOR

- NGO, founded in 2003 in Zagreb, Croatia

www.door.hr

- Sustainable energy development
  - Transition to Low-Carbon Society
  - Alleviating Energy Poverty

Project REACH

- Contract N° IEE/13/504/SI2.674866
- 01/03/2014 - 28/02/2017
- EU contribution 397,940 EUR (70%)
- www.reach-energy.eu

Project background: Causes and consequences of energy poverty

- There is serious lack of communication key stakeholders
- Energy poor households are unaware of practical steps to reduce their energy use (and bills)
- Causes:
  - Lack of finances, inability to improve EE and to afford adequate energy services
- Consequences
  - Cold (or too hot) and damp homes, debt, disconnections, sickness, hunger, excessive winter deaths

Energy poor typically come from vulnerable groups, live in inefficient homes with inadequate energy services

Specificities impacting prevalence of energy poverty in SEE

- Specific building stock
  - Low-level of thermal insulation of building envelope
  - High prevalence of furnace/stove heating
- Cultural and social inheritance
  - Indoor temperatures
  - No possibility to regulate consumption
- Distinct path of energy sector restructuring
  - Regulated energy prices – cheap energy
  - Problems of non-payment and electricity theft

Background – growing issue in the EU

- Internal market in electricity (2009/72/EC) and gas (2009/73/EC)
  - Protection of vulnerable consumers + tackling EP
- EE (2012/27/EU)
  - The financing facilities could … be linked to programs undertaking **action to promote energy efficiency in all dwellings to prevent energy poverty and stimulate landlords** letting dwellings to render their property as energy-efficient as possible
  - Within the EE obligation scheme, MS may: i**nclude requirements with a social aim** …, including by requiring a share of **EE measures to be implemented as a priority in households affected by energy poverty or in social housing**;
- EPBD (2010/31/EU)
  - the existing and proposed may include, in particular, measures that … and/or other activities to **increase the energy efficiency of new and existing buildings, thus potentially contributing to reducing energy poverty**

Background – growing issue in the EU: Response

- Clean Energy for all Europeans
  - More focus on protecting of the vulnerable and reducing EP?!
    - EPBD* : (11) The need to alleviate energy poverty should be taken into account... While outlining national actions that **contribute to the alleviation of energy poverty in their renovation strategies**….
      - Article 2a Long-term renovation strategy shall encompass (d)…, and an outline of relevant national actions that contribute to the alleviation of energy poverty;
        - » One-stop Shops
- European Energy Poverty Observatory https://www.energypoverty.eu
- ENGAGER Network http://www.engager-energy.net/

*http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/05/14/energy-efficient-buildings-council-adopts-revised-directive/?utm_source=dsms-auto&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Energy+efficient+buildings%3a+Council+adopts+revised+directive

Aims and Objectives of REACH

- The aim was to contribute to energy poverty abatement at practical and structural level.
- Overall objectives were:
  - to empower energy poor households to take actions to save energy and change their habits
  - to establish energy poverty as an issue that demands tailor-made structural solutions at local, national and EU level




Key outputs

- Overview of energy poverty for 5 local situations and 4 countries
- 1 training for teachers and 2 trainings for energy advisors in each pilot area
- 1564 visits with tailor-made reports and advice
- 4 sets of national policy recommendations and EU level policy recommendations
- Extensive advocacy
  - Videos!
  - Bulgarian video on traning: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACCNxwgiF6o&feature=youtu.be

Key impacts

- 31 trainers trained+282 energy advisors
- 1564 households empowered
  - 6653 installed energy and water saving devices
  - Ca 30 EUR/HH investment resulting in 65/EUR/year/HH savings
  - 48,200 EUR was invested in energy saving devices that could save over 840,000 EUR
  - over the lifetime of devices
- During the lifetime of installed devices, the visited households will save an average of 1,9 MWh of electric energy, 5,9 MWh of heat energy, 113 m3 of water, and over 2,4 t of CO2 emissions.
  - This means savings of 14.17 GWh or 1,218 toe, over 163,000 m3 of water, and 3,747 t of CO2 at the project level

Recommendations

- Low-cost energy efficiency and energy saving measures
- Replacement of household appliances (“old for new”)
- **Different levels of building retrofitting + heating**
- **Subsidies for energy efficiency: high co-funding + support system for filling out the paperwork**
- **One-stop shops!**
- No-interest loans (mainly for deep renovation)
- **Refurbishment of all state-owned social housing**
- “Energy literacy” campaigns for vulnerable groups

Cross sector collaboration are necessary for success!
„Clean Energy Package” = Opportunity which shouldn’t be missed!

Not a solution, but a good start!

Thank you for your attention!

Special thanks to all of the volunteers and partners from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia who have made research possible. Results presented in „Glimpse into reality section" include combined efforts done through projects REACH, REACH CEI as well as South East Europe Sustainable Energy Policy and With knowledge to warm home.

For more information about REACH project visit www.reach-energy.eu
For more information on Energy Poverty in SEE visit http://seechangenetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Energy-Poverty-in-South-East-Europe_Surviving-the-Cold.pdf
For Croatia (available in Croatian only) visit http://www.door.hr/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Energetsko-siromastvo-u-Hrvatskoj.pdf

Contact:
Slavica Robić, MSc, MEng
Executive Director at Society for Sustainable Development Design (DOOR)
Lička 33, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
T. 01/4655 441 **E.** slavica.robic@door.hr
www.door.hr
www.facebook.com/DOOR.hr