

Getting to grips with energy poverty

*From EU to Cities to Home* – EAPN & CECODHAS

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## Introductory Speech

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DE LUTTE CONTRE LA PAUVRETE

ET L'EXCLUSION SOCIALE

[www.eapn.org](http://www.eapn.org)



# What is EAPN?

(European Anti Poverty Network)

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- Independent **EU Network of NGOs** committed to fight against poverty and social exclusion, with and for people in poverty.
  - Started in 1990 – **key actor** in poverty programmes and development of social OMC.
  - Receives **financial support** from the European Commission (PROGRESS)
  - 26 **National Networks** and 23 **European NGOs** as members. (1,500+ organisations)



# What is CECODHAS?

(Comité Européen de Coordination de l'Habitat Social)

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- A network of national and regional social housing federations gathering **4.500 public, voluntary housing organisations and 28.000 cooperatives housing**
- 45 Members in 19 EU member States manage **25 million dwellings**
- A work for a Europe that provides **access to decent and affordable housing for all** in communities which are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable

# A triple context

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- The EU Sustainable Energy week
- 2010 European Year for combating Poverty and Social Exclusion
- The ongoing discussion on the future Europe 2020

# What is at stake? – few figures

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- Definition: the inability to heat your home to an adequate standard. The World Health Organisation has established standards on what this must mean – ie 21 degrees for a living room, and 18 for a bedroom, higher for older people or other vulnerable groups.
- A growing number of households affected due to the economic crisis and the rising of energy prices : result of the liberalization of the energy market
- Between 50 million and 125 million people affected
- A fundamental attack on the basic human right to a decent life

# Why addressing Energy Poverty for EAPN & CECODHAS?

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- Active joint campaign over the past 2 years:  
« don't choose between eating and heating »
- EAPN: promotes integrated approaches involving people in poverty themselves, raising awareness and negotiating policy change with different levels of government
- CECODHAS: a key role to play for the social housing sector - the work on minimizing energy consumption through insulation, awareness raising

# The overall objective

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To take a significant step forward in the promotion of an integrated strategy at EU and national level that would embrace the 3 key factors of Energy Poverty:

- ☐ Low household income
- ☐ High and rising costs of fuel
- ☐ Lack of Energy Efficiency

# A topic at the top of the EU Agenda

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## 1) The implementation of the 3rd Energy Package:

Member States shall:

- take appropriate measures to protect vulnerable consumers and ensure that rights and obligations linked to vulnerable consumers are applied
- define the concept of vulnerable customers
- formulate national energy action plans, providing benefits in social security systems to ensure the necessary electricity supply to vulnerable customers, or providing for support for energy efficiency improvements, to address energy poverty



# A topic at the top of the EU agenda

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## 2) The current EU wider environment debate :

the ongoing discussion on greening our tax systems – the risk to increase the burden on the most vulnerable people

## 3 round tables



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- Showing the current realities of Energy Poverty
  - Operational solutions at national, regional and local level involving public and local authorities, NGOs, the social housing sector and energy providers.
  - European Answers : how to move forward towards a more coordinated EU approach to tackle energy poverty