Energy Poverty in Croatia

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About DOOR

• NGO, founded in 2003 in Zagreb, Croatia

www.door.hr

• Sustainable energy development
  – Transition to Low-Carbon Society
  – Alleviating Energy Poverty
Causes and consequences of energy poverty

• 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

- SEE: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia
- 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
Energy poverty policy in Croatia

- No definition of energy poverty
- No all-encompassing definition of a vulnerable consumer
- Ordinance on criteria for achieving the status of vulnerable grid connected energy consumer was adopted (OG 95/15)
  - Socially vulnerable and disabled: 200 HRK/month (ca. 26 EUR/month)
  - Electricity only
  - Social levy: 3 lipa/kWh (ca. 0.4 Eurocents/kWh)
    - Suppliers give up on their profit
What did we do?

- NGOs -> advocacy + engaging citizens
- EU funded projects
  - Volunteers visited energy poor households (397 in Sisak-Moslavina County and 47 in City of Zagreb)
A glimpse into Croatian reality

- Analysis of legislation and field work
- 397 (+50) field visits in Croatia done by volunteers
  - Country analyses for Croatia and other WB countries available in the Report (over 800 households visited across WB)
  - Health and socio-economic status + energy aspects of households
A glimpse into Croatian reality

**Household members**
- One: 20.9%
- Two: 18.8%
- 3 to 5: 43.8%
- Six: 13.0%
- 9 or more: 3.6%

**Building type**
- Family house: 88%
- Apartment: 11%
- Other: 1%

**Age of dwelling**
- 6 to 25 years: 16%
- 26 to 35 years: 17%
- 36 to 60 years: 43%
- Over 60 years: 19%
- Don't know: 2%
- No answer: 3%

**Insulation**
- None: 91%
- Partially: 4%
- Walls and roof: 4%
- Don't know: 1%
- No answer: 1%
A glimpse into Croatian reality

- Average electricity consumption: **4.475 kWh/year**
  - In 2012 national average was 3.766 kWh/year and average for Sisak-Moslavina County was 3.551 kWh/year*

- Average heat consumption: **25.362 kWh/year**
  - In 2012 national average was 10.889 kWh/year and average for Sisak-Moslavina County was 23.209 kWh/year*
A glimpse into Croatian reality

- Adverse impacts on health!
Sending the message - adjusting policy response

- Low levels of energy efficiency of dwelling and heating systems: deteriorated buildings
- High prevalence of damp and continuous exposure to cold
  - Draught through widows and doors
  - Decreased living space in winter
- Overall inadequate energy services

- **Immediate action is needed** to enable more people to become active members of society and, by removing adverse health culprits, directly decrease national health care costs.
- **Investing in the alleviation of energy poverty** means improving the economy and decreasing energy import dependency.
Intro to energy poverty in Croatia

Presenting the problem

Demonstrating the solution
Importance of engaging citizens

– Gathering evidence – field work!
  • Presenting reality of life to decision makers
    – Combining science and civic action
    – Roundtables, conferences, national and regional reports, policy recommendations
  • Involving academia
  • Educating and motivating citizens
  • Media!!!
Sending the message - adjusting policy response

• The energy efficiency of dwellings and of household appliances, while improving the heating (and cooling) and ventilation systems is the most effective and sustainable approach to alleviating energy poverty.

• Energy poverty is a cross-sector issue which requires immediate action from both social and energy actors.

Energy poverty is a social issue requiring primarily technical energy solutions followed by financial support mechanisms.
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
• No-interest loans (mainly for deep renovation)
• Refurbishment of all state-owned social housing
• “Energy literacy” campaigns for vulnerable groups

Civic action and cross-sector collaboration are necessary for success!
Not a solution, but a good start!
Thank you for your attention!

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For Croatia (available in Croatian only) visit http://www.door.hr/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Energetsko-siromastvo-u-Hrvatskoj.pdf

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