



# POWERPOOR

Empowering Energy Poor Citizens through Joint Energy Initiatives

## Minutes of the EU Webinars and European conferences proceedings

Working on the ground with energy-poor households and policymakers to mitigate energy poverty.

August 2023

[www.powerpoor.eu](http://www.powerpoor.eu)

Published in August (M36) 2023 by POWERPOOR.  
©POWERPOOR, 2020.

All rights reserved. Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

All of POWERPOOR's reports, analysis and evidence can be accessed from [www.powerpoor.eu](http://www.powerpoor.eu) . The sole responsibility for the content of this publication lies with the authors.

**Copyright message (only for public reports)**

This report, if not confidential, is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0); a copy is available here:  
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

**Disclaimer**

The information, documentation and figures in this deliverable are written by the POWERPOOR project consortium under EC grant agreement 890437 and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission. The European Commission is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained herein.

Work Package 5: Impact analysis, exploitation, replication and recommendations

Deliverable 5.8 Minutes of the EU Webinars and European conferences proceedings

<b>Leader Organisation:</b>	Housing Europe
<b>Type (distribution level):</b>	Public
<b>Report author(s):</b>	Andreea Nacu (HE) Diana Yordanova (HE)
<b>Report contributor(s):</b>	All partners
<b>Reviewer(s):</b>	Eleni Kanellou (NTUA)

August 2023

# Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	4
Table of Figures.....	5
Table of Annexes.....	5
Table of abbreviations.....	5
EU level webinars.....	6
1. Aim and scope.....	6
1.1 Objectives.....	6
2.1 Connection to the exploitation and sustainability of the project.....	6
2. Training methodology.....	7
2.1 Target audiences.....	7
2.2 Invitation process.....	7
3. Content of the training modules.....	7
4. Training sessions overview.....	8
4.1 4th of February 2022 – 1st training session.....	8
4.2 19th of April 2022 – 2nd training session.....	10
4.3 26th of October 2022 – 3rd training session.....	11
4.4 26th of January 2023 – 4th training session.....	12
4.5 17th of March 2023 – 5th training session.....	13
5. Participants.....	15
6. Lessons learned and recommendations.....	15
EU inspiring events.....	17
1. Aim and scope.....	17
2. Three EU inspiring events.....	18
2.1 POWERPOOR Brokerage Event – Providing solutions to energy challenges.....	18
2.1.1 Event focus.....	18
2.1.2 Content and agenda.....	18
2.1.3 Presenters.....	19
2.1.4 Attendees.....	20
2.2 Working formulas and question marks for pathways out of energy poverty...20	
2.2.1 Event focus.....	20
2.2.2 Content and agenda.....	20

2.2.3 Presenters .....23

2.2.4 Attendees .....24

2.3 Power switch: tackling the energy crisis with emissions in mind - How to deal with 'energy poverty' in your city .....24

2.3.1 Event focus .....24

2.3.2 Content and agenda .....25

2.3.3 Presenters .....25

2.3.4 Attendees .....26

3. Lessons learned and recommendations .....26

Annexes .....27

## Table of Figures

FIGURE 1 BROKERAGE EVENT ..... 21

FIGURE 2 ISHF EVENT ..... 23

FIGURE 3 ISHF EVENT – FIRST PANEL ..... 23

FIGURE 4 ISHF EVENT – LOCAL HEROES ..... 24

FIGURE 5 ISHF EVENT – GROUP PICTURE ..... 25

FIGURE 6 POWERPOOR AT URBAN FUTURE CONFERENCE ..... 27

## Table of Annexes

ANNEX 1 PROGRAMME OF 1<sup>ST</sup> EU INSPIRING EVENT ..... 31

ANNEX 2 PROGRAMME OF 2<sup>ND</sup> EU INSPIRING EVENT ..... 33

ANNEX 3 PROGRAMME OF 3<sup>RD</sup> EU INSPIRING EVENT ..... 34

## Table of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Explanation
WP	Work Package
SECAP	Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan
HE	Housing Europe

# EU level webinars

## 1. Aim and scope

The purpose of the POWERPOOR EU training sessions was to create a network of Energy Supporters and Mentors across Europe and not limited only to the pilot countries. The (five) POWERPOOR EU webinars were organised by Housing Europe with the help of the other consortium partners for different tasks (ICLEI, ECN, DOOR, NTUA, GoiEner).

These events facilitated experience and knowledge sharing. This would lead to the implementation of small-scale energy efficiency interventions and encouraging the installation of renewable energy sources, by ultimately increasing the active participation of citizens.

From the point of view of the target audience, the participation in an EU webinar was presented as an opportunity to find out more about energy poverty and how citizens can be empowered to mitigate the phenomenon through joint energy initiatives while leveraging innovative financing schemes.

[A webinar recording](#) is available on YouTube for future reference.

### 1.1 Objectives

The main objective to be achieved through the organisation of these five EU webinars was to reach 100 trained and certified Energy Supporters and Mentors. For a realistic implementation, it was estimated that a number of about 20 persons would be trained in each webinar.

### 2.1 Connection to the exploitation and sustainability of the project

These events were organised as part of the broad Work Package 5 Impact analysis, exploitation, replication, and recommendations. EU webinars were designed to reply to the needs of the project assigned under Task 5.3 Replicating the project results at EU level, and more specifically Subtask 5.3.1 Virtual outreach at EU level.

## 2. Training methodology

### 2.1 Target audiences

At the EU level, the target audiences were set to attract more specialised potential Energy Supporters and Mentors. The preferred professional categories were:

- Local administration
- Experts in energy poverty
- Social care providers
- Representatives of NGOs
- Representatives of energy agencies
- Etc.

Students in related fields were also considered a relevant target group. All registrants who expressed their interest were able to follow the training sessions.

### 2.2 Invitation process

HE used all the available channels, both of HE and of POWERPOOR, as well as those of the other consortium partners, to promote the training sessions and generate registrations. The most used means of dissemination was through social media posts. Other important channels were bilateral emails to persons who previously expressed their interest, newsletter articles or verbal invitations during events.

The GDPR issue was considered when devising the registration form, as we needed to make sure we could record the session and potentially use it for future reference. The following text was added in the registration form:

*"The Energy Supporters and Mentors' training -implemented within the POWERPOOR project- will be recorded. The product of the recording will not be published on any online channel (e.g., YouTube), neither on the website of POWERPOOR project, nor on the websites of European Commission. By entering the training programme you accept the fact that your views in the context of the discussion and your image, may be recorded."*

The registrants were also asked to consent or not to email address being included in the newsletter receiver database.

## 3. Content of the training modules

The sessions are based on the 4 training and capacity modules (adaptable according to the needs of the public) developed by the POWERPOOR partners. Each module corresponds to a specific category of information:

- Energy poverty concepts, policies and multilevel governance; global and EU scope; Approach, concept and content of POWERPOOR and description of the tools developed
- Energy poverty alleviation policies and practices
- Energy communities / cooperatives, crowdfunding and other joint initiatives

- Climate and social innovation tools to alleviate energy poverty at a local level

The online training sessions took place throughout 2022 and early 2023, corresponding to periods generally less demanding, in order to ensure a high number of participants. The five sessions took place on the following dates:

- 4th of February 2022
- 19th of April 2022
- 26th October 2022
- 26th of January 2023
- 17th of March 2023.

The webinars were held in English, so that interested individuals from different countries could participate and benefit. The training efforts spanned over several sessions to cover the maximum number of potential Energy Supporters and Mentors. Over the sessions, the content was subjected to minor modifications, such as new guest presenters, due to the change of trainers or slight modification of the agenda. Two of the most notable external factors that influenced the implementation of these sessions were the consequences of the pandemic, the Russian invasion in Ukraine, as well as the energy crisis that emerged along with the hike in inflation rates. While the content itself was subject to major changes, these were topics that appeared quite often in the interactive parts of the sessions and how energy poverty is affected by them.

## 4. Training sessions overview

### 4.1 4th of February 2022 – 1st training session

#### Summary

The first session lasted for a total of 6h, marked by a lunch break. Out of 94 registrants, there were 54 effectively connected, which also includes members of the POWERPOOR consortium. The event was held through a Zoom meeting, in order to allow participants from different countries to join in.

#### Content of the training modules

This webinar was also a pilot session, the capacity building content being used for the first time in English and at the European level. Another important point that the trainers needed to keep in mind was to adapt the content to an online session. In order to make the POWERPOOR content as relevant as possible for potential participants, additional content from external reliable sources was included to also reflect the current changes in the energy market. For the first session, the guest presenter was Dora Biondani, from Climate Alliance, who talked about the new Energy Poverty Advisory Hub (EPAH). The agenda of the first training webinar can be found below.

**Part I** - Understanding the phenomenon of Energy Poverty, concepts, and policies at national and European level.

- The POWERPOOR project- approach and objectives



- The role of Energy Supporters and Mentors

**Part II** - The POWERPOOR toolkit

- The POWER-TARGET and POWER-ACT tools. Detailed presentation and examples of their use

**Part III** - From theory to practice. Good practices and case studies

- Energy-saving measures, behavioural changes, visits to vulnerable households

**Part IV** - Energy communities and innovative financing schemes to tackle energy poverty.

- Methodology, good practices, advantages, and challenges
- The POWER-FUND tool

**Part V** - The role of local authorities in tackling energy poverty

- Energy poverty in the SECAPs and how to address the phenomenon in local energy planning
- Energy Poverty Alleviation Offices in municipalities. POWERPOOR as a supporting tool for local authorities

Energy Poverty Advisory Hub (EPAH)

EPAH's call for technical assistance - all you need to know.

**Trainers' profiles**

The trainers that delivered the first training session are:

- Alice Pittini - Research Director (Housing Europe)
- Eleni Kanellou - POWERPOOR Coordinator and PhD Candidate (NTUA)
- Edit Lakatos - Policy Officer (Housing Europe)
- Anamari Majdandžić – Senior Expert (DOOR)
- Andrea Bogi - Senior Research & Project Manager (European Crowdfunding Network)
- Mauricio O'Brien – Head of Regional Development (European Crowdfunding Network)
- Aitor Ossa Rissanen – Project Manager (GoiEner)
- Alis Daniela Torres - Officer Sustainable Resources, Climate & Resilience (ICLEI)
- Arthur Hinsch - Officer Climate Policy & Energy Governance (ICLEI)

**Evaluation results**

All 29 participants that completed the test also achieved the necessary points in order to pass the test. Even though the webinar is addressing an international audience, many people from Greece followed it. The proportion of female and male participants was overall balanced. All the participants that took the test confirmed that they enjoyed the sessions and would recommend it to a colleague.

## 4.2 19th of April 2022 – 2nd training session

### Summary

The second session had the usual length (a total of 5h30, marked by a lunch break). Out of 66 registrants, there were 42 effectively connected, which also includes the presenters and members of the POWERPOOR consortium. The event was held through a Zoom meeting, to allow participants from different countries to join in.

### Content of training modules

The content from the previous webinar was appreciated by the participants, which is why the trainers re-used the majority of it. A noticeable difference can be seen in Part III, where due to the change in trainers, the content was split in three parts. For this session, we had trainers from Greece, Croatia, and Hungary, which allowed for more detailed examples from each country.

**Part I** – Understanding the phenomenon of Energy Poverty, concepts, and policies at national and European level.

- The POWERPOOR project- approach and objectives
- The role of Energy Supporters and Mentors

**Part II** - The POWERPOOR toolkit

- The POWER-TARGET and POWER-ACT tools. Detailed presentation and examples of their use

**Part III** - From theory to practice. Good practices and case studies

- Energy-saving measures, behavioural changes, visits to vulnerable households
- The experience of the Hungarian Energy Poverty Alleviation Office

**Part IV** - Energy communities and innovative financing schemes to tackle energy poverty.

- Methodology, good practices, advantages, and challenges
- The POWER-FUND tool

**Part V** - The role of local authorities in tackling energy poverty

- Energy poverty in the SECAPs and how to address the phenomenon in local energy planning
- Energy Poverty Alleviation Offices in municipalities. POWERPOOR as a supporting tool for local authorities

### Trainers

- Julien Dijol, Policy Director, Housing Europe
- Eleni Kanellou, POWERPOOR Coordinator and PhD Candidate, NTUA
- Eleftheria Touloupaki, Scientific and Communications Associate, INZEB
- Anamari Majdandžić, Senior Expert, DOOR
- Csaba Csontos, Project Manager, ENERGIAKLUB
- Oliver Gajda, Executive Director, European Crowdfunding Network (ECN)

- Alis Daniela Torres, Officer Sustainable Resources, Climate & Resilience, ICLEI
- Arthur Hinsch, Officer Climate Policy & Energy Governance, ICLEI

### Evaluation results

16 out of 16 participants that took the test passed and got certified. During this session, roughly one third of the participants consisted of women. All the participants that took the test confirmed that they enjoyed the sessions and would recommend it to a colleague or someone they know that could be interested in the topic.

## 4.3 26th of October 2022 – 3rd training session

### Summary

As usual, the training session lasted for a total of 5 hours and a half, with a one-hour lunch break. Out of 58 registrants, 28 were effectively connected, which also includes members of the POWERPOOR consortium. The event was held through a Zoom meeting, in order to allow participants from different countries to join in.

### Content of the training modules

#### PART I

Understanding the phenomenon of Energy Poverty, concepts, and policies at national and European level.

- The POWERPOOR project – approach, objectives & the role of Energy Supporters and Mentors

#### PART II - The POWERPOOR toolkit

The POWER-TARGET and POWER-ACT tools – how do they work?

#### PART III - From theory to practice. Good practices and case studies

- Energy-saving measures, behavioural changes, visits to vulnerable households  
The experience of an Energy Poverty Alleviation Office

#### PART IV - Energy communities and innovative financing schemes to tackle energy poverty.

- Methodology, good practices, advantages, and challenges
- The POWER-FUND tool

#### PART V - The role of local authorities in tackling energy poverty

Energy poverty in the SECAPs and how to address the phenomenon in local energy planning.

- Energy Poverty Alleviation Offices in municipalities. POWERPOOR as a supporting tool for local authorities

### Trainers

- Julien Dijol, Policy Director, Housing Europe

- Eleni Kanellou, POWERPOOR Coordinator and PhD Candidate, National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)
- Eleftheria Touloupaki, Scientific and Communications Associate, INZEB
- Anamari Majdandžić, Senior Expert, DOOR, Society for Sustainable Development Design
- Edit Lakatos, Senior Policy Officer, Housing Europe
- Oliver Gajda, Executive Director, European Crowdfunding Network (ECN)
- Alis Daniela Torres, Officer Sustainable Resources, Climate & Resilience, ICLEI
- Arthur Hinsch, Officer Climate Policy & Energy Governance, ICLEI

### **Evaluation results**

Only eleven participants followed through the whole process of becoming a certified Energy Supporter and Mentor. All the participants that engaged in taking the test also finalised it. 11 participants took and passed the test, becoming certified Energy Supporters and Mentors. The proportion of female and male participants was overall balanced. Overall, it can be seen that most participants were pleased with the quality of the training sessions, its trainers and outcomes.

## **4.4 26th of January 2023 – 4th training session**

### **Summary**

Out of the 63 registrants, 59 participants connected during the session, including the organisers and trainers. As the three previous sessions, this one lasted for about five hours and a half, with a one-hour lunch break in between.

### **Content of the training modules**

#### **PART I**

Understanding the phenomenon of Energy Poverty, concepts, and policies at national and European level

- The POWERPOOR project – approach, objectives & the role of Energy Supporters and Mentors

#### **PART II** - The POWERPOOR toolkit

The POWER-TARGET and POWER-ACT tools – how do they work?

#### **PART III** - From theory to practice. Good practices and case studies

- Energy-saving measures, behavioural changes, visits to vulnerable households
- The experience of an Energy Poverty Alleviation Office

**PART IV** - Energy communities and innovative financing schemes to tackle energy poverty.

- Methodology, good practices, advantages, and challenges

- The POWER-FUND tool

#### **PART V** - The role of local authorities in tackling energy poverty

Energy poverty in the SECAPs and how to address the phenomenon in local energy planning.

- Energy Poverty Alleviation Offices in municipalities. POWERPOOR as a supporting tool for local authorities

#### **Trainers**

- Julien Dijol, Policy Director, Housing Europe
- Eleni Kanellou, POWERPOOR Coordinator and PhD Candidate, National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)
- Eleftheria Touloupaki, Scientific and Communications Associate, INZEB
- Anamari Majdandžić, Senior Expert, DOOR, Society for Sustainable Development Design
- Edit Lakatos, Senior Policy Officer, Housing Europe
- Oliver Gajda, Executive Director, European Crowdfunding Network (ECN)
- Alis Daniela Torres, Officer Sustainable Resources, Climate & Resilience, ICLEI
- Arthur Hinsch, Officer Climate Policy & Energy Governance, ICLEI

#### **Evaluation results**

24 participants took and passed the certification test. During this session, the female participants were predominant, representing about three quarters of the total number.

Once again, the training sessions that was offered to the participants achieved encouraging results, with the majority of the feedback being positives, and only a slight proportion neutral. Participants would mostly recommend the training session to someone that might be interested in the topic.

### **4.5 17th of March 2023 – 5th training session**

#### **Summary**

For the last training session there were 48 registrants, with 36 being effectively connected, including the organisers and trainers. Like all the sessions before, due to the fact that this was an online event allowed to have a diverse audience in terms of country of residence. This session's duration was extended to six hours, to ensure enough time for the external presenter's intervention, as well as space to answer as many of the participants' questions as possible.

The intervention on the topic of fire safety was introduced to raise awareness on a serious issue that can occur especially in vulnerable households. This way, the certified Energy Supporters and Mentors will be able to better support citizens who in order to reduce as much as possible their energy bills, are trying by any means to adapt their living environment, alterations that can sometimes prove to be dangerous.

## Content of the training modules

### **PART I**

Understanding the phenomenon of Energy Poverty, concepts, and policies at national and European level Housing Europe, Julien Dijol, Policy Director

- The POWERPOOR project – approach, objectives & the role of Energy Supporters and Mentors

### **PART II**

The POWER-TARGET and POWER-ACT tools – how do they work?

- The relation between energy poverty and fire risk FEEDS

### **PART III**

From theory to practice. Good practices and case studies

- Energy-saving measures, behavioural changes, visits to vulnerable households  
The experience of an Energy Poverty Alleviation Offices

### **PART IV**

Energy communities and innovative financing schemes to tackle energy poverty

### **PART V**

The role of local authorities in tackling energy poverty

- Energy poverty in the SECAPs and how to address the phenomenon in local energy planning.

## Trainers

- Julien Dijol, Policy Director, Housing Europe
- Eleni Kanellou, POWERPOOR Coordinator and PhD Candidate, National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)
- Eleftheria Touloupaki, Scientific and Communications Associate, INZEB
- Anamari Majdandžić, Senior Expert, DOOR, Society for Sustainable Development Design
- Edit Lakatos, Senior Policy Officer, Housing Europe
- Oliver Gajda, Executive Director, European Crowdfunding Network (ECN)
- Arthur Hinsch, Officer Climate Policy & Energy Governance, ICLEI
- Olivier Tissot, Manager of the Forum for European Electrical Domestic Safety (FEEDS)

## Evaluation results

16 participants completed the test and received their certification. During this session, the male participants slightly outnumbered the female ones. Most of the participants who took the test confirmed to be satisfied with its quality and would recommend it to people who are interested. There were however two strong negative opinions. For the

participant who declared himself 'dissatisfied', the issues seem to stem from the fact that, they are a consultant for a consultancy in energy and environment, and the content was introductory and not specialised as they expected.

## 5. Participants

The sessions attained the objective of reaching participants from the outside the scope of the project's pilot countries. Throughout the five sessions, participants connected from the following countries:

Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo, Latvia, Mexico, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Spain, The Netherlands, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom.

## 6. Lessons learned and recommendations


Even if the POWERPOOR EU level training sessions are over, it is important to take into account all the positive and negative points, in order to firstly evaluate the success of the whole process, but also to use the lessons learned to improve similar future endeavours.

The engagement and interaction levels during the training session seem to depend to a great extent on the profile and interest of the participants. The more their profession and its day-to-day activities are related to the activity of an Energy Mentor and Supporter, the more interactive the session would be.

Online sessions are generally believed to have a higher potential of reaching more people than in-person events. While this is true, and it allowed us to have among the participants people from all over Europe and beyond, it does not automatically guarantee that the quantitative target will be achieved. In order to ensure the minimum number of certified members, which in this case was 20/session or 100 for five sessions, the number of registrants per event should be of at least 60 (including organisers and trainers). A potential safeguard solution in this case would be to foresee the resources for an additional session to meet the KPIs.

Another important aspect to bear in mind when organising this type of online events is the ratio between the time and the content. The timeframe of the training session was chosen in such a way as to ensure the optimal focus from the participants. However, even by including small breaks, the sessions can prove to be too long for the amount of information that is shared and discussed. For example, if participants are very active, many questions are left unanswered. They always have the option to request the contact details of the trainers, but the momentum might be lost. This was an issue that came up several times in the feedback given by the participants who took the certification test.

While sessions can become interactive if the participants are proactive, there could be found ways to make the sessions more engaging. One obstacle for doing that in our case was the high quantity of information for a very limited time. An option, and suggestion



from the participants, could be the splitting of the session into two days, which on the other hand could discourage people from connecting on the second day.

Overall, it is safe to say that the method of training Energy Supporters and Mentors, or similar kinds of mentors and ambassadors, through online sessions can be a success. People who participate in this type of training are usually either very motivated on a personal level, which can compensate for the potential lack of knowledge in the field, or have a profession or job that is very close to the project's objectives, and people are motivated to get involved to advance their knowledge or skills. Lastly, the allocated time for a session needs to be carefully considered, depending on if the ultimate goal of the sessions is to be more theoretical or practical.



# EU inspiring events

## 1. Aim and scope

As part of the 'Impact analysis, exploitation, replication and recommendations' actions, a number of three EU inspiring events were foreseen in the last phase of the project, with the broad goal of raising awareness and sharing the findings that resulted, at EU and global level. In more concrete terms, these events will contribute to promoting the exploitation of the resulted outputs, particularly the POWERPOOR toolkit, as well as encouraging the replication of the programmes designed to support energy poor citizens in other regions. Another important dimension is the potential development of effective policies in all government levels.

To achieve the above-mentioned goals, external speakers together with project partners were invited at these events. Moreover, the most active Energy Supporter / Mentor from each pilot country (8 in total) will be able to participate in an EU inspiring events and present their experience and achievements.

When possible, the EU inspiring events were combined with broader and well-established events and conferences, in order to benefit from more publicity and a higher participation, for a wide dissemination of the project.

## 2. Three EU inspiring events

### 2.1 POWERPOOR Brokerage Event – Providing solutions to energy challenges

#### 2.1.1 Event focus

The POWERPOOR Brokerage Event was organised by the European Crowdfunding Network, one of the Brussels based partners. Given the profile of the partner, the content of the event was oriented towards innovative financing to address energy poverty.

#### 2.1.2 Content and agenda

The organisers managed to put together an engaging programme, composed of stakeholders from different organisations. The experts from the energy efficiency sector showed participants what can be done in the field of energy poverty alleviation and how innovative financing, such as crowdfunding, can tackle the energy crisis. Even though they were all representing projects working for the same goal, the richness of their approaches was promising. The full agenda is available in the annex.

Achille Hannoset, from the European Commission, opened the discussion explaining the European strategy for achieving the energy transition, measures to alleviate energy poverty and the REPowerEU programme. He highlighted how it is crucial to accelerate the energy transition by mobilising private and public investment.

Silvia Viverelli, Senior Project Adviser of CINEA, and POWERPOOR's project advisor presented the role of her organisation in supporting energy poverty mitigation and energy communities. She mentioned that more than 58 billion for the period 2021-2027 will be allocated to different EU programmes, such as Life Clean Energy Transition, Renewable Energy Financing Mechanism, HORIZON EUROPE Climate, Energy and Mobility, and others. Some of these programmes are aimed at scaling up collective financing tools for energy cooperatives and communities.

At the event, 15 European projects working to boost energy communities and combat energy poverty were presented. Participants discovered several initiatives in the energy field and learned the outcomes and results of successful EU-funded projects. Some of the remarks from the discussion were:

- How Europe is providing solutions to the current energy challenges?
- How to bring energy poverty projects into local actions?
- The importance of boosting citizen participation in the renewable energy development.
- Future opportunities to achieve the energy transition.

The importance of the democratisation of energy projects was highlighted. Although the implementation of large-scale renewable energy projects is still necessary to achieve

energy transition, the increased presence of local projects, through which citizens can be involved, is vital.

Finishing the day with the Pitching Sessions, the participants presented new project ideas facilitating the final discussions and enabling future collaboration to accelerate the just energy transition at European level.

Crowdfunding has established itself as an important mechanism for financing projects related to the energy sector. Therefore, in the case of financing energy communities or measures to increase energy efficiency, crowdfunding can play a relevant role.



Figure 1 Brokerage event

### 2.1.3 Presenters

Several EU-Funded projects shared their approaches in alleviating energy poverty during the event:

- POWERPOOR: Empowering EU citizens in alleviating energy poverty
- Enpor: Actions to Mitigate Energy Poverty in the Private Rented Sector
- SocialWatt: Connecting Obligated Parties to Adopt Innovative Schemes towards Energy Poverty Alleviation
- EmpowerMed: Empowering women to take action against energy poverty in the Mediterranean
- DECIDE: Developing Energy Communities through Informative and collective actions
- ACCEPT: Active Communities & Energy Prosumers for the energy Transition

- ComAct: Community Tailored Actions for Energy Poverty Mitigation
- RESINDUSTRY: Policies for Renewable Energy Sources in industry
- SUITE - SCALING UP ASSIST: Social operators mitigating energy poverty
- Energy Poverty Advisory Hub: Understanding and Addressing Energy Poverty
- CITIZEE: Scaling up Public Energy Efficiency Investments via Standardising Citizen Financing Schemes
- stream SAVE: Streamlining Energy Savings Calculations
- NEVERMORE: New Enabling Visions and tools for End- useRs and stakeholders thanks to a common MOdeling appRoach towards a climatE neutral and resilient society
- Sun4All: Eurosolar for all - energy communities for a fair energy transition in Europe
- PROSPECT +: Capacity building for cities and regions

#### 2.1.4 Attendees

This hybrid event was attended by a total of 88 people, 36 of them in person and 52 online via Zoom. Nevertheless, we had 79 people registered online and 47 in person, but not all of them could come or attend online.

## 2.2 Working formulas and question marks for pathways out of energy poverty

### 2.2.1 Event focus

The second EU inspiring event was organised by the other Brussels based partner, Housing Europe. The event, was focused on energy poverty and affordable housing, and it was a very good fit to be included as a session within the [International Social Housing Festival 2023, in Barcelona](#).

### 2.2.2 Content and agenda

Housing Europe, as a POWERPOOR partner, together with Barcelona's Energy Agency and the Flemish social housing initiative, ASTER shared what measures and tools have been successfully supporting energy-poor citizens.

To set the context, Housing Europe's Research Director, Alice Pittini presented a sneak peek of the 2023 "State of Housing in Europe" report with information from 22 social and affordable housing providers, coming from 17 countries. Having a strong focus on energy, this edition has shown that the sector is a leader in the energy transition, through renovations (compared to privately owned homes).



Figure 2 ISHF event

Sven van Alst, Director of ASTER, explained that the company's action to offer solidarity-based and sustainable energy for social housing in Flanders is of crucial importance as more than 50% of the social housing tenants in the region live in energy poverty. "We cannot say for sure what will be the extent of the consequences of the energy crisis, we needed this crisis for people to become aware of the seriousness of the situation and become motivated to find solutions," Sven said. He then explained how ASTER was created in 2020 as a cooperative company, bringing together 60% of the social housing companies (90% of the housing stock), with private funding and no subsidies. Their ambition was simply to activate the social potential of social housing sector in Flanders.



**Figure 3 ISHF event first panel**

Eleni Kanellou, from the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) the POWERPPOR project coordinator, explained that in three years, Housing Europe and partners have certified 1100 energy supporters and mentors who can help households in need. Anu Sarnet from EKYL presented the establishment of an energy poverty alleviation office where apartment associations can seek help. "You have to know your target group and have a physical presence. To make sure that these solutions are long-lasting, we started thinking about sustaining the tools from the very start."

Sergi Delgado from Barcelona Energy Agency pointed out that we need to prioritise refurbishment even if it is a heavy goal. Local actors have been using the Next Generation EU fund to be able to do this in communities that normally do not have the resource or cannot access them.

PhD researcher Tijn Croon has spent several months with large social housing companies to study what is the sector doing to tackle energy poverty. Looking ahead of the hot summer which impact households in southern countries, Tijn said that the measures taken during winter could also work for summer conditions and that the principle of warm hubs (where people can find shelter and comfort) could be transformed and adapted into 'cool hubs'. However, affordable refurbishment remains one of the most important factors.

Once again, Eleni Kanellou highlighted that the POWERPOOR toolkit which helps to target households, act on the problem, and fund measures has made it easier for local authorities to help citizens.



Figure 4 ISHF event local heroes

We welcomed six local heroes, the most motivated energy supporters and mentors who have been helping households in Bulgaria, Croatia, Spain, Portugal, Estonia, and Latvia. The energy supporter from Portugal brought along his daughter. When he visited energy poor households he brought along his daughter and he was deemed more approachable by the tenants and they were more likely to open up to him and to be open for advice.



Figure 5 ISHF event group picture

### 2.2.3 Presenters

- Alice Pittini, Research Director at Housing Europe
- Eleni Kanellou, POWERPOOR project coordinator, National Technical University of

Athens

- Anu Sarnet, Head of International Relations and Projects at the Estonian Union of Co-operative Housing Associations (EKYL)
- Sven Van Elst, Director of ASTER, Belgium
- Sergi Delgado, Agència de l'Energia de Barcelona
- Tijn Croon, PhD Researcher at TU Delft University, the Netherlands
- Nelson Brito, POWERPOOR Energy Mentor in Portugal
- Fermin Arruabarrena Olaiz, Member of the energy community in Enherkom, Basque Country), working in the POWERPOOR energy office in the Basque country
- Aiga Kalnina, Project manager at Auce communal services in Latvia and POWERPOOR mentor
- Urmas Mardi, Lawyer of EKYL; certified POWERPOOR energy mentor in Estonia
- Yana Garkova, Expert in informational services and POWERPOOR mentor in Bulgaria
- Antonija Pukec, Director of the Red Cross - Križevci, Croatia

#### 2.2.4 Attendees

The list of registrants gathered quite a diverse and well-balanced audience, but in terms of positions, as well as geographical coverage. The representation of the positions occupied by the registrants could be given as follows:

- Academia: professors, researchers, students
- Management positions: directors, presidents, board members, administrators
- Experts, advisors, technicians
- And others.

In terms of the countries that were represented, we can enumerate the following: Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands, Turkey.

### 2.3 Power switch: tackling the energy crisis with emissions in mind - How to deal with 'energy poverty' in your city

#### 2.3.1 Event focus

The third and last EU inspiring event was organised by ICLEI in Stuttgart, as part of the [Urban Future conference](#), that amassed around 2000 participants. The topic this time was energy poverty and local sustainability since ICLEI is an organisation that provides technical consulting to local governments to meet sustainability objectives.



The results of POWERPOOR, especially the POWERPOOR Toolkit and national energy poverty mitigation roadmaps, were also actively disseminated at the dedicated ICLEI Europe stand in the networking space of the Urban Future Conference.

The stand saw a high number of visitors due to its engaging concept which centred around thought-provoking conversations on different aspect of urban sustainability and connections to energy poverty mitigation were highlighted.

### 2.3.2 Content and agenda

The session aimed at tackling the energy crisis, while keeping emissions in mind. Since energy prices have skyrocketed, many more people are struggling to pay their energy bills. Even before the recent drastic price spikes, about 35 million Europeans had been unable to keep their homes adequately warm. Solutions are urgently needed, and municipalities seem to be relevant contact points for concerned citizens.



Figure 6 POWERPOOR at Urban Future Conference

The event was designed to be interactive, to allow for a space to discuss and learn from practitioners how tackling energy poverty in cities can be used to strategically boost renewables. A key point for the conversation was how to encourage the replication of support programmes dedicated to energy poor citizens while, at the same time, increasing the deployment of renewables in cities around Europe.

### 2.3.3 Presenters

- Arthur Hinsch, Climate Policy & Energy Governance Officer, ICLEI Europe
- Eleni Kanellou, Research Associate, National Technical University of Athens (POWERPOOR Coordinator)

- Naomi Clara Hanakata, Assistant Professor, National University of Singapore
- Cynthia Zurita, Consultant, S317 Consulting on the "PEER - Porto Energy ElevatoR"
- Melinda Vedrődi, Project Manager, Energiaklub & Erik Suhajda, Student, Eötvös University on assessing energy poverty locally together with social workers
- Vasilios Roussakis, Deputy Mayor of Halki on energy communities and integrating energy poverty into SECAPs (Sustainable Energy & Climate Action Plans)

#### 2.3.4 Attendees

Approximately 30 participants attended the event, with backgrounds varying from urban development experts, architects, NGOs representatives, policy-makers, academics, entrepreneurs, etc. Erik Suhajda, a student from Eötvös University in Hungary, participated as a representative of Energy Supporters and Mentors.

### 3. Lessons learned and recommendations

The fact that a POWERPOOR event on energy poverty alleviation measures was accepted into two high-level events (the International Social Housing Festival and the Urban Future conference) shows can be considered as an indicator for the success of the project, but also of the potential held by the tools and initiatives it implemented.

The target of 100 participants for this type of event can prove to be a challenging task. Being part of a high-level event can on one hand guarantee a more impactful promotion, but at the same time it can distract potential participants who choose to attend a different event at the same time. A potential solution would be to secure renowned or high-level speakers to generate more registrations and participations, or to foresee more events, to evenly distribute the participation targets.

## Annexes

### Annex 1 Programme of the 1st EU Inspiring event

## AGENDA - Wednesday, 30th November 2022

Join us in Brussels: [Rue Montoyer 24, Brussels](#)

Register [here](#)

TIME	Session	Speaker
8:30 - 9:00	Registration and welcome coffee	
9:00 - 9:10	Welcome and scope of the event	<b>Francesca Passeri</b> , Deputy Director, EUROCROWD
9:10 - 9:20	<b>The importance of providing solutions to energy challenges</b> – the energy crisis, energy poverty, and just energy transition	<b>Haris Doukas</b> , Assoc. Professor, POWERPOOR's scientific coordinator, NTUA
9:20 – 9:45	<b>Powering Europe's energy sector:</b> Overview of REPowerEU and future opportunities to achieve the energy transition	<b>Achille Hannoset</b> , DG ENER, Unit B1 Consumers, European Commission
9:45 - 10:00	Overview of EU-funded projects contributing to energy poverty mitigation	<b>Silvia Vivarelli</b> , Senior Project Adviser, CINEA – European Commission
10:00 - 10:15	<b>POWERPOOR</b> - Empowering EU citizens in alleviating energy poverty	<b>Eleni Kanellou</b> , Researcher, POWERPOOR's project manager, NTUA
10:15 - 10:30	<b>Enhancing synergies between EU-funded projects:</b> Are renewable energy communities a solution in the energy crisis and energy poverty?	<b>Marine Faber Perrio</b> , Head of communications, IEECP
10:30 - 10:45	Coffee Break	
10:45 - 12:45	<b>Presentation of EU-funded projects:</b> Boosting renewable energies through citizen participation and bringing energy poverty projects into local actions	
	<b>Enpor:</b> Actions to Mitigate Energy Poverty in the Private Rented Sector	<b>Maria Figueira</b> , Project Manager, UIPI
	<b>SocialWatt:</b> Connecting Obligated Parties to Adopt Innovative Schemes towards Energy Poverty Alleviation	<b>Marine Faber Perrio</b> , Head of communications, IEECP
	<b>EmpowerMed:</b> Empowering women to take action against energy poverty in the Mediterranean	<b>Anamari Majdandžić</b> , Senior Expert, DOOR
	<b>DECIDE:</b> Developing Energy Communities through Informative and collective actions	<b>Gosia Małowska</b> , Public Affairs Expert, ThInk E
	<b>ACCEPT:</b> Active Communities & Energy Prosumers for the energy Transition	<b>Paola Mazzucchelli</b> , Brussels Delegate, FCIRCE

	<b>COMETS:</b> Collective action Models for Energy Transition and Social Innovation	<b>Esther van der Waal,</b> Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Groningen
	<b>ComAct:</b> Community Tailored Actions for Energy Poverty Mitigation	<b>Margaux Barrett,</b> Communications Manager, BPIE
	<b>RESINDUSTRY:</b> Policies for Renewable Energy Sources in industry	<b>Michal Tobiáš,</b> Researcher, CVUT
<b>12:45-13:45</b>	Networking lunch	
<b>13:45-14:00</b>	<b>SUITE - SCALING UP ASSIST</b> Social operators mitigating energy poverty	<b>Marina Varvesi,</b> Research & Innovation Area Responsible, AISFOR
<b>14:00 - 14:15</b>	<b>Energy Poverty Advisory Hub:</b> Understanding and Addressing Energy Poverty	<b>Dora Biondani,</b> Senior Project Coordinator, Climate Alliance
<b>14:15–15:30</b>	<b>Presentation of EU-funded projects:</b> Boosting renewable energies through citizen participation and bringing energy poverty projects into local actions	
	<b>CITIZEE:</b> Scaling up Public Energy Efficiency Investments via Standardising Citizen Financing Schemes	<b>Maximilian Wimmer,</b> Senior Researcher, Stiftung-Umweltenergierech
	<b>stream SAVE:</b> Streamlining Energy Savings Calculations	<b>Guillermo Borragán,</b> Project Manager, VITO
	<b>AUTO- DAN:</b> Optimizing the Operational Performance of Small & Medium Sized Buildings	<b>Giorgia Spigliantini,</b> R&I Project Manager, RINA
	<b>NEVERMORE:</b> New Enabling Visions and tools for End-useRs and stakeholders thanks to a common MOdeling appRoach towards a climatE neutral and resilient society	<b>Efi Karakitsou,</b> Postdoctoral Researcher, NCSR “Demokritos”
	<b>Sun4All:</b> Eurosolar for all - energy communities for a fair energy transition in Europe	<b>Andreas Jäger,</b> Project Officer, ICLEI
	<b>PROSPECT +:</b> Capacity building for cities and regions	<b>Diana Prsancova,</b> Project Officer, FEDARENE
<b>15:30 -15:45</b>	Coffee Break	
<b>15:45 - 16:45</b>	<b>Pitching Session:</b> Present your project idea to potential international partners (10 min per project)	
<b>16:45 - 17:00</b>	Wrap up - Q&A Session	
<b>17:00</b>	Networking drinks	

**Annex 2 Programme of the 2nd EU Inspiring event**  
**Working formulas and question marks for pathways out of energy poverty**

*International Social Housing Festival 2023*

*June, 9th*

*09:00-10:20 CET*

*Palau de Congressos de Barcelona – Fira de Barcelona*

Moderator: Diana Yordanova, Communications Director at Housing Europe

**09:00 - 09:10 – The State of Housing in 2023, an energy crisis in the midst of layers of crises**

Alice Pittini, Research Director at Housing Europe

**09:10 - 09:20 – How can policy cool down and warm up the homes of people with modest incomes?**

MEP Ernest Urtasun, the Greens/Catalunya en Comú, Spain (tbc)

**09:20 - 09:30 – Flemish social housing investment in a solidarity-based and sustainable energy transition for tenants**

Current situation and objectives & priorities by Sven Van Elst, General Manager ASTER

**09:30 - 10:10 – Panel discussion on successful tactics and examples that lift energy poverty, moderated by Housing Europe**

Eleni Kanellou, POWERPOOR project coordinator, National Technical University of Athens

Anu Sarnet, Head of International Relations and Projects at the Estonian Union of Co-operative Housing Associations (EKYL)

Sven Van Elst, Director of ASTER, Belgium


Sergi Delgado, Agència de l'Energia de Barcelona

Tijn Croon, PhD Researcher at TU Delft University, the Netherlands

**10:10 - 10:20 – The energy supporters who went above and beyond to get people out of energy poverty**

Nelson Brito, POWERPOOR Energy Mentor in Portugal

Fermin Arruabarrena Olaiz, Member of the energy community in Enherkom, Basque Country), working in the POWERPOOR energy office in the Basque country



Aiga Kalnina, Project manager at Auce communal services in Latvia and POWERPOOR mentor

Urmas Mardi, Lawyer of EKYL; certified POWERPOOR energy mentor in Estonia

Yana Garkova, Expert in informational services and POWERPOOR mentor in Bulgaria

Antonija Pukec, Director of the Red Cross - Križevci, Croatia

### **Conclusion**

If all goes to plan, where can power-poor households be in a year & five years from now?

### Annex 3 Programme of the 3rd EU Inspiring event

#### **Power switch: tackling the energy crisis with emissions in mind**

How to deal with 'energy poverty' in your city

**Arthur Hinsch** (Chair) Officer, Climate Policy & Energy Governance at ICLEI Europe | Germany

**Cynthia Zurita** Consultant at S317 Consulting | Portugal

**Eleni Kanellou** Postdoctoral Scientist at ICS-FORTH | Greece

**Melinda Vedrődi** Project Manager at Energiaklub | Hungary

**Erik Suhajda** Certified Energy Supporter at POWERPOOR | Hungary

**Naomi Clara Hanakata** Assistant Professor at the National University of Singapore | Singapore

**Vasilios Roussakis** Deputy Mayor of Halki | Greece