



LIFE EP-MED: Multilevel and Cross-Sectoral Structures to Tackle Energy Poverty in EU Mediterranean Countries

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Context

Energy poverty remains a major challenge across Mediterranean EU countries, where high energy costs, low household incomes and inefficient buildings limit households' ability to adequately heat and cool their homes, with significant consequences for health, comfort and well-being¹. Climate change further increases these challenges, particularly through growing exposure to summer heat.

Despite growing policy attention, **important gaps remain in the coordination of energy poverty action across governance levels and sectors**, as well as in the understanding of Mediterranean-specific challenges such as summer energy poverty, island contexts and vulnerable groups^{2,3}.

LIFE EP-MED: Catalysing cross-sectoral networks of national observatories and regional hubs to coordinate actions against household in energy poverty in EU Mediterranean countries

- **4 countries:** Portugal, Spain, Italy, Cyprus
- **36 months:** October 2026 - September 2029
- **12 beneficiaries + 6 associated partners**

LIFE EP-MED aims to strengthen the capacity of Mediterranean countries and regions to diagnose, monitor and tackle energy poverty through **long-term, cross-sectoral and multilevel coordination structures**.



WP1: Project management and coordination

WP2: National and regional energy poverty diagnosis and context characterisation

WP3: Establishing or reinforcing **National Energy Poverty Observatories** and setting up **Regional Energy Poverty Hubs**

WP4: Building energy poverty capacity for cross-sectoral and multi-level stakeholders

WP5: Delivering tailored national and regional policy support to tackle energy poverty

WP7: Sustainability, replication, and exploitation of EP-MED results

WP6: Communication, dissemination, and awareness raising

Work plan

- Create or strengthen **National Energy Poverty Observatories** in Portugal, Spain, Italy and Cyprus.
- Establish **Regional Energy Poverty Hubs** in pilot territories in each country.
- Connect actors from the **energy, housing, health and social sectors**.
- Develop national and regional **energy poverty monitoring frameworks**.
- Integrate **top-down quantitative evidence with bottom-up and ethnographic knowledge** on citizens' experiences and needs.
- Build the capacity of authorities, practitioners and societal intermediaries.
- Support the development and improvement of **national strategies and regional action plans**.
- Foster knowledge exchange and replication across Mediterranean countries and the wider EU.

References:

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- 2 – Sequeira, M.M., Gouveia, J.P., Melo, J.J. (2024). (Dis)comfortably numb in energy transitions: Gauging residential hard-to-reach energy users in the European Union. ERSS, 103612. DOI 10.1016/j.erss.2024.103612
- 3 – Valente, I., Gouveia, J.P. (2024). Growing up in discomfort: Exploring energy poverty and thermal comfort among students in Portugal. ERSS, 103550. DOI 10.1016/j.erss.2024.103550.

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