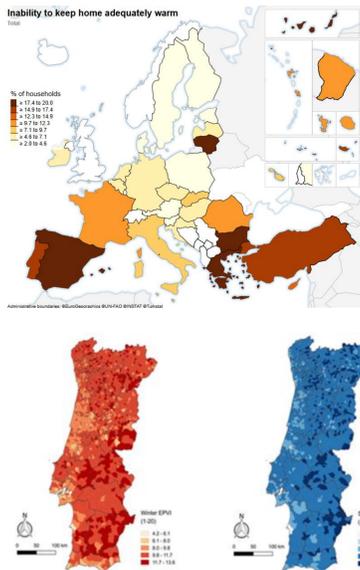


# Multilevel Collaborative Research Spearheading Europe's Fight Against Energy Poverty

CENSE – Center for Environmental and Sustainability Research & CHANGE – Global Change and Sustainability Institute, NOVA-FCT – NOVA School of Science and Technology, NOVA University Lisbon

We are a dynamic research team at CENSE (NOVA FCT), **advancing knowledge and action on energy poverty and related themes—energy efficiency, sustainable cities, and just energy transitions.** Our work spans national and international research, policy support, and consultancy, grounded in strong outreach and collaboration. **From diagnosis to planning and implementation, we lead impactful, transdisciplinary efforts in Portugal, Europe, and beyond.**



## Diagnosis

Over 30 million people in the EU face energy poverty, lacking access to affordable and adequate energy services. At CENSE, we generate scientific insights to address this challenge:

- Developed assessments and a dashboard of national-level indicators for all EU countries via the **EU Energy Poverty Advisory Hub (EPAH).**
- Created Portugal's **Energy Poverty Vulnerability Index** to map regional vulnerability, identifying hotspots for local action using climate, housing, energy, and socioeconomic data.
- Investigated **vulnerable and hard-to-reach groups**, focusing on youth, with a zoom in Portugal.

## Policies and Plans

We support multi-level policymaking with science-based knowledge:

- Advised the **European Commission** and contributed to Portugal's **2023–2050 Energy Poverty Strategy.**
- Developed tools like the **EPAH Atlas** and **Handbook series** with practical steps for local energy poverty plans and activities.
- In **LIFE LOCATEE**, we support municipalities in addressing energy poverty through the renovation of multi-apartment buildings.
- In **LIFE ENTRACK**, we co-create local, socially relevant energy and climate plans with communities and authorities.



## On-the-Ground Actions

We combine science with real-world solutions to promote just energy transitions:

- In **LIFE HORIS**, we co-created the *Renovar Casa* platform for home renovation in Portugal, Spain, and Italy, supporting increased energy literacy.
- In **Transition Point**, we pioneered a mobile one-stop shop that supported over 1000 families with energy efficiency improvements.
- We provide scientific expertise to the **Telheiras/Lumiar Renewable Energy Community**, which promotes solar energy sharing with a focus on mitigating energy poverty.
- Our team has been involved in evaluating citizens' applications to national energy efficiency funding schemes in Portugal. Currently, it supports the **Fundos Verdes funding** program for vulnerable families by the Cascais Municipality.

