

# THE STEP PROJECT TAKES ON ENERGY POVERTY

## WHAT IS ENERGY POVERTY?

Energy poverty can be described as people facing difficulties in paying their energy bills and in maintaining comfortable temperatures in their homes. It can have serious knock-on effects on people's health and well-being, especially during the winter months for northern Europeans or during the summer for southern Europeans.

## 50 MILLION PEOPLE ARE ESTIMATED TO SUFFER FROM ENERGY POVERTY IN THE EU.

It is a phenomenon which is estimated to affect around 10% of the EU's population.<sup>1</sup>

It stems from a combination of three factors: low income, increasing energy bills and inefficient buildings. What is worrying is that energy prices have generally risen faster than household disposable income in recent years.<sup>2</sup>

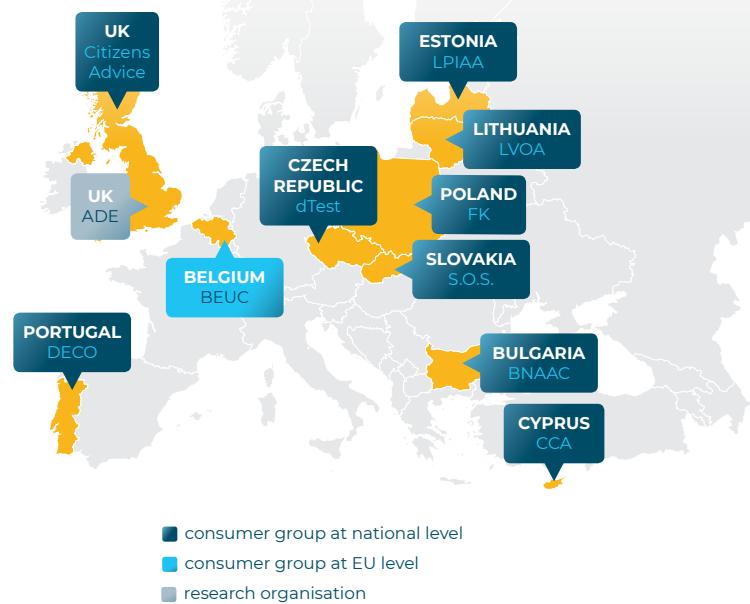
## WHAT IS STEP?

**STEP** (Solutions to Tackle Energy Poverty) is an EU-funded Horizon2020 project which will develop a simple and replicable model of measures to address energy poverty. The project started in June 2019 and is set to last 2.5 years.

What makes STEP exceptional is that it creates a collaboration between consumer organisations and frontline workers. The latter are already used to advising vulnerable people on things like financial or health issues.

## WHO IS INVOLVED?

There are 11 organisations taking part in the STEP project. Nine of them are established consumer organisations which provide advice to consumers at national level in Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Cyprus, Portugal, UK and Bulgaria. The other two organisations are the European umbrella network of consumer organisations which is based in Brussels (BEUC) and a UK-based trade association working on energy efficiency and decentralised energy (ADE Research).



1. Insight\_E, 'Energy poverty and vulnerable consumers in the energy sector across the EU' (accessed 3 Sept 2019), 2015, page 2.  
 2. Eurostat, 'Electricity prices for domestic consumers; Gas prices for domestic consumers; disposable income of households per capita; period 2010 –2014' (accessed 3 Sept 2019).

## WHAT WILL STEP DO?

**STEP WILL TRIGGER ENERGY SAVINGS,  
IMPROVE PEOPLE'S HOME COMFORT AND  
HELP THOUSANDS OF CONSUMERS SAVE MONEY.**

There are three main objectives:

### TRAINING

to get consumer groups and frontline organisations to partner up on energy poverty advice to energy poor consumers.

### ADVICE

to help energy poor consumers save energy and improve their living standard. We will carry out information campaigns, provide national trainings on how to save energy, monitor cost savings and help put in place low-cost energy efficiency measures.

### POLICY

to disseminate best practices, reports, and policy choices that can alleviate energy poverty and promote their replication across the EU.

## CONTACTS

To get more information about the project, you can either:

- Visit our website at [www.stepenergy.eu](http://www.stepenergy.eu) and sign up to the newsletter to receive news on the project, its activities and the latest reports.
- Contact BEUC on +32 (0)2 743 15 90 or by email [energy@beuc.eu](mailto:energy@beuc.eu).



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