



Member State Report Romania

DATA & STATISTICS

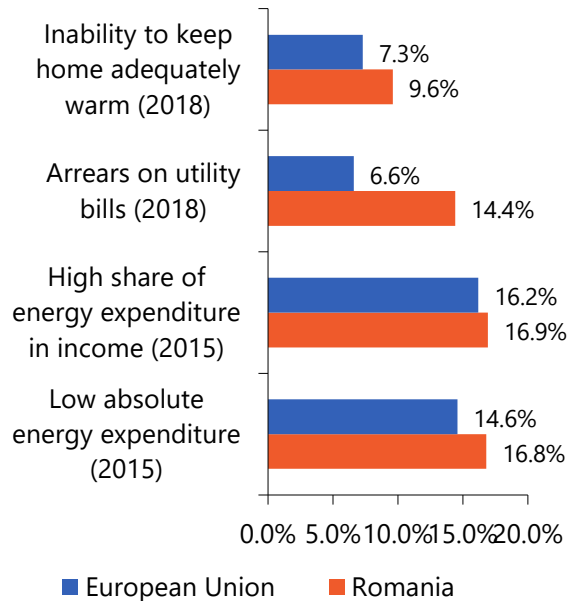
This Member State Report of the EU Energy Poverty Observatory (EPOV) provides an overview of the energy poverty situation in Romania at a glance. With key indicators, policies, and publications, it offers an understanding of the key aspects of energy poverty in Romania.

Romania has a lower performance than the EU average on the population-reported indicators. In 2018, 9.6% of the Romanian population reported that they were unable to keep the home adequately warm while the corresponding EU average is lower at 7.4%. Furthermore, for 2018, 14.4% of the population was unable to pay their utility bills on time due to financial difficulties, while the respective EU average is significantly lower at 6.6%.

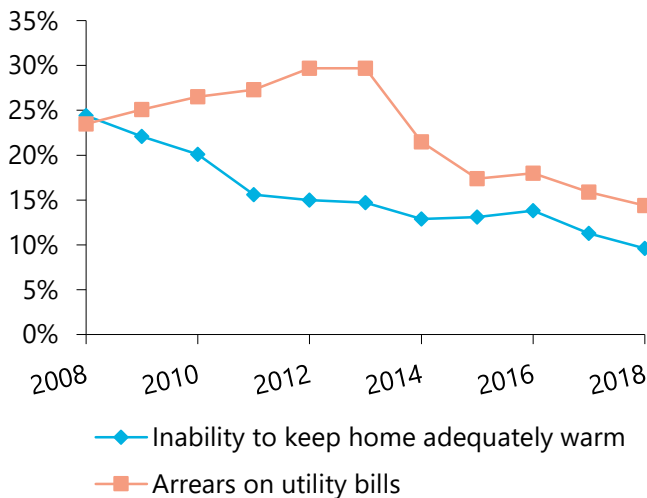
Romania's performs slightly below the EU average in the expenditure-based indicators. The share of households that spend a high share of their income on energy expenditure is 16.9% which is higher than the EU average. The high energy expenditure is likely to put a strain on the household budget and might indicate a poor energy efficiency of the building.

Moreover, at 16.8% Romania has a higher number of households than the EU average that spend a low share of their income on energy expenditure. These households might restrict their energy spending below what is necessary to meet their needs.

Performance relative to EU average*



Performance over time*



In Romania, the percentage of the population that is unable to keep the home adequately warm has significantly improved since 2008. This indicator has decreased from 24.4% in 2008 to 9.6% in 2018. Meanwhile households on arrears on utility bill increased notably between 2008 and 2013, to reach a maximum value of 29.7%. However, this indicator has decreased significantly since, with the sharpest difference observed between 2013 and 2014. The performance of this indicator has continued to improve to reach a value of 14.4% in 2018.

Romania is making a concerted effort in improving and renovating existing building stock via programmes partly funded by the European Union. This may have contributed to a decrease in energy poverty in recent years.

About the EU Energy Poverty Observatory

The EU Energy Poverty Observatory (EPOV) is an initiative by the European Commission to help Member States in their efforts to combat energy poverty. It exists to improve the measuring, monitoring and sharing of knowledge and best practice on energy poverty. EPOV has been developed by a consortium of 13 organisations. This report was authored by Navigant.

*Population-reported indicators taken from Eurostat [here](#) and [here](#) on November 19, 2019. Expenditure-based indicators calculated by EPOV based on HBS data. Disaggregated data of population-reported indicators calculated by EPOV based on Eurostat provided data.



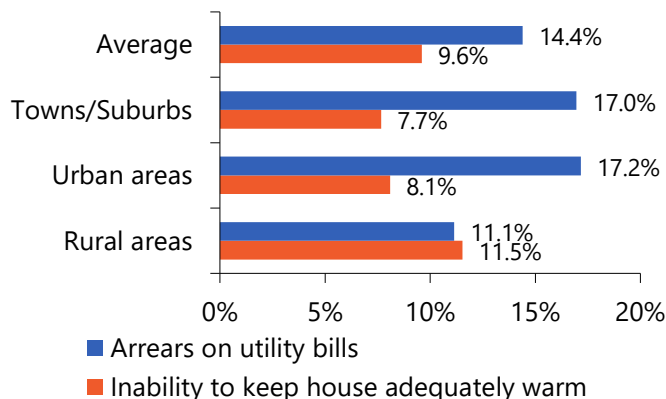
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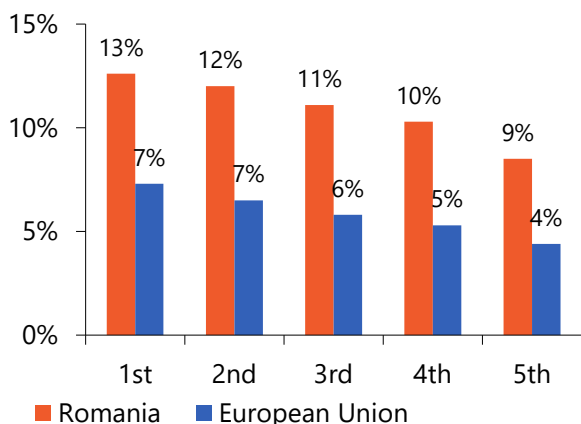
Inability to keep home warm and Arrears on utility bills disaggregated by urban density (2018)*

The disaggregated data of the population-reported indicators show that urban and suburban areas had a high share of people with arrears on utilities in 2018, at 17.2% and 17.0% respectively.

Meanwhile, the inability to keep the house warm is highest in rural areas at 11.1%. The urban, rural and towns/suburbs densities account for 29%, 47% and 25% of the population, respectively, for 2017.



Share of energy expenditure of income by quintile (2015)*

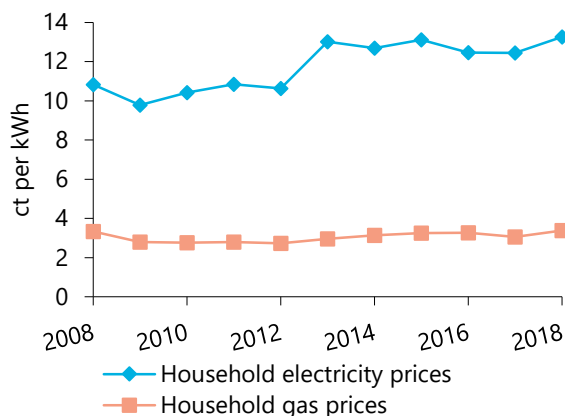


Romania experiences cold climates which results in a high energy usage for heating. Combined with a median income that is well below the EU median (less than half the EU median in 2015), this leads to notably larger share of income spent on energy expenditure in Romania than in the corresponding EU average. In 2015, the poorest quintile spent 13% of their income on energy expenditure, compared to 7% for the EU average. A similar pattern is observed for each quintile, whereby even the richest quintile in Romania spends a notably higher percentage of its income on energy than the EU average. This indicates that the Romanian population, regardless of income, is at a higher risk of being energy poor than the EU average.

The household energy cost over time in Romania has gradually increased for the price per unit of electricity, increasing from 10.8 €ct/kWh in 2008 to 13.3 €ct/kWh in 2018. The sharpest increase in the price of electricity was between 2012 and 2013. Meanwhile the price per unit for gas remains somewhat consistent across the 10 year period. The price per unit in 2018 was recorded at 3.38 €ct/kWh.

The prices per unit for both electricity and gas observed for Romania are lower than the corresponding EU average.

Romania household energy costs over time



*Population-reported indicators taken from Eurostat [here](#) and [here](#) on November 19, 2019. Expenditure-based indicators calculated by EPOV based on HBS data. Disaggregated data of population-reported indicators calculated by EPOV based on Eurostat provided data.



Member State Report Romania

POLICIES & MEASURES

In Romania, research on energy poverty has become more prevalent in recent years. An extensive report on energy poverty in Romania was published in 2017 (Murafa, Sinea, Jigla and Badescu 2017) and attention to the topic has been growing.

Energy poverty is addressed mainly on a national level through financial support to low-income households. The *social tariff* provides financial assistance for low-income households to pay their energy bills. It is estimated that around 11% of Romanian households benefitted from the social tariff in 2016. Furthermore, the *Heating aid during winter* provides support to households to pay their heating bills in the winter (1 November–31 March). The Romanian government also provides a *Minimum income* to low-income households to ensure a minimum standard of living.

In addition to financial support, electricity suppliers are prohibited from disconnecting vulnerable consumers from the grid via the measure called *Disconnection protection vulnerable consumers*. The programme *Improving Energy Efficiency in Households and Low-Income Communities in Romania*, started in 2011, focused on integrating energy poverty in Romanian policies, as well as carrying out energy efficiency measures in specific locations. Other energy efficiency programmes exist, but these do not target energy poor households in particular. For instance, the *Programme for energy efficiency renovations in apartment buildings* which was started in 2009. This measure finances energy efficiency improvements in the residential sector, with particular emphasis on apartment buildings. There is also the *Ordinance on energy efficiency improvements financed with loans*, started in 2010. This measure finances energy efficiency improvements in the residential sector through government guaranteed loans.

One of the most recent measures in which Romania is involved is the *Students Achieving Valuable Energy Savings 2* (SAVES2). This measure is organised by the European Union and aims to catalyse sustainable energy behaviours among over 219,000 university students in seven countries to help them reduce their exposure to energy poverty. This measure was initiated in 2017 and will end in 2020.

Selected measures	Type of measure	Organisation	Target groups	Start year	Result
Programme for energy efficiency renovations in apartment buildings	Building insulation, Energy audits, Heating system	National government, Local government	Apartment buildings	2009	
Ordinance on energy efficiency improvements financed with loans	Building insulation, Heating system	National government	No specific target group	2010	
Improving Energy Efficiency in Households and Low-Income Communities in Romania	Building insulation, Information and awareness	National government	No specific target group	2011	
Disconnection protection vulnerable consumers	Disconnection protection	National government	Vulnerable households		
Heating aid during winter	Energy bill support	National government	Low-income households, Vulnerable households		
Minimum income	Social support	National government	Low-income households		
Social tariff	Social tariff	National government	Low-income households		round 11% of Romanian households benefitted from the social tariff in 2016.
SAVES2	Information and awareness	EU	No specific target group	2017	

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PUBLICATIONS & ORGANISATIONS

This page gives an overview of the most relevant organisations working on energy poverty in Romania and presents publications and training resource on energy poverty in Romania.

Organisation

Name: Building retrofit potential (ENERFUND)
Organisation type: Research & Consultancy
Description: This project is developing a tool to rate and score deep renovation opportunities. The tool will be based on a set of parameters such as EPC data, number of certified installers, governmental schemes running, etc. When used by municipalities, this can be used e.g. to prioritise the most energy inefficient buildings for retrofitting.

Training Resource

Title: Energy saving advice for students
Authors: SAVES2
Year: 2018
Description: It provides energy saving guidance for university students living in rented accommodation including: switching energy supplier; smart meters; the energy efficiency of the property. Specific resources have been adapted by universities from selected Member States, including Romania.

Publication

Title: [Energy poverty in Romania – drivers, effects and possible measures to reduce its effects and number of people affected](#)
Authors: Clodnitchi, R. and Busu, C.
Year: 2017
Description: This article aims to restrain the concept of energy poverty from the perspective of national and EU policies and regulations by reviewing the existing knowledge and critical approaches in this field.

Publication

Title: [Energy poverty and the vulnerable consumer: How far are we from Europe?](#)
Authors: Murafa, C., Sinea, A., Jigla, G. and Badescu, G.
Year: 2017
Description: The report makes a radiography of the legal framework and the public policies in Romania and analyses the manner in which the approach practiced currently affects the social reality in our country. The report identifies the main shortcomings and offers concrete solutions. The study is completed by a series of conclusions and recommendations.

Other selected publications

- Poputoaia, D., and Bouzarovski, S. (2010) [Regulating district heating in Romania: Legislative challenges and energy efficiency barriers](#)
- Househam, I., and Musatescu, V. (2012) [Fuel poverty \(in Romanian\)](#)
- Househam, I., and Musatescu, V. (2012) [Improving Energy Efficiency in Low-Income Households and Communities in Romania: Fuel Poverty Draft assessment report](#)
- Dodd, S. (2012) [Ideological Alleviants: A Comparative Analysis of Fuel Poverty Policy](#)
- Lenz, N.V., Grgurev, I. (2017) [Assessment of Energy Poverty in New European Union Member States: The Case of Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania](#)
- SAVES2 Project (2018) [Analysis of current trends in the rental accommodation market for students](#)

For definitions of the terms used in this report [click here](#). The EPOV website provides an extensive collection of Knowledge & Resources. [Click here](#) for more information and to contribute additional policies, publications and other resources.

This report was completed in February 2020.

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