



Member State Report Cyprus

DATA & STATISTICS

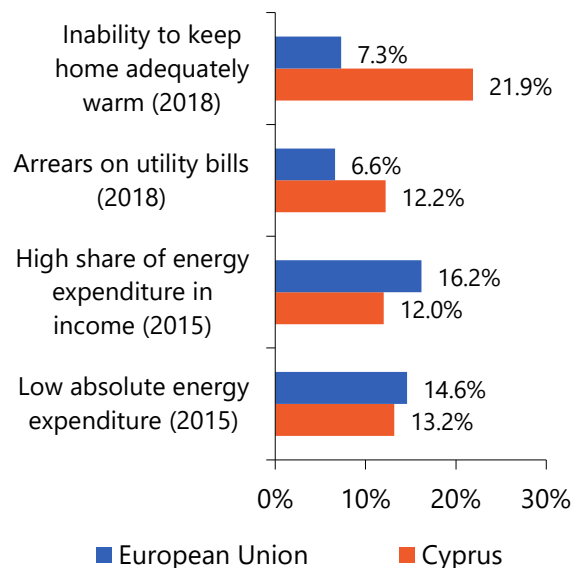
This Member State Report of the EU Energy Poverty Observatory (EPOV) provides an overview of the energy poverty situation in Cyprus at a glance. With key indicators, policies, and publications, it offers an understanding of the key aspects of energy poverty in Cyprus.

Cyprus has a lower performance than the EU average on the population-reported indicators. In 2018, 21.9% of the population reported that they were unable to keep the home adequately warm while the corresponding EU average is 7.3%. Similarly for 2018, 12.2% of the population was unable to pay their utility bills on time due to financial difficulties, while the respective EU average is 6.6%.

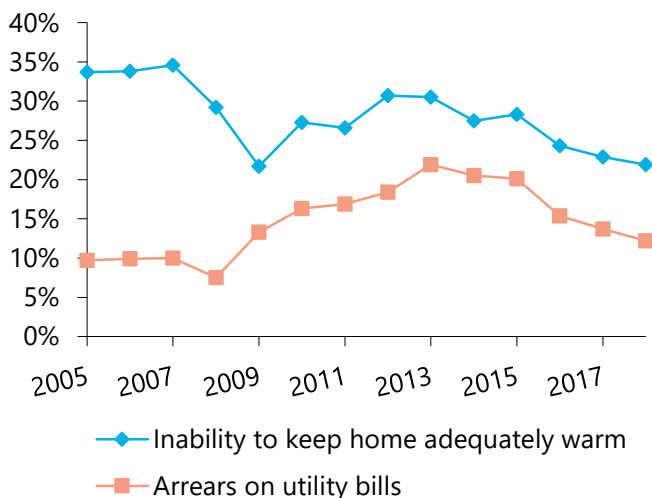
Cyprus' performance in the expenditure-based indicators is better compared to the EU average. The share of households that spend a high share of their income on energy expenditure is 12.0% which is lower than the EU average. The high energy expenditure is likely to put a strain on the household budget and might indicate a poor energy efficiency of the building.

Moreover, at 13.2% Cyprus has a slightly lower number of households that spend a low share of their income on energy expenditure than the EU average. These households might restrict their energy spending below what is necessary to meet their needs.

Performance relative to EU average*



Performance over time*



In Cyprus, the percentage of the population that is unable to keep the home adequately notably decreased between 2007 and 2009, but gradually increased again by 2012. This may be due to the financial crisis. This has since decreased to 21.9% in 2018, at levels lower than the 2005 value.

Meanwhile the percentage of the population on arrears on utility bill increased steadily from 2008 to reach a peak in 2013. This has gradually decreased to 12.2% in 2018.

It is noted that between the year 2009 and 2012 the electricity price per unit increased considerably. This may have contributed to the rise of inability to keep the home warm and arrears on utility bills.

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.

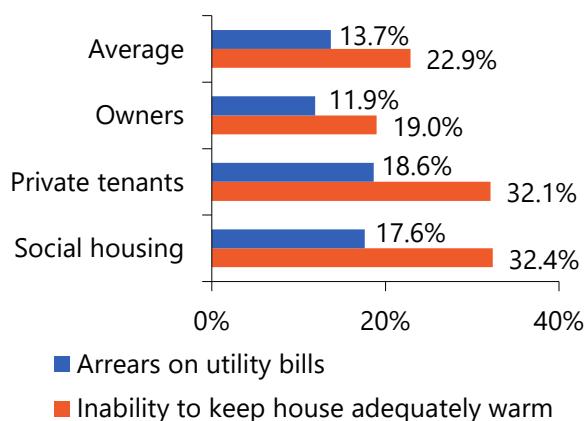
*Population-reported indicators taken from Eurostat [here](#) and [here](#) on November 19, 2019. Expenditure-based indicators calculated by EPOV based on HBS data. Disaggregated data of population-reported indicators calculated by EPOV based on Eurostat provided data.



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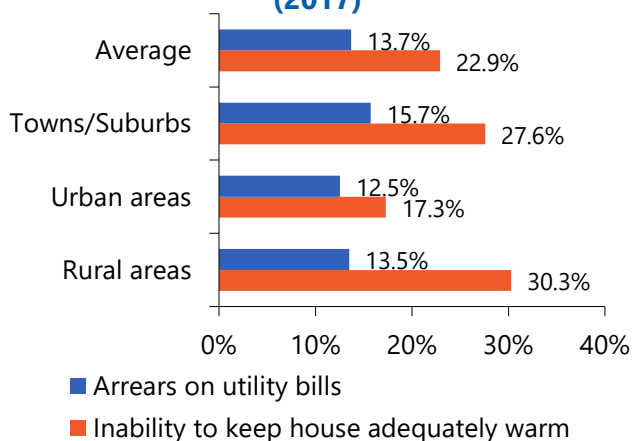
Inability to keep home warm and Arrears on utility bills disaggregated by tenure type (2017)*



The disaggregated data of the population-reported indicators suggest that energy poverty in Cyprus is highest for the social housing and private tenant sectors in 2017, at 32.4% and 32.1% for inability to keep the house warm and 17.6% and 18.6% for arrears on utility bills, for each sector respectively. The social housing and private tenant sector, account for 15% and 14% of the population in Cyprus, respectively, for 2017.

The data also indicate that energy poverty in Cyprus is not particularly sensitive to dwelling type and is distributed somewhat evenly across all dwelling types for 2017.

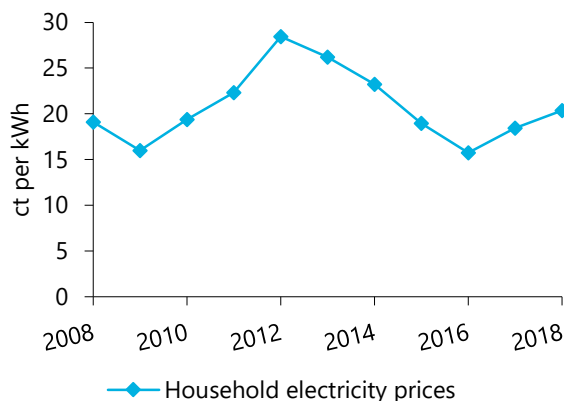
Inability to keep home warm and Arrears on utility bills disaggregated by urban density (2017)*



In Cyprus, rural areas have the lowest performance for the ability to keep the house adequately warm and having arrears on utility bills, closely followed by town/suburb areas. Rural and town/suburb areas account for 30.3% and 27.6% of the total population in Cyprus, respectively, for the year 2017.

In contrast to other EU countries, Cyprus has the lowest energy poverty in urban areas which account for 17.3% of the population in 2017.

Cyprus household energy costs over time



The household energy cost over time in Cyprus has increased drastically from 16 €ct/kWh in 2009 to reach a maximum of 28.5 €ct/kWh in 2012. This could partly explain the increase in energy poverty in these years.

The price of electricity per unit decreased gradually to reach a minimum of 15.7 €ct/kWh in 2016. It has since increased again slightly to 20.4€ct/kWh in 2018.

*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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POLICIES & MEASURES

Cyprus is one of the first countries in the European Union to have official definitions for vulnerable consumers and energy poverty. The definition of vulnerable consumers includes large households with children, households on social benefits, and persons with certain disabilities and illnesses. These vulnerable households are eligible to receive a reduced electricity tariff. This *special tariff* is financed through a general electricity levy on electricity prices. In addition, vulnerable households also receive protection from disconnection in certain critical periods.

Furthermore, there are multiple programmes that provide financial assistance to households to improve the energy efficiency of their dwellings. In some cases, these programmes include additional provisions to facilitate the participation of vulnerable households. In the *Saving Energy – Upgrading of Households* programme, vulnerable households can receive 25% more funding than regular households for deep renovation of their dwellings (75% investment coverage compared to 50%). Moreover, implementation of individual energy saving measures for vulnerable households are also funded by the scheme. In another programme (*Energy production from renewable sources for self-consumption*), vulnerable households receive an extra financial aid to install a photovoltaic system of €900/kWp, with a maximum of €3,600.

There is relatively little research on energy poverty in Cyprus. Some studies on thermal comfort of low income households have been conducted, but overall reports assessing the energy poverty situation in Cyprus are lacking. In addition, there are few NGOs working on the topic. However, EU-funded programmes that cover Cyprus and address energy poverty-related topics include ELIH-MED, FIESTA, SAVES2 and ENERFUND.

Selected measures	Type of measure	Organisation	Target groups	Start year	Result
Imposing a reduced VAT rate (5%) on the renovation and repair of private dwellings	Building insulation	National government	No specific target group	2015	
Saving Energy – Upgrading of Households	Building insulation, Cooling system, Heating system, Renewable energy, Energy audits, Household appliances	National government	Households on social benefits, Households with children, Vulnerable households, Low-income households, Disabled	2015	The total budget for the first call (8 million EUR) was distributed to 1,000 beneficiaries during 2015-2016. The total budget for the second call starting in 2018 is also 8 million EUR.
Disconnection protection for vulnerable consumers in critical periods	Disconnection protection	National government, Regulator, EAC	Households on social benefits, Vulnerable households, Low-income households, Disabled	2015	
Support scheme for installation or replacement of solar water heating systems for houses	Heating system, Renewable energy	National government	Owner-occupants	2017	The available budget is 600,000 EUR.
Energy production from renewable sources for self-consumption	Renewable energy	National government	Households on social benefits, Households with children, Vulnerable households, Low-income households, Disabled	2013	The budget is approximately 1,000,000 EUR per year.
Special tariff for vulnerable customers	Social tariff	National government, Regulator, EAC	Households on social benefits, Vulnerable households, Low-income households, Disabled	2006	

Contact us:

www.energy-poverty.eu
 contact@energy-poverty.eu
 Twitter at @EPOV_EU



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PUBLICATIONS & ORGANISATIONS

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

Organisation

Name: Family Intelligent Energy Saving Target Action (FIESTA)

Organisation type: Research & Consultancy
Description: It aims to help families with children save energy at home, acting on their electricity consumption behaviour and appliance-purchasing decisions through a comprehensive programme, including an energy audit tool and energy efficiency guide for households.

Organisation

Name: Solutions to Tackle Energy Poverty (STEP)

Organisation type: Association
Description: It involves nine countries in the EU, one of which is Cyprus. The objective is to alleviate energy poverty by encouraging behavioural change and low-cost energy efficiency solutions among consumers in/at risk of energy poverty through trust, tailored advice.

Publication

Title: [Analysis of the indoor thermal quality in low income Cypriot households during winter](#)

Authors: G. Pignatta, C. Chatzinikola, G. Artopoulos, C.N. Papanicolas, D.K. Serghides, M. Santamouris

Year: 2017

Description: This study examines the extent to which the economic crisis in the Republic of Cyprus has affected low income households socially and in terms of health, as a result of significantly decreased amounts of heating energy consumption during winters.

Training Resource

Title: [iDEA: Overall Report](#)

Authors: DOOR, Focus, University of Cyprus, Energy Agency of Plovdiv

Year: 2018

Description: The report details analysis of existing tools, educational practices and methods relating to energy poverty in Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and Slovenia. It establishes gaps in existing tools and training needs, this information will then be used to for the development of iDEA ICT tools which will be published on the website in the future.

Other selected publications

- C.K. Chatzinikola, G. Pignatta, M. Santamouris and D.K. Serghides (2016) [Winter Indoor Thermal Comfort in Low Income Households in Cyprus](#)
- Pignatta G., Chatzinikola C., Artopoulos G., Papanicolas C.N., Serghides D.K., Santamouris M. (2016) [Winter survey on the indoor environmental quality in low and very low income households in Cyprus.](#)
- SAVES2 Project (2018) [Analysis of current trends in the rental accommodation market for students](#)
- Kyprianou, I., Serghides, D., Varo, A., Gouveia, J.P. Kopeva, D., Murauskaite, L. (2019) [Energy Poverty Policies and Measures in 5 EU Countries: A Comparative Study.](#)

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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