



Member State Report Hungary

DATA & STATISTICS

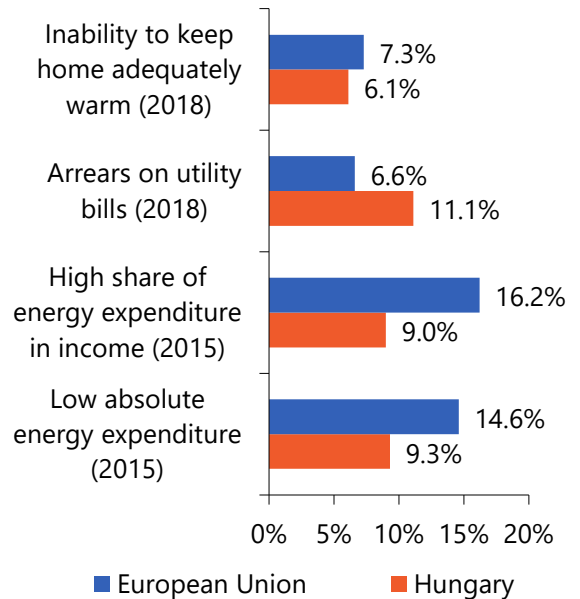
This Member State Report of the EU Energy Poverty Observatory (EPOV) provides an overview of the energy poverty situation in Hungary at a glance. With key indicators, policies, and publications, it offers an understanding of the key aspects of energy poverty in Hungary.

Hungary has a mixed performance in comparison to the EU average on the population-reported indicators. In 2018, 6.1% of the Hungarian population reported that they were unable to keep the home adequately warm while the corresponding EU average is 7.3%. Similarly for 2018, 11.1% of the population was unable to pay their utility bills on time due to financial difficulties, while the respective EU average is 6.6%.

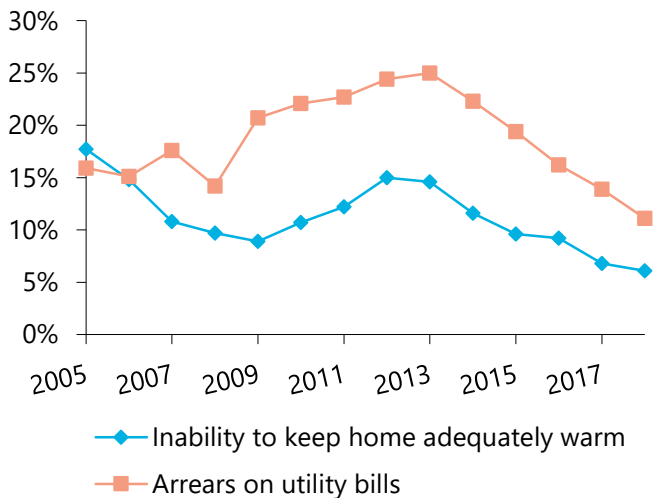
Hungary's performance in the expenditure-based indicators is better than the EU average. The share of households that spend a high share of their income on energy expenditure is 9.0%, which is lower than the EU average. The high energy expenditure is likely to put a strain on the household budget and might indicate a poor energy efficiency of the building.

Moreover, at 9.3% Hungary has a lower number of households than the EU average that have an unusually low 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 Hungary, the percentage of the population that is unable to keep the home adequately warm saw an increase between 2009 and 2012. This may be due to the financial crisis. It has since steadily decreased to a value of 6.1% in 2018. Meanwhile the percentage of the population on arrears on utility bill follows a similar trajectory, and has decreased notably since the peak value of 25.0% in 2012 to 11.1% in 2018.

The decrease in price of electricity per unit since 2012 due to national policies may have been a contributing factor to the decrease of these indicators 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.

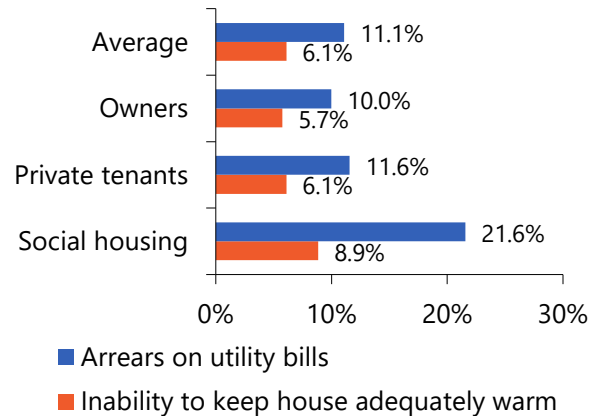
*Population-reported indicators taken from Eurostat [here](#) and [here](#) on November 19, 2019. Expenditure-based indicators calculated by EPOV based on HBS data. Disaggregated data of population-reported indicators calculated by EPOV based on Eurostat provided data.



Member State Report Hungary

DATA & STATISTICS

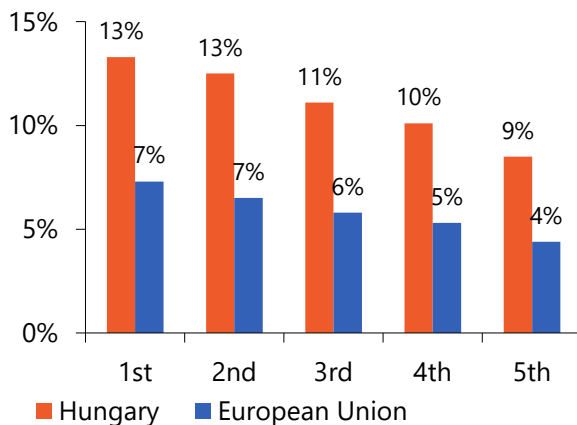
Inability to keep home warm and Arrears on utility bills disaggregated by tenure type (2018)*



The disaggregated data of the population-reported indicators suggest that energy poverty in Hungary is highest for the social housing sector in 2018, at 8.9% for inability to keep the house warm and 21.6% for arrears on utility bills. The second most vulnerable tenure type is the private tenant sector. The social housing and private tenants sectors account for only 9% and 5% of the population in Hungary, respectively, for the year 2018.

The data for 2018 also indicate that rural areas are the most vulnerable to these indicators.

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

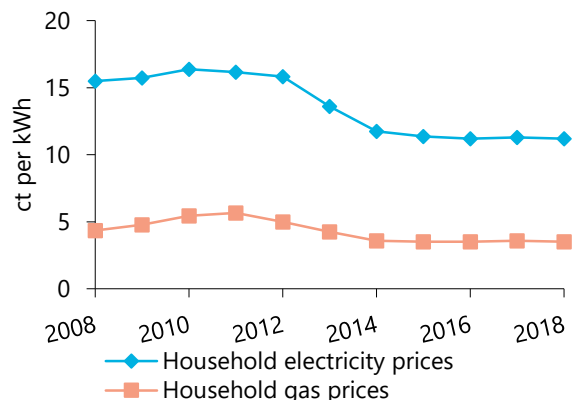


Hungary experiences cold climates in winter which translates into a high energy usage for heating. Combined with a median income that is well below the EU median (less than half the EU median in 2015), this leads to a notably larger share of income spent on energy expenditure in Hungary than in the corresponding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

The household energy cost over time in Hungary was fairly stable for electricity between 2008 and 2012. It decreased steadily between 2012 and 2014 and has remained fairly stable since. This can be attributed to national policies regulating energy prices.

The price per unit for electricity was 11.2 €ct/kWh in 2018, which is lower than the corresponding EU average. Meanwhile the price per unit for gas increased slightly between 2008 and 2011 too, then decreased again by 2014. It has remained somewhat stable since and was at 3.53 €ct/kWh in 2018. The household energy costs for Hungary are some of the lowest in the EU.

Hungary 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 Hungary

POLICIES & MEASURES

Initial research on energy poverty in Hungary was conducted in 2010 by Tirado Herrero and Ürge-Vorsatz who have since produced a number of other studies on the topic. Besides research interest in Hungary, the NGO Energiaklub has been active on the topic of energy poverty. In fact in 2012, Energiaklub proposed a national definition for energy poverty based on analysis of energy poverty in Hungary (Fellegi & Fülöp 2012).

The national government has developed measures that provide *Protection for vulnerable consumers* whereby such consumers who are vulnerable, pensioners or on social benefits, receive some protection against disconnection. They can first request a delay of payment on their electricity bill or pay in instalments. Second, they can choose to get a prepayment meter installed. Meanwhile, disabled consumers may not be disconnected from supply in case of late payment or non-payment via the scheme called *Protection for disabled consumers*. They also receive additional assistance by allowing the measurement and payment of the bill to occur at the place of use, as well as the possibility to receive additional, detailed information on the bill.

Furthermore, the national government provides favourable financial conditions on instruments (such as loans or savings accounts) to allow housing renovation, including insulation and the replacement of heating systems. This measure is called *Financing options for energy efficiency*. Another measure initiated by the national government is the *Rules on renewable production by households* where rules exist that allow households to only subtract the energy they produce from the energy costs they pay.

Selected measures	Type of measure	Organisation	Target groups	Start year	Result
Financing options for energy efficiency	Building insulation, Heating system	National government	No specific target group		
Protection for disabled consumers	Disconnection protection	National government	Disabled		
Protection for indigent consumers	Disconnection protection	National government	Households on social benefits,		
Rules on renewable production by households	Renewable energy	National government	No specific target group		

Contact us:

www.energypoverty.eu
contact@energypoverty.eu
Twitter at @EPOV_EU



Member State Report Hungary

PUBLICATIONS & ORGANISATIONS

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

Organisation

Name: Energiaklub
Organisation type: NGO
Description:

The aim is to make energy producers, users and perhaps even political decision-makers regard energy in a different way. Rational use of dwindling resources, an economy based on diverse local resources, a changing energy-wasting consumer habits; these are all part of the solutions offered.

Organisation

Name: Apro'tech
Organisation type: NGO
Description:

This is a social enterprise that stands for small scale appropriate technology solutions. They develop and build clean-burning, efficient masonry heaters from natural materials for people living in poverty.

Publication

Title: [Fuel poverty alleviation as a co-benefit of climate investments: evidence from Hungary](#)

Authors: Tirado-Herrero, S., Ürge-Vorsatz, Petrichenko, K.

Year: 2013

Description: By taking Hungary as a case study, it emphasises the importance of co-benefits as policy drivers for implementation of advanced residential energy efficiency solutions in countries with moderate levels of commitment to global climate goals and high or increasing fuel poverty rates.

Training Resource

Title: [Energiaklub](#)

Authors: Energiaklub

Year: 2017

Description: A range of resources including tutorials, posters, infographics, videos all relating to issues around energy and the environment. Energiaklub states that it was the first to study and model fuel poverty in Hungary in detail, analysing statistical and technical data. It provides an overview, analysis and evidence on fuel poverty in Hungary.

Other selected publications

- Tirado Herrero, S. and Ürge-Vorsatz, D. (2010) [Fuel Poverty in Hungary: A first assessment](#)
- Dénes Fellegi, Orsolya Fülöp (2012) [Poverty or Fuel Poverty? Defining fuel poverty in Europe and Hungary. Executive Summary](#)
- Tirado Herrero, S. and Ürge-Vorsatz, D. (2012) [Trapped in the heat: A post-communist type of fuel poverty](#)
- Bouzarovski, S., Tirado Herrero, S., Petrova, S., and Ürge-Vorsatz, D. (2015) [Unpacking the spaces and politics of energy poverty: path-dependencies, deprivation and fuel switching in post-communist Hungary](#)
- Bafoil, F., Fodor, F., and Le-Roux, D. (2014) [Access to energy in Europe. The invisible energy poor](#)
- Ecoserveis Association (2018) [Atlas of Initiatives of Energy Poverty in Europe. State-by-state Review](#)
- Recalde, M. et al. (2019) [Structural energy poverty vulnerability and excess winter mortality in the European Union: Exploring the association between structural determinants and health](#)

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.

Contact us:
www.energy-poverty.eu
contact@energy-poverty.eu
Twitter at @EPOV_EU