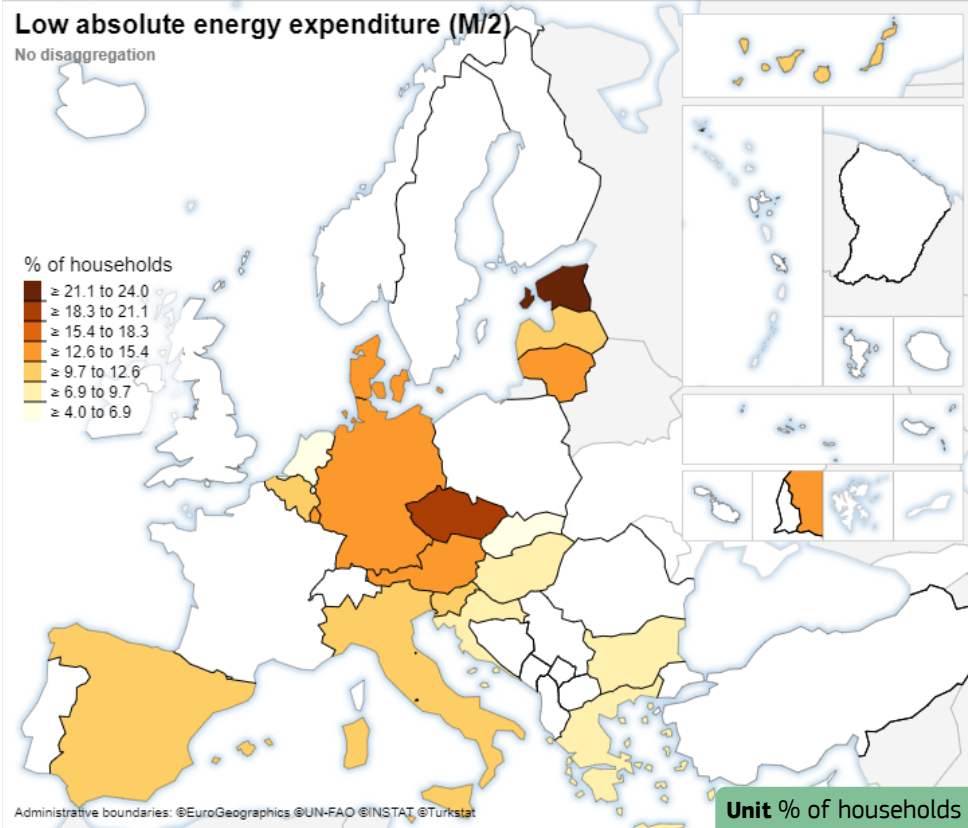
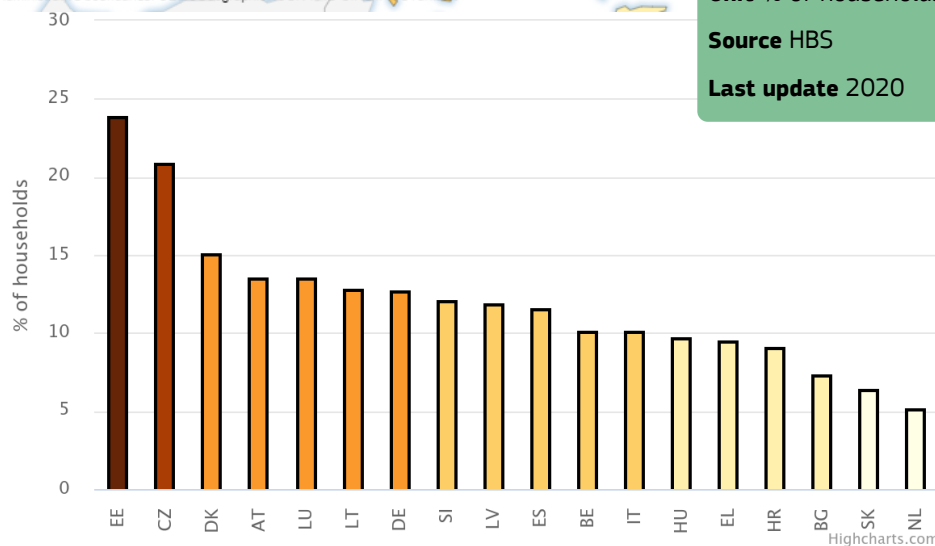


## National indicator - Low absolute energy expenditure (M/2)



**Unit** % of households  
**Source** HBS  
**Last update** 2020



The “*low absolute energy expenditure*” also called “M/2” indicator represents the share of households whose absolute energy expenditure is below half the national median or, in other words, abnormally low.

### DEFINITION

The indicator represents cases of hidden energy poverty, where energy consumption is abnormally low, but it contains **limits**:

### LIMITS



- It does not capture cases of overconsumption/energy self-restriction.
- Might capture non energy-poor households living in very energy efficient dwellings
- It is a dynamic and relative indicator, as results depend on the population expenditure distribution
- Its relative nature might hide certain energy-poor households
- Difficult to compare between countries as national statistics are used, which internalise local realities
- It does not reflect social, environmental, and infrastructural dimensions of the problem



In 2015, **16.2%** of the **European Union** households presented **low absolute energy expenditure** corresponding to 35 508.18\* thousands of Europeans’ households.

### NUMBERS

\*considering that the European Union households in 2015 was 219 186.3 thousands, according to [EUROSTAT \(2022\)](#).



Two households can have the same energy expenditure, but one is composed of only one person or a couple and inhabits a very efficient and smart home, and other can be composed of 5 people and live in a deteriorated home.

### EXAMPLE

More details and additional insights on the indicator are available in the EPAH report “[Energy Poverty National Indicators: Insights for a more effective measuring](#)”.

