



DRAMA, KAVALA, NESTOS & PAGGAIO MUNICIPALITIES, Greece



Technical assistance is essential for addressing energy poverty in the neighboring municipalities of Drama, Kavala, Nestos, and Paggaio in the Region of East Macedonia and Thrace. With a combined population of 171,874 and a significant population decline, the region faces economic challenges, ranking high in poverty and low GDP per capita. The **area's complex terrain** and Mediterranean climate, with temperature fluctuations, contribute to energy poverty. Economic hardships, aggravated by the economic recession and recent crises, have left energy poverty unaddressed. Despite collaborative efforts and building efficiency projects, specific measures for energy poverty are lacking. Municipalities aim to incorporate energy poverty mitigation in local action plans. Technical assistance is crucial to analyse and tackle this issue, fostering sustainable solutions.

The East Macedonia-Thrace Region is recognised as one of the poorest in Greece, facing economic challenges and a lack of specific energy poverty data. The municipalities aim to comprehensively **diagnose and understand the phenomenon**. A **task force** comprising municipal technical and social services, local stakeholders, and EPAH experts will be formed. The diagnosis will be based on regionally relevant indicators and informed by collaboration with EPAH. The outcomes will guide mitigation actions like **energy efficiency improvements, direct support for vulnerable citizens**. The process spans nine months, covering task force setup, diagnosis, communication of results, **awareness raising, and designing mitigation actions**. The initiative's benefits extend to education, awareness, and experience sharing across the region.

