

Eordaia and Grevena Greece



RESULTS

2nd technical assistance of the Energy Poverty Advisory Hub 2023-2024

DISCOVER EPAH



September 2023 - June 2024



Energy poverty phase: Diagnosis



Topics: Coal Region in transition

The Municipalities of Eordaia and Grevena are located in Western Macedonia, a Just Transition Region. Both of them faced significant changes due to the energy and economic crisis, which led to rising unemployment and income reductions. The persistently harsh weather conditions during the fall and winter have also led to a significant increase in heating costs for residents.

Objectives

The strategic objectives were:

- To accurately **identify** energy poverty.
- To **measure** the socio-economic impacts
- To **guide** local governments in formulating effective **policies**.
- To support with **educative** activities, mainly for students.
- Raising **awareness**.

Activities & Outcomes

The assessment highlighted **severe energy poverty**, with many households struggling to maintain comfortable indoor temperatures, the high age of the buildings, the limited use of insulation and financial constraints. High energy costs, coupled with economic challenges like unemployment, further exacerbate the issue. The lack of **awareness** about Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) underscores the need for education.

Stakeholder engagement and training were key in raising awareness and building capacity, with **policy recommendations** and awareness events to support vulnerable groups.

Municipal efforts should focus on altering the heating and cooling systems, facing energy illiteracy, and offering targeted financial support via the just transition mechanism in the pathway toward climate neutrality.

Phasing out coal is essential for achieving the EU's climate objectives. However, activities to reduce coal production need to be implemented jointly with social and structural policy measures and funding. The technical assistance helped develop a clear picture in the severely affected areas.

Future



Table 9: Western Macedonia – Pearson Correlation of Main Energy poverty indicators

| | 7.2 Income 2022 | 8.6 Educational level | 7.9 Social Tariff | 7.6 Arrears in utility bills | 2.3 Inability to keep home adequately warm | 1.9 Energy efficiency |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 7.2 Income 2022 | 1 | ,066 | -,105 | ,038 | ,074 | ,053 |
| 8.6 Educational level | ,066 | 1 | -,097 | -,109 | ,040 | -,019 |
| 7.9 Social Tariff | -,105 | -,097 | 1 | ,002 | -,240** | -,097 |
| 7.6 Arrears in utility bills | ,038 | -,109 | ,002 | 1 | ,049 | ,006 |
| 2.3 Inability to keep home adequately warm | ,074 | ,040 | -,240** | ,049 | 1 | ,180** |
| 1.9 Energy efficiency | ,053 | -,019 | -,097 | ,006 | ,180** | 1 |

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

