

# Mértola, Portugal



## RESULTS

1st technical assistance of the Energy Poverty Advisory Hub 2022-2023

DISCOVER EPAH



November 2022 - July 2023



Energy poverty phase: **Diagnosis**



Topics: information and awareness

The technical assistance was provided by the Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon (ICS-ULisboa) to Junta de Freguesia de Mértola and Associação de Moradores do Centro Histórico de Mértola, in collaboration with the NOVA School of Science and Technology (FCT NOVA).

### Objectives

The expert carried out a qualitative assessment of energy poverty in the historical center of Mértola, aiming at the characterisation of households' experience of energy poverty and identification of factors contributing to energy poverty in the area. The objective was to use this assessment to inform an effective work plan and subsequently tackle the energy poverty challenges in Mértola.

family habitus related to cold and heat, practices related to energy consumption, family dynamics regarding energy consumption, payment of energy bills, characterisation of energy supply contracts, information on energy efficiency and support schemes. A report was produced that included advice on concrete actions and interventions, taking into account the specificities of the local context. Workshops and info sessions presented the results of the report to local stakeholders and aimed at informing them for the energy poverty challenges of the community.

### Activities & Outcomes

32 door-to-door interviews with consumers and 7 interviews with a focus group and local informants were conducted. The questionnaires collected info regarding: the characterisation of the household, material conditions of the dwelling, history of renovation works, practices of coping with cold and heat at home,

### Challenge

Identifying potential interviewees was challenging since the population has declined sharply in recent years. Additionally, when conducting the final report, it was necessary to take into account the specificities of the historic center of Mértola. Local climate, topography, buildings, demography, economy and heritage protection guidelines and regulations make it a very unique place.



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