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EnPover

Project EnPover - Municipal low-cost energy efficiency measures to alleviate energy poverty

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Preface

The booklet contains a collection of good practices: examples of successful municipal measures - educational campaigns, consultancy services, support schemes and other – targeting households vulnerable to energy poverty. They may serve as an inspiration for other municipalities wishing to facilitate implementation of low-cost energy efficiency measures in vulnerable households and thus help them to reduce their energy bill and improve living comfort. Presented good practices have been identified and collected within the project „EnPover municipalities", which aims at alleviating energy poverty of vulnerable households by engaging municipal actors in the process. More information may be found at: www.enpover.eu

I. Manuals and trainings

I. Manuals and trainings

Name:

Wekerle Energy Brigade

Country:

Hungary

Description:

The Wekerle estate (part of the 19th district Kispest in Budapest) was planned by young architects and built between 1909 and 1926 in the Hungarian vernacular secession style. The estate's unique and old windows have poor insulation and are expensive to refurbish. Drawing from the idea of international insulation brigades, residents started self-organising a community rental of tools, machinery and training workshops to refurbish their windows and doors manually. The community paid special attention helping the not-so well-off habitants too.

More info:

The Wekerle community is open to inquiries on the implementation of the project. Read more about the green initiatiaves at the Wekerle estate in EN https://transitioninitiative.org/initiatives/atalakulo-wekerle-transition-wekerle/.

I. Manuals and trainings

Name:

Community Based Briquette Production

Country:

Hungary

Description:

Locals at Bag started producing their own eco heating source - biomass briquettes from feedstock, donated by a local cooperative, to tackle both access to energy and energy poverty. The briquette's high-burning efficiency and complete combustion minimized indoor air pollution and illegal logging. The project was initially started from €319,50 donated by BAGázs Public Benefit Organisation and got maintained by funds from Habitat for Humanity Hungary and BAGázs. The materials used in the briquette production were aimed to be collected from local co-operatives, agricultural lands and offices. The project started with 25 households, who firstly produced 1,600 briquettes, which were distributed amongst 15 families. In 2014, two pressing machines, a dryer and a paper-mashing machine came into possession of the community, which significantly shortened the production process.

More info:

Check BAGázs's website ttp://www.bagazs.org (HUN and EN) or look into Richard Racz's Master's thesis from CEU titled „The Opportunities and Threats to a Community-Based Decentralized Energy System: Biomass Briquette Production in Bag, Hungary" (EN).

I. Manuals and trainings

Name:

Energy Poverty Handbook

Country:

Belgium

Description:

The handbook begins with an introduction of the social consequences of energy poverty on the life of households. It is followed by an article explaining the health implications of cold and damp dwellings. The third paper explores the quality of European housing stock, while the fourth piece analyses the macro-regional diferences of energy poverty and its causes. The second part of the handbook focuses on the existing policies and regulations by explaining the importance of an adequate legal definition, comparing the national regulations protecting vulnerable consumers and energy poor households. Finally, the financial resources that are available are explored, as well as best practices across Europe already operating and helping people in energy poverty.

More info:

https://www.energypoverty.eu/publication/energy-poverty-handbook

II. Consultancy services

II. Consultancy services

Name:

Eco-advisers network in Małopolska Region

Country:

Poland

Description:

The eco-advisers have been hired in several Małopolska municipalities within the LIFE project aiming to improve air quality in the region. Their task is to raise overall energy awareness of households, teach them how to save energy, implement energy efficient improvements in their buildings and where to seek funds for major renovations, including replacement of the old and inefficient heating sources. The eco-advisers provide consultancy services, organise local campaigns and do the house visits. Upon request they also do the thermocheck of the building surface and help to analyse pictures from the thermocamera. The eco-advisers have been thoroughly trained in cooperation with regional municipalities and create a network, where they support each other in their tasks.

More info:

www.powietrze.malopolska.pl

II. Consultancy services

Name:

Green point in Słupsk

Country:

Poland

Description:

The info point has been established in Słupsk to give free advice on environmental issues. In the info point the citizens can learn, among others, how to use energy more rationally e.g. by changing light bulbs, how to produce it from renewables, how to obtain co-funding for the replacement of old and in-efficient heat sources, as well as how to reduce heating bills. Green Point's employees participate in condominiums' meetings, reaching citizens with the most important information concerning city's environmental policy and actions. They also co-organise trainings focusing on energy saving, possibilities of using renewable energy sources and segregation of recyclable materials. At first advisory services were provided in the stationary Green Point, in the Słupsk Centre for Non-Governmental Organisations and Social Economy and in the seats of housing cooperatives, condominiums, companies, non-governmental organisations, municipal institutions and universities. Since 2017 Green Point has been located in a branch of the public library in Słupsk.

More info:

http://biblioteka.slupsk.pl/zielony-punkt.html

II. Consultancy services

Name:

Calculator of PV installations economic profitability

Country:

Poland

Description:

The calculator has been designed under the „More than energy" coalition by technical and economic experts. The calculator allows for calculating the economic profitability of PV installations under 5 different possible support schemes available upon its development: FiT, net-metering + FiT, full net-metering + FiT, full net-metering when the consumer received 1kWh for every 1 kWh supplied and full net-metering when the consumer receives 0,7 kWh for each 1 kWh supplied. The calculator helps to thoroughly evaluate planned investment, including different economic indicators such as playback period, NPV or comparing energy bills before and after the investment. It helps in making more informed decision whether to Invest in PV panels or not.

More info:

http://wiecejnizenergia.pl/publikacje/kalkulator-oplacalnosci-mikroinstalacji-fotowoltaicznej/

II. Consultancy services

Name:

Stromsparcheck (Energy-savings-check for low-income households)

Country:

Germany

Description:

The Stromspar-Check Kommunal project seeks to train people who will then provide: (1) energy and water saving assistance to low-income householders; (2) implement energy saving check programs in households; (3) analyse data and (4) take immediate measures. Householders take part on a voluntarily basis in approximately 150 sites.

More info:

https://www.stromspar-check.de/

II. Consultancy services

Name:

EnergieSparProjekt Nürnberg

Country:

Germany

Description:

This program provides households an energy audit to improve their energy efficiency. On the basis of intensive, personal consultation by socially trained energy consultants, low-income households will be empowered to consciously control their user behavior and reduce their energy consumption. An important part of the consultation is the inclusion of the topic „building substance". The project aims to sensitize landlords to the energy efficiency of their residential buildings. Other important goal is to relieve the municipal budget through the savings in heating costs achieved after the consultancy and also to reduce CO2 emissions in the city of Nuremberg. Households could save 130 EUR on average per year on both the electricity and heating costs.

More info:

https://www.nuernberg.de/internet/esp/aktuell.html

II. Consultancy services

Name:

EC-LINC: Energy Check Reduction Program for Low Income Households (consultancy, awareness raising and energy efficiency handouts)

Country:

Hungary

Description:

The objective of the Energy Check Reduction Program was to help low income households by tailoring, building up and testing in practice a methodology of home energy consultation service. This goal was achieved by providing information packages to a wide variety of institutions and organizations, training energy advisers, initiating on-site consultancies and handing out a limited number of energy saving equipment. During the course of the project 265 households were visited and 5 energy advisers were trained. The real savings in electricity and heat consumption reached ca. €35/year/household.

More info:

Contact the Hungarian project leader of EC-LINK: Energiaklub Climate Policy Institute and Applied Communications (csontos@energiaklub.hu) or visit https://www.greencycle.si/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Good-practices-aiming--to-end-energy-poverty.pdf pp. 38-42.

II. Consultancy services

Name:

Debt Management Programme at Bag (consultancy and awareness raising programs)

Country:

Hungary

Description:

Based on the articulated needs of the local community at Bag, a public benefit organisation called BAGázs initiated a Debt Management Program. The main concern of the locals was their accumulated debt reaching almost HUF 3.5 million or €9.600 (primarily towards public utilities and in the form of bank loans) leaving many without a legal connection to electricity. Based on an agreement, the local electricity provider took over a part of their debts. The determination of the participants led to significant results: Within two years all but one participating family were at the end of their repayment period. 14 prepayment meters have been installed. In addition to their monthly electricity bills the families also settled a total of HUF 1.5 million or €1.400 in arrears. 40% of households at Bag took part in the program.

More info:

Contact directly BAGázs Public Benefit Association at info@bagazs.org or read about the program's impact in Hungarian (https://ojs.lib.unideb.hu/parbeszed/article/view/6157/5778).

II. Consultancy services

Name:

Zugló Energy Efficiency Advisory Office (ZETI)

Country:

Hungary

Description:

In 2016 the Municipality of Zugló (Budapest) opened a free of charge energy efficiency consultancy office for its inhabitants and companies operating within the district. During the operating years ZETI's experts provided tailored assistance for several hundreds of people inter alia on favourable building insulation, lighting modernisation, heating upgrade, purchase of energy efficient household appliances. The technical consultancy was accompanied with information on funding options, ongoing tenders, opportunities and innovations available for the public.

More info:

For more information contact Energiaklub Climate Policy Institute and Applied Communications (csontos@energiaklub.hu) or the municipality.

II. Consultancy services

Name:

Municipal Mentoring Program for Families (home visits and provision of social services)

Country:

Hungary

Description:

This mentoring program is providing help for families living in Lyukóvölgy (Miskolc). The program was founded by the Miskolc municipality in 2016 with the goal of empowering families. This is done with the help of paid mentors (women) chosen from the local community and with the help of professionals eg. social workers. Their assistance includes advisory help in the realm of social, health and child welfare services, awareness raising on establishing healthy hygiene habits and living environments. The municipality additionally built a local Mentor Home serving as a base for the mentors and families lacking crucial energy services (laundromat, shower, printer). The program was financed and carried out by municipal funds.

More info:

For inquiries please get in touch with the Municipality of Miskolc.

III. Actual energy consumption measurements

III. Actual energy consumption measurements

Name:

Smart meters in Wrocław

Country:

Poland

Description:

In Wrocław Tauron Dystrybucja implemented a pilot AMI project, where AMI comes from Advanced Metering Infrastructure. Within the framework of the project sample group of households was equipped with smart meters working with special web/mobile application allowing to analyse own energy consumption. Each consumer can also define, how much energy they want to consume maximum and when they reach the limit, how they receive an e-mail or a text message informing about it. Then they can make informed decision on further steps.

More info:

http://wroclaw.wyborcza.pl/wroclaw/1,35771,20051573,we-wroclawiu-montuja-inteligentne-liczniki-co-zyskaja--mieszkancy.html

III. Actual energy consumption measurements

Name:

Energia su misura

Country:

Italy

Description:

The Energia su misura analyses the effect of consumption reduction prompted by appropriate feedback tools in social housing contexts. Activities involved in the project: monitoring of domestic consumption through smart plugs, elaboration of consumption data to provide adequate measures to families, order to improve energy efficiency inside their homes, analysis of families reaction to the measure provided to them. Energy awareness can be a way to involve families: the monetary saving can be the first step to involve families, but their increased awareness about energy themes can make them participate in a more active way in the social life of the community. Main success factor is involvement of local officials from the municipality of Milan in whom families had trust.

More info:

https://www.energiasumisura.com/

III. Actual energy consumption measurements

Name:

SMART-UP

Country:

France, Italy, Malta, Spain, UK

Description:

The SMART-UP project is an EU project funded under Horizon 2020 which aims to enable vulnerable consumers to make significant energy savings, reduce their fuel bills and seize further opportunities that maybe offered by demand-response services. In each country, partners are training stakeholders to enable them to be able to advise their customers, clients or tenants on how to get the most out of their smart meter and change the way they use energy in their homes. This is accompanied by a research piece which will monitor the impact of the advice and produce data and analysis which can help inform future energy poverty policy, action and research. This project aims to explore how providing tailored advice and support to vulnerable energy consumers can increase interaction with smart meters, improve energy literacy, and change energy behaviour to reduce energy costs in the home.

More info:

http://www.smartup-project.eu/about/

IV. Awareness raising and educational campaign

IV. Awareness raising and educational campaign

Name:

'rEdistributor' Project

Country:

Hungary

Description:

The 'rEdistributor' Project maps the problem of energy poverty in Hungary through partnership among five civil society organizations. The project's objective is to gather and showcase the knowledge necessary to provide public knowledge and efficient solutions to the challenges posed by energy poverty. The project members (supported by the Civitates initiative) are experts from Habitat for Humanity Hungary, the Hungarian Network of Eco-counselling Offices (Kötháló), the Hungarian Women's Lobby (Női Érdek), the Non-profit Sector Analysis Association (NOSZA), and the Chance Lab Association, which operates the Hungarian Anti-Poverty Network. Their website contains up-to-date and clearly put information on energy poverty and its wider context within Hungary (social care system, gender aspects, energy prices, regulations etc.). Members are also organising energy-poverty related conferences, forums, conducting case studies and co-organising workshops.

More info:

Visit the project's Hungarian website with English introduction https://www.elosztoprojekt.hu/ or write directly to info@elosztoprojekt.hu.

IV. Awareness raising and educational campaign

Name:

‚Coal Transition' Project

Country:

Hungary

Description:

In order to achieve a just transition, Friends of the Earth Hungary with the help of local associations (Ökológiai Intézet & Zöld Kapcsolat Egyesület) took part in this coal transition program. Their focus within Hungary consisted of the Borsod region extremely struck by poverty and by long term consequences of lignite firing. Participants organized a campaign against lignite usage, a travelling exhibit and a conference for both professionals and affected locals. As a result of the project an international report came to life focusing on coal, showcasing the struggle and realities of people living in Borsod and in similar regions outside Hungary.

More info:

Visit Friends of the Earth Hungary's (MTVSZ) website (HUN and EN contact options) or read the report on the program's publication at https://bankwatch.org/publication/heroes-of-just-transition (EN).

IV. Awareness raising and educational campaign

Name:

CO-POWER Project

Country:

Hungary, Czech Republic, Estonia, UK,Belgium, Ireland, Denmark

Description:

The objective of CO-POWER was to develop EU-level and national legislations on community ownership & financing to increase 'community power'. It raised awareness among policymakers, provided financial benefits for the local community and governments and increased local contracting and employment. As a result around 7.000 - 12.000 citizens were informed and engaged (by joining workshops, street information stalls, writing letters to MEPs, joining e-mail actions and petitions or expressing interest for joining energy cooperatives/ community energy projects). Friends of the Earth Hungary (MTVSZ), as the Hungarian consortium member collected good practises focusing on the community aspects of energy initiatives: from straw bale insulation projects to forming energy communities.

More info:

Check the European Commision's website https://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/projects/en/projects/co-power for overall details on the project and this site from MTVSZ https://mtvsz.hu/a-kozossegi-energia-programban--2013-2016-kozott-hazai-kozossegi-kezdemenyezesek (HUN) on their specific programs and achievements.

IV. Awareness raising and educational campaign

Name:

Fuel Poverty Awareness Day and National House Warming event

Country:

United Kingdom

Description:

National Energy Action (NEA), the main fuel poverty charity in the UK runs an annual fuel poverty awareness day. This year's day took place on 15th February. Local organisations are encouraged to produce publicity, host events and contact their MPs to raise awareness of fuel poverty and the solutions for tackling it. NEA provides an extensive resource pack to support local activities. NEA also runs an annual national housewarming event at which local organisations are encouraged to raise awareness, hold events and run charitable activities to help tackle fuel poverty. NEA provides a range of resources to support this.

More info:

https://www.nea.org.uk/professional-advice-workers/

IV. Awareness raising and educational campaign

Name:

IDEA – Innovative Direction in Energy Advising

Country:

EU

Description:

Innovative Direction in Energy Advising (IDEA) is a project that aims to decrease energy poverty by implementing an educational platform for energy awareness. The main goals of the project are: raising awareness of European citizens on the rising issue of Energy poverty, improving quality of practices in the education of adults on the challenges and opportunities related to Energy poverty eradication by identifying the existing practices and methods and building on them.

More info:

http://www.project-idea.eu/about/

V. Competitions and games

Name:

Energy neighbourhoods project

Country:

Different EU countries

Description:

Different European municipalities offered their citizens a bet. Groups of private households or institutions formed so-called 'Energy Neighbourhoods' and tried to save as much energy as possible in the six months' time of the bet. They were supported by volunteering 'Energy Masters' who were trained during the project and forwarded their knowledge to the households. Each Energy Neighbourhood that saved 8% or more energy in the given time was awarded by the municipality. The best European energy savers were also invited to a European prize gala in Brussels.

More info:

https://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/projects/en/projects/energy-neighbourhood; https://www.prawo.pl/biznes/konkurs-energosasiedztwa-oszczedzaja-by-wygrac,155852.html

V. Competitions and games

Name:

eSESH

Country:

France, Spain, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Italy

Description:

eSESH provide direct, timely and comprehensible feedback on energy consumption, enabling tenants to adapt their energy consumption behaviour. An EAS visualises the energy (heating, electricity or water) consumptions. The tenants have access to EAS through a web-based platform which allows them to quickly and easily obtain consumption information at monthly, daily or even shorter time-intervals. This enables the tenants to easily evaluate whether their consumption is to be judged as high or not. Moreover, other comparisons are possible: tenants can compare their consumption with other consumers or with an ‚average' tenant, tenants can see their energy consumption by square meter, tenants can compare their actual consumption with their consumption in the past year or month and tenants can access a forecast of their consumption.

More info:

https://esesh.eu/project/

V. Competitions and games

Name:

Energy Demand Research Project

Country:

UK

Description:

The Energy Demand Research Project (EDRP) was a suite of large scale trials across Great Britain. The aim was to understand how consumers react to improved information about their energy consumption over the long term. The EDRP trailed a range of methods of providing customers with improved feedback on their energy consumption, including: smart electricity and gas meters real-time display devices, which show energy use in pounds and pence, more accurate and more frequent bills energy saving information community engagement. The trials were made up of different combinations of these actions and explored the responses of over 50,000 different households. In addition, SSE assessed the effect of community engagement on behaviour and electricity demand reduction. This was undertaken in three villages: one each in England, Scotland and Wales. Each community had the same target and incentive: a £20,000 community project prize for achieving an average 10% reduction in electricity consumption over a three month period compared with the same three month period in 2007-8.

More info:

https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/gas/retail-market/metering/transition-smart-meters/energy-demand-research-project

VI. Energy efficient equipment handouts

VI. Energy efficient equipment handouts

Name:

Handing out energy saving bulbs in Słupsk

Country:

Poland

Description:

The first step is often the hardest, for after that we have forward momentum. In order to encourage vulnerable households in Słupsk to start using energy more consciously and try to reduce it, the city handed out energy efficient LED bulbs to the citizens, including disabled and retired people, numerous families, etc. Thanks to the money saved with more efficient lights, in future they will be able to buy further energy-saving equipment. The campaign has been organised in cooperation with the IKEA company, which provided in total 5 000 bulbs.

More info:

https://m.radiogdansk.pl/wiadomosci/item/53315-piec-tysiecy-energooszczednych-zarowek-za-darmo-ikea-rozpoczyna-wspolprace-ze-slupskiem/53315-piec-tysiecy-energooszczednych-zarowek-za-darmo-ikea-rozpoczyna-wspolprace-ze-slupskiem

VI. Energy efficient equipment handouts

Name:

Apro'tech: masonry heaters for fighting energy poverty

Country:

Hungary

Description:

Apro'tech is an award winning social enterprise providing cost-effective, environmental-friendly and healthier heating options for poverty stricken families. This is done by the construction of masonry heaters for families whose best feasible option is wood heating. The experts (Nóra Feldmár and members of Védegylet Association) and a number of volunteers are working on replacing the metal heaters or other inefficient devices the targeted households are using to keep their homes warm. In their past work Apro'tech mainly focused on the city of Pécs and smaller settlements using the donations of Habitat for Humanity Hungary, the potentials of crowdfunding and local raw materials e.g. ochre loess. The social enterprise was founded in 2000 and recieved top price of the Tackle Energy Poverty Program.

More info:

Read a bit more detail on the program here http://xn--vdegylet-b1a.hu/aprotech_eng/ or contact its organisers.

VI. Energy efficient equipment handouts

Name:

Social Solar Power Plant (Szociális Naperőmű)

Country:

Hungary

Description:

The Social Power Plant of Tiszabő aims at providing safe and healthy heating options for families with small children. The plant can give 60 to 70 families long term assistance by partly replacing the debated Social Fuel Program of Hungary. Beneficiaries were chosen through a tender and the supported families' prepayment meters are upped with HUF 120.000 or €330 assistance each heating season. The electricity powered heating devices are rented by families for a symbolic price. A remarkable step for this and other community power plant projects will be the creation of a just legal environment for energy communities in Hungary. The pilot program was initiated by the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta in coordination with the local electricity provider E.ON.

More info:

Read more about the overall initiative at https://www.szocialisnaperomu.hu/projekt/ (HUN).

VII. Support schemes

VII. Support schemes

Name:

Low-Emission Limitation Programme (co-financing replacement of heat sources)

Country:

Poland

Description:

For many years already the City of Bielsko-Biała is implementing a Low-Emission Limitation Programme, under which the citizens can obtain co-funding for the replacement of old, coal-fired boilers with new, environmentally friendly heat sources, including RES. Entitled to apply for funding are both natural and legal persons, including housing cooperatives, condominiums and companies. They can receive a grant covering up to 80% of qualifiable costs, but not exceeding 16.000 PLN for heat pumps and 8.000 PLN for other heat sources. New heat sources can be heat pumps, condensation gas and oil boilers, electric boilers or heat knot connected to the district heating system.

More info:

www.miastodobrejenergii.pl

VII. Support schemes

Name:

Supporting installation of thermal collectors in private households

Country:

Poland

Description:

The 4 neighbouring municipalities of Niepołomice, Wieliczka, Skawina and Miechów decided to support their inhabitants in switching to more environmentally friendly energy sources and prepared an umbrella project entitled „Installation of solar energy systems on public and private buildings", which obtained funding from the Swiss Contribution Fund. Within the framework of the project interested households could apply for co-funding installation of solar thermal collector systems on their buildings. Three types of systems were envisaged, depending on the size of the household. The citizens could receive up to 70% funding (60% from the programme and additional 10% from the municipality) and the municipality overlooked the process, also commissioning the installations.

More info:

https://www.niepolomice.eu/informator/projekt-solarny/

VII. Support schemes

Name:

Electricity and gas fund (Gas- en elektriciteitsfonds Fonds Gaz Electricité) (Combination of financial aid and consultancy)

Country:

Belgium

Description:

Social services can provide financial aid for paying the electricity and gas bill of households, help to negotiate payments plans and support with improving building insulation and household appliances. The number of cases needing financial support has decreased from 52,184 in 2008 to 28,895 in 2015. Besides bill support, this long-term success is thanks to the additional measures in terms of energy efficiency and energy audits.

More info:

https://www.socialsecurity.be/citizen/de/hilfe-oshz/hilfe-bei-ihren-energiekosten/gas/strom-fonds-energiefonds

VII. Support schemes

Name:

Local Service for Energy Intervention (Service Local d'Intervention pour la Maîtrise de l'Energie (SLIME))

Country:

France

Description:

SLIME is a programme for low-income households that aims to coordinate actions against energy poverty on a local level. It aims to facilitate the identification of vulnerable households, financially support these households and coordinate between involved organisations. 4,672 households were assisted in the scheme in 2016, investing nearly 2.5 million euros.

More info:

http://www.lesslime.fr/

VII. Support schemes

Name:

Electricity help fund (Energy audits, household appliances, energy bill support funded by energy suppliers & NGO)

Country:

Austria

Description:

This measure provides households with energy audits to improve energy efficiency, as well as support with the replacement of household appliances. The measure also provides energy bill support for urgent situations. The measure supports 400 to 500 households per year.

More info:

https://www.verbund.com/de-de/ueber-verbund/verantwortung/soziales/stromhilfefonds

VII. Support schemes

Name:

"Climate Bonus"

Country:

Germany

Description:

This measures provides a premium for energy efficient housing for low-income households. The premium enables households who are on social benefits to rent energy efficient housing. This measure was implemented for e.g. in Bielefeld, Padeborn, Solingen, Berlin.

More info:

https://www.energypoverty.eu/measure-policy/climate-premium-bielefeld

VII. Support schemes

Name:

Enercity Härtefonds Hannover

Country:

Germany

Description:

This measure provides direct financial support for covering the energy bill and advice to vulnerable households on financial and legal issues concerning the energy bill (the program ended in 2016).

More info:

https://www.enercity.de/presse/pressemeldungen/2016/2016-08-26-enercity-haertefonds-fuenfjahresbilanz/index.html

VII. Support schemes

Name:

Programme Habiter Mieux „Better living”

Country:

France

Description:

It aims to provide financial support to renovate dwellings of low income households to improve energy efficiency. It includes different types of grants and loans financed by different parts of the government, including the National Housing Agency (Anah), the General Commissariat for Investment, as well as regional and local governments.

More info:

https://www.anah.fr/proprietaires/proprietaires-occupants/etre-mieux-chauffe-avec-habiter-mieux-et-maprimerenov/

VII. Support schemes

Name:

Social Housing Reconstruction Project at Nagykanizsa

Country:

Hungary

Description:

The project took place in a large slum area with the goal of renovating run-down or uninhabitable social housing units. It was put forward by the College for Advanced Studies in Social Theory (Budapest) in a cooperation with Habitat for Humanity Hungary and was realised through reconstruction camps involving the affected vulnerable groups, locals, national and international volunteers. Funding was received through grants, NGOs, private donations and the local government. As a result of their work 33 buildings' energy performance got improved, debts were reduced by more than €9.000 and social housing tenants got better acknowledged by locals. Participating tenants were compensated for their daily work.

More info:

Read the publication at https://www.greencycle.si/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Good-practices-aiming-to-end-energy-poverty.pdf pp. 74-77.

VIII. Concerted Actions

VIII. Concerted Actions

Name:

Municipal Action Plan for Tackling Energy Poverty

Country:

Poland

Description:

Tackling energy poverty, as tackling any major local challenge, requires long-term approach and good planning. Several Polish cities, including Baboszewo and Mińsk Mazowiecki, have already developed comprehensive municipal action plans for tackling energy poverty. The plans define the scale of energy poverty in the municipality, as well as actions and tasks, the implementation of which will help to minimize the phenomenon and its negative impacts on the citizens' living comfort.

More info:

www.powietrze.malopolska.pl

VIII. Concerted Actions

Name:

Energy poverty policy mix of Munich

Country:

Germany

Description:

Munich serves as a model for other German municipalities with its mix of policy instruments for effectively alleviating energy poverty which includes 1. Hardship fund for households with energy debts 2. Energy consulting of households with energy debts accompanied by socio-educationally consulting 3. Energy consulting for low-income households of the Munich public utility company 4. free energy advice for low-income households („Stromspar-Aktiv").

More info:

https://www.muenchen.de/rathaus/Stadtverwaltung/Sozialreferat/Sozialamt/Schuldnerberatung.html

VIII. Concerted Actions

Name:

STEP-IN Project: Rural energy poverty Living Lab (educational campaigns, home visits, energy consumption measurements, energy efficiency handouts)

Country:

Hungary

Description:

The Living Lab in Nyírbátor area explores the feasibility of refurbishment actions in low income households through complex actions. It mainly aims to provide safe and legal access to electricity and adequate information on energy consumption. The program is combined with a debt management program and works with trained energy advisors assessing electricity consumption and data analysts providing feedback to consumers. It is operated jointly by Ariosz, an organisation specialised in social and market research and the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta. It was established with the support of the electricity provider company E.ON. The program resulted in 600 household visits, 300 households adapting the proposed energy efficiency measures and improved quality of life for 750 residents. Until now, a school visit, a Winter School and 7 Energy Cafés were held in Nyírbátor and neighbouring settlements covering various topics in connection with energy poverty.

More info:

Visit STEP-IN Project's official English website https://www.step-in-project.eu/rural-living-lab-hungary/ or see the presentation on the Rural Living Lab and contact information at https://www.elosztoprojekt.hu/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/energiaszegenysegkonf_stepin.pptx.pdf (EN).

VIII. Concerted Actions

Name:

'LightBringers' Project at Baks (energy efficiency handouts, trainings and awareness raising)

Country:

Hungary

Description:

The ‚Light Up' Project is an initiative established by the 'LightBringers' Foundation. Starting from the settlement of Baks the aim of this bottom-up initiative is to provide a low cost and sustainable electricity service solution for households in extreme poverty without having the means to afford grid-based electricity. It is done by setting up a one-solar-panel system for the households, thus providing the means of lighting up a LED strip and charging one phone. The participants are mostly locals working voluntarily on inter alia setting up the panels, participating in workshops, making community-based decisions on the distribution of newly purchased systems and deliberating their common rules. The solar panel systems are purchased based on crowdfunding, tenders and grants earned by the Foundation and financial contributions of the already benefited. Up to this day 12 households have directly benefited from the program.

More info:

Visit https://www.elosztoprojekt.hu/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/F%C3%89NYHOZ%C3%93K-PPT.pptx.pdf (HUN) or https://www.reuters.com/article/us-hungary-roma-solar-idUSKBN145100 (EN).

VIII. Concerted Actions

Name:

From Huts to Homes Project (energy efficiency renovation, energy efficiency handouts, provision of social services)

Country:

Hungary

Description:

The bottom-up ‚From Streets to Homes!' Association provides homeless people the opportunity to move to municipal dwellings and long term social help to exit homelessness, for which they hardly have any other chance. The association is working in partnership with other civil society organisations and with prospective tenants, volunteers renovating run-down social housing units or privately owned apartments. Within the scope of the program in three districts of Budapest already nineteen renovations were realised. The goal is to empower tenants to retain their housing in the long run, for which additional extensive social support and employment opportunities are provided. The program receives funding from individual and organisational donations. The association's intention is to expand their range of activities into an independent program under the social rental agency 'Housing Now!'.

More info:

Visit the association's website https://utcarollakasba.hu/kunyhobol-lakasba/ (HUN with extensive introduction in EN) or read this publication http://www.esely.org/kiadvanyok/2014_1/kovacs.pdf (HUN).

VIII. Concerted Actions

Name:

ENERGISE Living Labs (energy consumption measurements, awareness raising and education, consultancy services)

Country:

Hungary (Ireland, Denmark, Bulgaria, Slovenia, UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland)

Description:

ENERGISE is the European network for research, good practice and innovation for sustainable energy with the Hungarian Consortium member, the Greendependent Institute. During the project the consortium is working closely with households, directly monitoring and documenting their energy consumption practises in order to impart knowledge to participants about various and tailored options for energy saving. The established ENERGISE Living Labs, ELLs in short, allow bottom-up experimentation and the involvement of various actors (households, energy experts, researchers etc.) to examine how the participants' daily habits and attitudes could be shifted to a more careful and efficient use of energy.

More info:

Visit the official website of ENERGISE to get more information on ELLs http://www.energise-project.eu/livinglabs (EN) or to receive tips on energy saving options http://energise.hu/tippek (HUN) or for further inquiries go directly to the Greendpendent Institute's website https://intezet.greendependent.org/ (EN & HUN).

IX. Others

IX. Others

Name:

End Fuel Poverty Coalition

Country:

United Kingdom

Description:

The End Fuel Poverty Coalition is a broad coalition of anti-poverty, environmental, health and housing campaigners, charities, local authorities, trade unions and consumer organisations. The End Fuel Poverty Coalition campaigns to influence government and other bodies to take action to end fuel poverty and thereby improve people's health and quality of life as well as seeking to reduce the cost of living, create jobs and negate carbon emissions in the process. The End Fuel Poverty Coalition developed a Manifesto for the UK elections, calling on the major political parties to commit to acting to end fuel poverty.

More info:

http://www.endfuelpoverty.org.uk/

IX. Others

Name:

Load limitation instead of blocking - pilot project to combat energy poverty in the Cologne-Meschenich Districtsultancy services)

Country:

Germany

Description:

This measure provided households with smart meters that allowed the power supply to be reduced to 1000W in case of non-payment, instead of disconnection. Meters were installed in 660 households. Households appreciated the option to have the power supply limited instead of being disconnected. (The program has ended).

More info:

https://soz-kult.hs-duesseldorf.de/forschung/forschungsaktivitaeten/einrichtungen/wohlfahrtsverbaende/Documents/Abschlussbericht%20Energiearmut.pdf

IX. Others

Name:

Firewood Preparatory Event

Country:

Hungary

Description:

Each fall a group of men in Máriahalom gathers to voluntarily prepare and chop firewood for elderly women. While the firewood preparation is crucial for their survival during winter time, these women consist of mostly widows who lack money and stamina doing this type of exhausting work. With the men's help the firewood becomes easier to handle and dries faster which is key to a more efficient and cleaner burning process. The firewood preparatory event is a good example for solidarity on a local level.

More info:

Contact Béla Munkácsy (munkacsy@elte.hu) from ELTE University and Energiaklub.

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www.enpover.eu