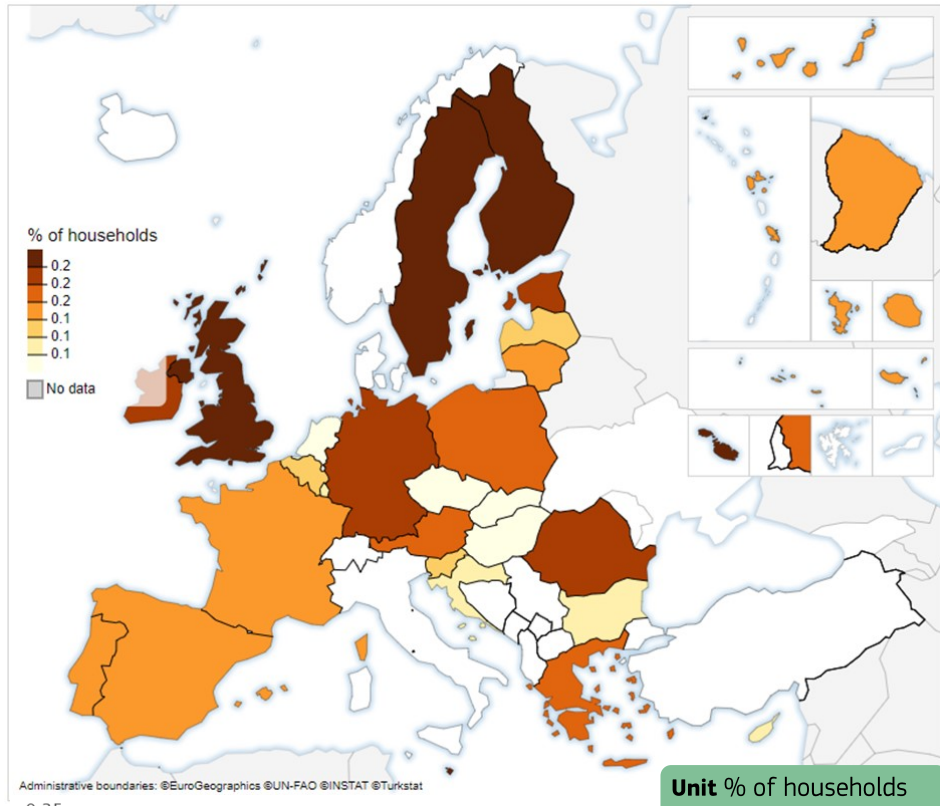


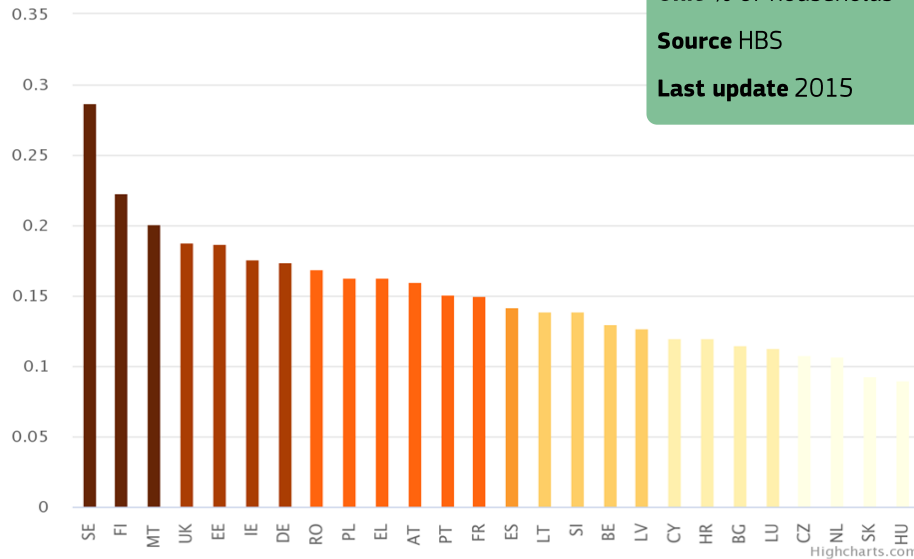
National indicator - High share of energy expenditure in income (2M)



Unit % of households

Source HBS

Last update 2015



The “high share of energy expenditure in income”, also called the “2M” indicator represents the proportion of households whose share of energy expenditure in income is more than twice the national median.

DEFINITION

This indicator portrays an important sign of energy poverty: a high energy burden. However, it contains **limits**:

LIMITS



- It does not capture cases of underconsumption/energy self restriction.
- It is a dynamic and relative indicator, as results depend on the population condition
- 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, **14.6%** of the **European Union** households presented **high share of energy expenditure in income** (EPOV, 2020) corresponding to 32 001.2* thousands of Europeans’ households.

NUMBERS

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



Imagine two households with the same energy expenditure share, but one does not pay for housing expenses and has an energy-efficient home. Their vulnerability has different levels. One might be spending energy on basic services and the other for leisure activities.

EXAMPLES

If overconsumption is a common practice within a population, using the median might hide the ones who only slightly overconsume and will not be identified as energy-poor.

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

