



Member State Report Croatia

DATA & STATISTICS

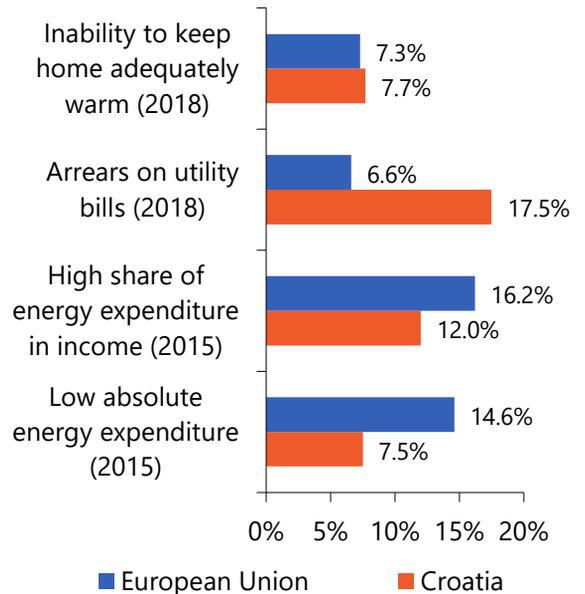
This Member State Report of the EU Energy Poverty Observatory (EPOV) provides an overview of the energy poverty situation in Croatia at a glance. With key indicators, policies, and publications, it offers an understanding of the key aspects of energy poverty in the Croatia.

Croatia has a lower performance than the EU average on the population-reported indicators. In 2018, 7.7% of the Croatian population reported that they were unable to keep the home adequately warm while the corresponding EU average is slightly lower at 7.3%. Moreover, for 2017, 17.5% of the population was unable to pay their utility bills on time due to financial difficulties, while the respective EU average is notably lower at 6.6%.

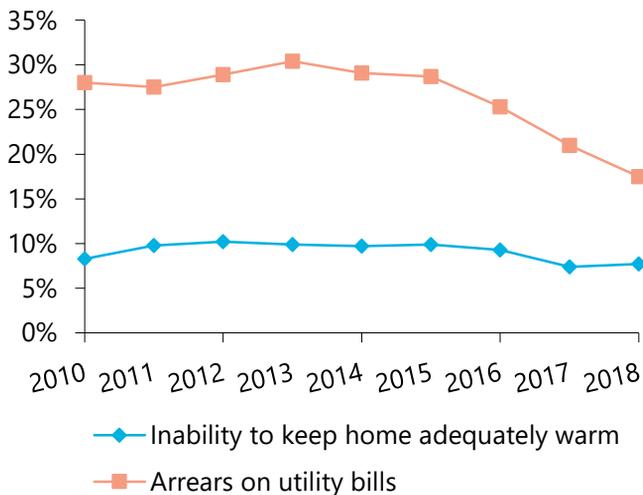
Croatia's performance in the expenditure-based indicators is better in comparison to the EU average. The share of households that spend a high share of their income on energy expenditure is 12.8% which is lower than the EU average. The high energy expenditure is likely to put a strain on the household budget and might indicate a poor energy efficiency of the building.

Moreover, at 7.5% Croatia has a lower number of households than the EU average that spend a low share of their income on energy expenditure. These households might restrict their energy spending below what is necessary to meet their needs.

Performance relative to EU average*



Performance over time*



In Croatia, the percentage of the population that is unable to keep the home adequately warm was quite consistent between 2010 and 2016, being somewhat around 10%. The year 2017 saw a dip in this indicator to finally reach a value of 7.7% in 2018.

Meanwhile, the percentage of the population that is on arrears on utility bill consistently decreased since 2015, to reach a lower value of 17.5% in 2018.

The decrease in these indicators, particularly for arrears on utility bills, may be due to the number of social support schemes to assist with electricity, gas and household costs introduced by the national government in 2013. A number of subsidy schemes related to home renovations were also introduced in 2014.

About the EU Energy Poverty Observatory

The EU Energy Poverty Observatory (EPOV) is an initiative by the European Commission to help Member States in their efforts to combat energy poverty. It exists to improve the measuring, monitoring and sharing of knowledge and best practice on energy poverty. EPOV has been developed by a consortium of 13 organisations. This report was authored by Navigant.

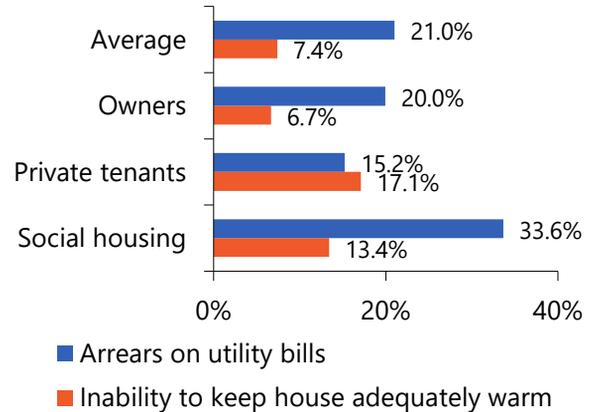
*Population-reported indicators taken from Eurostat [here](#) and [here](#) on November 19, 2019. Expenditure-based indicators calculated by EPOV based on HBS data. Disaggregated data of population-reported indicators calculated by EPOV based on Eurostat provided data.



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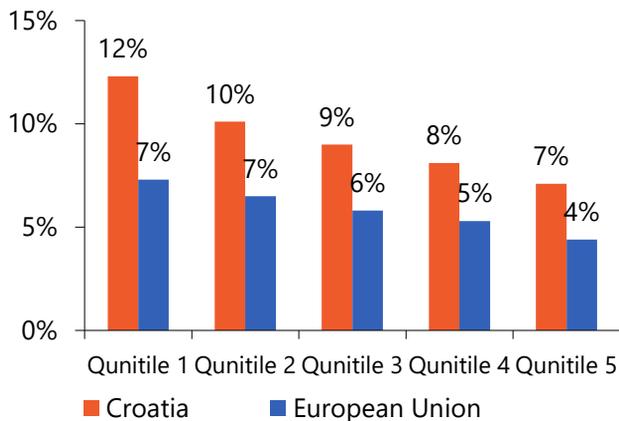
Inability to keep home warm and Arrears on utility bills disaggregated by tenure type (2017)*



The disaggregated data of the population-reported indicators suggest that energy poverty in Croatia is highest for the social housing sector in 2017, particularly for arrears on utility bills. This tenure type sees 33.6% of the population living in social housing having arrears on utility bills while 13.4% are unable to keep the house adequately warm. The second most vulnerable group is the private tenants tenure which have the highest indicator for inability to keep house adequately warm.

The percentage of the population living in social housing and private rental for 2017 is 8% and 2%, respectively.

Share of energy expenditure of income by quintile (2015)*

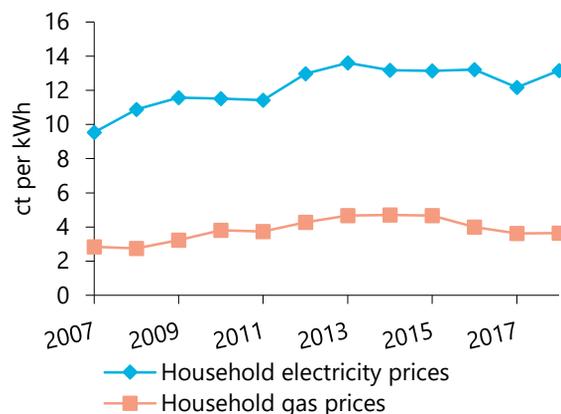


Croatia experiences cold climates which translates into a high energy usage for heating. Combined with a median income that is well below the EU median (less than half the EU median in 2015), this leads to notably larger share of income spent on energy expenditure in Croatia than in the corresponding EU average. In 2015, the poorest quintile spent 12% of their income on energy while the corresponding EU average is 7%. A similar pattern is observed for each quintile, whereby even the richest quintile in Croatia spends a notably higher percentage of its income on energy than the EU average. This indicates that the Croatian population, regardless of its income, is at a higher risk of being energy poor than the EU average.

The household energy cost over time in Croatia has increased gradually since 2007 to reach the highest price in 2013 for electricity at 13.6 €ct/kWh. Meanwhile the highest price per unit for gas was in 2014 at 4.6 €ct/kWh. The prices have dropped slightly since then to reach 13.2 €ct/kWh and 3.64 €ct/kWh in 2018 for electricity and gas, respectively.

The prices per unit for both electricity and gas observed for Croatia are lower than the corresponding EU average.

Croatia household energy costs over time



*Population-reported indicators taken from Eurostat [here](#) and [here](#) on November 19, 2019. Expenditure-based indicators calculated by EPOV based on HBS data. Disaggregated data of population-reported indicators calculated by EPOV based on Eurostat provided data.



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POLICIES & MEASURES

In Croatia, some attention is paid to energy poverty in publications and policies. An analysis of the national energy poverty situation in Croatia was carried out in 2016 in the context of the REACH project (Reduced Energy use and Change Habits) (Robić 2016). The most active NGO on the topic of energy poverty in Croatia, DOOR ('Society for Sustainable Development Design'), was involved in the production of these reports.

Energy poverty in Croatia is addressed primarily through direct financial assistance. The *Guaranteed Minimal Support* programme, started in 2013, provides financial assistance to households to meet their basic needs. Other allowances, such as the *Housing cost support* helps households cover their housing costs, including costs for electricity, gas and heating. In addition, more targeted financial support is available for energy costs. Vulnerable consumers are entitled to receive support for their electricity costs up to a certain limit via the *Electricity allowance for vulnerable consumers* scheme. Those who use wood for heating and receive social benefits can receive a *Firewood allowance*. This scheme can be claimed in cash once a year or the recipient is provided with firewood. Furthermore, *One time support* may be granted in exceptional circumstances when extra costs, such as higher heating costs in winter or repairs/replacements for heating equipment, are incurred by residents.

Croatia also has multiple subsidy schemes aimed at restoration of family houses, apartment buildings, increase in renewable energy use and replacement of heating systems or installation of a heat consumption meter. The majority of these schemes were started in 2014 and are organised by the national and local governments via the Programme of energy renovation of family homes. The aim of these schemes is to generate energy savings in each situation. For instance the *Subsidy for outer envelope restoration in family houses* provides financial support for investments in building insulation in family houses. The yearly energy savings are expected to be around 15 GWh and the yearly avoided CO₂ emissions are expected to be around 4,241 tonnes.

Selected measuresz	Type of measure	Organisation	Target groups	Start year	Result
Subsidy package for energy audits and integral restoration of residential apartment buildings	Building insulation, Energy audits, Information and Awareness	National government, Local government	No specific target group	2014	Yearly energy savings are expected to be around 101 GWh. Yearly avoided CO ₂ emissions are expected to be around 28,221 ton.
Electricity allowance for vulnerable consumers	Energy bill support	National government	Households on social benefits, Disabled	2015	
Firewood allowance	Energy bill support	National government, Local government	Households on social benefits, Low-income households	2013	
One time support	Social support	National government	Households on social benefits, Vulnerable households, Low-income households	2013	
Guaranteed Minimal Support (GMS)	Social support	National government, Local government	Low-income households	2013	
Housing cost support	Social support	National government, Local government	Households on social benefits, Vulnerable households, Low-income households	2013	
Subsidy for heating system replacement in family houses	Heating system	National government, Local government	No specific target group	2014	Yearly energy savings are expected to be around 27 GWh. Yearly avoided CO ₂ emissions are expected to be around 6,443 ton.
Subsidy for outer envelope restoration in family houses	Building insulation	National government, Local government	No specific target group	2014	Yearly energy savings are expected to be around 15 GWh. Yearly avoided CO ₂ emissions are expected to be around 4,241 ton.

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PUBLICATIONS & ORGANISATIONS

This page gives an overview of the most relevant organisations working on energy poverty in Croatia and presents publications and training resource on energy poverty in Croatia.

Organisation

Name: Society for Sustainable Development Design (DOOR) (Društvo za oblikovanje održivog razvoja)

Organisation type: NGO

Description: A civil society organisation of experts devoted to the promotion of sustainable energy development. The projects range from climate change mitigation to alleviating energy poverty and improving education on renewable energy sources.

Organisation

Name: Reduced Energy use And Change Habits (REACH)

Organisation type: Research & Consultancy

Description: This project contributed to energy poverty abatement at the practical and structural level by empowering energy poor households to take actions to save energy and change their habits, and by establishing energy poverty as an issue that demands structural solutions.

Publication

Title: [Energy Poverty in Croatia: results of field research from Sisak-Moslavina County](#)

Authors: Robić, S.

Year: 2016

Description: This report analyses the results of field research on energy poverty conducted in Sisak-Moslavina County. The report gives an overview of the Croatian legislation on energy poverty, recommendations for possible legislative improvements, and suggestions of the first steps to be taken to combat energy poverty

Training Resource

Title: [Innovative Direction in Energy Advising \(IDEA\)](#)

Authors: University of Cyprus, Focus, društvo za sonaraven razvoj, DOOR, Energy Agency of Plovid (EAP)

Year: 2018

Description: The goals are to raise awareness on energy poverty, improve educational practices, develop high quality education approaches, establish firm and competent international network of energy advisors and relevant stakeholders and develop innovative ICT tool for education in energy poverty.

Other selected publications

- Ruggeri Laderchi, C., Olivier, A., and Trimble, C. (2013) [Balancing Act: Cutting Energy Subsidies While Protecting Affordability](#)
- Robić, S. (2016) [Energy Poverty in South East Europe: Surviving the Cold](#)
- Robić, S., Rogulj, I., and Ančić, B. (2017) Energy poverty in the Western Balkans: adjusting policy responses to socio-economic drivers, in [Energy Poverty and Vulnerability: A Global Perspective](#)
- Simcock, N.; Thomson, H.; Bouzarovski, S.; Petrova, S. (eds.) [Energy Poverty and Vulnerability: A Global Perspective](#)
- Lenz, N.V., Grgurev, I. (2017) [Assessment of Energy Poverty in New European Union Member States: The Case of Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania](#)
- Ecoserveis Association (2018) [Atlas of Initiatives of Energy Poverty in Europe. State-by-state Review](#)

For definitions of the terms used in this report [click here](#). The EPOV website provides an extensive collection of Knowledge & Resources. [Click here](#) for more information and to contribute additional policies, publications and other resources.

This report was completed in February 2020.

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