



Member State Report Slovakia

DATA & STATISTICS

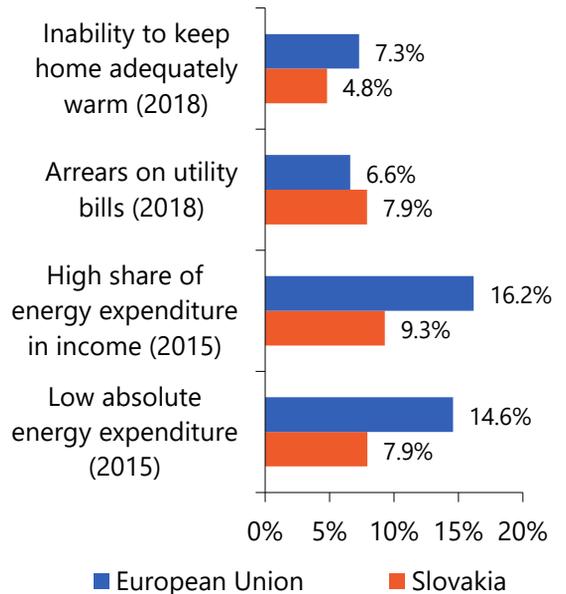
This Member State Report of the EU Energy Poverty Observatory (EPOV) provides an overview of the energy poverty situation in Slovakia at a glance. With key indicators, policies, and publications, it offers an understanding of the key aspects of energy poverty in Slovakia.

Slovakia has a mixed performance than the EU average on the population-reported indicators. In 2018, 4.8% of the Slovakian population reported that they were unable to keep the home adequately warm while the corresponding EU average is 7.3%. Similarly for 2018, 7.9% of the population was unable to pay their utility bills on time due to financial difficulties, while the respective EU average is 6.6%.

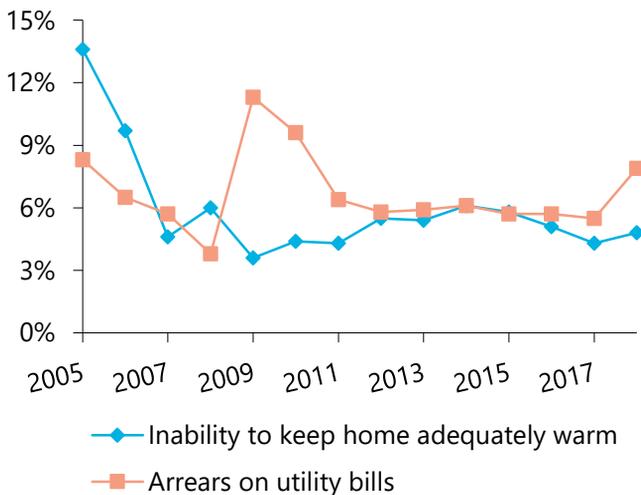
Slovakia's performance in the expenditure-based indicators is also better than the EU average. In 2015, the share of households that spend a high share of their income on energy expenditure is 9.3% which is lower than the EU average. The high energy expenditure is likely to put a strain on the household budget and might indicate a poor energy efficiency of the building.

Moreover, at 7.9% Slovakia has a notably 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 Slovakia, the percentage of the population that is unable to keep the home adequately warm saw a sharp decrease between 2005 and 2007 from 13.6% to 4.6%. This indicator has since remained somewhat stable. This indicator is 4.8% for 2018. Meanwhile, households on arrears on utility bills also saw a decrease between 2005 and 2008, to be then followed by a sharp increase in 2009. It is noted that this sharp increase may due to the inclusion of an additional answer category in the survey conducted. This indicator has since decreased considerably to a level of 6% and slightly increased at 7.9% in 2018.

Slovakia has also seen a couple of measures addressing energy efficiency and use of renewable energy since 2011. These may have contributed to the reduction in arrears on utility bills in the past our years.

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.



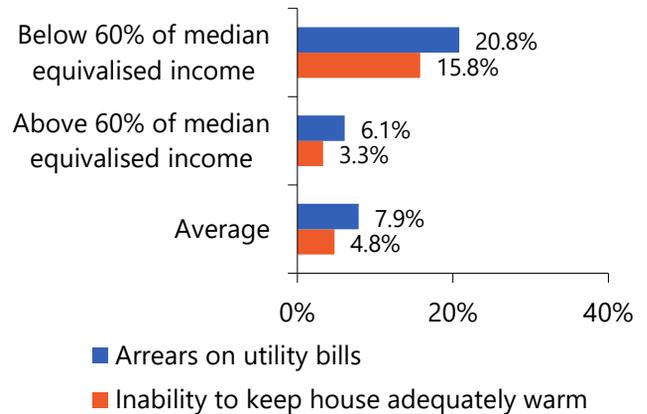
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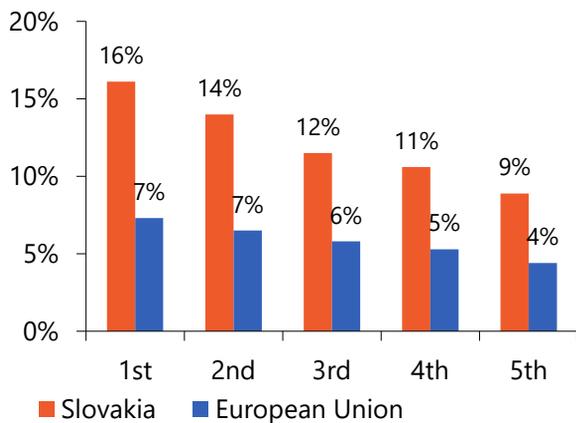
The disaggregated data of the population-reported indicators for the year 2018 suggest that energy poverty in Slovakia is significantly higher for the population with equivalised income below 60% of median. Conversely, indicators for the year 2018 suggest that only 3.3% of Slovak population with equivalised income above 60% of median is unable to keep home adequately warm and 6.1% of Slovak population with equivalised income above 60% of median was unable to pay their utility bills on time due to financial difficulties.

Additionally, the disaggregated data for 2017 indicates that energy poverty in Slovakia is not sensitive to dwelling type.

Inability to keep home warm and arrears on utility bills disaggregated by income(2018)*



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

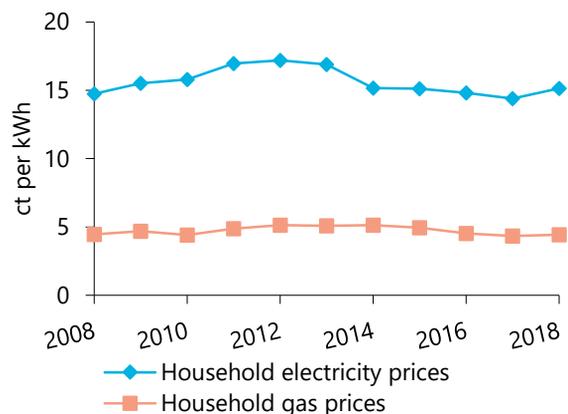


Slovakia experiences cold climates which results in a high energy usage for heating. Combined with a median income that is well below the EU median (less than half the EU median in 2015), this leads to a notably larger share of income spent on energy in Slovakia than in the corresponding EU average. In 2015, the poorest quintile spent 16% of their income on energy. This is more than twice the corresponding EU average. A similar pattern is observed for each quintile, whereby even the richest quintile in Slovakia spends a notably higher percentage of its income on energy than the EU average. This indicates that the Slovakian population is at a higher risk of being energy poor than the EU average.

The household energy cost over time in Slovakia has remained somewhat stable throughout the years. The price per unit of electricity increased between 2010 and 2013 to decrease again to reach a value of 15.1 €ct/kWh in 2018. Meanwhile the price per unit of gas was even more stable. The highest price per unit was in 2012 at 5.15 €ct/kWh but this has since decreased slightly again. The price per unit for gas in 2018 was 4.43 €ct/kWh.

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

Slovakia 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 Slovakia, a tradition of research on energy poverty is not yet fully established. Publications that study topics related to energy poverty are mainly regional analyses, although a few studies can be found addressing the country as a whole.

The approach to reduce energy poverty in Slovakia is mainly through social support measures. The *Assistance in case of material distress* programme provides general income support to low-income households to cover living expenses such as energy and heating costs. In addition, there are multiple programmes that could potentially assist households that are or are at risk of being energy poor, even though the programmes do not specifically target these groups. Large-scale renovation efforts to improve the energy efficiency of apartment buildings include the *MunSEFF* and *SlovSEFF* programmes. The *MunSEFF* measure was started in 2011 and it supports energy efficiency measures in municipalities, including apartment buildings owned by the municipalities. The *SlovSEFF* programme provides financial assistance to energy efficiency projects. It started in 2007 and is developed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and is co-funded by the Slovak and Spanish governments. An additional measure is the *Operational Programme Environment*. It started in 2007 and provides financial assistance for a broad spectrum of measures, including energy efficiency and renewable heat. The *Green for households*, started in 2015, measure provides financial assistance to households to install small renewable energy installations.

Finally, some policies facilitate households in the improvement of their energy situation. The *Live Energy* measure provides households with free advice on energy efficiency and renewable energy, and the *Price Calculator* allows households to compare the electricity and gas prices of different suppliers, facilitating the switch to a more affordable supplier.

Selected measures	Type of measure	Organisation	Target groups	Start year	Result
MunSEFF	Building insulation, Heating system, Renewable energy	National government, Regional government, Local government	Apartment buildings	2011	
SlovSEFF	Building insulation, Heating system, Renewable energy	National government	Apartment buildings	2007	
Operational Programme Environment	Building insulation, Heating system, Renewable energy	National government	No specific target group		
Green for households	Heating system, Renewable energy	National government	No specific target group	2015	
Price calculator	Information and awareness	Regulator	No specific target group		
Live Energy	Information and awareness	National government	No specific target group		
Assistance in case of material distress	Social support	National government	Low-income households		

Contact us:

www.energy-poverty.eu
contact@energy-poverty.eu
Twitter at @EPOV_EU



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PUBLICATIONS & ORGANISATIONS

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

Organisation

Name: Building retrofit potential (ENERFUND)
Organisation type: Research & Consultancy
Description: To develop a tool that rates and scores deep renovation opportunities. It will be based on a set of parameters such as EPC data, number of certified installers, governmental schemes running, etc. Municipalities can use it to e.g. prioritise the most energy inefficient buildings for retrofitting.

Organisation

Name: Solutions to Tackle Energy Poverty (STEP)
Organisation type: Association
Description: It involves nine Member States, one of which is Slovakia. The objective is to alleviate energy poverty by encouraging behavioural change and low-cost energy efficiency solutions among consumers in/at risk of energy poverty through trusted and tailored advice.

Publication

Title: [Exploring multi-dimensional nature of poverty in Slovakia: Access to energy and concept of energy poverty](#)
Authors: Gerbery, D., Filčák, R.
Year: 2014
Description: It discusses the concept of energy poverty (origin and definition problems), and analyses empirical data indicating the scope and impacts of the problem in the Slovak Republic. Approaches are suggested to defining energy poverty and offer first empirical findings.

Publication

Title: [Energy Poverty in Slovakia](#)
Authors: Strakova, D.
Year: 2015
Description: The article analyses different definitions of energy poverty and their applications on a Slovak household. It introduces roots and principles of protection of European households in energy poverty and analyses the situation in Slovakia from the point of regulatory norms and statistical data.

Other selected publications

- Gray, D. (1995) [Reforming the Energy Sector in Transition Economies: Selected Experience and Lessons](#)
- Fankhauser, S. and Tepic, S. (2007) [Can poor consumers pay for energy and water? An affordability analysis for transition countries](#)
- Recalde, M. et al. (2019) [Structural energy poverty vulnerability and excess winter mortality in the European Union: Exploring the association between structural determinants and health](#)

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.

Contact us:
www.energypoverty.eu
contact@energypoverty.eu
Twitter at @EPOV_EU