FROM LOCAL TO EUROPEAN: BARRIERS AND SOLUTIONS TO TACKLE ENERGY POVERTY

FINAL CONFERENCE

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE, BRUSSELS
2 APRIL 2020 | 9H00 - 13H00

DRAFT AGENDA

9h00 – 9h25 Opening and Welcome
- Marina Varvesi, ASSIST coordinator
- Kadri Simson, Commissioner of DG Energy, European Commission (tbc)

9h25 – 10h35 Round table: How local actions and social innovations are necessary to put vulnerable consumers at the heart of policies addressing energy poverty
Moderator: Marta Garcia, ECOSEVEIS
- Discussion with National Vulnerable Consumers Steering Committee members from Italy, Spain, Finland, UK, Poland and Belgium
- Discussion with the audience

10h35 – 11h20 Challenges to tackle energy poverty: views from EU projects
- Silvia Vivarelli, EASME
- Marina Varvesi, ASSIST coordinator
- European projects on Energy Poverty
  - Cezara Popovici, STEP coordinator, Horizon 2020 project
  - Clotilde Clark-Foulquier, FEANTSA
- Discussion with the audience

11h20 - 11h45 Coffee break & networking

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This Project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 754051.
11h45 - 12h55 Round table: EU policy to tackle energy poverty and protect vulnerable consumers in Europe: proposal and recommendations

Moderator: Mathias Maucher, European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)
• Maria Jeliazkova, EAPN Bulgaria, ASSIST partner presenting the Vulnerable Consumers Protection Framework Paper
• Pierre-Jean Coulon, President of the TEN section at the EESC
• Pablo Sánchez Centellas, EPSU
• Cornelia Ernst, Member of the European Parliament, GUE/NGL group
• Giustino Piccolo, Covenant of Mayors
• Julien Dijol, Housing Europe
• Discussion with the audience

12h55 - 13h10 Closing
• Pierre-Jean Coulon, President of the TEN section at the EESC

ASSIST IN A NUTSHELL

The challenge

How to develop **concrete solutions** to improve the levels of **empowerment** and **engagement** of vulnerable consumers and energy poor in a scenario of increasing market complexity?

The response

ASSIST offers a two-way approach to the problem: **active engaging** of consumers in the energy market as well as a **positive change of behaviour** in relation to energy use, and to **influence the design of policies** at all levels to tackle energy poverty issues.

The project has generated **in depth knowledge** on consumer vulnerability and on energy poverty, with the aim to foster the development of a clear and unique definition for its identification and measuring in Europe.

The impact

• Nearly 100K vulnerable consumers reached through “soft” and big actions.
• Energy saving of 2 % of > 12K vulnerable consumers.
• > 500 trained Home Energy Advisors (HEA) in 6 countries.
• Identification of national measures and best practices to address energy poverty in Europe.

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