Challenges to tackle energy poverty

Clotilde Clark-Foulquier, FEANTSA
Background: why energy poverty?!

• FEANTSA: the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless

• Homelessness -> Housing Solutions -> Adequate housing

We are the only European NGO focusing exclusively on the fight against homelessness.

Established in 1989, FEANTSA brings together non-profit services that support homeless people in Europe.

130 member-organisations
30 countries
ENERGY POVERTY

What are the foundations for a green and social pact for Europe?

Orane Lamas, Fondation Abbé Pierre
Clotilde Clark-Foulquier, FEANTSA
Findings (1) SUPPORT

• A myriad of national instruments to support people in situation of energy poverty

Can be one element of a broader strategy

Hand in hand with

Accessibility
Adequacy
Finding (2) CHANGE

• Policies to support long-term change through transforming the housing stock.

• Traditional funding mechanisms (e.g. public financing) are often inadequate or unsuitable, so how can a socially just transformation of the housing stock take place?

• How can we ensure that renovating unsuitable housing does not become a mechanism for social exclusion?
Energy efficiency strategies and residential segregation dynamics

- Concerns regarding the social impacts of retrofitting measures for households and neighbourhoods (example of Germany).
- Need for a legislative and financial framework
The Renovation Wave is about social change

- Synergies and trade-offs between energy poverty alleviation and climate change mitigation.
  - trade-off: potential increase in energy poverty levels as a result of strong climate change action (price).
  - Synergy: deep energy efficiency in buildings.
- Risks:
  - Lock in effect (superficial renovation) when retrofit not carried out to its best and energy poverty cannot be alleviated
  - Rebound effect or take back = additional income is used to increase energy consumption
  - Cold homes: no return on investment but only increase in comfort
Why this report?

• Opportunity - Green deal: ambition plan for major investments
  • +
  • Most vulnerable

• UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) General Comment No. 4 on the right to Adequate housing

  States parties must give due priority to those social groups living in unfavourable conditions by giving them particular consideration. Policies and legislation should correspondingly not be designed to benefit already advantaged social groups at the expense of others.
How can the Green deal be social?

EU as a driver of ambitious public policies to improve the living conditions of poor households

• Ensure a regulatory framework is set up to curtail soaring property prices, prevent an increase of rent levels after renovation works

• If not yet existing, establish simple and accessible financial support scheme for people experiencing fuel poverty as well as support.

• Ensure the European legal framework doesn’t prevent addressing fuel poverty (e.g. social tariffs)
Aiming for large-scale investment in renovations for energy efficiency of the housing stock that is socially just

• Make funding available for renovation of inadequate housing – social housing but also private owners e.g. Eastern Europe multi apartment buildings

• Develop incentive programmes, particularly for poor households, through zero-interest loans and grants for renovating

• Apply the energy performance standards not just to construction but to the rental market - Provide support for individual homeowners and poor homeowners in this transition.
Thank you!

- Download our report in FR & ENG:
- Watch the HSP website on JTF & Renovation Wave