



European Event Energy poverty in the EU: Status, Policies, Consumers Empowerment  
Organized In the frame of the project **TRECE: Training for Energy Consumers  
Empowerment**

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Spain - E. T.Ausias, SGS

A photograph of a woman and a young child sitting on a brown patterned sofa in a dimly lit room. The woman is wearing a dark jacket and has her hair in a bun. The child is wearing a blue shirt. In the foreground, a white radiator is visible, glowing with a warm light. The room has a patterned rug and a window with blue curtains in the background.

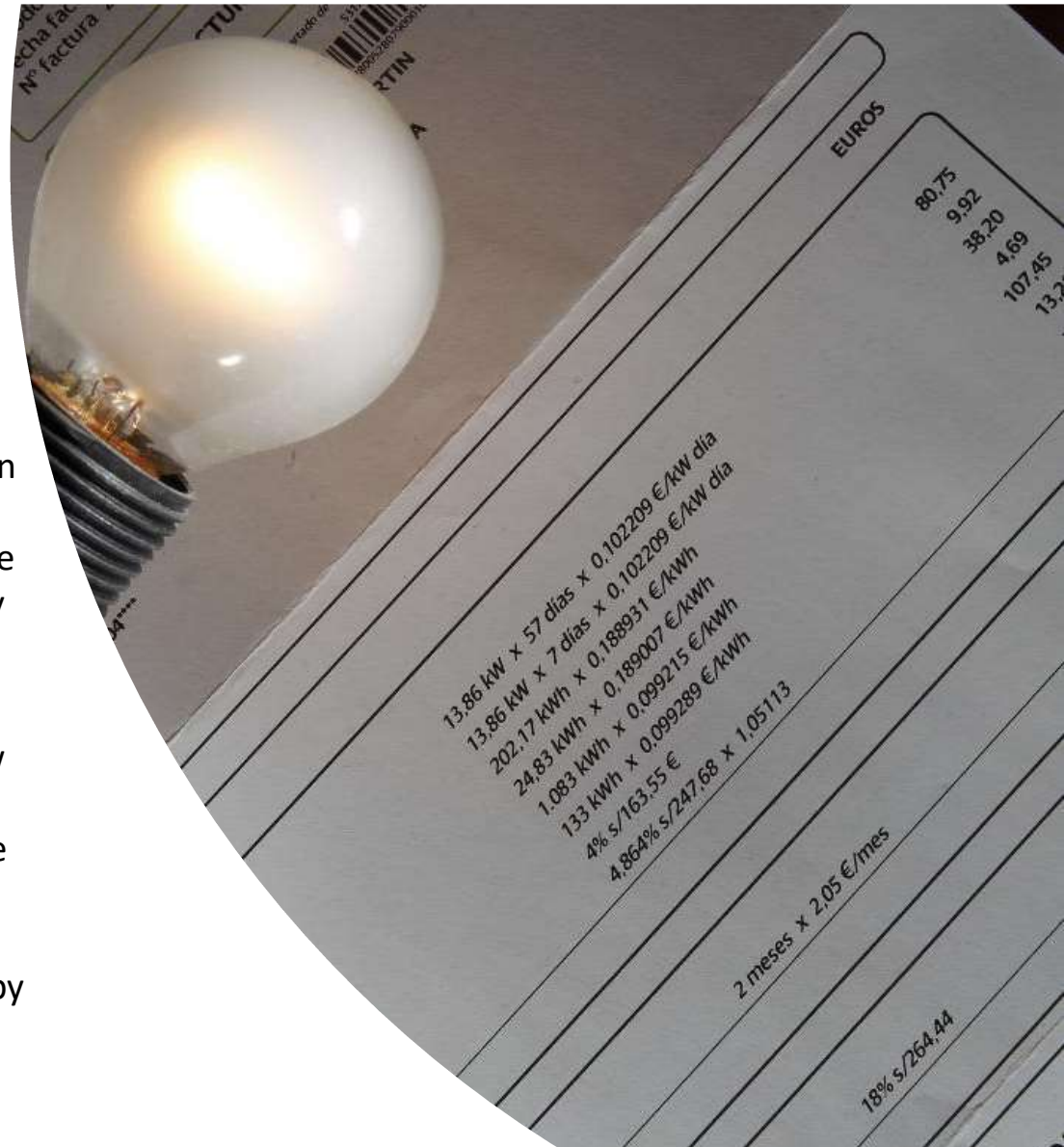
# Energy poverty in Spain

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- Energy poverty is the situation in which a household finds itself in which the basic needs of energy supplies cannot be met as a result of an insufficient level of income and which, where appropriate, can be aggravated by having energy-inefficient housing.
- This is defined by the National Strategy against Energy Poverty 2019-2024 at the proposal of the Ministry for the Ecological Transition of the Government

# Energy poverty in Spain

- A reality suffered by 11% of the country's households, a total of 5.1 million people unable to keep their homes at an adequate temperature, according to a study by the Association of Environmental Sciences (ACA). 5% have gone through the same situation, they have had their electricity cut off at some time in their lives, according to a study by the Organization of Consumers and Users of Spain (OCU).
- The escalation of electricity prices, which reached a new historical record at the **beginning of Diciembre with 310 euros per megawatt hour**, and the economic ravages of the coronavirus pandemic make more and more Spanish households vulnerable to this situation. Consumers have seen their annual spending on the electricity bill increase by more than 150 euros compared to the previous year.
- Added to this, according to experts, is a lack of basic knowledge about the energy market and its rights.



# Energy poverty in Spain

"There is uncertainty and lack of information in a democratized way so that all citizens can make their own decisions regarding their public services and their bills "**This is causing a lot of pain and a lot of precariousness in terms of access to energy.**"

The direct consequences of energy poverty affect people's health first and foremost. Living in a house with low temperatures or prolonged humidity is related to the development of **physical and mental illnesses**, which especially harm babies, adolescents and the elderly. There are also other indirect consequences related to social aspects such as **absenteeism, well-being or educational performance.**

More than 84% of the people served were at risk of poverty and exclusion and more than half considered their health status to be between regular and very bad. The fundamental cause to which they attributed this precarious state of health was the presence of economic, material, physical problems, and / or lack of support networks.



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According to the Bulletin on Social Vulnerability No. 17, prepared by the Red Cross Organization, more than **90% of the people served have some problem in their homes**, of which almost half are related to **heating and another large part with the lack of insulation, leaks and humidity**. Energy poverty mainly affects **women (68%)**, and has a **very high incidence in households where children under 16 live (48.9%)**. It is also primed with **single-parent families (14.4%)** and **large families (15.3%)**. Of all these people, 70% are Spanish families.

Energy poverty is aggravated among unemployed people as their income to meet energy costs is reduced, a situation that is aggravated by the current pandemic and its negative effect on the labor market. And this is the reality experienced by people in situations of vulnerability and at risk of social exclusion. With COVID-19, we are facing two new situations;

On the one hand, 1. more people have lost their jobs or become even more precarious and, on the other, 2. we spend more time at home, which favors investing more in energy expenditure.



A conceptual image showing a hand dropping a coin into a lightbulb. The lightbulb is filled with various coins, suggesting that energy costs are high and consuming household funds. The background is a solid light blue.

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- The living conditions of the houses also influence this problem, and it is precisely these families with low incomes who, in most cases, live in energy-inefficient housing, which increases spending and deepens the problem. Nor is the Spanish private energy system very close to this problem, since 2007, the price of the **electricity bill has risen by 80%, being the 4th European country, whose electricity is more expensive.**
- At the end of 2020, **the Ministry of Ecological Transition reported that 10 out of every 100 homes suffered from energy poverty**, in other words, 7 out of every 100 Spaniards do not have money to be able to turn on the heating during the cold months and 6 out of every hundred also pay electricity bills late.



Thanks for your attention!