

***Energy poverty in the EU:
Current Status, Policies,
Consumers Empowerment***

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SocialWatt

Energy companies designing and implementing schemes to alleviate energy poverty

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The SocialWatt project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 845905

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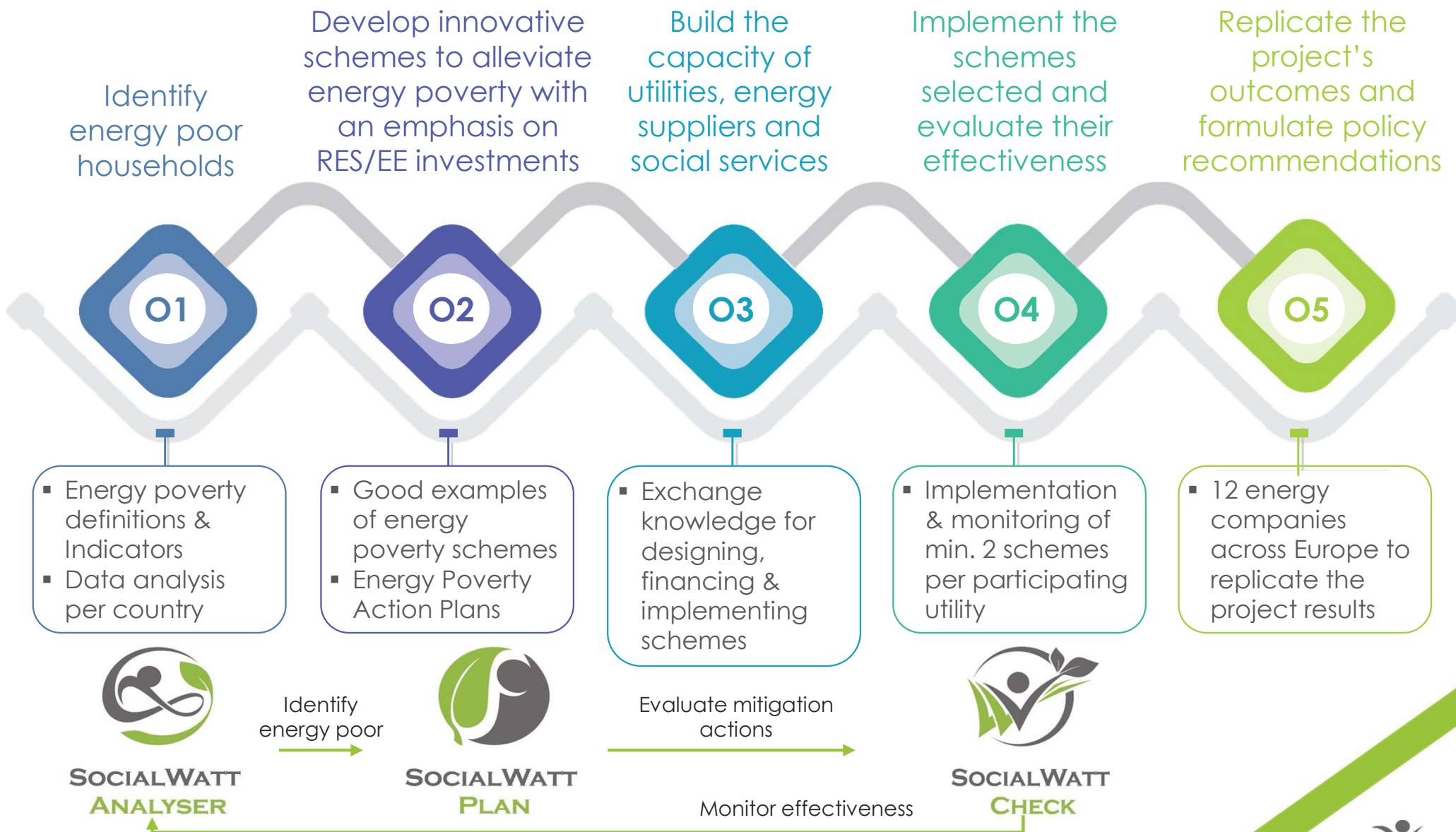
SocialWatt in a Nutshell

SocialWatt aims to:

- ▶ Enable **utilities, energy suppliers and energy service companies** across Europe to develop, adopt, test and spread **innovative schemes to alleviate energy poverty**
- ▶ Develop **appropriate tools** for helping them identify energy poor households and work towards alleviating energy poverty
- ▶ **Build their capacity** and **promote collaboration** with social services and other stakeholders



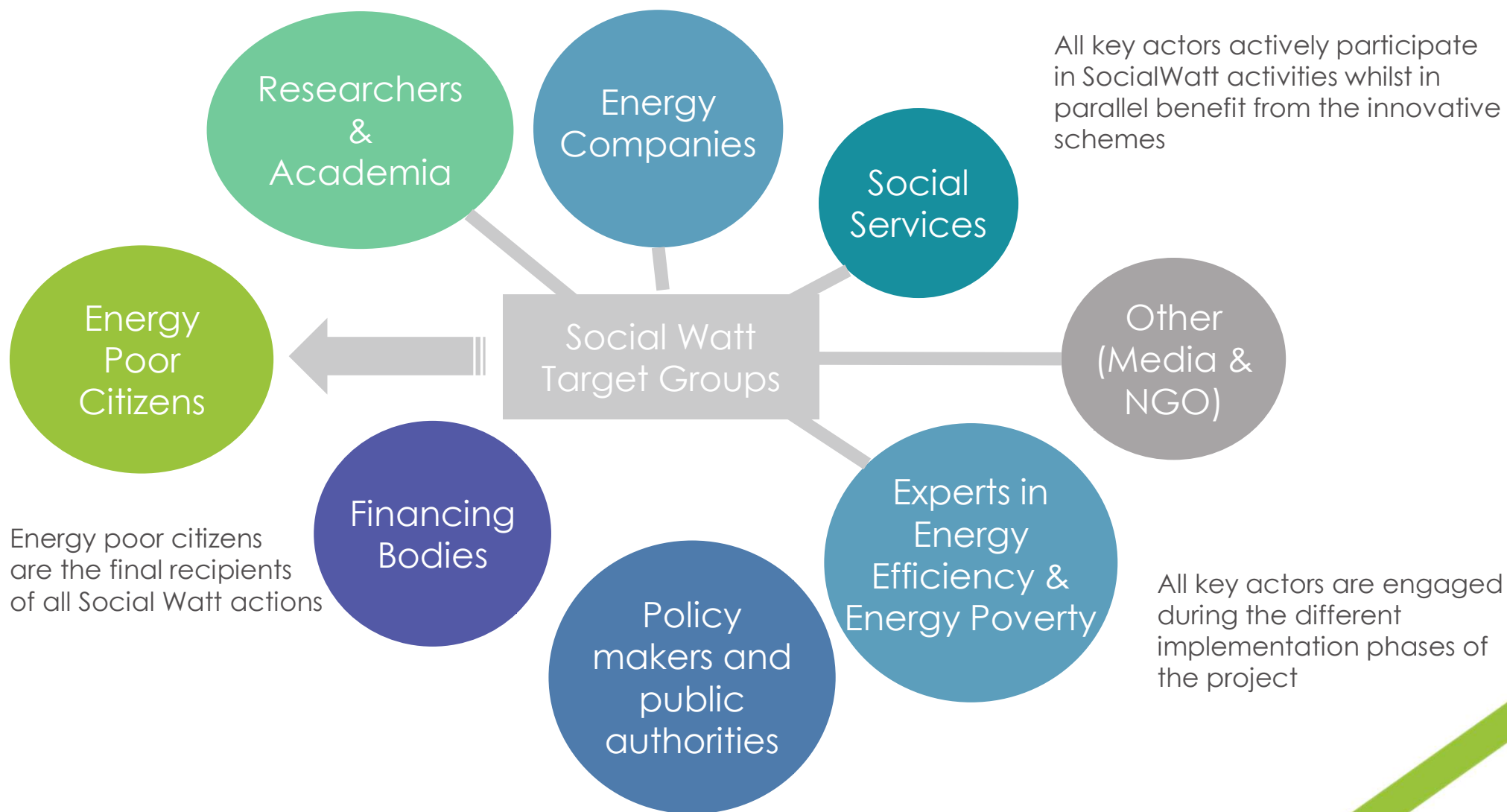
SocialWatt in a Nutshell



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SocialWatt in a Nutshell



Examples of SocialWatt Schemes

Grant competition – CEZ Vanzare in Romania

- ▶ Grant competition to identify and finance locally inspired projects that aim to reduce energy poverty
- ▶ Partnership with local charity to design the competition

Interlinking schemes to proliferate impact – eVISO in Italy

- ▶ Four schemes to raise public awareness, train social services, provide energy advice to energy poor households and ultimately support the replacement of inefficient household appliances
- ▶ Partnership with social services and collaboration with an appliance retailer

Smart control systems in social housing – Fortum in Latvia

- ▶ Installation of a software to automatically optimize energy use based on data from smart sensors within the building and weather forecasts
- ▶ Partnership with a Municipality and collaboration with a retailer



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Examples of SocialWatt Schemes

Photovoltaics for social housing buildings – NATURGY in Spain

- ▶ Installation of PV panels and smart meters in social housing buildings to reduce energy bills
- ▶ Partnership with a social organisation and collaboration with suppliers/contractors

Subsidy programme for heating system renovation – PPC in Greece

- ▶ Heat pumps uptake facilitated through a subsidy, a guaranteed low price, a technically sound and economically appropriate installation, and a financing programme for the matching funds required
- ▶ Collaboration with major heat pump technology providers

Smarter home scheme – CEZ Vanzare in Romania

- ▶ Thermostats offered to customers who pay for them in fixed rates without interest through bills (on-bill financing)
- ▶ Collaboration with thermostat providers



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Challenges faced

- ▶ Uncertainties when there is **no national definition of energy poverty** or where there are ongoing processes to define energy poverty
- ▶ **Developing a convincing business case** to invest in energy poor households, which is not cost effective when compared to other options
- ▶ **Identifying, reaching and engaging energy poor households** so that these benefit from the schemes
- ▶ **Securing financing to support** energy poor households (both from internal resources and third party financing) – especially when high investments per household are required
- ▶ **Complexities in designing and setting up schemes** and other unforeseen events



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Lessons Learnt

- ▶ **Utility data can contribute to better understanding and targeting energy poverty** – the GDPR and the lack of disaggregated housing and income data are a drawback
- ▶ It is imperative to **build the capacity of utilities** on energy poverty and its relationship with energy efficiency. Insight into the comparative cost-effectiveness of different interventions is an asset
- ▶ It is important to establish **strong partnerships and collaborations** with key stakeholders (e.g. social services) to be able to effectively target energy poor households and design tailored schemes
- ▶ Energy poverty schemes should **facilitate combined funding/financing**, so that costs are not prohibitive for energy poor households
- ▶ **Different types of support** may be more appropriate for different levels of energy poverty/vulnerability

CONNECTING OBLIGATED
PARTIES TO ADOPT INNOVATIVE
SCHEMES TOWARDS ENERGY
POVERTY ALLEVIATION

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Thank you for your attention!

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