

EU Energy Poverty Advisory Hub

Energy Community: providing guidance on combating energy poverty - 29
September 2022
Jeppe Mikel Jensen, Coordinator

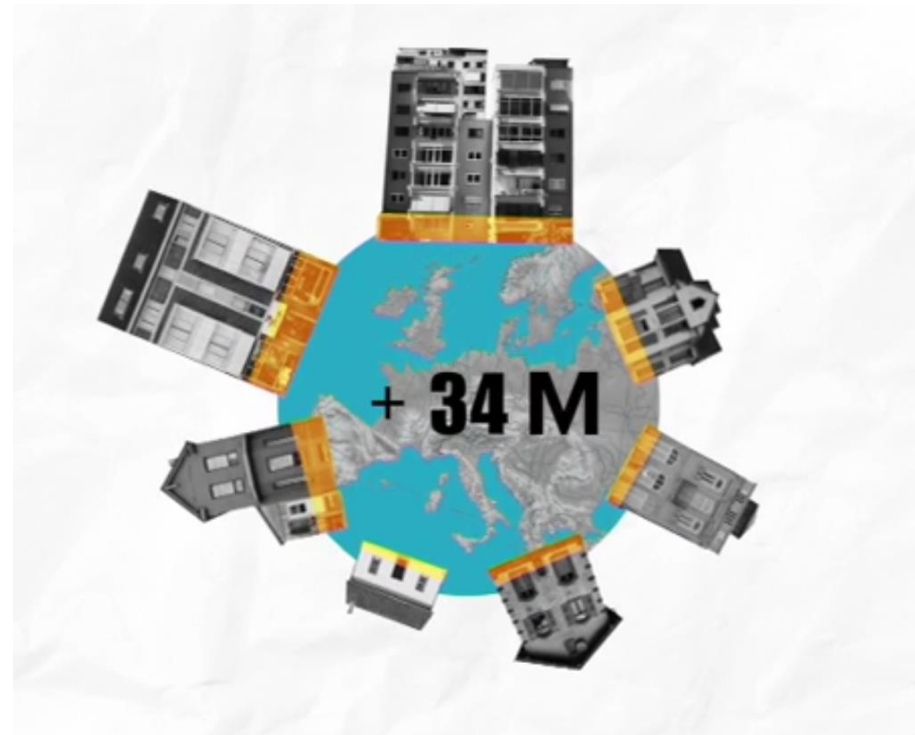
Summary

- ❑ *The Energy Poverty Advisory Hub **in a nutshell***
- ❑ *Tackling energy poverty step by step – The EPAH Handbooks*
- ❑ ***Part 1 Diagnosis***

Energy Poverty

According to the European Commission:

“energy poverty is a situation in which households are unable to access essential energy services.”

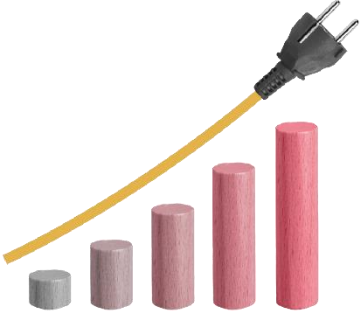
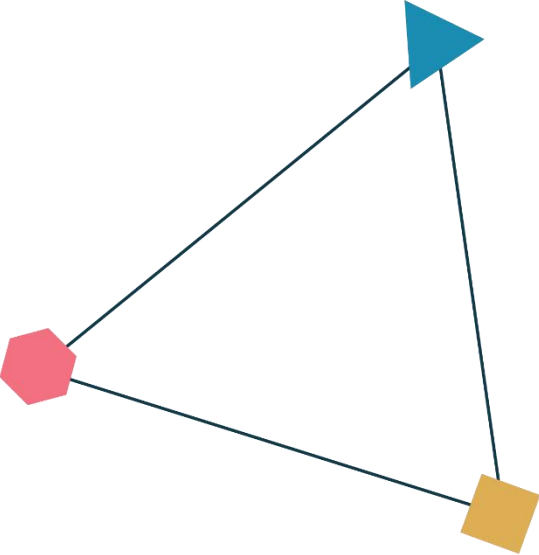


Energy Poverty Challenges



Energy efficiency

Low income



Energy prices

Energy Poverty – A socio-technical challenge

Heating



Cooling



Vulnerable consumers



Wellbeing

Social inclusion





Local Solutions



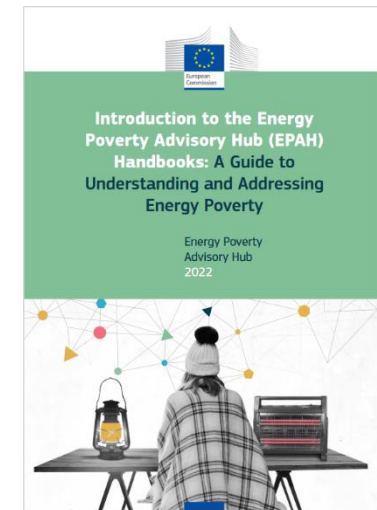
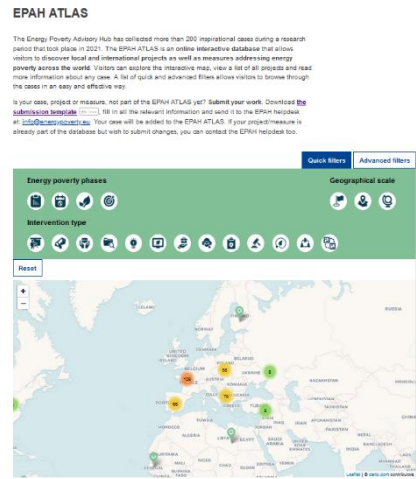
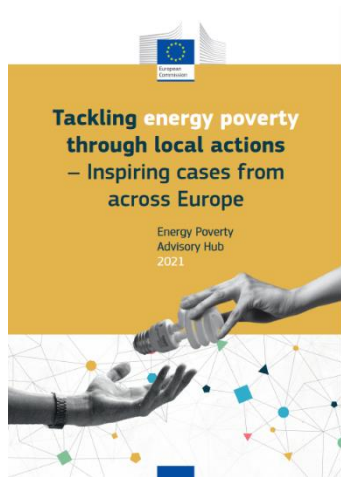
Research and Practical Guides

The report
Tackling energy poverty through local actions – Inspiring cases from across Europe

The
EPAH ATLAS

The
Introduction to energy poverty and the EPAH – Introductory course

The
Introduction to the Energy Poverty Advisory Hub (EPAH) Handbooks: A Guide to Understanding and Addressing Energy Poverty



www.energypoverty.eu

Local solutions

Green Doctors



Green Doctors are energy efficiency experts who visit residents in their homes across the UK, helping vulnerable households to save money on their energy bills, stay warm and improve their living conditions. With 1 in 10 households in the UK experiencing energy poverty, the service is a crucial lifeline for many residents.



Energy poverty phases:

- Planning
- Implementation

Intervention type: Capacity building and training, communication campaign, consumer advice, protection, and empowerment, household energy efficiency and refurbishment

Topics: Health, behaviour, heating and cooling systems, household appliances, indoor comfort, information and awareness, energy access and consumption, energy audits, energy efficiency, energy prices, social support



Cheshire, Barnsley, Kirklees, Sunderland, Stoke, Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire Moorlands, Blackpool, Burnley or Rochdale, Greater Manchester, London, Northeast Manchester, London, Northeast and Yorkshire, Leeds, Bradford District, United Kingdom

Geographical scale: Local

The service also helps reduce carbon emissions.

The service offers a set of free services when someone signs up for a Green Doctor consultation that aim to:

- Identify causes of heat loss in the home.
- Help identify and tackle damp or mould problems.
- Offer useful tips for saving energy and water whilst ensuring your home stays safe and comfortable.
- Install small energy and water efficiency measures, such as draft excluders.
- Facilitate switching energy providers to save money.
- Facilitate accessing support, such as emergency heating, government subsidies or grants, advice on energy or water debt.

Local authorities are part of the service partnership, and the initiative stands as an inspiring example of a long-term service that supports people in need with hands on solutions while taking into account the challenges of communities living in energy poverty.

Photos by Groundwork



Benefited from the project: Energy poor, low income



Funding: Private funds, national, regional, local funds by the 'Cadenot Foundation Green Doctor'

Type of stakeholders: Municipalities, local authorities



The partners: Groundwork UK (charity), Cadenot Foundation Green Doctor (charity), housing provider (public, social and cooperative), local authority



The professionals:

- Architect
- Social worker
- Technician



- Capacity building and training
- Communication campaign
- Consumer advice, protection and empowerment
- Household energy efficiency and refurbishment

Local solutions

Dampoort renovates! (Dampoort KnapT OP!)



Dampoort renovates! targeted a group of people called "Noodkopers" ("captive owners") who have purchased housing property because it was the cheaper option compared to renting. Their property was often poorly insulated and in bad condition. Ten houses were identified and the owner was offered the opportunity to apply for a €30,000 grant to make the property safer and more energy efficient. The grant has to be repaid if the owner decides to sell or rent out the property. The local authority facilitates the initiation, facilitation and screening process of the project.



Energy poverty phases:

- Diagnosis
- Planning
- Impact assessment

Intervention type: Household energy efficiency and refurbishment

Topics: Heating and cooling systems, indoor comfort, insulation, energy access and consumption, energy efficiency, social support, financing schemes



Gent, Dampoort, Belgium

Geographical scale:
Local

The project delivers the following five activities:

- Development of a general framework. The criteria for potential beneficiaries were defined and families with low-income who lived in dwellings of substandard quality were eligible. To determine the families most in need, a scoring system including the Flemish Housing Code and a survey was developed. A framework for the renovation works as well as regulations and agreements were drafted.
- Recruitment and selection of candidates. Potential candidates were invited to apply for the project and were ultimately selected based on the previously defined selection criteria. Individual renovation plans were drafted and residents who were not selected gained access to further information programmes about housing premiums and other support measures.
- Tendering and preparation for the works. A public tender was published and quotes collected from potential contractors. Group meetings were organised in which the candidates received status updates and exchanged experiences. As a side-effect of the individual consultations and interviews with the candidates, problems beyond the scope of the project were discovered and tackled together with the project partners.
- Implementation of works. The renovation works were carried out and examined by the construction supervisor. If additional grants and/or premiums were applied for, Woonwinkel took care of the applications. Monthly

meetings of residents allowed everyone to exchange experiences and provide updates on their progress. In order to help residents with their energy bills, tips on energy saving and suppliers were shared.

Aftercare of renovation works. Renovations are sometimes difficult to plan and some demanded aftercare. Fixed contact points were established to give people the opportunity to get answers on housing, premiums or other questions.

This is an inspiring example of a project that needs relatively large initial investment but the rolling fund is self-sustainable in the long run, as the beneficiaries who sell their houses have to pay back the grant plus a share of the added value of the property.

With a budget range of 110,000 to 1 million euros, the project improved the average energy score of the dwellings by 275 kWh/m², from 519 kWh/m² to 244 kWh/m². As a result, each dwelling on average saved 6,442kg CO₂/year, and 95% of the health risks resulting from moisture, CO₂, exposure or electrocution and fire hazards were eliminated.

Benefited from the project: Energy poor, Low income

Funding: Local funds by the OCMW Gent (social welfare office Gent)

The professionals:

- Architect
- Engineer
- Member of a local/national authority
- Researcher
- Social worker
- Technician

The ICCARus project is based on this pilot project and serves the whole of Ghent. The project was scaled up to 100 dwellings.

The partners: Civil society organisation, Housing provider, Local authority, Private company, University/Research centre, Social welfare office, Chamber of commerce. Specifically: City of Gent, OCMW Gent, CLT Gent, Belfius, vzw SIVI, Samenlevingsopbouw Gent vzw, Dorius Mundi vzw, REgent vzw, Bouwunie, Technologiecampus Gent van KULeuven

Type of stakeholders: Private companies

- Household energy efficiency and refurbishment
- Heating and cooling systems
- Indoor comfort
- Energy access
- Financing schemes
- Social support

CAUTION!

The content of the information provided for the Handbook trilogy may change as EPAH is currently working on the exact content of the Handbook trilogy.



The Handbook trilogy

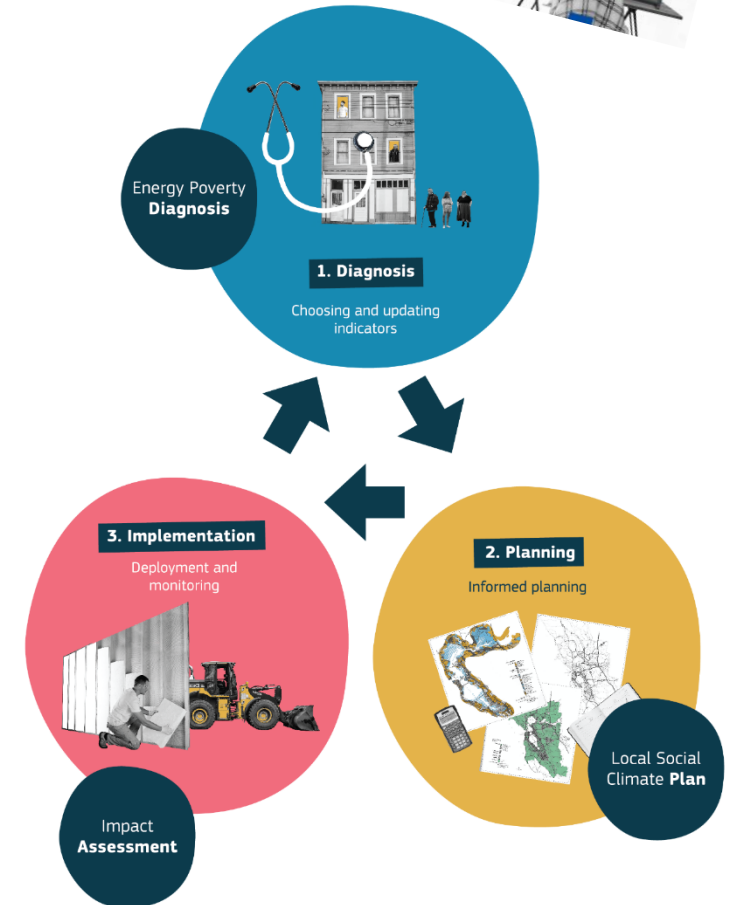
A practical guide in three series:

Introduction: Provides a set of lenses to find vulnerability at local level

Diagnosis: Building the information base to take action

Planning: Informed based planning/including the social element in climate and energy plans

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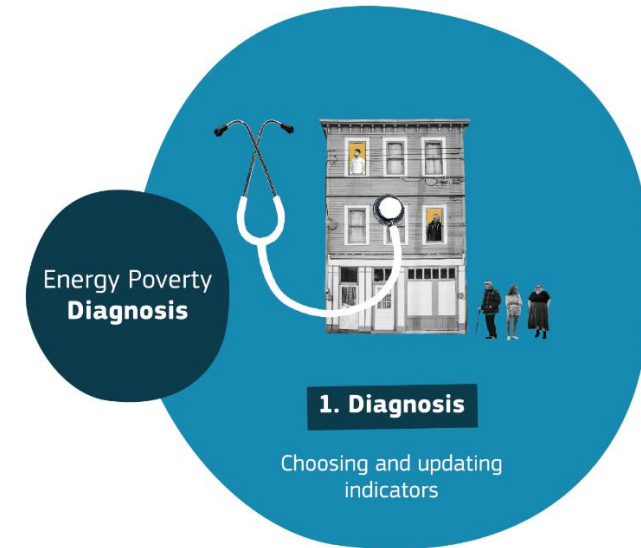


The Diagnosis

Starting point: To start coordinated action to alleviate energy poverty, the Diagnosis constitute the initial phase beginning with understanding the resources available, both in-house (in the municipal administration) and external (NGOs, local data, SCOs, etc.)

The state of energy poverty: A snapshot of your local energy poverty will enable you to prioritise actions to maximize the impact

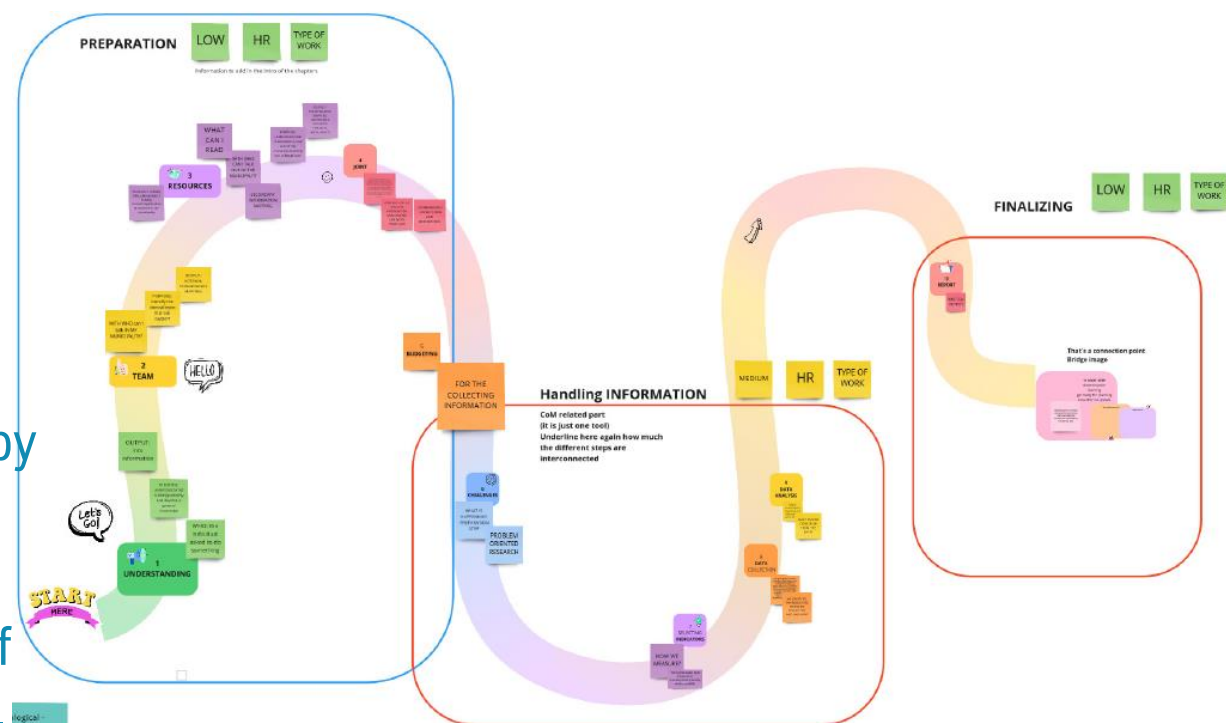
A foundation of information: The local energy poverty picture that will not only provide more details about the situation but also enable internal discussions on budgeting efforts to improve the local state of energy poverty



10 practical steps

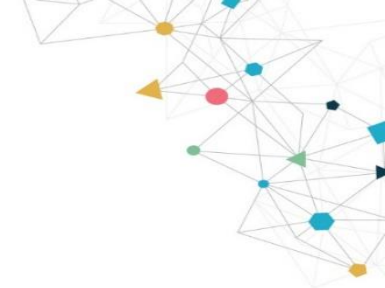
Principles:

- ❑ **Practical** to a level where any one can use the handbook regardless of expertise
- ❑ **Comprehensive:** Ensuring that all most relevant aspect of each to the three phases are covered
- ❑ **One to follow the other:** Meaning one can start by the first step and gradually continue
- ❑ **Tick-off-list:** OR it can be used for a check-list of inspiration for municipalities that are already well underway



3 overall parts

- ❑ **Preparation:** Step 1-4: The initial discussions and mapping of available human and financial resources
- ❑ **Handling information:** Step 5-8: Deciding what data is relevant and processing it for planning purposes
- ❑ **Finalizing:** Step 8-10: The conclusions and the use of the final energy poverty diagnosis

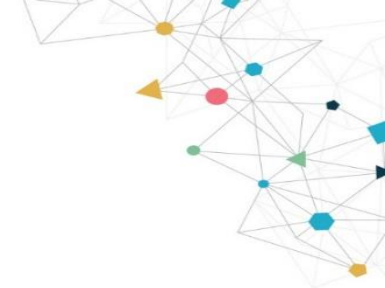


1. Understanding the full process

An energy poverty diagnosis can take many shapes and sizes depending on the situation, both when it comes to financial, geographical and social situations in your municipality. However, in order to succeed with the process, it is highly recommendable to initially go through all the below steps and list all doubts there may be, since these steps are often interlinked it is not recommended to skip one if it is not clear. Instead ensure you receive answers to your questions, either by connection to local or national experts in the field of energy poverty or directly to the Energy Poverty Advisory Hub through its learning material or the EPAH helpdesk.

2. Identify the departments involved

Diagnosing the energy poverty in your municipality is in most cases an exercise which includes departments that sometimes do not collaborate. As energy poverty is a combination of social, technical and financial challenges, it is highly recommended to include colleagues covering these aspects and ensure their inclusion in the process at an early stage.



3. Assessment of all available information

As with any other process, the available resources must be clear from the start. A local energy poverty diagnosis require very different levels of resources. Resources can for instance be: colleagues with expertise or reports and plans with relevant information or a local organisation. It is important to map the existing resources as this can be both an immediate step forward for the diagnosis but also important in order not to re-invent the wheel by redoing research or hire in expertise that may already be available elsewhere.

4. Activate an inclusive working group

Whereas step 2 and 3 are meant to understand who the involved stakeholders are and to collect existing available information. This step focus on actively engage them in order to establish a working group that can take the next steps altogether. Often it can be relevant to have two different groups: One consisting of colleagues in the municipal administration and another group involving any relevant expert or organisation that has been identified as central for providing experiences and expertise



5. Start a problem-oriented approach

You already know where the biggest challenges are located. It is therefore ideal to gather the cross sectorial working group at first to identify the immediate and apparent challenges in your municipality causing energy poverty. This can be particular areas of the municipality, or specific segments of the population, seniors, single parents, youth, etc. who you, with your local experience, can already identify as a beneficiary of energy poverty alleviating actions.

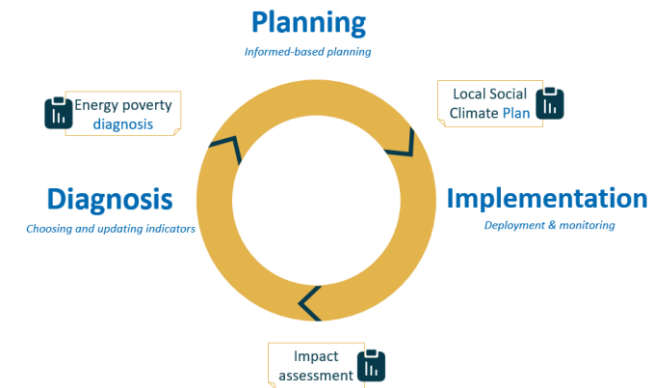
Covenant of Mayors – Challenges to Solutions

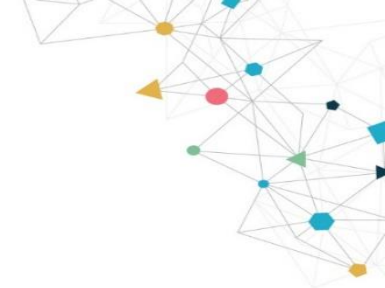
Since 2015 Covenant Signatories have signed up to take actions on "Access to energy" which include Energy poverty

The Call for Technical Assistance is an opportunity to be guided, either in the first step of ensuring the SECAP is just and fair, or with assessments of the impacts of your already implemented activities in the SECAP related to energy poverty.

EPAH's methodology is design together with the Covenant of Mayors Office and is developed to easily merge into existing planning praxis with a minimum of efforts.

Ask for support to begin or strengthen the actions your municipality has already signed up to carry out to make the SECAP social!





6. Choose relevant indicators

To turn the daily experiences assumptions into a measurable status or baseline, it is advised to apply relevant local indicators which allow you to prepare a baseline as well as measure the impact of the actions implemented. A list of 56 local energy poverty indicators has been developed by local practitioners from the Covenant of Mayors together with EPAH, which can be used as inspiration in the process and guide the type of data that is needed to paint as detailed a picture of the nature of your local energy poverty.

7. Collect data

Closely related to step 6, this step requires you to gather the information for the indicators you consider relevant for your municipality to follow and monitor. This can both be related to national or local social and energy related quantitative information like statistics or qualitative data like household interviews and individual local surveys.



8. Make sense of the gathered data

Depending on the type of available data and the goal of the assessment, there are various possibilities of how to use it to extract important information for energy poverty diagnosis. In this step the information collected is sorted into the indicators in order to create a start a baseline for measuring your impact. The indicators can include data from several different data sources and may need thorough discussions as the methods agreed will be repeated when the impact of the implemented energy poverty actions is assessed.

9. Define your local energy poverty

After the information has been collected and organized into the selected relevant indicators, it is also important to conclude upon this work with a written document to support the information that feed the indicators. A concluding document of the Diagnosis process and its results will help spreading awareness of the challenges and can serve as a way to broaden the interest and involvement both from practitioners and local politicians.



10. Making the most of the Diagnosis

As with all projects and process it is important to ensure a proper debriefing with everyone that has been involved. The importance here is twofold: firstly it is important to discuss and agree on what worked and what did not work in the process, because large parts of the steps are repeated when the Diagnosis is updated for you to be able to see the progress and the impacts of your efforts. Secondly, it is also an important activity, to look at the next phase: Ensuring the social aspects of the local climate and energy planning. Which colleagues in the current team are needed? Who else will have to be invited to succeed? Etc.

These last discussions will provide you with a head start for the upcoming planning activities.

The Handbook trilogy

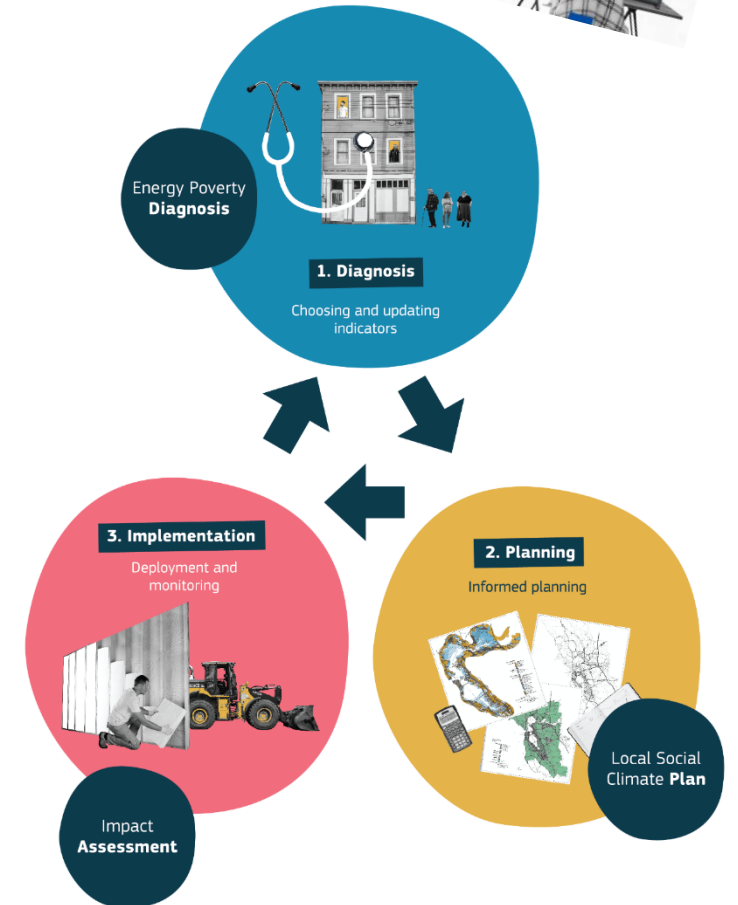
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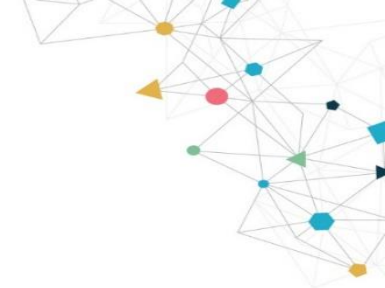
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Timeline

The introduction to the handbook (May 2022)


The Diagnosis (December 2022)

The Planning (Q2 2023)

The Implementation (Q4 2023)

NOTE: these are 1st editions and will be updated with more details and examples as we continue to learn together with the cities and experts



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