



EmpowerMed

National  
recommendations to  
reduce energy poverty  
*France*





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Work package leader: DOOR

Responsible partner: Geres

Deliverable:

Authors: Geres

[empowermed@geres.eu](mailto:empowermed@geres.eu)



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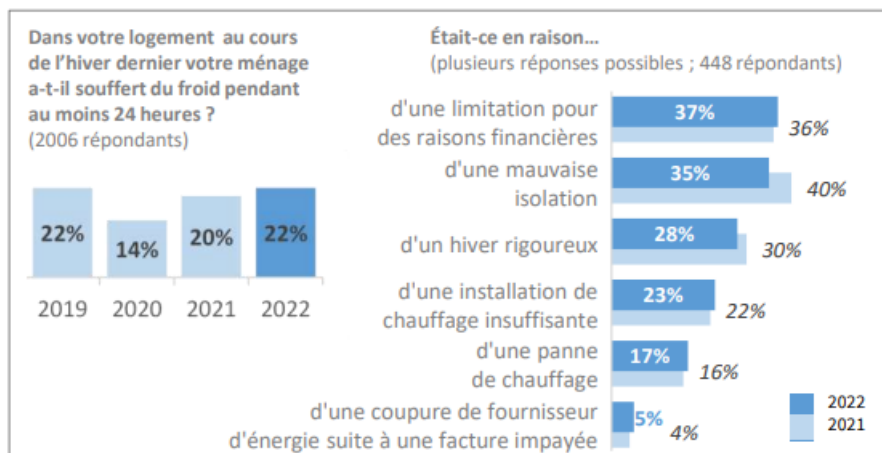
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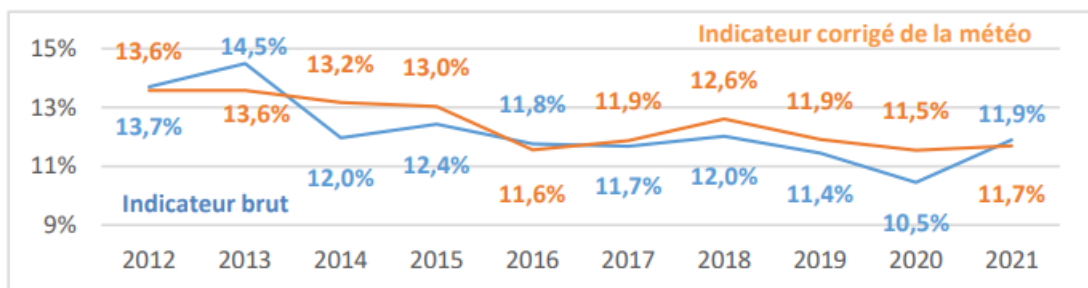
# 1 National context

## 1.1 Some key figures from the National Observatory of Energy Poverty

The National Observatory of Energy Poverty (ONPE), in its 2022 dashboard <sup>1</sup>, specifies that 22% of French people say they suffered from the cold during the winter of 2021-2022, for at least 24 hours. This is an increase of 2 points compared to the previous winter which already followed an increase of 6 points a year earlier. The rate of people feeling cold in their home is higher among tenants (29%), those under 35 (35%) and employees (34%). Of the total households experiencing cold in their homes, 37% mention limiting their energy consumption for financial reasons and this proportion has increased sharply over the past 2 years. For 35%, the reason quoted is poor thermal insulation of their home. Rising energy prices in 2022 are probably the causes of this development.



On the other hand, in 2021, 11.9% of the poorest French people spent more than 8% of their income on energy bills for their home. Up 1.4 points on the previous year, but fairly stable when adjusted for the harshness of the weather.



It is interesting to note, as the Observatory mentions, that the French Energy Check (distributed to low income households) makes it possible to reduce the share of the lowest-income households spending more than 8% of their income on energy by 2.5 points, bringing it down to 9.2%, 1.5 points being due to the usual check and 1 point to the exceptional energy check decided due to the energy crisis.

<sup>1</sup>[https://onpe.org/sites/default/files/onpe\\_table\\_de\\_bord\\_2022\\_s2-vf-vf.pdf](https://onpe.org/sites/default/files/onpe_table_de_bord_2022_s2-vf-vf.pdf)

At a local level, in the Marseille area, figures from Geodip, the tool created by the National Energy Poverty Observatory, show that 42,570 households are in a situation of energy poverty, i.e. just over 10% of households.

## 1.2 Schemes and regulatory measures relating to energy poverty in France

### A definition rensrined in law

The concept of energy poverty has been officially defined in France quite recently. The law of July 12, 2010 on the national commitment to the environment, known as Grenelle 2, sets out a definition of energy poverty: "a person in a situation of energy poverty is one who experiences particular difficulties in obtaining the energy supply necessary to satisfy his or her basic needs in his or her home, due to the unsuitability of his or her resources or living conditions".

### A National Observatory of Energy Poverty

A National Observatory on Fuel Poverty was set up in 2011 to gain a better understanding of the phenomenon, monitor it over time and provide local authorities with the tools they need to take action. The Observatory's work has since led to the creation of a panel of indicators characterizing the different situations of energy poverty, and studies allow each year a better understanding of the phenomenon, of the households affected with the objective of better identifying vulnerable households and developing more effective actions to combat this phenomenon.

### Energy renovation and fight against "thermal sieves"

Beyond specific measures, energy laws define an increasingly favourable framework for the energy efficient home renovation.

The energy transition law for Green Growth Act, adopted in 2015, set targets in terms of reducing energy consumption, producing renewable energy and improving energy performance. These targets were revised within the framework of Law No. 2019-1147 relating to energy and climate.

This new law sets out the achievement of carbon neutrality by 2050 and a 40% reduction in fossil energy consumption by 2030.

The law relating to energy and climate also aims to fight against "energy sieves", i.e. homes with very poor energy performance involving high energy consumption for minimal comfort. It therefore introduces an incentive scheme that is not yet binding:

From 2021, the owner of an "energy sieve" will no longer be able to freely increase the rent between two tenants without having carried out renovation work. At the same time, tenants will no longer be required to pay the contribution to shared cost savings (article 23-1 of the law of 6 July 1989) if their property has a primary energy consumption of more than 330 kilowatt hours per square metre per year.

From 2022, an energy audit will be required to be carried out if an "energy sieve" is put up for sale or rent, with proposals for work to be carried out on the property and an

estimated cost, as well as an obligation to provide information on the property's energy consumption (heating, hot water). In addition, law no. 89-462 of 6 July 1989 will be amended to introduce a maximum final energy consumption threshold per square metre per year, set by decree.

From 2028, the energy consumption of residential buildings must not exceed 330 kilowatt hours per square metre per year of primary energy (labels F and G in the energy performance diagnosis), and owners will be obliged to inform buyers or tenants if they fail to meet this requirement.

### The “energy check”, targeted aid for energy bills

As part of the fight against energy poverty and the application of European Directive 2019/944 on the internal electricity market, which, in Article 28, requires Member States to protect vulnerable customers from fuel poverty, the 2015 law on energy transition for green growth introduced an energy check (voucher) scheme.

The energy cheque is a payment voucher for low-income households (based on income criteria) to cover the cost of energy in the home or certain works.

The cheque entitles the holder to a number of associated protections: enhanced protection during the winter truce (no power cut-off in the event of unpaid bills), a reduction in certain charges billed by the supplier (no charge for rejected payments, reduction in intervention charges for unpaid bills, no charge for commissioning). It also gives you the right to access your consumption data (in euros). For electricity consumers, this means access to this data in real time (article 13 of the Energy and Climate Law of 8 November 2019).

### Energy Savings certificates to co-finance works and programs

Finally, the law relating to the energy transition for green growth created a specific category of Energy Saving Certificates, “energy poverty”. This Energy Savings Certificate system is based on an obligation to achieve energy savings imposed by public authorities on energy suppliers. These must promote energy efficiency among energy consumers: households, local authorities or professionals through incentives, particularly in the form of “energy bonuses” with a bonus for measures carried out in very low-income households (CEE “energy poverty”).

The Energy Savings Certificate mechanism, beyond household aid, is also used within the framework of programs selected by the State, some of which are specially targeted towards low income households. For example, the SLIME program coordinated by CLER, Network for Energy Transition, offers communities the opportunity to deploy in their territory a multi-actor scheme for identifying households in energy poverty via home visits and guiding them towards sustainable solutions.

### Support outside of renovation

In addition to the energy cheque, there are other forms of assistance that can be used to cover outstanding energy (and water) bills. The Fonds Solidarité Logement (Housing Solidarity Fund) has been set up nationally at departmental or metropolitan level. The aim of this fund is to help people who are experiencing difficulties in accessing or remaining in their accommodation by offering assistance or loans, particularly for energy and water

debts.

Local authorities (municipalities, communities of municipalities, etc.) are also developing assistance for vulnerable households to help them pay their bills in the event of non-payment, or to purchase energy-saving appliances.

Assistance is also provided by charities and associations.

### Financial assistance for renovation

Renovation assistance schemes are available for owner-occupiers or landlords and to a lesser extent for tenants. They are numerous, even if the current trend is towards simplification, relatively fluctuating over time with very regular modifications and sometimes difficult to understand for the most vulnerable households.

Ma Prime Rénov' scheme is the most important scheme in terms of assistance with renovation. It can be used by everyone, and a service is available to support households in the design and implementation of their renovation project: the France Rénov' service.

<sup>2</sup> The lower the household income, the greater the assistance available.

Other financial schemes (subsidy, subsidized loan, etc.) are implemented by local authorities, pension funds, the Family Allowance Fund, etc.

The need for households is to be able to have access to all the measures to which they are entitled, in terms of support and financing assistance.

## 2 Data and conclusions from actions carried out in Marseille for EmpowerMed

As part of the EmpowerMed project, Geres implemented actions with households vulnerable to energy poverty, identified through a network of associative and social partners on the ground in Marseille. More than 590 households were supported by the project in Marseille, including more than 410 women. In total, around 1,350 people have been reached.

Households received in-home support, including energy advice visits, the installation of small energy-saving equipment and guidance towards solutions suited to their situation, or took part to collective workshops on energy, health and energy in housing, energy bills and the choice of suppliers adapted to their needs, energy saving tips or even practical do-it-yourself workshops (installation of energy-saving equipment in particular). In parallel with the actions carried out with households, local stakeholders were made aware of the identification of households in a situation of energy poverty, the implementation of essential energy work as well as the gender approach. All the actions carried out are listed in a summary document available online.<sup>3</sup>

This paragraph presents some information and main points that can be retained from the

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<sup>2</sup><https://france-renov.gouv.fr/>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.empowermed.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/D1.2-France-summary-2020-02-28-1.pdf>



actions carried out.

### Households that have been supported individually, are mainly tenants who frequently encounter humidity problems in their homes:

The households visited (2 home visits + implementation of small, energy-saving equipment and guidance towards suitable solutions) are more than 85% women, which represents a bias for the analysis of data on gender aspects but the fact of addressing a predominantly female audience was also a target. These households live in collective buildings (90%). The vast majority are tenants with a total of 82% (a large half in private housing and the rest in public housing) and 18% owners. If we look in detail more specifically at the situations of the owners, the people met are rarely sole owners (joint ownership without recent contact with the other owners etc. ). In almost all cases, therefore, these are households who are not decision-makers in terms of energy renovation, which complicates access. This is all the more true given that a large proportion of private homeowners live in condominiums, which adds a collective factor to the decision-making power when it comes to renovations.

Furthermore, these are all low income households who encounter concerns other than daily energy (economic difficulties, health problems, etc. ). 90% of households mentioned having difficulties or even significant difficulties in financing their daily expenses.

2/3 of households are either single people or single-parent families. Next come couples with children, 2/3 of whom are large families of 5 people or more.

The majority of households who have been supported individually during home visits encounter problems linked to poor energy maintenance of their homes: essential work would be necessary to help households save energy but above all to improve their (thermal) comfort in their homes, and at the same time their health (improved ventilation, installation of ceiling fans, repair of taps, repair of broken windows, etc.). More extensive energy renovations would also be more than beneficial, simply by taking the first step of carrying out essential work, we can build confidence among tenants and landlords, which is a positive factor when it comes to launching a larger-scale renovation project at a later date.

Half of the households visited encounter problems with humidity and mould in their homes, and this concerns even more single-parent families and large families. Given the Marseille climate, which is generally quite dry, with regular wind, the "mistral", drying out the air, these humidity problems are due to major ventilation defects in the accommodation supplemented by potential overoccupancy of the accommodation.

Half of the homes do not benefit from insulation, and we must potentially add an additional 15% who were unable to specify whether their home is insulated or not.

More than half of households overall consider their comfort in summer and winter in their accommodation to be poor. Which is consistent with the observed lack of insulation. The percentage is roughly the same if we consider women on one side and men on the other.



## Health, air quality and energy, a nexus that interests households

Regarding health aspects, the questionnaire could not be as detailed during the visits as desired, due to more important formalities on data protection. We can still note that some of the households visited are affected by chronic pathologies and live in very humid housing, which worsens the health condition of people, if this is not the cause.

Furthermore, the participatory workshops organized around health and energy in housing were, despite the health crisis at that time, well attended with very proactive participation. It is a subject which concerns households and which is important to the people who were present, almost exclusively women. They were very concerned, particularly about the health of their children.

### Summer energy poverty:

It is important to mention a specific point identified during a "health and energy in my home" workshop. This workshop was carried out for the tenants of a residence of a social landlord. The tenants, and especially a tenant whose accommodation was west-facing, mentioned experiencing significant heat problems in summer. The temperature at this gentleman's house was around 40°C, even though the residence was new, built less than 2 years previously. Unfortunately no sun shading system was in place, and its installation, according to the conditions imposed by the landlord, was not within the financial reach of the tenant. It should therefore be noted that even in new buildings, summer comfort is not necessarily well assured.

For the other households who were supported, almost all live in old homes, which are not all equipped with solar shadings. And nighttime over-ventilation is not always carried out for reasons of safety or excessive noise around the home.

Households express their discomfort and for at least half of the households affected, the excessive heat in summer disturbs them in their daily lives: difficulty sleeping, concentrating, etc. Humidity levels observed in the homes visited and also measured during the summer period only amplify the phenomenon of excessive heat during heatwaves.

Furthermore, the visits carried out as part of the EmpowerMed project were supplemented by the installation of ceiling fans in around fifteen households who were experiencing problems with excessive heat in their homes in summer. All households are satisfied with this equipment, which allowed them to improve their comfort during hot periods in 2023.

## 3 Key recommendations

The recommendations proposed in this part are based on data from field work during the actions implemented within the framework of the EmpowerMed project as well as on the advocacy discussions carried out by the CLER - Network for Energy Transition <sup>4</sup>, to which Geres participated specifically on energy poverty, as an administrator for the EmpowerMed project.

The various recommendations aim to strengthen existing measures to combat energy

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<sup>4</sup> [www.cler.org](http://www.cler.org)

poverty and make them accessible and adapted to the situations encountered by households on the ground.

### 1. Develop a plan to identify households experiencing energy poverty and offer them appropriate guidance in Marseille and throughout the national territory

Many households are vulnerable to energy poverty in Marseille due to their low income but also due to their living conditions, in a housing stock that is generally degraded and generally poorly maintained in terms of energy.

The implementation of a Slime scheme <sup>5</sup>- developed at the national level for the CLER - Network for Energy Transition - at the scale of the City of Marseille makes it possible to identify households in situations of energy poverty, to provide them with a first level support, with energy advice visits and the installation of small, energy-saving equipment and then directing them towards the solutions best suited to their situation.

The City decided in 2023 to embark on the implementation of this scheme as a first step against energy poverty, namely the implementation of a network of actors for the identification of vulnerable households, the carrying out of visits -home energy advice, with the installation of small, energy-saving equipment and guiding households towards the solutions best suited to their situation. It relies on a group of associative structures, coordinated by Geres , for its implementation.

This scheme must be as closely integrated into the local institutional and associative ecosystem, and the mobilization of relay actors for the identification of households is a key action to be launched in 2023.

The articulation with other devices developed for many years, or more recently, by local actors who have taken up the problem is essential: there is in particular a mobile information device - raising awareness among households about energy on the ground. of buildings which completes the identification, programs of energy advice visits carried out by associative structures, experiments of aid funds for essential works for very targeted audiences, a program of general interest carried out by the Metropolis to support renovation projects in the region or even more recently the Zero Energy Exclusion Territory project which aims to carry out efficient energy renovation for the most modest.

This issue of coordination and complementarity must be considered closely by the City, which is piloting several systems alongside the Metropolis, which is piloting others. Sharing meetings, circulation and pooling of tools, coordinated and targeted communication are avenues to develop to encourage this cooperation.

This cooperation between stakeholders must result in the development of a range of solutions adapted to different audiences in situations of energy poverty (owner-occupiers – support for renovation, tenants of private housing – mediation with landlords, tenants of public housing – feedback experience and feedback from social landlords, etc.).

Supporting local public policies in terms of social justice and energy transition, the fight against non-recourse and the development of new approaches to social work have positive consequences for the territory and the people who live there:

- Develop a concrete and rapid response to a phenomenon that is increasingly present

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<sup>5</sup> [www.lesslime.fr](http://www.lesslime.fr)

- in the lives of Marseille residents;
- Structuring multi-actor territorial dynamics;
- Encourage the emergence of new solutions for households, such as funds to help with essential work;
- Create non-relocatable jobs, which can be partly filled by people in the process of professional integration.

## 2. Supporting households experiencing energy poverty to strengthen them and improve their housing conditions => Banning energy cuts, a question of image and social justice

In 2021, 785,000 households <sup>6</sup>underwent intervention from the supplier following unpaid debt, i.e. 17% more than in 2019, a clear increase due in part to a catch-up following an extension of the winter break in 2020 in due to the health crisis.

To avoid complicated situations for these households, and allow them even reduced access to energy, it would be important to prohibit interruptions in the supply of electricity and gas for the most vulnerable households throughout the year. fragile (beneficiaries of the energy check or assistance from a housing solidarity fund) and to establish a minimum service allowing them to live with dignity in their housing;

## 3. Supporting households in situations of energy poverty to strengthen them and improve their housing conditions => Developing funds to support basic energy work allows a first step in maintaining housing, improving the living conditions of households

Access to renovation is the ultimate objective for improving the housing conditions of households. The situations encountered in particular within the framework of the EmpowerMed project show that this is not necessarily accessible to households at first. For example, 90% of the households supported did not own their home and the steps to mobilize owners to carry out renovation work were not yet all feasible. Not all owner households were willing to carry out major renovation work either. The development of an aid fund for <sup>7</sup>essential energy works then allows a first step to then move towards larger works, after building the confidence of tenants and/or owners. This requires organizing in the territory coordination of the fund, collection of financial resources, research and cooperation with craftsmen and integration companies to carry out the work.

## 4. Improving financial assistance systems for vulnerable households

Better target and increase assistance in paying bills via the energy check. This aid must reach at least €700 per year for households in serious difficulty from 2023 and be indexed to the real price of energy, to effectively cushion future price increases.

On the other hand, it is necessary to make the contribution of all energy suppliers to the Housing Solidarity Funds compulsory and effective. The absence of a generalized

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<sup>6</sup> [https://onpe.org/sites/default/files/onpe\\_table\\_de\\_bord\\_2022\\_s2-vf-vf.pdf](https://onpe.org/sites/default/files/onpe_table_de_bord_2022_s2-vf-vf.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.lesslime.fr/wp-content/uploads/guide-rappel-fiche-les-fonds-sociaux-daide-aux-travaux-de-maitrise-de-lenergie-2018-1.pdf>

contribution to the FSL from all energy suppliers is incomprehensible since the aid allocated to households is used to pay bills and therefore mainly benefits, ultimately, the suppliers themselves. The incomprehension is all the greater as electricity suppliers benefit from financial compensation for their participation, via the CSPE (Article L.121-8 of the Energy Code and decree of April 6, 2018) <sup>8</sup>.

Finally, continuing to improve assistance for support and renovation work for the renovation of housing for the lowest-income households is essential to successfully improve the necessary energy efficiency of housing.

## 5. Promote solutions to reduce heat-related energy poverty

Developing affordable solutions to protect yourself as best as possible from the heat by limiting the use of air conditioning is a necessity to be carried out in parallel with the application of thermal regulations in force in new buildings and taking into account thermal comfort in hot periods.

Currently, solutions exist but have not yet been massively developed in renovation projects and were not until now eligible for renovation aid (the evolution planned for 2024 of Ma Prime Rénov ' could go in this direction) .

The solutions identified include:

- the use of biosourced insulation materials that are denser and have a greater phase shift, which helps slow down the entry of heat in summer,
- reinforcing inertia where possible,
- the installation of sun shadings which for example can be coupled with photovoltaic installations (solar sun shading in photovoltaic panels),
- planting vegetation at the foot of buildings, on facades, or on terraces and balconies
- improving ventilation to promote nocturnal overventilation
- installation of equipment (ceiling fans...)
- information and awareness of occupants for the implementation of practices to maintain freshness in the home as much as possible
- etc.

Integrating this housing improvement work during hot periods into the work eligible for energy renovation aid would make it possible to emphasize this aspect of renovation and promote their more massive development.

Beyond the aspects linked to renovation, the installation of air fans can help to improve the comfort of households in their homes. Geres notably supplemented the support provided as part of the EmpowerMed project to low-income households with the installation of air mixers thanks to private funds. The beneficiary households expressed their satisfaction with these devices. However, it is important to choose equipment that is efficient and accessible to households. Following the testing of different models and with the support of experts from its board of directors, Geres has identified satisfactory models and makes a list of suitable equipment available to interested parties.

<sup>8</sup>

<https://cler.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Cahier-de-propositions-CLER-Re%CC%81seau-pour-la-transition-e%CC%81nerge%CC%81tique.pdf>

Finally, following feedback from households in the field, it is important to take into account these aspects of comfort in hot periods when renovating old homes. When reinforcing the insulation of homes, it is necessary to install solar protection systems adapted to different situations (see on this subject the solar protection design guide published by EnvirobatBdm<sup>9</sup>) and to raise awareness among households about controlling their comfort to avoid high internal (oven) and external heat input (opening windows during the day, solar rays penetrating into the home) and cooling at night (nocturnal over-ventilation, if possible).

## 6. Taking health into account in a global approach to households

By definition, the primary purpose of housing is to shelter its occupants against external hazards: weather events, excess heat or the cold. Housing ensures its occupants a comfortable and healthy climate.

However, exposure to humidity, mould, housing that is too cold because it is poorly insulated, excessive heat during hot periods, poor air quality due to lack of ventilation... as noted during energy advice visits to households, can lead to a deterioration in the health of occupants and the development of chronic pathologies such as asthma, cardiovascular problems, migraines, etc. and even mental health problems.

Households experiencing fuel poverty have complicated socio-economic situations. Added to this are health problems.

“Poor housing” also creates real health and safety risks such as risks of falls, electrocution, fire, lead or carbon monoxide poisoning, etc.

A note relating to health and energy poverty was produced by the EmpowerMed team, it is available online<sup>10</sup>.

The recommendations on this subject are as follows:

- Reducing situations of energy poverty can therefore lead to an improvement in the state of health of households and reduce public health expenditure.  
A first action is to cross-reference experiences and share knowledge between health, social sector, housing and energy stakeholders to improve the information and training of field stakeholders and more easily identify households in situations of need. energy poverty. Identify whether a link can be made between a chronic or regularly recurring pathology and the state of the housing in order to be able to act on the causes.
- Encourage research projects around the links between health and energy poverty, and in particular the implications for mental health.
- Raise awareness among households in order to strengthen their power of self-identification and mobilization of key actors. For example, the development of health-energy workshops in housing, as developed within the framework of EmpowerMed, is an interactive means of informing households. Indeed, the people

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<sup>9</sup><https://www.enviroboite.net/conception-des-protections-solaires-principes-generaux-et-inverses-d-experiences>

<sup>10</sup>[https://www.empowermed.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Precarite\\_energetique\\_et\\_sante\\_note\\_contexte-Fr.pdf](https://www.empowermed.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Precarite_energetique_et_sante_note_contexte-Fr.pdf)

who participated were proactive, and showed particular interest in implementing actions to improve the air quality of their homes and their health or in mobilizing health stakeholders.

- Developing the interventions of medical advisors in indoor environments or home health advisors who take samples of mold, pathogens, paint fragments on medical prescription makes it possible to more often detect the link between pathologies and housing problems and then take action to treat the problem.

## 7. Consider the gender dimension in the fight against energy poverty

Energy poverty is a multidimensional concept: the technical, economic dimension, the physiological aspect and the socio-cultural component. Several factors contribute to energy poverty such as the cost of energy, energy consumption patterns, energy efficiency levels. Added to this is the gender factor since women are proportionally more affected than men by energy poverty (pay inequality, potentially longer stay in housing, possible physiological factors, etc.).

There are also socio-economic factors which reinforce precariousness: single-parent families and isolated elderly people are often more affected than the average household. However, most single-parent families are led by women and single elderly people are more often women since their life expectancy is higher. These people are more likely to have low income.

In this sense, it seems important to us to consider the gender dimension in the very definition of energy poverty and to create suitable measurement indicators with a view to improving aid and measures. A more inclusive definition could be the following: *a household is in a situation of energy poverty when it cannot achieve the minimum level of domestic energy consumption necessary to satisfy its basic needs and to participate effectively in society.*

A note relating to gender issues linked to energy poverty was produced by the EmpowerMed team, it is available online <sup>11</sup>as well as an analysis of the actions of the EmpowerMed project according to the prism of gender <sup>12</sup>.


The recommendations on this subject are as follows:

- Collecting and analyzing data linked to energy poverty broken down by sex constitutes a starting point in order to monitor and adapt responses and their targeting (for example how many households headed by women have received renovation aid or have had access to a renovation from their lessor). This data could be integrated into the annual report of the National Observatory of Energy Poverty, for example. In 2023, the Abbé Pierre Foundation published a notebook alongside its report on poor housing around gender inequalities in housing and showed that they are numerous <sup>13</sup>.
- Gender, a factor of energy vulnerability, is absent from national measures within

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.empowermed.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/EmpowerMED-Gender-and-energy-poverty-Factsheet-July2023-FINAL-1.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.empowermed.eu/resource/gender-analysis-of-the-empowermed-project/>  
<sup>13</sup> [https://www.fondation-abbe-pierre.fr/sites/default/files/2023-01/REML2023\\_CAHIER2\\_Le%20genredumallogement.pdf](https://www.fondation-abbe-pierre.fr/sites/default/files/2023-01/REML2023_CAHIER2_Le%20genredumallogement.pdf)



the framework of policies to combat energy poverty. The EmpowerMed project partners therefore recommend a review of the policies put in place with a gender perspective. And to go further, this revision should be done from an intersectional perspective which would take into account other axes of discrimination linked to ethnicity, place of birth, disabilities, age, etc.

This revision could be done in cooperation with gender experts and local feminist associations.

- Raising awareness of gender and the intersectional aspects of energy poverty is a crucial issue for better awareness and adaptation of the responses to improve the targeting and effectiveness of the measures taken. There is a need to develop a gender-sensitive understanding of fuel poverty, as well as awareness that fuel poverty is also a gender issue. Launching research projects or action research to extend the work started as part of the EmpowerMed project is a way to better understand the subject.
- Furthermore, promoting the employment of women in the energy transition sector is also an interesting lever on the one hand to allow women to find a more stable source of income and on the other hand, to have more women among decision-making levels. Encouraging women to join scientific fields and promoting career-long training on the energy transition to join a sector of the future are ways to develop.
- Finally, include gender-related criteria in calls for projects funded at local or national level, for example, the French Development Agency takes into consideration the gender dimension of projects when obtaining funds.



## CONCLUSION

Among the Mediterranean countries that participated in the Empowermed project , France is one of the countries best equipped in terms of measures to combat energy poverty. Despite everything, the number of households experiencing energy poverty has not yet decreased and has even increased over the last 3 years, in particular due to the rather turbulent socio-economic context, with a major health crisis which has forced many households to remain confined. in their homes, followed by an energy crisis due in particular to the war in Ukraine.

Drawing on the experience of implementing the EmpowerMed project which affected nearly 8,000 households experiencing energy poverty through collective or individual actions, Geres and the project partners are proposing recommendations to optimize or develop combat measures. against precariousness most adapted to the situations of households on the ground.

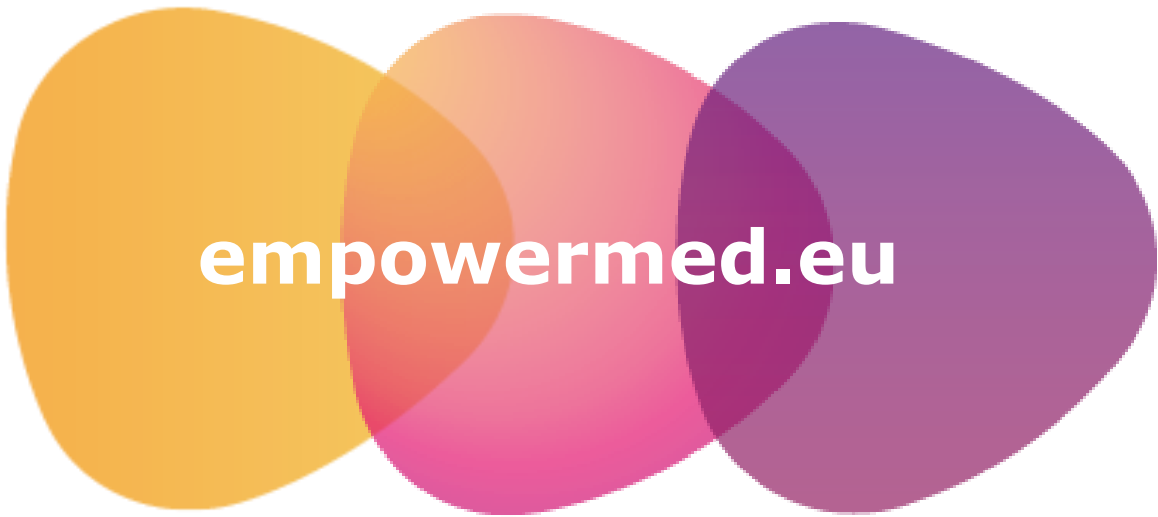
Strengthening networks of relay actors trained to identify vulnerable households, taking into account summer energy poverty and the means to protect against it, recognition of the links between health and energy poverty as well as taking into account the aspects linked to gender to better understand and fight against energy poverty in a more targeted and more effective way are the different avenues developed as part of the project.

In summary, we offer you a succinct selection of proposed measures:

- The implementation of systems to identify households vulnerable to situations of energy poverty such as the Slime system<sup>14</sup>
- Training and cooperation of housing, health, energy and social stakeholders to identify households and offer them the most suitable solutions
- The ban on electricity and gas cuts in the event of payment difficulties and the establishment of a minimum energy access service
- The creation of funds for essential works, triggering a positive dynamic with the household and with the owners if necessary
- Eligibility for public financing of works to reduce summer energy poverty (solar protection, ventilation to facilitate nighttime over-ventilation, equipment such as air mixers, etc. )
- The development of interventions by health actors in housing to raise awareness and take into account the link between housing condition, air quality and household health status
- Develop indicators integrating gender and intersectionality aspects to better monitor the phenomenon of energy poverty and provide targeted, effective and adapted responses to the most affected households.

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<sup>14</sup> [www.lesslime.fr](http://www.lesslime.fr)



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