





European fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency


EPEE project


www.fuel-poverty.org


Project summary

-  EPEE project aims to improve energy efficiency of buildings for low-income people who often live in uncomfortable dwellings and cannot improve them
-  EPEE project aims to facilitate the application of the European directive on the energy performance of buildings by focusing on low-income people
-  The study is led in France (coordinator), Belgium, Italy, Spain and United Kingdom
-  Expected results
 - Comparison of the situation in the different Partners' Country
 - Evaluation of best practices
 - Identification of new mechanisms
 - Implementation of experimentation

Background

-  Fuel poverty describes the situation of people who are not able to warm their house properly

-  Why the situation is more or more important Causes and consequences of fuel poverty
 - Main causes are
 - Bad quality of buildings
 - Energy prices' increase

-  What are the consequences
 - Main consequences are on:
 - Health (physical and psychological)
 - Quality of buildings stock
 - over-indebtedness
 - Climate Change

Objectives and main steps










Objectives

- Identify and characterise fuel poverty situation in the partners' Country
- Identify the main actors (National and local) involved in fuel poverty,
- Analyse the existing practices to tackle fuel poverty
- Define new mechanisms to reduce fuel poverty
- Implement a experimentation in each partner's country

Main steps

- January 2008: characterisation of the fuel poverty in the different Country
- November 2008: diffusion of a guideline
- Spring 2009: diffusion of national guide for local actors
- Summer 2009: results of the experimentations

Expected results

-  Diagnosis of causes and consequences of fuel poverty
-  Evaluation of fuel poverty in partners' Country
-  Existing mechanisms to tackle Fuel Poverty
-  Actors involved in Fuel Poverty
-  Analyse of best practices
-  Elaboration of new mechanisms
-  Publication of an European recommendations guide
-  Publication of national guides for local actors
-  Implementation of local pilot actions programmes

First outcomes : A shared report

Necessity to act to reduce fuel poverty

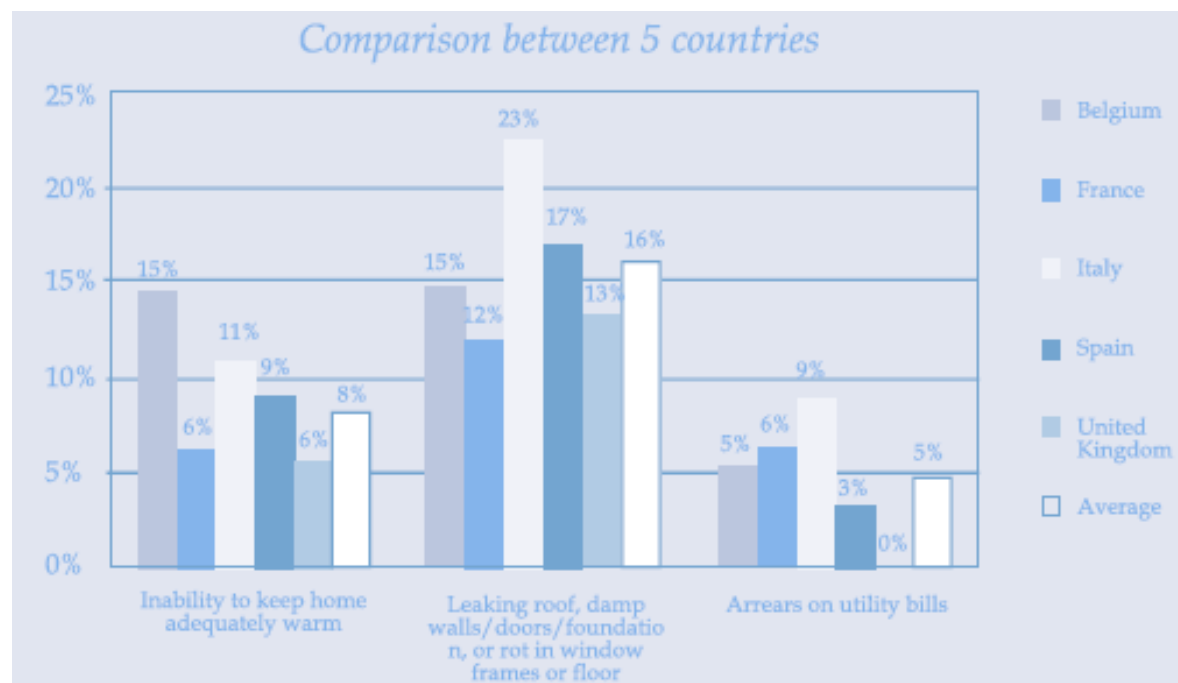
- Nearby 1 in 7 households at risk of poverty

Similar causes

- too heavy loads
- Poor Housing
- Increase of energy prices

Same consequences

- On health
 - Physics
 - Psychological
- On the buildings stock
- On the debt
- On Climate Change



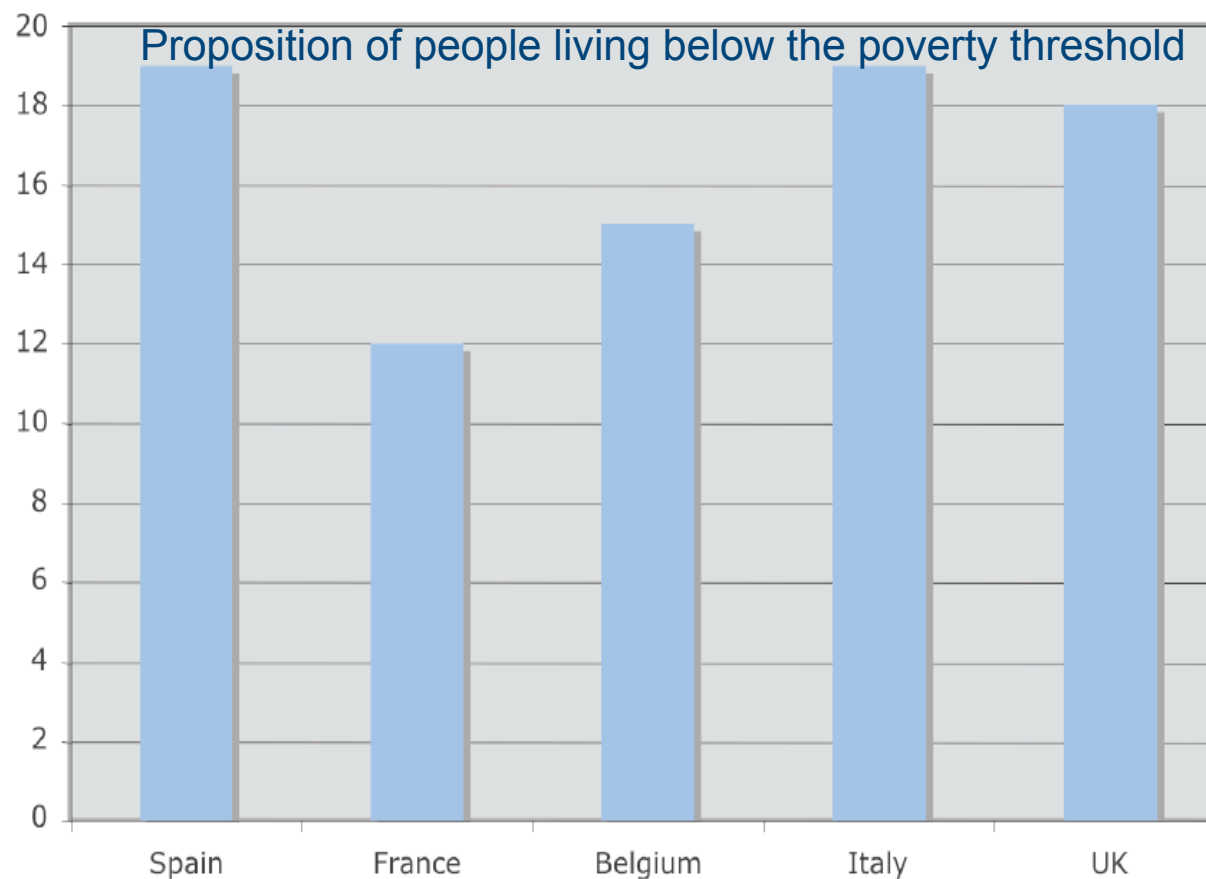
But various situations (1/3)

More or less accurate definitions

- UK: “Normal” Energy expenses > 10% of revenues
- France: Identification of unpaid energy bills

Different poverty thresholds

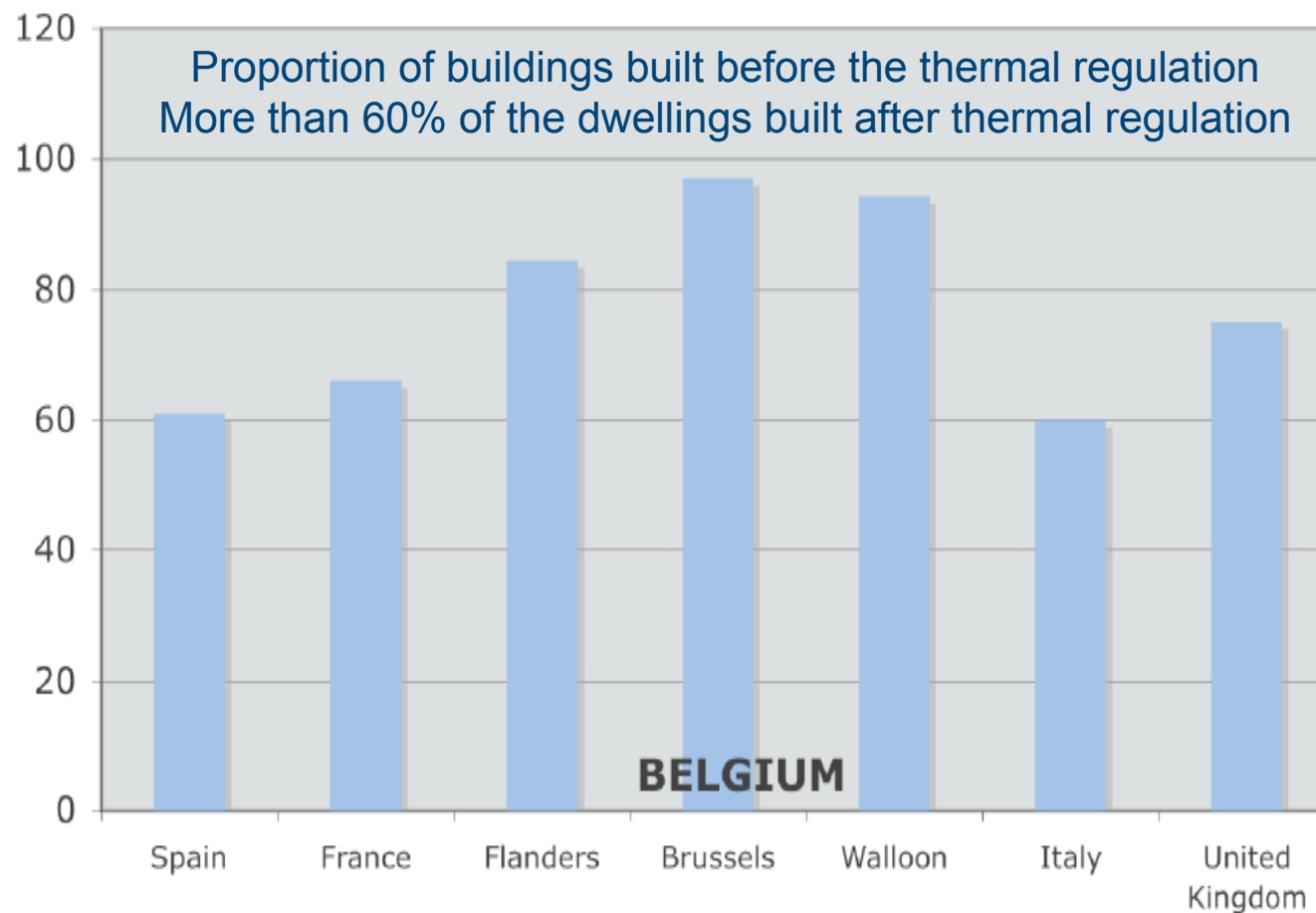
- From 7200 to 8900 € / year / person
- 60% of median income



Various situations (2/3)

Thermal different regulations

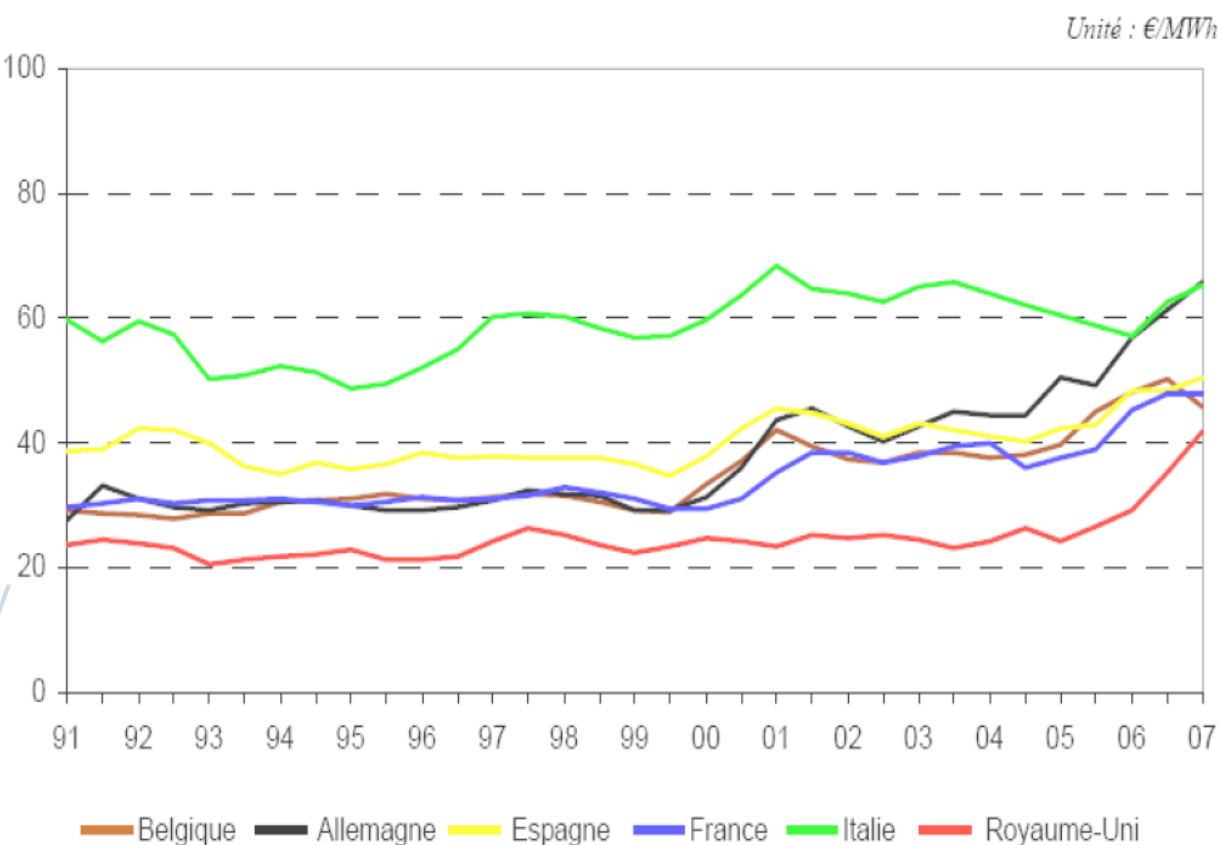
- Dates of implementation
 - From 1973-74 in Italy, France and United Kingdom
 - 1980 for Spain
 - in 1999 for the Brussels region
- In terms of requirements



Various situations (3/3)

Energy prices

- Everywhere on the rise, from 2005 to 2007
 - gas price increased on average by 18%
 - Electricity price by 14%
- but
 - With variations in the order of over 30% coverage



Status for opening energy markets a wide range

General situation in 5 countries: Belgium, France, Italy

Belgium:

- a considerable degree of social support and consumer protection but a lack of the political awareness needed to develop an effective response

France: (2 and 5 M of households)

- a good and coherent infrastructure to tackle different manifestations of fuel poverty but policy is not well coordinated

Italy:

- The profile of fuel poverty is increasing as an issue of social concern.

General situation in 5 countries: Spain, UK

Spain:

- Fuel poverty is not recognised at any significant level. No real remedial infrastructure because there is no perception of fuel poverty as a compelling social problem

United Kingdom: 4.5 M fuel-poor households, (around 17%)

- a greatest experience and understanding of fuel poverty issues
- an objective measure of what constitutes fuel poverty
- the problem is accurately quantified

Form emergency to prevention

Some best practices (1/2)

Energy costs

- Social tariffs
- FSE - unpaid energy bill in France
- Premium for the tank in France or Winter Fuel Payment in Great Britain
- Prepaid meters in Great Britain

Improvement of housing

- Programs for rehabilitation of private dwellings (ANAH)
- Social funds to help Energy efficiency works (FSATME) in France
- Auto-assisted rehabilitation in France
- Warm Front, Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC), Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT), Decent Homes Standard in Great Britain

From emergency to prevention

Best practices (2/2)

Increase of Revenue

- Accompanying household to collect aid

Training

- Social workers and professionals and artisans

What will be done now ?

Epee project will:

- Publish a European recommendation guide for policy makers
- Publish a practical guide to help local authorities to launch project to tackle fuel poverty
- test some new mechanisms in the framework of national experimentations

What could be done at the European level ? (1/4)

To have a common definition

- A consistent minimum definition at EU level would guarantee an effect on national Fuel Poverty programs across all Member States
 - « Fuel poverty as a household's difficulty, sometimes even inability; to adequately heat its dwelling, at a fair price »
- To reach a common position on what constitutes 'vulnerability'
- Even if each member state can refine the common definition according to own context

What could be done at the European level ? (2/4)


To have a legislative framework

- To use existing EU legal documents as a good starting point
- And to go further with by completing existing regulation
 - To involve Fuel Poverty policies in the future new Directive concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity
 - To impose higher standards for social housing in Directive on energy performance of Buildings
 - To extend regulation to all existing buildings and not only those that are subject to major renovation
 - etc
- To propose new regulations
 - Related to fuel poverty and health
 - Energy consumers' charter
 - Reporting on how member states fulfil their obligations energy consumers
 - Ofgem already reports on progress in meeting its social and environmental duties


What could be done at the European level ? (3/4)


- To have a consistent diagnosis
 - To analyse in detail the current fuel poverty situation
- To improve quality of European data by including new variables
- To create a Working group on fuel poverty data
 - To report on National and European data, energy tariffs and social impact of energy supply, based on
 - On a common set on indicators through the different European Countries
- Effective fuel poverty programmes require reliable information on the scale and distribution of fuel poverty

What could be done at the European level ? (4/4)

-  To create a fuel poverty Special Interest Group
 - To gather all stakeholders from different sectors
 - Consumer protection
 - Energy,
 - Health,
 - Housing,
 - Others
 - To share a common reference resource such as a European Fuel poverty watch
 - To guarantee the co-ordination between countries, making sure that the regulations are being applied

Experimentation of local action plans

-  Presently, the experimentation of local actions plan (WP6) is implemented in the different Countries, the territories have been chosen:
 - Belgium: Courcelles and Mons two cities of the Wallony
 - France: a district of Paris named Flandres
 - Italy: South part of the province of Bergamo (Lombardy Region)
 - Spain: Ciutat Meridiana near Barcelona
 - UK: Calderdale (West Yorkshire)

-  For all these territories, the needs have been analysed and the definition and the implementation of activities programmes are on process.

Partners & Contact

France

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Belgium

- CUNIC (Université de Charleroi)

Italy

- PUNTI ENERGIA (regio Lombardia)

Spain

- ECOSERVEIS (Barcelona)

United Kingdom

- NEA (National Energy Action)