Energy poverty in times of COVID in Europe

The right to energy in the EU in times of pandemic

An assessment of the capacity of member states to guarantee it, according to the basic services management model.

(18 February 2021) In March 2021, it will be one year since European Union member states initiated policies and plans to address the COVID-19 crisis. Fulfilling the right to energy and securing basic supplies was already a major challenge in the EU, with 1 in 4 households - at least 50 million people - living in energy poverty before COVID.

This briefing, published during European energy poverty week, traces the policies that many countries have applied to tackle energy poverty during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Most of these measures are insufficient because in many countries a minimum level of real protection has not been achieved, and especially because most of them have an expiry date.

The report was been drafted by the Catalan NGO ESF and supported by the Right to Energy Coalition and EPSU.

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