



Energy Poverty Mitigation Policy Actions

- Bulgaria -



Context

- This factsheet showcases the main policy actions included as part of the national energy poverty mitigation roadmap of **Bulgaria**. Following an extensive co-creation process, this roadmap consists of a list of priority actions which should be carried out within Bulgaria in order to mitigate energy poverty effectively. The actions have been developed based on a thorough stakeholder mapping, vision exercises and are coupled with individual indicator sets per action. The main policy actions are briefly presented in this factsheet while their full details as well as the complete roadmaps, can be accessed via the POWERPOOR website [here](#).
- The aim of the national roadmaps is to build on the project's activities and to enable the application of the POWERPOOR approach to promoting integrated energy poverty mitigation policies across all regional and cities within the POWERPOOR countries. The roadmaps include a circular methodology which encourages the uptake and revision of the identified actions following the project's lifetime.

The roadmaps are the result of coordination with many relevant stakeholders. These include representatives from local and/or regional authorities, housing providers, social workers, health practitioners, experts on alternative financing schemes, representatives from energy communities, civil society as well as other stakeholders linked to energy planning as well as academia.



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POWERPOOR works on the ground with energy-poor households & policymakers on lowering energy poverty levels, funded by Horizon 2020 & run by 14 motivated partners across the EU.



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Policy sector



Actions to be implemented



By when



By whom

Energy poverty definition, Bulgaria

A definition of energy poverty in alignment with the EU energy strategy and with the energy poverty situation in Bulgaria to be formulated and adopted by the government.

Jan. – Feb. 2023

The Commission for Energy Efficiency and Energy Poverty of the Council of Ministers.

SECAPs, other Energy Efficiency plans, RES transition, and Climate related municipal programmes

Include Energy Poverty alleviation measures in SECAPs and other Energy Efficiency, RES transition, and Climate related municipal programmes.

2025

Municipalities, SEA SOFENA, other organisations/ consultants involved in the drafting of the SECAPs, and other Energy Efficiency, RES transition, and Climate related municipal programmes.

Building sector – energy efficiency, renovation

Targeted energy efficiency financing schemes to support the cost for improvements of households affected by energy poverty and, when appropriate, in buildings used for social housing.

2023 – 2027

Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Ministry of Energy; Ministry of Labour and Social policy; local authorities in consultation and collaboration with SEA SOFENA and the EPAOs; Building companies.

Organising media campaigns and through the EPAOs promote to **vulnerable citizens the Programme Regions in Growth,** funded by the Just Transition Fund.

Promote to vulnerable citizens the next stage of the project Replacement of appliances. Collaborate with local administration to prioritise energy poor households and vulnerable consumers.

2023 -2026

Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works; Ministry of Energy; Energy companies; other organisations working in the energy efficiency field.

Promote the installation of smart energy meters, giving priority to energy poor households and vulnerable consumers.

2023 - 2033

Municipalities, Producers of electric appliances for heating, SEA SOFENA, Energy Agency Plovdiv

Support and consult energy poor households and vulnerable consumers to apply for the new stage of the **Energy Renovation of Buildings Program for multi-family residential buildings.**

2023 – 2024

Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Ministry of Energy; Energy companies; Building companies, others

Assist and consult energy poor households and vulnerable consumers to obtain **Energy Performance Certificates** both for new and existing buildings.

2023 - 2027

Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works; Municipalities; local administration; building companies.

Ministry of Energy, Building companies; energy companies; certified evaluating agents.



Policy sector



Actions to be implemented



By when



By whom

Social care	Support the establishment of energy advisory services to assist municipalities and the private citizens , such as energy poverty alleviation offices (EPAOs).	2023 – 2026	Municipalities; local electricity administration; providers, NGOs.
	Advocate for the establishment of a social energy tariff and other measures for protection against disconnection from the grid for energy poor household and vulnerable consumers.	2023-2024	Ministry of Labour and Social policy; Ministry of Energy; other stakeholders.
	Advocate self-production of energy for everyone, for individuals, households, or energy communities.	2026	Ministry of Labour and Social policy; Ministry of Energy; Municipalities; electricity providers; NGOs.
Green Energy	Foster affordability of Green Energy solutions (such as Programme Regions in Growth) focused on the transition to RES, upgrading to a higher energy class, usage of green technologies.	2025 and onwards	All stakeholders: NGOs, local municipalities.
	Assist energy poor household and vulnerable consumers in obtaining financial aid for the installation of RES, using the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, or other programmes.		
Energy communities/cooperatives	Advocate legislative changes for RED II to be transposed in the National law. In the Law should be included incentives for the energy communities' development based on their potential for greater social impact.	2023 – 2026	Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Council of Ministers, all stakeholders.
	Promote the establishment of energy cooperatives, at least one for every one of the larger municipalities. The action should also foresee energy poverty mitigation at a local level.	2023 - 2033	Municipalities; Ministry of Energy; Ministry of Labour and Social Policy; NGOs; energy providers.
Crowdfunding	Advocate, facilitate, and network to support energy communities to secure funding for their projects using crowdfunding.	2023 - 2026	SEA SOFENA and Energy Agency Plovdiv; other NGOs; local municipalities.
Education about Energy Poverty	Promote the energy poverty topic as a research field and a study subject in universities' curricula.	2030	Ministry of Education, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
	Encourage education about Energy Poverty in high schools' programmes, especially in vocational high schools.		Ministry of Education, SEA SOFENA, other NGOs.



Policy sector



Actions to be implemented



By when



By whom

Awareness-raising campaigns

Organise awareness-raising campaigns to increase public awareness regarding energy poverty; involve local energy poverty alleviation offices in local campaigns; promote existing online tools that would help citizens and interested parties to access information about energy efficiency and energy poverty.

2023 - 2033

SEA **SOFENA;** local administrations; EPAOs; other stakeholders.

Organise training sessions for vulnerable households about energy poverty and possibilities for energy efficiency optimisation. Promote the POWERPOOR EPAOs.

SEA **SOFENA;** local administrations; EPAOs; other stakeholders

POWERPOOR network

Foster further development of the POWERPOOR network of Energy Mentors and Supporters.

2023 - 2030

SEA **SOFENA;** **POWERPOOR Energy Supporters and Mentors network**

