



POWERPOOR

Empowering Energy Poor Citizens through Joint Energy Initiatives

POWERPOOR Key Results in Hungary

Working on the ground with energy-poor households and policymakers to mitigate energy poverty.

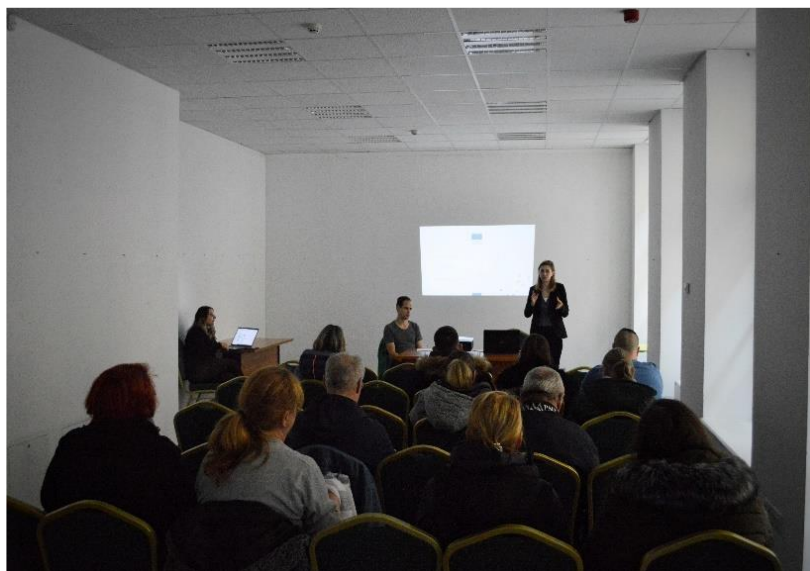
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Assessing energy poverty on local level – technical assistance for Józsefváros (8th district of Budapest)

Representatives of Józsefváros Municipality attending the Energy Supporter and Mentor training reached out to Energiaklub to take further action of energy poverty alleviation. The training series provided basis for more detailed assessment of energy poverty situation in the municipality, for which the Energy Poverty Advisory Hub provided the necessary platform.

The plan is to spread the concept of energy poverty and prepare social employees of the municipality to be able to provide energy efficiency consultancy to vulnerable households, while simultaneously recording and monitoring energy poverty data. A detailed and tailored questionnaire was developed, and it is constantly being improved to be user friendly, while still detailed enough to allow thorough assessment.

Trainings for social workers were tailored based on energy poverty situation in Józsefváros, containing detailed energy efficiency practical lessons and presenting the municipality's SECAP measures currently in force. A certified Energy Supporter presented practical examples from assessing energy poor households. The trainings were highly interactive, gathering as many feedback and field experience from the audience as possible. The participants were municipality employees from social services, child welfare centre, family support office and economic centre of Józsefváros.






Residential workshops were held supposed to raise public awareness about the issue of energy poverty and about ongoing alleviation efforts.



Józsefváros's SECAP will be reviewed and energy poverty alleviation actions revised based on the feedback from the trainings and workshops, and data assessment of over 100 households.



The long term plan of the municipality is to include the questionnaire into the daily work of social workers who are in daily contact with vulnerable families. They should be able to reach specific target groups, provide energy efficiency advisory, spread the concept of energy saving, help the families to break out of energy poverty, and at the same time continuously monitor energy poverty data.

POWERPOOR approach in the energy communities conference

Energiaklub was present as a roundtable speaker at a conference „Energy communities for the common – introducing the Transformator”. The main topic of the conference was the potential of bottom-up approach for establishing an energy community.

It is important to clarify that energy communities are practically non-existent in Hungary. The legal background is present, it defines what can be an energy community and its' possible members, but it is economically not competitive for several reasons. Energy communities have only been included in the Electricity Act, therefore only allowing electricity sharing and no heat-based energy community. Even electricity sharing is still very limited, since there are neither detailed rules, nor contractual framework and real financial incentives. The law also defines large companies as possible members of an energy community, which is not considered to be a good international practice.

Still, initiatives, pilot projects and awareness raising are ongoing. The conference participants discussed about opportunities for community initiatives in the energy crisis, how can local communities collaborate with municipalities, the possibilities of energy communities in regulatory environment that complicates renewable energy installations, and how democratic and civil society initiatives can be strengthened.

Energiaklub was participating in the round-table discussion on topic „Municipal perspectives on community energy”. Other speakers in this round table were Head of the Climate and Environment Department of Budapest, Environmental and Climate Advisor of Alsómocsolád Municipality, Project manager of Józsefváros municipality. The concept of establishing a network of Energy Supporters and Mentors, among others, was presented.



An interactive awareness raising training in the topic of energy poverty and energy efficiency has been developed by Energiaklub specially for companies and employees. The issue of energy poverty is demonstrated through an interactive exercise and assessing own energy situation with the POWERPOOR toolkit. This is followed by a theoretical training that can involve behavioral advice to maximize personal energy consumption, introduces the theory of energy poverty and energy communities. The theoretical part can be partially tailored to meet the company's specific needs. The training closes again with an interactive part, where participants create personal action plans to limit their energy consumption. The plans are shared and evaluated together. The training concept has been shared with contacts from over 80 companies and the service is expected to be continuously improved and offered in the long term.

KÖZÖSEN AZ ENERGIASZEGÉNYÉG ELLEN



Az Energiaklub innovatív képzése
 bővíti a munkavállalók látókörét és fejleszti szociális érzékenységüket, a munkáltatókat pedig erősíteni hivatott az energiaszegénység enyhítésére vonatkozó társadalmi felelősségvállalásban.

A program várható hatása:

- a munkavállalók empátiás készségeinek fejlődése, ismeretek és látókörük bővülése;
- tudatosabb energiafogyasztóvá válás.

A tréninggel szeretnénk elősegíteni, hogy megelőzhetővé váljon az energiaszegénység a munkavállalói körben.




Az energiaszegénység csökkentése hozzájárul a fenntartható fejlődési célokhoz (SDG), a Green Deal sikeres végrehajtásához és a klímavédelmi célok eléréséhez.