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WORKING FOR YOU – WHEREVER YOU NEED ENERGY.



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Energy poverty in Austria

Facts, figures and measures

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Presentation at the 6th Citizens' Energy Forum
London, England, December 17, 2013

Austrian regulator for electricity and gas since 2001

- Determining network tariffs
- Proving general conditions, quality standards ...
- Main information hub (SPoC) for final customers
 - telephone hotline, price comparison tool, ADR, ...

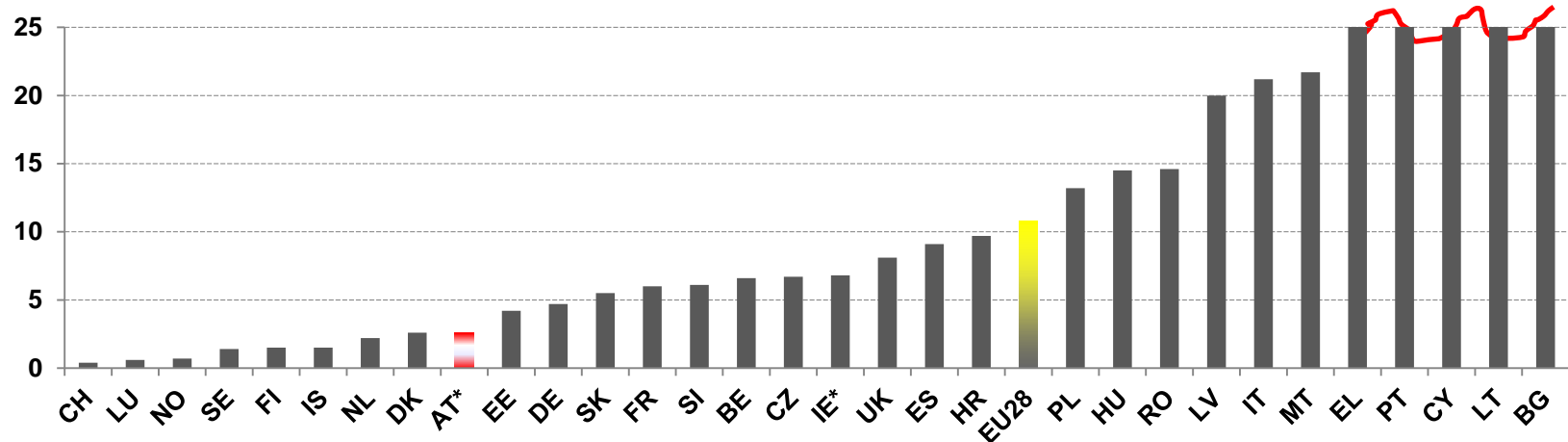
Customer protection @ E-Control

- **Legal mandate** to secure benefits for all customers, high quality universal service, protection of disadvantaged (vulnerable) customers
- **1st Austrian study** in 2008; comprehensive study 2012/2013

- Comprehensive **theoretical and empirical work** in exchange with numerous stakeholders
 - Advisory board (academic), public consultation of draft paper, in-depth interviews with stakeholders (social & energy counselling)
- Collection and analyses of primary (own population survey) and secondary **data and indicators**
- Proposals for **cost efficient and sustainable measures** against energy poverty
 - Strong focus on energy efficiency

Numbers on energy poverty in public

% households which cannot afford to keep home adequately warm (EU-SILC 2012, *EU-SILC 2011)



E-Control DEF: Energy poor households are households with a monthly net income below the at-risk-of-poverty line and who have to meet above average energy costs.

Representative survey of experience with energy use among low-income population of Austria

- N=931 households below median income/large families
- randomly sampled telephone interviews
- by renowned survey company (academic)

3 measurement approaches to energy poverty

A) Households who cannot afford to keep home adequately warm (**EU-SILC**)

B) Households who feel (strongly)burdened by energy expenses (**BURDEN**)

C) Households with below-poverty-line income & high energy expenses (**ECA**)

[Selected results]

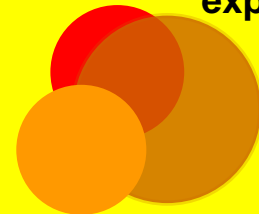
EXTENT OF ENERGY POVERTY IN AUSTRIA

Total population

Cannot afford
to keep home
adequately
warm

(Strongly)
Burdened
by energy
expenses

At-risk-of-poverty
household with above
average energy expenses



INCOME, HOUSING, ENERGY EXPENSES

		EU-SILC	BURDEN	ECA	SAMPLE
INCOME					
	∅	1500	1600	1300	1800
	per head (w)	950	1000	1050	1230

Notes: own calculations based on energy poverty survey. (w) weighted according to equivalence scale of the EU. (∅) Average values refer to rounded median values in Euros/month.

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∅	1500	1600	1300	1800
per head (w)	950	1000	1050	1230
HOUSING EXPENSES				
∅	400	400	490	375
per head (w)	267	267	385	270

Notes: own calculations based on energy poverty survey. (w) weighted according to equivalence scale of the EU. (∅) Average values refer to rounded median values in Euros/month.

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∅	400	400	490	375
per head (w)	267	267	385	270
ENERGY EXPENSES				
∅	75	100	201	88
per head (w)	56	78	142	61
share (%)	6,4	7,9	13,4	5,1

Notes: own calculations based on energy poverty survey. (w) weighted according to equivalence scale of the EU. (∅) Average values refer to rounded median values in Euros/month.

EXPERIENCE AND USE OF ENERGY (IN %)

	EU-Indikator	Belastung	E-Control	Stichprobe
ARREAS	48	31	13	12
ENERGY SAVING	40	24	10	10
BAD INSULATION	48	21	11	9
OPEN WINDOWS	14	15	13	15
HEATING DOWN	59	72	55	59

Notes: own calculations based on energy poverty survey.

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HEATING DOWN	59	72	55	59
LIVING SPACE (m²)	66	75	88	78
USING GAS	25	30	57	30

Notes: own calculations based on energy poverty survey.

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USING GAS	25	30	57	30
HOME OWNERS	22	38	33	37
SOCIAL HOUSING	19	16	30	16

Notes: own calculations based on energy poverty survey.

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

- Energy poverty **definition** should be based on **high energy costs** → energy efficiency potential
- **Promising energy efficiency measures** to alleviate energy poverty should ...
 - raise **awareness** of and stimulate energy efficient behaviour (e.g. free energy advice, monthly information, legal information)
 - include **longer-term goals** instead of one-off/annual benefits (e.g. thermal renovation, appliances, sustainable social benefits)
 - match **requirements of beneficiaries** in terms of capabilities and opportunities

Thank you for your attention!

Contact

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