



Member State Report Finland

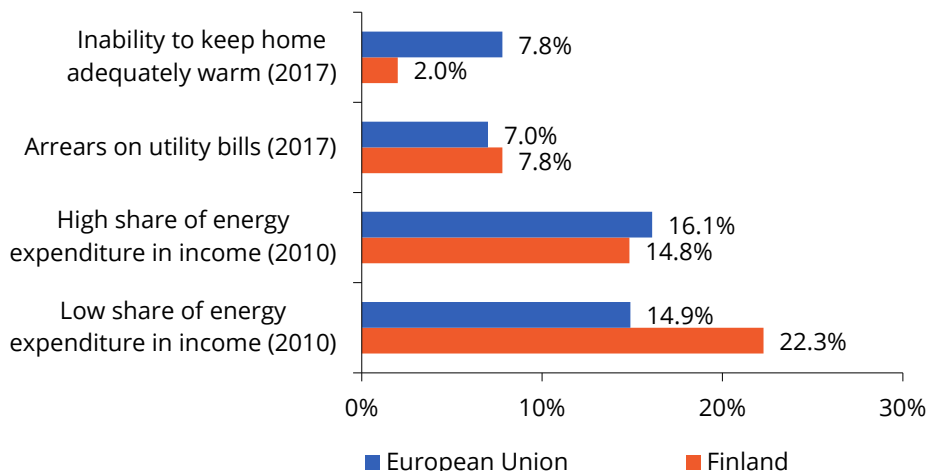
DATA & STATISTICS

This Member State Report of the EU Energy Poverty Observatory (EPOV) provides an overview of the energy poverty situation in Finland at a glance. With key indicators, policies and publications, it offers an understanding of the key aspects of energy poverty in Finland.

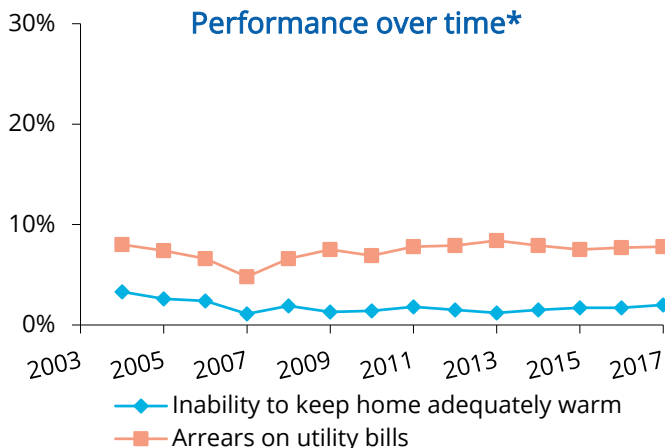
Finland performs better than or around the EU average on the household-reported indicators. 2.0% of households were unable to keep the home adequately warm in 2017, and 7.8% were in arrears on utility bills.

Finland is around or above the EU average for the expenditure-based indicators. 14.8% of households spend more than twice the median on energy. 22.3% spend less than half the median, but this might be because energy costs are usually included in rent.

Performance relative to EU average*



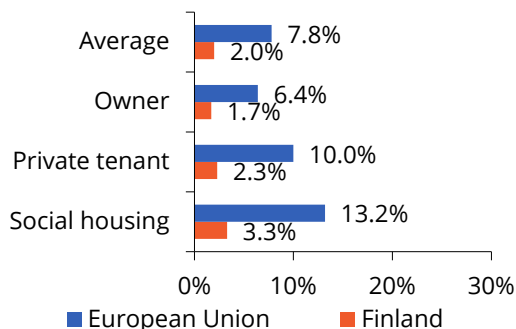
Performance over time*



Energy poverty in Finland has been relatively stable since 2004. The percentage of households unable to afford adequate warmth decreased from 3% in 2004 to 1% in 2007 and has since remained at 1-2%. Since 2009 the number of households in arrears has been stable at around 8%.

Disaggregated data of the household-reported indicators suggest that energy poverty in Finland is mostly a problem for tenants as opposed to households that own their home. However, there are no clear dwelling types or urbanisation densities in which energy poverty is most prominent.

Inability to keep home adequately warm (2017)*



About the EU Energy Poverty Observatory

The EU Energy Poverty Observatory (EPOV) is an initiative by the European Commission to help Member States in their efforts to combat energy poverty. It exists to improve the measuring, monitoring and sharing of knowledge and best practice on energy poverty. EPOV has been developed by a consortium of 13 organisations. This report was authored by Navigant.

*Household-reported indicators taken from Eurostat [here](#) and [here](#) on April 16, 2019. Expenditure-based indicators calculated by EPOV based on HBS data. Disaggregated data of household-reported indicators calculated by EPOV based on Eurostat provided data.



Member State Report Finland

KNOWLEDGE &
RESOURCES

In Finland, energy poverty is mainly addressed through social policies. *Basic income support* is provided to low income households to cover their necessary daily expenses such as food and clothing, but it can also assist with housing-related expenses such as heating and electricity costs. In addition, low-income households are eligible for a *general housing allowance* to help with their housing costs, which include heating.

Disconnection protection also exists for households that have accumulated debt and that rely on electricity or natural gas to heat their homes. These households cannot be disconnected during the winter months (1 October–30 April).

Finally, an energy poverty project funded by the European Union, *Support Network for Household Energy Saving (ASSIST)*, is implemented in multiple European countries including Finland. ASSIST tackles energy poverty by creating specialised services through energy advisors. Selected energy advisors receive training, so that they can provide vulnerable consumers with advice and guidance on household energy efficiency, including efficient behavioural changes. 750 vulnerable consumers will be addressed in Finland with specific actions to reduce their energy consumption, and a number of additional vulnerable consumers will be given specific energy efficiency advice through the network's ICT platform. The project runs until 2020.

Even though there are no NGOs active on the topic of energy poverty, there seems to be some research interest. In 2015, an extensive report on energy poverty in Finland was published (Runsten et al. 2015). This report assessed energy poverty in Finland in detail, including qualitative interviews and calculation of energy costs. In addition, some research is available for Finland on relevant themes such as thermal comfort.

Selected measures	Type of measure	Organisation	Target groups
Disconnection prohibition in winter	Disconnection protection	Energy suppliers	Indebted households
Support Network for Household Energy Saving (ASSIST)	Information and awareness, Energy audits	European Union	Vulnerable households
Basic income support	Social support	National government	Low-income households
General housing allowance	Social support	National government	Low-income households

Selected Publications

- Karjalainen, S. (2007) [Gender differences in thermal comfort and use of thermostats in everyday thermal environments](#)
- Runsten, S., et al. (2015) [Energy poverty of low-income home owners \(in Finnish\)](#)

For definitions of the terms used in this report [click here](#). The EPOV website provides an extensive collection of Knowledge & Resources. [Click here](#) for more information and to contribute additional policies, publications and other resources.