



# Member State Report Hungary

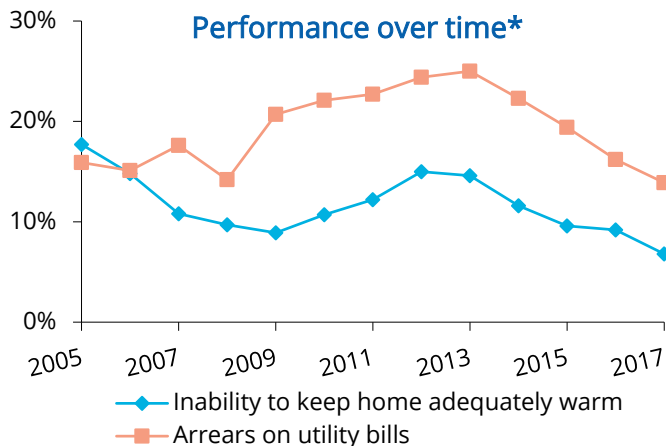
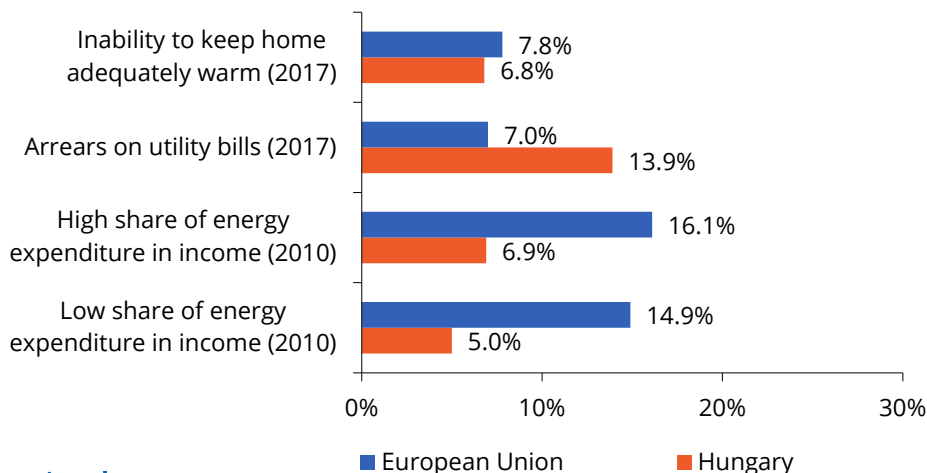
## DATA & STATISTICS

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

Hungary performs comparable to the EU average on the household-reported indicators. 6.8% of households were unable to keep the home adequately warm in 2017, and 13.9% were in arrears on utility bills.

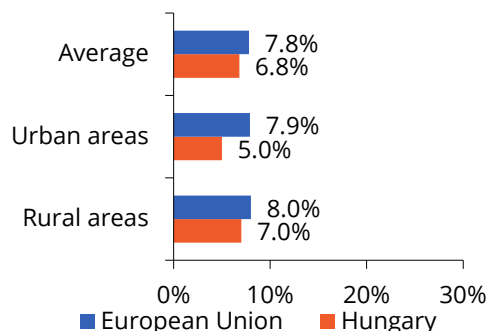
Hungary performs better than the EU average for the expenditure-based indicators. 6.9% of households spend more than twice the median on energy, and 5.0% spend less than half the median.

### Performance relative to EU average\*



Energy poverty in Hungary worsened from 2009 to 2012, which may be a result of the financial crisis. The percentage of households unable to afford adequate warmth increased from 9% in 2009, to 15% in 2012, but then gradually decreased to 7% in 2017. The number of households in arrears follows a similar pattern.

### Inability to keep home adequately warm (2017)\*



Disaggregated data of the household-reported indicators suggest that energy poverty in Hungary is particularly a problem for rural households. Disaggregated data also points to households living in semi-detached/terraced and detached housing as being more susceptible.

### 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 Hungary

## KNOWLEDGE & RESOURCES

Initial research on energy poverty in Hungary was conducted in 2010 by Tirado Herrero and Üрге-Vorsatz who have since produced a number of other studies on the topic. Besides research interest in Hungary, the NGO Energiaklub has been active on the topic of energy poverty. In 2012, Energiaklub proposed a national definition for energy poverty based on analysis of energy poverty in Hungary (Fellegi & Fülöp 2012).

The national government has developed measures that provide *disconnection protection* to vulnerable households. Disabled consumers may not be disconnected from supply in case of late payment or non-payment. They also receive additional assistance by allowing the measurement and payment of the bill to occur at the place of use, as well as the possibility to receive additional, detailed information on the bill. Furthermore, a larger group of vulnerable consumers, including pensioners and households on certain social benefits, receive some assistance to prevent disconnection. These consumers can request to delay payment on their electricity bills or to pay in installments, and they can choose to get a prepayment meter installed.

Furthermore, the national government provides favourable financial conditions on instruments (such as loans or savings accounts) to allow housing renovation, including insulation and the replacement of heating systems. Policies also exist to *stimulate renewable energy production* from households.

Selected measures	Type of measure	Organisation	Target groups
<a href="#">Financing options for energy efficiency</a>	Building insulation, Heating system	National government	No specific target group
<a href="#">Protection for disabled consumers</a>	Disconnection protection	National government	Disabled
<a href="#">Protection for vulnerable consumers</a>	Disconnection protection	National government	Households on social benefits, Pensioners, Vulnerable households
<a href="#">Rules on renewable production by households</a>	Renewable energy	National government	No specific target group

### Selected Publications

- Tirado Herrero, S. and Üрге-Vorsatz, D. (2010) [Fuel Poverty in Hungary: A first assessment](#)
- Dénes Fellegi, Orsolya Fülöp (2012) [Poverty or Fuel Poverty? Defining fuel poverty in Europe and Hungary. Executive Summary](#)
- Tirado Herrero, S. and Üрге-Vorsatz, D. (2012) [Trapped in the heat: A post-communist type of fuel poverty](#)
- Tirado-Herrero, S., Üрге-Vorsatz, Petrichenko, K. (2013) [Fuel poverty alleviation as a co-benefit of climate investments: evidence from Hungary](#)
- Bouzarovski, S., Tirado Herrero, S., Petrova, S., and Üрге-Vorsatz, D. (2015) [Unpacking the spaces and politics of energy poverty: path-dependencies, deprivation and fuel switching in post-communist Hungary](#)

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.