



Member State Report Italy

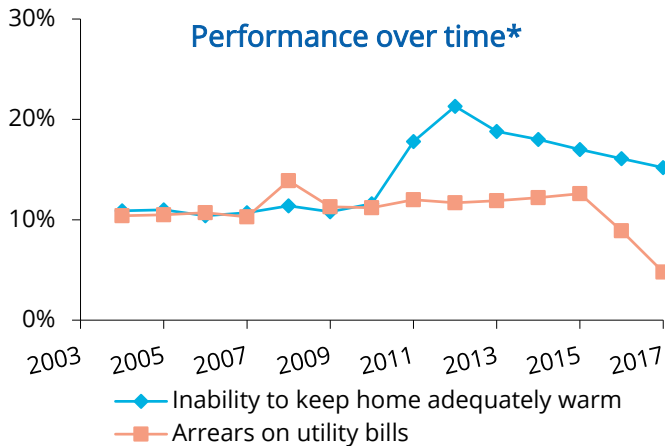
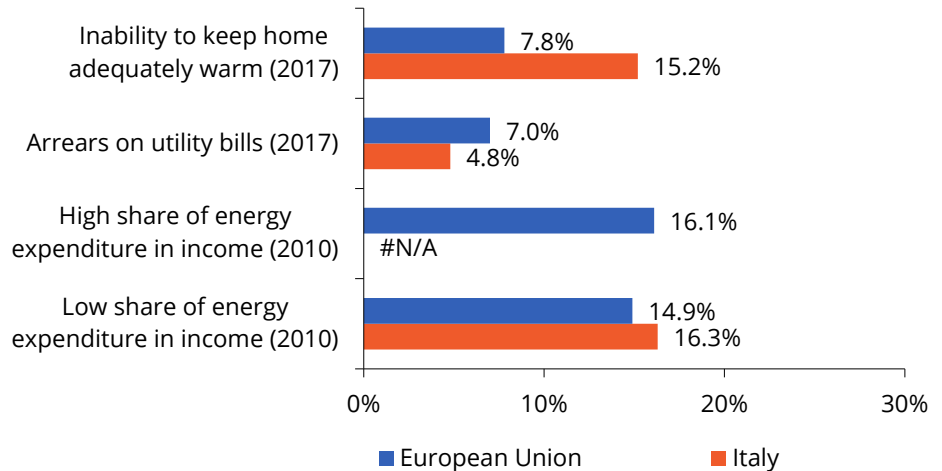
DATA & STATISTICS

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

Italy performs around the EU average on the household-reported indicators. 15.2% of households were unable to keep the home adequately warm in 2017, and 4.8% were in arrears on utility bills.

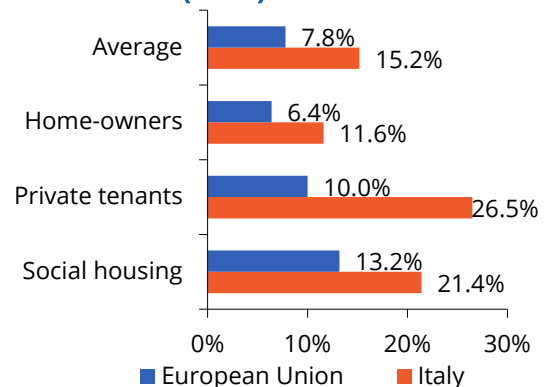
Italy scores worse than the EU average for one expenditure-based indicator. 16.3% spend less than half the median. No data was available on the high share of energy expenditure in income due to validity concerns following the national data collection process.

Performance relative to EU average*



Energy poverty in Italy worsened from 2010 to 2012, which may be due to the financial crisis. The percentage of households unable to afford adequate warmth increased from 12% in 2010, to 21% in 2012, but then gradually decreased to 15% in 2017. The number of households in arrears remained relatively constant over the period 2004-2015 around 10-14% but recently decreased to 5% in 2017.

Inability to keep home adequately warm (2017)*



Disaggregated data of the household-reported indicators suggest that energy poverty in Italy is particularly a problem for households that rent their housing. In addition, data points to detached housing as the more susceptible dwelling type.

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.

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KNOWLEDGE & RESOURCES

The first national study on energy poverty in Italy, a statistical analysis on the topic, was published in 2014 (Faiella and Lavecchia 2014), which suggested the use of a modified low income high costs indicator. This research was followed by additional research on energy poverty and related concepts (Federesco 2017, Faiella, Lavecchia and Borgarello 2017).

In 2017, the national government dedicated a section of its National Energy Strategy to energy poverty. It confirmed that the Italian Government is adopting an official definition of energy poverty and aims to perform a thorough review of the existing policies and create an Italian Energy Poverty Observatory.

Currently, the main measures to address energy poverty are through national energy bill support. In 2014 approximately one million residents received financial support for their electricity bills (*the Electric bonus*), and more than 500,000 received support on their gas bills (*the Gas bonus*). Some municipalities also provide financial support for heating costs. In addition, to avoid disconnection it is possible in some cases to reduce the amount of power instead of resorting to complete disconnection. Furthermore, policies exist to improve energy efficiency in households, but these do not typically targeted to specific socio-economic groups. Various European projects related to energy poverty are implemented in Italy such as ASSIST, EnerSHIFT, FIESTA, LEMON and SMART-UP.

Selected measures	Type of measure	Organisation	Target groups
VAT reduction for renovation	Building insulation, Cooling system, Household appliances, Heating system	National government	No specific target group
Heat account	Building insulation, Heating system, Renewable energy	National government	No specific target group
Tax deductions for energy efficiency	Building insulation, Heating system, Renewable energy	National government	No specific target group
Reduction of available power	Disconnection protection	Regulator	Indebted households
Financial assistance for heating costs	Energy bill support	Local government	Low-income households
Gas bonus	Energy bill support	National government	Low-income households
Electric bonus	Energy bill support	National government	Low-income households, Chronically/severely diseased

Selected Publications

- Miniaci, R., Scarpa, C. and Valbonesi, P. (2008) [Distributional Effects of Price Reforms in the Italian Utility Markets](#)
- European Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency Project (EPEE) (2009) [Diagnosis of causes and consequences of fuel poverty in Belgium, France, Italy, Spain and United Kingdom](#)
- Faiella, I. and Lavecchia, L. (2014) [Energy Poverty in Italy \(in Italian\)](#)
- Faiella, I., Lavecchia, L. and Borgarello, M. (2017) [A new measure of households' energy poverty \(in Italian\)](#)
- Federesco, Federconsumatori, Unione Nazionale Consumatori, AiCARR (2017) [Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency \(in Italian\)](#)
- Italian Government (Ministry of Economic Development and Ministry for the Environment) (2017) [National energy strategy \(in Italian\)](#)
- Faiella, I. and Lavecchia, L. (2017) [Energy Poverty in Italy](#)
- Autorità di Regolazione per Energia Reti e Ambiente (2018) [The social bonus for electricity and natural gas: implementation status for 2017 \(in Italian\)](#)

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.

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