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Household costs for energy use with regard to the question of energy poverty

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Summary

Fuel poverty is a household's difficulty, sometimes even inability, to adequately heat its dwelling at a fair and affordable price. In the EU, fuel poverty is recognized as political priority, but a common definition of the problem has not yet been set. Among EU members, the UK has the greatest experience and understanding of fuel poverty issues: in the UK, a household is deemed to be fuel poor if it must spend 10% or more of its income on essential energy services. According to analyses of the Survey on Consumption Expenditures in Slovenia, 20% of households with the lowest income spend 15% of their disposable income on energy in dwellings. The share is rising because the increase of income is lagging behind energy price growth. Especially worrying is the sharp rise of the share of energy costs for the poor households in the last year. It indicates that within the framework of energy policy in Slovenia it is necessary to identify vulnerable groups and actively implement measures to enable investment in more efficient use of energy in dwellings for the poorest population.