



Wallonia's complementary set of measures to tackle energy poverty

Jean-Sébastien Broc and Samuele Livraghi, IEECP

EU workshop | Wednesday 20 March – Budapest



Co-funded by the European Union under project n°101076098. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Commission or CINEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Background

High share of households in energy poverty in Wallonia:
about 29% in 2021 (higher than the national average: 20.6%)

(combination of 3 indicators: (1) high energy expenses vs. income OR
(2) restriction - too low consumption OR (3) cannot afford to keep
home adequately warm)



Source: [Belgium's energy and water policy barometer 2023](#)



“ access to energy for all and the fight against energy poverty are at the heart of the Walloon energy policy ”

Source: [Belgium's draft NECP update \(section 2.4.4\)](#)

Tackling energy poverty already in the objectives of policy measures reported to Article 7 EED in the 2014-2020 period



Overview of the policy package

Provisions to **give equitable access** to the main financing schemes for building renovations

- For all **homeowners**
- More support for lower income
- Grant + loan (Rénopack)

Housing grants

Rénopack

Small works grants without audit

Rénopack SWCS

+ specific schemes with targets

Social housing renovation plan

Social housing bodies

MEBAR II:

Energy Investment Aid for **Low Income** Households (owners or tenants)

CPAS - Public Centres of Social Action (social workers)

PAPE:

Preventive Energy Action Plan (tailored support to **vulnerable** households)

Housing grants

Target group

ALL households

Eligibility criteria

Owners

Dwellings older than 15 years

Interventions

Audits (energy & housing)

Actions recommended
in the audits

+ compliance of the
electricity and gas
installations (prerequisite)

Differentiation

factor 1 to 6 in the
grant amount according
to **5 income groups**
(considering household
composition)

Max grant rate increased
to **90%** (from July 2023)

Successive applications possible (for stepwise renovations)

Rénopack

Same + income criteria:

eligible if revenue less than
104 400 euros/year +
'stable income'

Loan amount and duration depend on reimbursement
capacities and types of renovation works

Grant deducted from the reimbursement

Housing grants

Target group

ALL households

Eligibility criteria

Owners

Dwellings older than 15 years

Interventions

List of eligible action types (no audit required; free assessment needed for some action types)

Eligible costs up to **6000 EUR** (from July 2023) + DIY allowed

Differentiation

factor 1 to 6 in the grant amount according to **5 income groups** (considering household composition)

Max grant rate increased to **90%** (from July 2023)

Rénopack

Same + income criteria:
eligible if revenue less than 104 400 euros/year + 'stable income'

Prerequisite: compliance of the electricity and gas installations (prerequisite)

Loan amount and duration depend on reimbursement capacities and types of renovation works

Grant deducted from the reimbursement

Target group

Low-income households (owners or tenants)

Eligibility criteria

Income threshold (max +30% above social integration income)

Interventions

Application prepared by social workers (local Public Centre of Social Action - CPAS)

Max grant = 2000 EUR (possibly doubled for some action types)

List of eligible action types (all energy-related)

Differentiation

Measure **specifically focused** on low-income households and on energy

In case of tenants:

- Works shall be approved beforehand by the owner
- The owner cannot increase the rent in the next 30 months

Target group

Vulnerable households (experiencing precariousness)

Eligibility criteria

Social workers focus the support on households receiving the social integration income

Interventions

Tailored support (energy assessment and advice, home visits, low-cost energy saving actions and complementary support for actions subsidised by other schemes)

All managed by the CPAS (local Public Centres of Social Action)

Budget of about 250 euros per household supported

Differentiation

Measure **specifically focused** on tackling energy poverty, prioritizing households the **most in needs**

Scope and objective

Public and social housing = 110 000 dwellings (7% of the housing stock)

Objective = renovating 55 000 dwellings (i.e. **half** of the public and social housing stock) **up to a B label by 2030**

Focus

Dwellings managed by public housing companies, older than 10 years and not significantly renovated in the past 10 years, with **priority on F- or G-label**

Differentiation

Measure focused on social housing, therefore benefitting to tenants of social housing.

+ **support to the tenants** throughout the renovation process, with funding allocated for assistance and actions to encourage participation

Interventions

deep renovations (about 46 700 euros per dwelling)

How are the priority groups identified?

1) Financing schemes for homeowners

Income data provided by the fiscal administration (unless the applicant does not want)

Data on the building provided by the land register

2) MEBAR and PAPE

Process managed by social workers (including the collection of the documents needed)

3) Social housing

Prioritization based on buildings' energy performance (and need for works)

Energy savings in 2021 (NECPR 2023)

Package '**Tackling energy poverty**'

2.85 ktoe/year

100% reported as alleviating energy poverty

MEBAR II, PAPE and social housing

Package "**Wallon long term buildings renovation strategy**"

9.64 ktoe/year

33% reported as alleviating energy poverty (3.24 ktoe/year)

Grant schemes

2021 total of new annual savings "alleviating energy poverty" = 6.09 ktoe/year

7.5% of the new annual savings reported by Wallonia for 2021

Thank you!

Contact: jsb @ iecp.org



ENSMOV Plus



@ensmov / #ensmovplus



<https://ieecp.org/projects/ensmov-plus/>



Our Platform: <http://energysavingpolicies.eu/>

Stay tuned!



Co-funded by the European Union under project n°101076098. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Commission or CINEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

ENSMOV Partners



Co-funded by the European Union under project n°101076098. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Commission or CINEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.