

TACKLING ENERGY POVERTY THROUGH A HOLISTIC SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY POLICY

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Tackling energy poverty through a holistic social, environmental and energy policy

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- Energy poverty key-facts
- Energy poverty drivers/policies in Greece
- Energy poverty multifaceted nature
- Holistic policy scenario
- Interesting examples
- Steps ahead
- Questions

Energy Poverty key-facts (1)

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- Inability to keep homes warm/cool or pay the bills

No common European definition

- Root causes:

Low income

High energy prices

Poor buildings efficiency

- limits access to old or poor quality buildings -

- Scale:

50-125 million people in the EU are at risk of energy poverty

Energy poverty in Greece close to 36% (2015)

One in three households in Greece faced housing overburden in 2013

Low-income households, women, single-parent and multi-child families, elderly, vulnerable groups

Energy Poverty key-facts (2)

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□ Impacts:

SOCIAL

- Health problems
- Excess mortality (winter/summer)
- Absence from work/school
- Stress
- Depression

ECONOMIC

- Increased operating costs of public health system
- Misuse of public financial resources
- Undermined collectability of tax and bank liabilities of citizens
- Tax evasion due to increased smuggling

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Smog
- Increased illegal wood cutting

- 2,8-6% annual deaths attributed to EP in Greece (2003-12)
- 650 mil. Euros spent on heating oil benefits (2012-14)
- Not dealing sustainable with energy debts affects market liquidity (security of supply risk)
- 30% increase of suspended particles in Athens (winter 2012)

Energy Poverty drivers and policies in Greece (1)

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CAUSES	DRIVERS	POLICIES
Low income	Austerity policies as a response to the financial crisis led to high unemployment (esp. women, youth), salary reductions, increased taxation	Rent subsidy

- The highest unemployment rates in the EU: 20,9% and 43,7% among youth
- Social housing is limited but holds huge untapped energy efficiency potential
- 2012: Workers' Housing Organisation is abolished

Energy Poverty drivers and policies in Greece (2)

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CAUSES	DRIVERS	POLICIES
High energy prices	Regulatory measures (taxation on property that was collected via power bills, CO2 rights emissions), slow pace of islands interconnections, energy imports costs	Oil benefits Social electricity tariff Free power for vulnerable households (300kW,2015)

- Increased taxation on heating oil in 2012 led to a decrease in consumption (from ~66% to ~38%)
- Smog appeared in the winter of the same year
- Greek state responds with unsustainable policies in the form of benefits

Energy Poverty drivers and policies in Greece (3)

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CAUSES	DRIVERS	POLICIES
Poor buildings efficiency	Old buildings, inefficient systems, energy consumption behaviour, unfavorably investment conditions, lack of capital, owner-tenure conflicts	Energy performance of buildings regulation Savings at Home program I, II Energy Efficiency Contracts Energy Savings Obligations

- Savings at Home I: bureaucratic, banks had a central role, complex application process for multi-apartment buildings
Savings at Home II about to commence with improvements
- ESCOs have been active in projects with low risk (street light upgrade, municipalities)

Energy Poverty drivers and policies in Greece (4)

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- Law 4513/2018 on Energy Communities to promote social and solidarity economy and innovation in the energy sector

Example 1: Home owners/tenants set up an EC, install RES technology, apply net-metering or virtual net-metering to counterbalance their own consumption

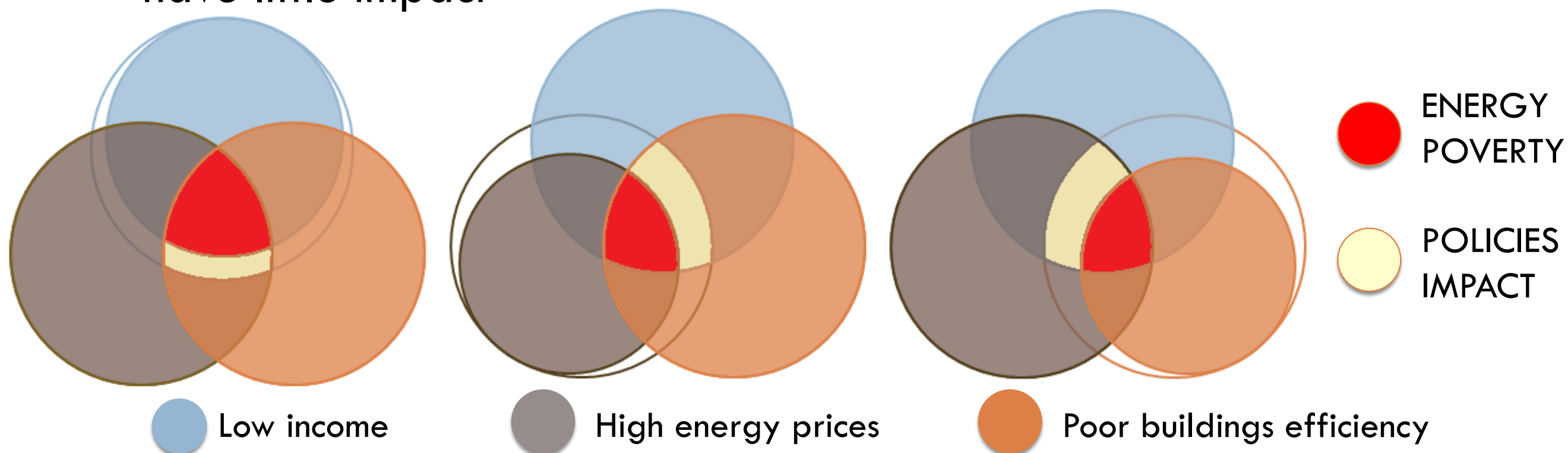
Example 2: Three municipalities found an EC, install RES technology, apply virtual net-metering to provide affordable clean energy to vulnerable citizens

Example 3: Citizens, municipality, local businesses etc of an island set up an EC, install RES+storage system and pursue island's energy autonomy

Energy Poverty multifaceted nature

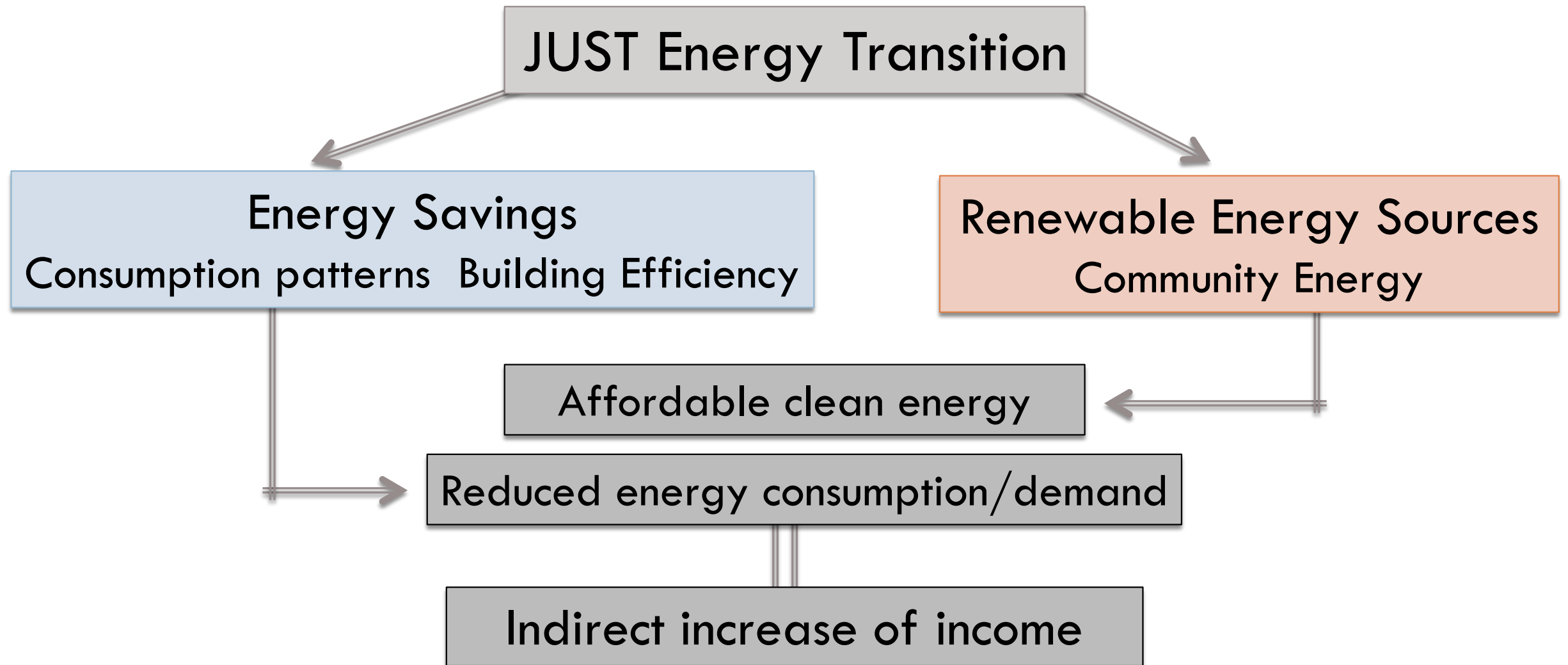
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- Energy poverty has been introduced to the political agenda only recently
- Awareness over the multifaceted nature of the phenomenon is still low among policy makers (local, regional, state level), business actors, wider society
- Policies that deal with one root cause of energy poverty at a time have little impact



Holistic policy; social, environmental, energy mix

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Energy Poverty Mitigation

Interesting examples

State institutions, regions, municipalities

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□ Picardie Pass Rénovation, France

- Energy renovation of 2000 private homes through energy performance contracts
- Collaboration between the region, the Public Service for Energy Efficiency+ESCOs
- Provision of technical and financial support
- Full utilization of EU funds (European Fund for Strategic Investments, ELENA + Picardie regional funds)



Results – 05/02/2018

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5593

NUMBER OF
CONTACTS
TREATED



2560

NUMBER OF
THERMAL
AUDITS

1488

NUMBER OF
PLANNED
RENOVATIONS



including **10** Condominiums
(**1074** Apartments)



35 M€

in works

2015-Feb2018:

~54% reduction of energy consumption

20% of the projects reached the BBC-Effinergie Renovation level (low energy renovation standard)

70% of the monthly payments covered by the savings

Interesting examples

Energy cooperatives

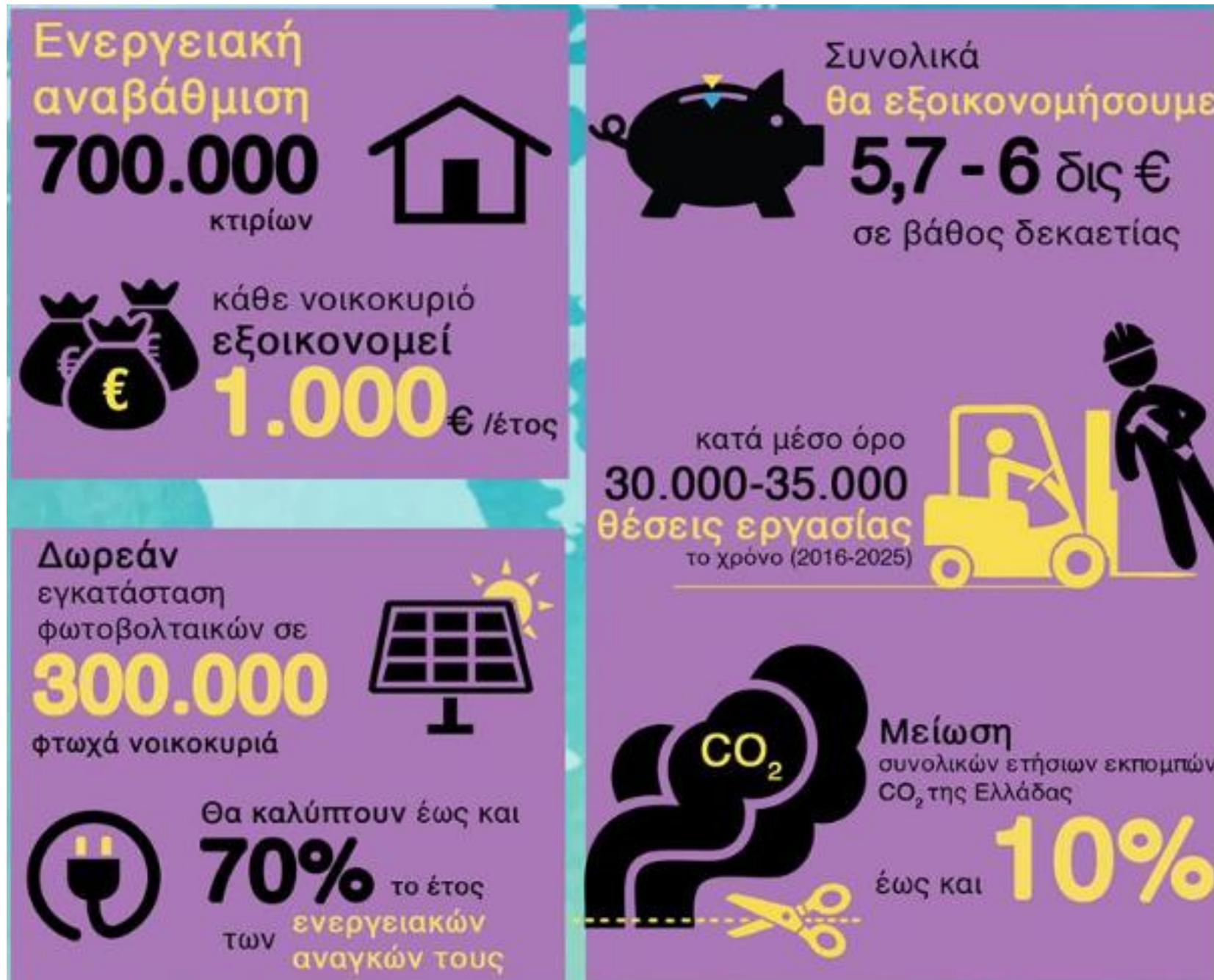
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- **Energie Solidaire** – Les Amis d' Enercoop
 - Selection of donations of Enercoop customers through their power bills
 - Donations used to support local energy poverty mitigation actions, development of the project, specific measures for precarious households (water and energy savings kit, personalised technical support etc)
 - Donations start from 2€, income tax deductible

Interesting examples NGOs, citizens groups

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□ Solarize Greece - Greenpeace



-Net-metering and virtual net-metering technologies are the key for citizens' energy

Interesting examples

Private energy companies

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- **Carbon Emission Reduction Target, UK**
 - British gas and electricity suppliers are obliged to finance or support households in order to reduce their energy consumption (Energy Savings Obligations program)
 - 2008-2012:
 - 41,3% reduction in energy consumption
 - 27.000 new jobs in the renovation sector
 - Collaboration with local actors for the identification of vulnerable groups

Steps ahead for Greece...

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- Agree on an official definition on Energy Poverty
- Draft an energy poverty mitigation roadmap
Transition from a benefit-based social policy to a holistic, social green innovative policy based on the investment of many
- Emphasise on raising awareness+education
Passive position → informed consumer → prosumer
- Facilitate the energy upgrade of building stock
Collective schemes, energy performance contracting + EU funds to reduce the risk
- Utilize renewable energy sources
Self-generation, virtual net metering, energy coops, partnerships

THANK YOU

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"Energy poverty in Greece today"

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The [report](#) is available in Greek

An [executive summary](#) is available in English

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