

Technical Assistance

QUESTION AND ANSWERS



EU
Energy Poverty
Advisory Hub

QUESTION 1: CAN YOU PROVIDE MORE DETAILS ABOUT WHAT IS SEVERE ENERGY POVERTY AND HOW IS EVALUATED?

Severe Energy Poverty (SEP) refers to situations where multiple vulnerabilities overlap, including low income, inadequate housing conditions, and exposure to extreme climatic conditions, which severely limit the community's ability to manage its energy needs. This condition is further compounded when households face extreme difficulties in maintaining comfort levels due to high energy costs or inefficient housing. The main drivers include (but are not limited to):

- **Income levels:** Households with incomes below the poverty threshold often face stark difficulties in covering their energy needs.
- **Housing quality:** Poorly insulated homes with outdated heating or cooling systems contribute significantly to SEP.
- **Climate exposure:** Regions facing extreme temperatures (either cold or heat) exacerbate the challenges of energy poverty.
- **Vulnerable populations:** for example elderly, single-parent families, people with disabilities, migrant and others are particularly impacted by SEP.

In your application, you will be asked to identify the specific vulnerabilities that your community faces in relation to SEP, drawing from both **quantitative data** (such as energy poverty indicators like inability to keep homes warm, risk of poverty, and housing cost overburden, energy performance of buildings) and **qualitative evidence** (local expert knowledge or study insights).

The evaluation of your application will primarily focus on contextual factors, including the severity of energy poverty and the potential impact of the proposed intervention. It's essential to:

- Provide data on energy poverty indicators and contextualize these indicators with local insights from community stakeholders
- Describe the impact of regional factors such as economic downturns (e.g., areas affected by the transition), climate stress (e.g., areas with extreme heat), or ongoing challenges that hinder progress (e.g., barriers to accessing social or energy assistance).

Despite the preliminary identification of regions with higher potential vulnerability through EPAH's methodology, **applicants who consider themselves affected by SEP are encouraged to apply, as no area is excluded.**

Your description should provide a clear narrative of how severe the energy poverty situation is in your region and how the proposed technical assistance could address these urgent challenges.

For further details, you may want to refer to the application form sections on Severe Energy Poverty to ensure alignment with the defined parameters.

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QUESTION 2: CAN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS APPLY ALONE OR DO THEY NEED TO APPLY JOINTLY WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS?

Local governments can apply on their own to the EPAH Technical Assistance Call.

A single local government application is fully admissible, provided that the proposal is coherent, well-defined, and the requested support can be effectively delivered within the scope of the local government's responsibilities and capacities.

Nevertheless, EPAH strongly encourages the involvement of additional local stakeholders where relevant. Experience and evidence collected through EPAH activities show that energy poverty is a multidimensional challenge that benefits from the joint forces of different backgrounds. Civil society organisations, social services, energy agencies, housing actors, and community-based organisations often play a crucial role in identifying vulnerable households, building trust, and ensuring that actions effectively reach those most in need.

QUESTION 3: WHAT IS EXACTLY THE EFFORT REQUIRED FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

There is **no single, fixed level of effort** required from local governments, as this **depends largely on the type of technical assistance requested and the local context**.

For example, requests focused on diagnosis typically require the involvement of several municipal departments (such as social services, housing, energy, environment, or planning) in order to collect and interpret different types of data and to establish effective internal coordination. In these cases, time and effort are mainly dedicated to information sharing, data validation, and cross-departmental dialogue. Similarly, requests related to planning activities, such as the development of a local Social Climate Plan or strategic frameworks, generally require a higher level of coordination over a longer period. This is necessary to ensure alignment with existing municipal strategies, policies, and governance structures, as well as to involve relevant internal and external stakeholders.

Other types of support, particularly more targeted or implementation-oriented requests, may require a lower overall time commitment, depending on their scope and complexity.

Regardless of the type of assistance, EPAH considers it essential that dedicated and permanent municipal staff are actively involved throughout the process. This ensures effective knowledge transfer, ownership of the results, and long-term sustainability of the actions beyond the duration of the technical assistance. The goal is not only to deliver expert support, but also to strengthen local capacity so that municipalities can continue advancing their energy poverty actions independently.

QUESTION 4: IS THERE A PREDEFINED LIST OF CONSULTANTS OR EXPERTS AVAILABLE FOR EPAH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND CAN APPLICANTS SUGGEST SPECIFIC EXPERTS THEY WOULD LIKE TO WORK WITH?

EPAH does not work with a predefined or fixed list of consultants or experts. This is because the scope of Technical Assistance requests is very broad and varies significantly depending on the local context, thematic focus, and type of support requested (diagnosis, planning, or implementation).

Experts are therefore identified and proposed after the selection of the awarded proposals, allowing EPAH to ensure the best possible match between the specific needs of the beneficiary, the required expertise, and local or national presence where relevant.

That said, **applicants are very welcome to suggest specific experts they would like to work with.** This can include experts they have identified through previous calls, meetings, or events, or professionals they are already collaborating with and would like to continue working with through the Technical Assistance. Applicants can indicate their preferred or desired expert(s) in the descriptive sections of the application form.

EPAH reserves the right to propose alternative or additional experts if needed, in order to ensure an optimal match between expertise and the objectives of the Technical Assistance. This is to guarantee quality and relevance.

