



Society for Sustainable Development Design

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About DOOR

The Society for Sustainable Development Design (DOOR) is an association of experts that continuously works in the field of energy, with a special focus on the intersection of energy, environment, and society. DOOR is actively involved in the following strategic areas:



Energy efficiency
and energy
poverty



Renewable energy
sources with an
emphasis on energy
communities and
renewable energy
communities



Empowering citizens
in the electricity
market and climate
change with an
emphasis on climate
change adaptation

Our vision is to create a society competent in the field of sustainable energy development, in which the public participates in creating, monitoring, and evaluating public policies, where sustainable energy development leverages the socio-economic development and poverty reduction.

We want to contribute to achieving a low carbon society adapted to unavoidable climate change and without energy poverty



Our goals



Promotion of energy efficiency measures with an emphasis on monitoring the implementation of measures and the impact of energy poverty measures



Monitoring and advocating the democratization of the use of renewable energy sources



Participation in the formulation of evidence-based public policies in the field of energy and climate, and monitoring of climate finance

Sources of funding



- EU funding
 - European Structural and Investment Funds, Erasmus+, Europe for Citizens, Horizon Europe, LIFE programme...
- Other international sources
 - GIZ, DBU, ECF
- National sources
 - Service contracts



Key Activities

Research and Publications

- Analyses of national energy and climate plans (NECP tracker)
- Studies on energy poverty, gender in energy, bioeconomy

Public Outreach and Education

- Workshops and info days on energy efficiency and climate adaptation
- One-stop-shop energy advisory centers in Zagreb and Križevci

Advocacy and Networking

- Member of EU networks and working groups (e.g. Climate Pact, CAN Europe)
- Organizing panels, roundtables, and conferences

Tools and Policy Support

- Online tools for tracking climate goals (necp.door.hr)
- Guides for citizen energy communities and home renovation advice

Our associates



Our active projects



European Climate Pact



crOss renoHome



LIFE ReHABITA



CEESEN-BENDER



TogetherFor1.5



BIOLOC

Energy efficiency and energy poverty



What is energy poverty?

Energy poverty is a condition where a household is unable to access or afford adequate energy services for basic needs such as heating, cooling, lighting, cooking, and the use of appliances.

Key aspects of energy poverty:

- High energy burden: Spending more than 10% of household income on energy is a common threshold.
- Low income: Often affects people living in poverty or on fixed incomes.
- Poor housing quality: Homes that lack insulation or modern heating/cooling systems.

- Health impacts: Exposure to cold or damp environments can lead to respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses, especially among elderly, children, and people with chronic conditions.
- Social exclusion: Affects comfort, dignity, productivity, and the ability to participate in society.






In Croatia:

- According to nationally available data, around 250,000 households are considered at risk of energy poverty, and roughly 7% cannot afford to heat their homes properly in winter.

Extent of energy poverty in Europe



Scope & Who Is Affected

- Over 34 million Europeans struggle to keep their homes warm (Eurostat, 2022)
- Around 7% of EU citizens can't pay their utility bills on time
- Countries with highest risk (20%+ of population affected):
 -  Bulgaria
 -  Greece
 -  Portugal
 -  Hungary
 -  Croatia

Who's Most at Risk?

- Low-income households
- Elderly people living alone
- Tenants in poorly insulated homes
- Rural residents & single-parent families

Why It Happens & What the EU Is Doing?



Main Causes of Energy Poverty

- Old, inefficient housing stock
- High energy prices (gas & electricity)
- Low incomes or unstable jobs
- Lack of renovation support or subsidies

EU Responses

- **Energy Poverty Advisory Hub (EPAH)**: helps cities & towns tackle the issue
- **Social Climate Fund (2026–2032)**: supports vulnerable groups during green transition
- **National Energy & Climate Plans (NECPs)**: track and report energy poverty
- **Fit for 55 Package**: includes stronger energy efficiency rules



Supporting - energy poor citizens to implement energy efficiency interventions and participate in joint energy initiatives, through the development of support programmes and tools, to alleviate energy poverty.

Facilitating - citizens' behaviour change towards energy use and uptake of energy efficiency measures through experience and knowledge sharing, as well as through joint energy initiatives and citizen engagement campaigns targeting groups of consumers in energy poor communities.

Promoting - energy community projects / alternative financing schemes and assisting citizens to pursue funding opportunities (e.g., energy communities, energy cooperatives & crowdfunding).

The Energy Poverty Advisory Hub



The energy Poverty advisory Hub

- More national oriented focus (NECPs)
- More research oriented
- Mapping – state of play with national indicators
 - Mapping
 - Expertise (building of expert community)



The Covenant of Mayors



The Clean Energy for EU Islands

DOOR's Role in EPAH



DOOR's Role as the National “Antenna”

- DOOR serves as the official national contact point (antenna) for EPAH in Croatia.
- Provides free, tailored support to Croatian municipalities and civil society organisations to:
 - Access technical assistance
 - Use EPAH's online atlas of best practices and local case studies
 - Implement training and capacity-building modules



Policy projects in energy and climate policies



the aim of the policies and climate project is to facilitate the effective transition to low carbon societies by using 3 key policy processes: national/EU Long Term Strategy (LTS), National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP) and the EU budget.

HOW DO WE DO IT?

- Providing a targeted input at the regional, national and sub-national policy maker levels on the LTS, NECP, and EU budget
- Building a process & capacity to monitor the programming of EU budget
- Making sure that operational funds (or EU budget) are coherent with NECPs at the national level and Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAP) at the municipal level
- Assessing the coherence of Member States' Long Term Strategies for alignment with NECPs

crOss renoHome – One-Stop Shops for Home Renovation



- This EU-funded LIFE project (2023–2027), led by DOOR, establishes physical and digital one-stop-shop centres in Zagreb and Križevci to support homeowners in energy-efficient renovation
- Similar to **EPAH**, Cross RenoHome provides technical assistance, clear guidance, and works with local authorities and experts to navigate the renovation process
- It will soon also include an online platform marketplace to connect homeowners with renovation professionals, financing opportunities, and standardised contracts. (online soon)



Strengthening the cooperation with local communities



Why It Matters

- Local communities are crucial actors in the energy and climate transition.
- They understand specific needs, risks, and opportunities on the ground.
- Empowering them ensures inclusive, just, and effective solutions.



How DOOR Supports Local Communities



1. **Education & Awareness-Raising**

- Workshops, public lectures, info-days on energy efficiency and climate adaptation.
- Materials tailored for schools, local NGOs, and municipal staff.

2. **One-Stop Energy Advisory Centres**

- Open in Zagreb and Križevci, offering free advice on home energy use, grants, and saving tips.

3. **Citizen Engagement in Projects**

- Participatory activities like community energy audits, neighbourhood consultations, and local tree planting events.

4. **Support for Energy Communities**

- Helps form citizen energy cooperatives and guides locals through legal and technical processes.

5. **Partnership with Local Authorities**

- Collaborates on local energy plans, climate strategies, and applications for EU funding.

Example of community engagement



Local Climate Action – From Parks to Neighbourhoods

- Tree Planting in Maksimir Park
 - Over 150 trees planted after storm damage (Nov 2023)
 - Citizens, students, and NGOs (like Greenpeace) participated
 - Promoted community resilience and urban reforestation



Empowering Citizens through the Climate Pact



Climate Pact Ambassadors & Events

- DOOR trained and supported local ambassadors across Croatia
- Held roundtables, school events, and panel discussions
- Example: Conference in Zagreb's Old City Hall on green infrastructure

Why It Matters

- Translates EU climate goals into local, visible action
- Builds trust and participation through education and engagement
- Blends policy, people, and place for real climate impact



Educational projects



DOOR's Educational Projects – Community & Citizen Focus

crOss renoHome and Rehabita

- One-stop centres in Zagreb & Križevci
- Advice and training on home energy renovation
- Target: homeowners & energy-vulnerable citizens

European Climate Pact

- Public engagement through:
- Tree planting
- School competitions
- Workshops and murals
- Target: citizens, youth, NGOs, teachers

EPAH

- Energy poverty, education, and peer mentoring
- Training local authorities, NGOs & vulnerable households
- Materials + support to develop local solutions



DOOR's Educational Work – Strategic Capacity Building

EU PEERS

- Education on energy communities
- Legal, technical, and financial training for citizens
- Public sessions and community toolkits

Green Education in Schools

- Classroom toolkits and teacher support
- Focus: energy savings, sustainability, and student action
- Student-led campaigns and competitions

Additional Initiatives

- Guest lectures at universities
- “Train the trainer” programs for local energy advisors
- Publications: guides, infographics, and free online courses



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