57,000,000 people throughout Europe...

...are deprived of heating, cooling, lighting, cooking.
...a pan-European problem...
...in need of a pan-European solution

We have done it before...

...we can do it again!
An interdisciplinary approach

- Quantitative analysis of 263 existing energy poverty-related policy measures
  - European Energy Poverty Observatory
- Qualitative study of local initiatives tackling energy poverty
  - 13 interviews with vulnerable citizens and their local advisers (Spain, Germany, UK)
  - Participant observation during:
    - House visits
    - Energy cafes
    - Canvassing
    - Assemblies
Key findings

1. Disconnection is the greatest harm
   - Physical and mental health, shame, isolation, despair...

2. Most EU member states do not prohibit disconnections
   - Prohibition for extreme cases/during winter/selected groups (10 member states)
   - Prohibition for regions (3 member states)
   - No prohibition (15 member states)

3. Existing policy measures mainly include income enhancement and are limited to the national level

4. Tailored on-the-ground support to vulnerable citizens by local initiatives
   - Ensuring policy implementation, connecting stakeholders, education, empowerment

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Disconnection prohibition is a neglected policy measure.

Support by local initiatives for vulnerable citizens is essential.
Policy recommendations

1. Prohibit disconnections for vulnerable households
   - All-season prohibition

2. Vulnerability tests prior to disconnections
   - Households should be considered vulnerable until proven otherwise
   - Use of power limiters

3. Long-term (sustainable) funding for diverse local initiatives
   - Assistance to access available support, advice, counselling
   - Peer-to-peer and group learning
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"Just" energy transitions: preventing social harm

Lower income households emit less carbon; less responsibility

Take energy poverty seriously to prevent social unrest (e.g. gilets jaunes)

Integrate efforts to fight climate change and reduce energy poverty