

Energy poverty is one of the most important topics of today's social development in Poland and in Europe. It has been of a public and political concern for the last five decades. Energy poverty affects different countries, least developed and developed, as well as different groups of society, not only the poorest ones. One of the definitions of energy poverty says that it is a situation, where a household or an individual cannot meet their energy needs (heating, hot water, electricity). Energy poverty is a complex issue. It encompasses multiple socio-economic dimensions and has an impact on the quality of life, environment, and social attainment.

The main objectives of the research project are to construct the appropriate measure of energy poverty in Poland and to characterize by means of respective statistical methods profiles of households and individuals affected by energy poverty. It is important to stress that there is no single metrics of energy poverty as of today. The existing measures of energy poverty could be divided into two categories, direct metrics that are based on quantifiable measures of households and indirect metrics that refer to respondents' answers. Energy poverty metrics is of a country-specific nature. That is why in order to estimate energy poverty in Poland the new energy poverty measure will be put forward. The aforementioned measure will be lately used in assessing determinants of energy poverty as well as in exploring energy poverty persistence in Poland.

Analysis of energy poverty in Poland is extremely important for a number of reasons. Firstly, energy poverty affects considerable group of society. Secondly, energy poverty has not been a subject of thorough scientific research in Poland. Thirdly, energy poverty is closely related to terrible air quality in Poland, especially during heating season. Fourthly, energy poverty is recognized at the EU level as an important part of political commitments.