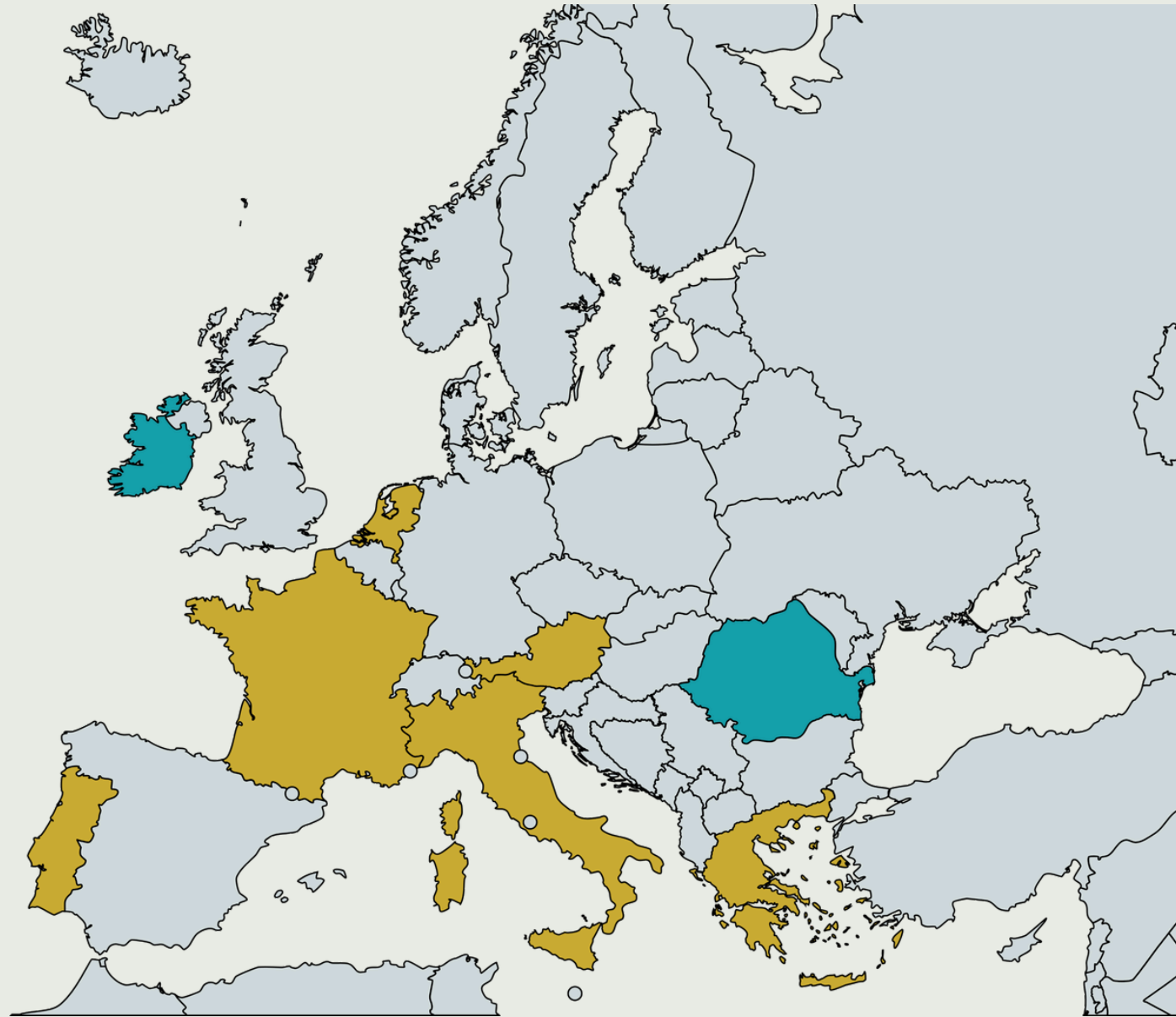


# THE EUROPEAN ENERGY POVERTY OBSERVATORY LANDSCAPE

## MAY 2026

Below an overview of existing energy poverty observatories at EU level:



Country	Observatory	Status*	Short Description
<b>EU level</b>	Energy Poverty Advisory Hub (EPAH) Observatory	Formal	EU-level observatory supporting data collection, indicators, knowledge exchange, and policy guidance on energy poverty across Member States.
<b>Austria</b>	Austrian Coordination Office on Energy Poverty	Formal	Established under the Energy Efficiency Act in 2023 to coordinate activities, indicators, funding programmes, and stakeholder engagement on energy poverty.
<b>France</b>	National Energy Poverty Observatory (ONPE)	Formal	One of Europe's oldest observatories, established in 2011 and hosted by ADEME, providing annual indicators, studies, and stakeholder dialogue platforms.
<b>Ireland</b>	Irish Energy Poverty Observatory (IREPO)	Informal	Research-led project focused on AI-driven data analysis, local mapping, and evidence-based policymaking.
<b>Italy</b>	National Energy Poverty Observatory	Formal	Established in 2022 under the Ministry of Ecological Transition to monitor and address energy poverty.
<b>Greece</b>	National Energy Poverty Observatory	Formal	Coordinated by the Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving (CRESS), supporting energy poverty monitoring and policy design
<b>Netherlands</b>	Netherlands Energy Poverty Observatory (NEO)	Formal	Observatory coordinated by RVO since January 2026, focusing on evaluating Dutch approaches to energy poverty, monitoring, and policy coordination.
<b>Portugal</b>	National Energy Poverty Observatory (ONPE-PT)	Formal	Mandated under the National Long-Term Strategy for Tackling Energy Poverty 2023–2050 to monitor energy poverty and support policy evaluation and coordination.
<b>Romania</b>	Romanian Energy Poverty Observatory (ORSE)	Informal	Academic-led observatory focusing on research, policy recommendations, and regional support mechanisms.

# LESSONS LEARNED FROM FOUR OBSERVATORIES

## AUSTRIA

### AUSTRIAN COORDINATION OFFICE ON ENERGY POVERTY

The Austrian Coordination Office on Energy Poverty (kea) serves as Austria's national competence centre and contact point for energy poverty issues. It was created to improve coordination, monitoring, stakeholder engagement, and support measures related to energy poverty.

**Date of establishment:** June 2023 under the Energy Efficiency Act.

**Managed by:** Climate and Energy Fund, a government organisation focused on climate and energy project funding. kea operates in close cooperation with the Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy and Tourism.

#### Main activities:

- Maintaining a multilingual information platform available in eight languages with guidance on support programmes, energy advice centres, dashboards, factsheets, FAQs
- Publishing annual reports on energy poverty and thematic studies, including research on social tariffs
- Developing a composite energy poverty indicator combining energy costs, housing deficiencies, debt, and income-related vulnerability
- Managing a funding programme for small-scale projects (up to €50,000 per project) focused on energy literacy, energy efficiency, renewable energy access, and vulnerable households
- Coordinating an interdisciplinary forum of around 50 organisations from public administration, academia, business, and civil society
- Organising annual conferences and stakeholder working groups
- Producing newsletters four times per year
- Developing guidelines and training programmes for energy companies and cooperation with one-stop shops supporting vulnerable households.

#### Key learnings from the speaker:

- Long-term and stable funding is essential for ensuring continuity and impact. The office operates with a long-term financial commitment of €1 million per year, secured until 2030
- Observatories should maintain a degree of independence and neutrality to facilitate cooperation across ministries and sectors
- Proactive engagement with institutions helps create ownership and responsibility for energy poverty issues.

#### Challenges

- Ensuring cooperation across ministries, regional and local administration where responsibilities for energy poverty are not clearly assigned
- Balancing proximity to government with institutional independence
- No formal evaluation of activities has yet been conducted.

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# FRANCE

## NATIONAL ENERGY POVERTY OBSERVATORY (ONPE)

The French National Energy Poverty Observatory (ONPE) is one of Europe's oldest observatories and functions as a partnership platform bringing together public authorities, energy companies, NGOs, and experts to monitor and address energy poverty.

**Date of establishment:** 2011 following the adoption of the environmental **law no. 2010-788** of July 12, 2010.

**Managed by:** Hosted and chaired by ADEME (French Ecological Transition Agency).

### Main activities:

- Publishing an annual 40-page dashboard with national energy poverty indicators widely used in public debate and media reporting
- Conducting thematic studies related to energy poverty trends and policy impacts
- Operating five dedicated working groups on data, mapping, summer energy poverty and health, non-take-up of subsidies, and communication
- Managing the GEODIP mapping tool, which provides local-level data down to areas of approximately 2,000 households
- Organising stakeholder meetings and events bringing together ministries, energy companies, NGOs etc.
- Facilitating dialogue between actors with differing interests, including social organisations and energy suppliers
- Supporting knowledge exchange and policy discussions at national level.

### Key learnings from the speaker:

- The observatory provides a neutral and trusted space where actors with differing interests can exchange experiences and discuss solutions.
- Long-term continuity and institutional recognition increase the observatory's influence and credibility.
- Investing in long-term financing is key to sustainability.

### Challenges

- Funding sustainability remains uncertain as financing must be renegotiated every three years
- Certain data tools, including mapping systems, need to be updated.

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# ROMANIA

## ROMANIAN ENERGY POVERTY OBSERVATORY (ORSE)

The Romanian Energy Poverty Observatory (ORSE) is an academic-led initiative focused on research, policy recommendations, and support for regional energy poverty initiatives. It does not have the formal structure of an observatory.

**Date of establishment:** Research activities began in 2006; ORSE was formally established in 2016.

**Managed by:** the Centre for the Study of Democracy Developed, a think tank at Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca in cooperation with researchers, NGOs, and private sector actors.

### Main activities:

- Producing annual reports with updated analysis and indicators on energy poverty
- Conducting in-depth thematic research on issues such as energy poverty in rental housing and rural versus urban vulnerabilities
- Preparing policy papers and recommendations for national authorities
- Supporting the establishment and evaluation of regional one-stop shops across Romania
- Providing technical assistance and research support for local implementation structures
- Cooperating with the Ministry of Energy and Ministry of Labour through dedicated working structures
- Supporting the creation of an inter-ministerial governmental group on energy poverty
- Engaging students and academic researchers in energy poverty analysis and awareness raising.

### Key learnings from the speaker:

- Observatories can play a critical role in “raising alarms” and ensuring energy poverty remains visible on the political agenda.
- Academic institutions can effectively translate research into policy recommendations and practical action.

### Challenges

- Significant gaps and outdated household data
- Weak cross-sector data sharing and cooperation
- Energy poverty often receives limited political attention
- Funding is highly dependent on grants and research projects, making long-term planning difficult.

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# IRELAND

## IRISH ENERGY POVERTY OBSERVATORY (IREPO)

The Irish Energy Poverty Observatory (IREPO) is a research-driven project developing innovative digital tools and data-driven methodologies to support evidence-based policymaking on energy poverty. It does not have the formal structure of an observatory.

**Date of establishment:** July 2024.

**Managed by:** International Energy Research Centre (IERC) at Tyndall National Institute.

### Main activities:

- Developing a federated digital platform using artificial intelligence and machine learning to combine and analyse multiple datasets related to energy poverty
- Producing local-level visualisation and mapping tools while respecting GDPR requirements
- Analysing household income, building quality, household composition, and behavioural factors linked to energy poverty
- Supporting policymakers with interactive tools allowing them to test different definitions and scenarios of energy poverty multidimensional issue.
- Working directly with communities, NGOs, councils, and charities through co-design methodologies
- Exploring the replication of Irish methodologies and digital tools across other European countries.

### Key learnings from the speaker:

- The role of observatories is to transform complex data into actionable information for decision-makers.
- Centralised platforms can help overcome institutional data silos and improve coordination.

### Challenges:

- Data sharing restrictions linked to GDPR and institutional barriers
- Funding relies largely on projects rather than stable institutional financing.

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### Energy Poverty Nexus Consortium

