

BALANCing climate and social housing policies

Designing integrated policy mixes for Austria's transformation to a low carbon society

Sebastian Seebauer¹, Anna Eisner¹, Michael Friesenecker², Kristina Eisfeld², Yuri Kazepov²

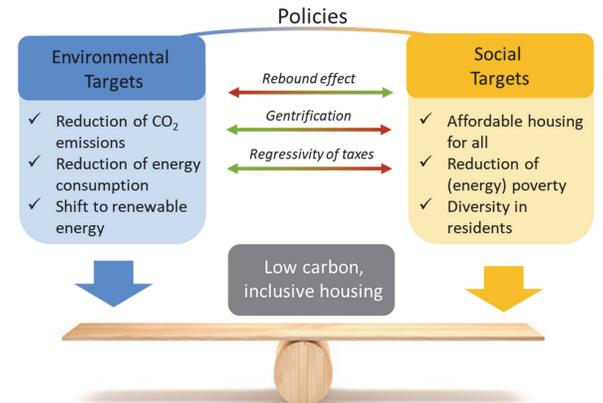
¹ JOANNEUM RESEARCH LIFE – Centre for Climate, Energy and Society

² University of Vienna, Department of Sociology

Draft version – includes final content, but layout and design may change until presentation at the Climate Day

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

- Housing contributes significantly to Austria's carbon emissions and is pivotal for reducing inequality and poverty.
- Housing conditions are addressed by climate policy in retrofitting buildings and by social policy in providing affordable and adequate housing.
- For low carbon transformation to be successful, policy fields need no longer be conceived as isolated silos, but should be harmonized and balanced in order to be successful.
- BALANCE strives to design low carbon policies for the housing domain that reach climate targets without cutting back on the social agenda.



CLIMATE AND SOCIAL POLICY

Document analysis and expert interviews on intersections between both policy spheres.

- Both policy spheres suffer from fragmented jurisdictions and lacking inter-sectoral coordination.
- Structural investments and the provision of cheap, livable housing conflict due to the tenant/landlord dilemma.

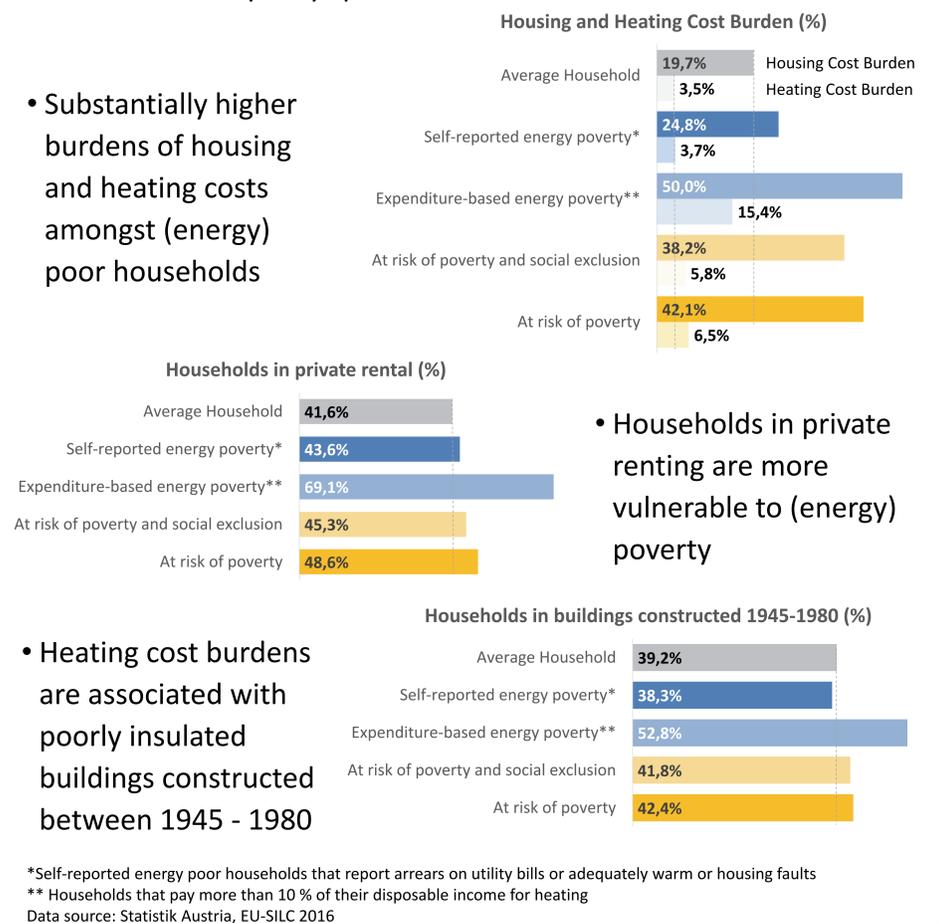
	Decrease poverty and social exclusion	Affordable housing	Adequate housing conditions
Impacts of climate targets on social targets (selection)	Increase rate of renovation of existing buildings	Investment costs lead to increased rents Poor residents are pushed to remaining cheap low-quality housing	Higher costs for communities and cooperatives to provide affordable housing
	Build energy awareness	Energy literacy leads to savings in heating costs	Energy literacy leads to savings in heating costs
	Phase out oil heating systems in a socially compatible manner	Implemented last in cheap, non-premium property Investment costs lead to increased rents	Obligatory investments in existing buildings limit budgets for providing new housing
Impacts of social targets on climate targets (selection)	Increase rate of renovation of existing buildings	More disposable income enables small investments and partial renovations	Reduction of multiple deprivation enables households to look into energy saving
	Affordable housing	Landlords have low profit margin for financing investments	Reduction of multiple deprivation enables households to look into energy saving
	Adequate housing conditions	Renovation activities may include energy efficiency improvements at low additional costs	Raises knowledge on efficient technologies and use

POVERTY AND HOUSING

Secondary data analysis of the Austrian SILC 2016 household survey.

- Energy poverty and general poverty relate to similar disadvantages caused by poor housing quality
- Efforts at improving housing in one policy sphere will most likely also affect the other policy sphere.

- Substantially higher burdens of housing and heating costs amongst (energy) poor households



- Households in private renting are more vulnerable to (energy) poverty

- Heating cost burdens are associated with poorly insulated buildings constructed between 1945 - 1980

*Self-reported energy poor households that report arrears on utility bills or adequately warm or housing faults
** Households that pay more than 10% of their disposable income for heating
Data source: Statistik Austria, EU-SILC 2016

NEXT STEPS

Surveys among energy poor households

- Data collection in recently renovated communal housing and among recipients of heating benefits
- Impacts of implemented policies on heating practices and inequality
- Acceptance of burden sharing schemes for tackling the tenant/landlord dilemma

Economic modelling of distributional impacts

- Estimation of broad-brush policy effects in a Computable General Equilibrium model
- Breakdown of economy-wide effects to each social stratum using QUAIDS methodology

Design of integrated policy mixes

- Identification of actors and agendas in policy deployment
- Triangulation of policy effects in terms of accuracy, leverage and effectiveness
- Alignment of reach and stringency in climate and social policy elements