

Regions at risk of Energy Poverty – “RERISK”

The project aims to analyse the present and future vulnerability of regions in Europe. The context is volatile energy process and the capacity of regions to cope. How might rising energy prices impact on regional competitiveness and cohesion?

Three phases of research are planned:

1. Analysis of the current vulnerability of regions. This mainly focuses on regional energy consumption and spending and the significance of energy- and transport-intensive sectors within regional economies. The aim is to produce a “Risk-of-Energy-Poverty Profile”.
2. The Profile will then be used to cluster regions with similar profiles. This typology will be compared with other regional typologies. Are “lagging regions” more or less vulnerable if energy prices rise?
3. Scenarios will be created for future developments. What are the likely long term impacts on regional competitiveness of rising energy prices?

The intention is to develop policy recommendations at the administrative level able to implement them. For the UK this means the UK, as energy is not a devolved function. The research group has been in contact with the Department for Business, Energy and Regulatory Reform.