

ENERGY POVERTY

Data:

Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung: analysis of James Angel

When we are talking about energy poverty we have to understand the social consequence of this phenomenon.

We know that in the UK around 10.000 people die every winter due to cold homes. When you think upon the fatal death of 10.000 fellow European citizen, here I ask you not to forget the high profit of the Big Six energy giants.

In Hungary – in a country, where the winter is much harder – we have no official statistic on people dying in their cold homes. The cause of death is always complex. The person who dies in a frostbite, is usually already neglected, his body is weakened and he or she is suffering already because of many diseases. In Hungary NGO organizations can collect data but their statistic includes only people dying at their homes or on the streets. (Last winter 208 people was registered.)

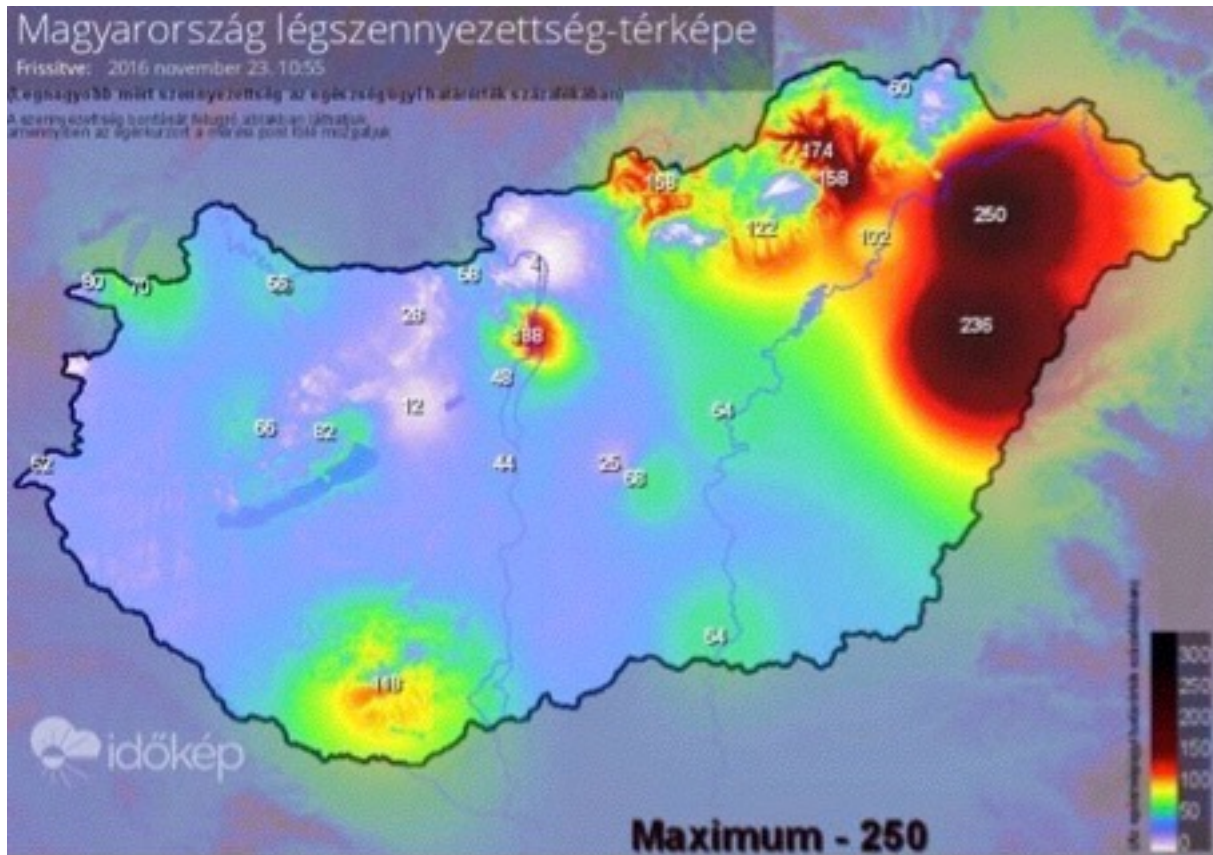
We are all members to the EU, but the way we collect data, to come out with statistical figures is still different from country to country.

In this field, – on how to collect statistical data – we need strict, detailed regulations. Specially on issues of healthcare, (from birth to death) on unemployment, on social care - with special attention to education and school nutrition.

That is the reason of our **FIRST proposal to demand an independent study, on how to apply the same rules in every member country of the EU**. In order to find the truth, in order to compare, first of all we have to show, to learn the real truth about energy poverty. **The fact, the sad reality is that tens of thousands are dying because of the cold, because of energy poverty within the EU.**

When we can learn; how big part of the society is living in cold homes, only than we will be able to understand why peoples are heating with everything what burns, even with waste.

Here I recommend you see the previous presentation of Gyuri Droppa.



Energy poverty has a greater impact on human health, than we thought earlier. People are dying not only because of their cold homes, but because of the polluted air in their homes and in the big cities also. Respiratory diseases are becoming a more and more common cause of death.

(http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/environment/the-cost-of-air-pollution_9789264210448-en#page1)

In many part of Europe, transport is not any more the major source of air pollution.

Our SECOND proposal is to start a campaign on how to apply cheap and clean heating systems, specially at lagging areas.

We strongly support the local generation of energy (rooftop solar systems and small wind turbines, with the option of local energy storages.) We believe, that this is the best way to give cheap energy to poor people. But it is not enough to give energy to the peoples, it is also our task to keep the energy within the houses. **Every European family should have the right to have at least one**

18sq meter heated room during the winter. We cannot qualify such a claim as an exaggerated one. Specially if we add that our proposal is to be completed in a five year plan. **We can start a “1 million rooftop to stop energy poverty!” campaign for 5 years.**

I have to mention a goal of Angel Merkel about 1 million electric cars.

Our THIRD proposal is to support cheap electric cars with state aid. These cars should not cost more than their polluting relatives. This process would also support the local energy systems, and the local storage of energy.



Our last and FORTH proposal is to organize an information campaign about energy poverty in social media. With Infographics, pictures, short videos.

We should form a working group to prepare the needed materials for such a campaign.

Attila Vajnai