

IAS-STS Conference 2013

Special Session: Social justice and Diversity

Title: Quantifying Austria's Energy Poverty

Berger Tania, Faustmann Anna, Heim Réka, Höttl Andrea, Wolf Birgit

Today the development of energy efficiency in buildings, whether in respect to research, politics, or in practice, in Austria is more or less state of the art. The technology for passive houses is highly developed, ecological and energy efficient building materials are on the market, while implementation is supported for example by the ecologization of Austrian housing promotion.

However, in Austria 313,000 people are not able to keep their dwellings sufficiently warm, and obviously are unable to benefit from this technology development. According to EU-SILC statistics most of the people who suffer from energy poverty live in energy inefficient buildings. To be able to search for evidence based approaches regarding this issue, our understanding of energy poverty in Austria has to be developed through much more in detail research.

To date, the quantifying of energy poverty in Austria has been undertaken by EU-SILC using subjective appraisal of the individual affected. Therefore this paper investigates the feasibility of quantifying energy poverty in Austria according to objective criteria. Different data sets of STATISTIK AUSTRIA will be segmented with the focus on enabling a quantification according to specific definitions (e.g. under Boardman 2012). Furthermore the paper aims to enable a significant advance in knowledge regarding gender and migration issues and their inter-linkages to energy poverty. In doing so, it will fulfill equity objectives concerning sustainability.

Contact:

Andrea Höttl

Donau-Universität Krems

+43 2732 893 2123

andrea.hoeltl@donau-uni.ac.at