

Schneider Electric actively develops its programme to fight energy poverty

The European Policy Centre, with the support of the King Baudouin Foundation, and Schneider Electric launch the Energy Poverty Task Force to consider energy poverty challenges in the European Union.

Brussels (Belgium), January 27, 2016 – [Schneider Electric](#), the global specialist in energy management and automation, and the [European Policy Centre](#), an independent, not-for-profit think tank with the support of the King Baudouin Foundation, announce the launch of the Energy Poverty Task Force to consider energy poverty challenges in the European Union. The launch event of the task force took place on January 26, 2016 in Brussels, in presence of Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of energy.

Energy poverty affects people in mature economies who do not have normal and regular access to the energy necessary to cover their basic domestic needs, i.e. heating, power and cooking. This is caused by a combination of low incomes, higher electricity prices and poor building energy performance. According to the French National Energy Poverty Monitor ([Observatoire National de la Précarité Énergétique](#), or ONPE), energy poverty affects nearly 20% of the French population. Fight against energy poverty in mature economies is today a major development issue, as access to energy in developing countries. It needs to improve people's day-to-day lives while offering concrete solutions to tackle climate change.

As a socially responsible company and a global specialist in energy management, Schneider Electric launched in 2013 its programme to fight energy poverty in mature economies. The Group wants to foster the emergence of a virtuous circle by focusing on three areas: education, investment and technology. Schneider Electric is now seeking how to be most effective in its actions. That's why the Group partnered with the European Policy Centre in the Energy Poverty Task Force, to consider energy poverty at European level. End of 2015, Schneider Electric had already published a White Paper *Resolving Energy Poverty in Europe: Understanding the Initiatives and Solutions*.

Meanwhile, Schneider Electric with its Foundation already engaged numerous initiatives as part of the programme to fight energy poverty. Late November 2015, the Schneider Electric Foundation, under the aegis of the Fondation de France, joined the [platform for the fight against energy poverty set up in Belgium](#) by the King Baudouin Foundation. Schneider Electric and the Schneider Electric Foundation will offer concrete energy management solutions for families concerned in Belgium. In France, at the Solar Decathlon Europe 2014, Schneider Electric unveiled [a sustainable and innovative social housing](#)

[concept for the project “Habitat pour tous face à l’urgence” \(“Emergency housing for all”\)](#), for the social housing charity Habitat et Humanisme, and in association with the employment agency La Varappe. Designed from containers, houses are fully recyclable and incorporate Schneider Electric’s Wiser energy efficiency solution to manage energy consumption. In September 2015, the Schneider Electric Foundation and Ashoka launched a call for projects entitled [Social Innovation to Tackle Energy Poverty](#). The aim was to encourage exciting new social ideas for improving the living conditions of millions of people in six European countries (Belgium, France, Britain, Italy, Poland and the Czech Republic). On December 7, the two partners announced the 14 winners from the call for proposals, who will each receive one-to-one support to develop their initiatives.

About Schneider Electric

Schneider Electric is a global specialist in energy management and automated systems. In 2014 it generated €25 billion in revenue. Our 170,000 employees serve customers in over 100 countries, helping them to manage their energy and processes safely, reliably, efficiently and sustainably. From the simplest switches to the most complex operating systems, our technologies, software and services enable our customers to optimise the management and automation of their businesses. Our smart technologies are helping to rethink industries, transform towns and cities and enhance the lives of their inhabitants. At Schneider Electric, we call this: **Life Is On**.

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