

## **Panel 3 - Mobility and Energy: Tackling Transport Poverty**



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# The specificity of transport within energy and climate justice discussions

“[...]‘transport poverty’ means individuals' and households' inability or difficulty to meet the costs of private or public transport, or their lack of or limited access to transport needed for their access to **essential socio-economic services and activities**, taking into account the national and spatial context;”

(Social Climate Fund, 2023)

## Particularities of sector:

- 1) Hard-to-abate
- 2) Tied to energy sector
- 3) Socially & politically sensitive



Only 5 countries in the EU have an average share of transport in household expenditure which is below 10%

- Ireland
- Belgium
- Czechia
- Croatia
- Slovakia

(Eurostat, 2021)



## Generational perspectives on energy and transport poverty

- Youth is particularly exposed to energy poverty as raised in a [briefing](#) by GCE's Climate and Energy Justice working group (2022)
- Slightly higher average share of expenditure goes into transport than older categories (Eurostat, 2021)- but limited research on generational gaps in transport poverty
- Under 30s are at key moment to secure education and work opportunities, making affordable transport crucial for long-term social inclusion and justice
- Youth at the forefront of climate collapse: decisions taken today directly affect future generations & children are particularly vulnerable to air pollution today

### Briefing

#### The exposure of young people to energy poverty in the EU

Energy & Climate Justice Working Group  
Author: Lorenzo Manca

Research: Lorenzo Manca, Pranjal Mathur, Giacomo Ravaioli

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## Regional disparities

- Rural and peri-urban areas
- Between member states

## Youth perceptions on transportation and fairness (GCE mobility survey, 2022)

- *"It remains a privilege to travel sustainably"*  
**Anonymous (Netherlands) GCE Mobility survey, 2022**
- *"[...]There is also a lot of disparities among countries for example in relation to student discounts; in my country is not possible to get one for certain type of journey, whereas in other countries students travel almost for free"*  
**Anonymous (Italy) GCE Mobility survey, 2022**



## Conclusions and policy implications

Generation Climate Europe is in favour of:

- Tackling the root causes of transport poverty including in urban planning and housing policy
- Strengthening public transportation to reduce regional disparities on affordable and reliable transport
- Supporting sharing economy- helping to develop carpooling for instance
- Supporting further research on mobility poverty, with a focus on impacts on youth
- Putting intergenerational justice at the heart of policies to alleviate transport poverty

Further policies supported by GCE for international transport and learning mobility:

- Taxing kerosene to put rail on a level-playing field
- Removing VAT on international rail
- Increasing travel grants for EU learning mobility
- Supporting night train development

