



Cyprus
Energy
Agency

VISION

A just, inclusive, and climate-resilient Cyprus, that is governed by the principles of sustainability.



Large-scale multiactor training and mentorship programme to ASSist people with physical impairments in energy povERTy

Findings from field work and focus groups with people with disabilities

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<https://assertacademy.eu>



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Target group

- Focus groups with people with disabilities in all participating countries of the consortium
- Visits at day care facilities for people with autism
- More than 100 visits to households of people with disabilities



Results – structural obstacles



- Many housing options are neither accessible nor affordable. People with disabilities left with few options if any. Energy efficiency cannot be a consideration
- People without the initial capital investment cannot take advantage of many grants (poverty tax).
- Often times, people with disabilities are expected to have technical knowledge to select appropriate equipment.
- Reduce bureaucracy, reduce friction.

Results – Technical obstacles



Hearing disabilities:

- All devices/equipment that operates with sound, needs to be adjusted (doorbell, oven timer, baby or smoke monitors)
- Fear in cases of emergencies (elevators, faulty plugs, extreme weather events)
- Due to the use of Sign Language, eyes get tired more easily, therefore lighting must always be at good levels.

Results – Technical obstacles



Physical disabilities/ wheelchair users.

- Inability to control many energy-related variables due to height and obstacles (windows, lights, fridge)
- Depending on the condition, energy needs vary drastically in each case. Many do not prefer air-conditioning, instead need direct heat on their legs.

Results – Technical obstacles



Autism:

- The autism spectrum is wide and each case has to be studied separately.
- There is no communication between the sensory system and the brain, leading to inability to understand body temperature. People with autism could even face death due to temperature.
- Automate as much as possible, to reduce access to the person with autism (curtains, heating panels etc.)

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Results – Technical obstacles



Other:

- People with visual disabilities cannot use touch screen devices. However, all new ovens with high energy efficiency are touch screen → conflict between accessibility and energy efficiency.
- Humidity is connected with increased pain for various disabilities and conditions.
- Many conditions relate to difficulty in controlling body temperatures. We had cases of people having to be in the shower for hours in the summer.
- Many fear blackouts due to dependence on equipment.

Mentorship programme in Cyprus



5 selected pairs of Local Authorities & DPOs:

- Nicosia + OPAK (Paraplegic Organisation)
- Aradippou + KYSOA (Confederation of disability organisations)
- Athienou + SKE Athienou (Local volunteer group)
- Ayia Napa + SMILE project (day care for young adults with autism)
- Limassol + Spiti tou Mariou (day care for people with cognitive disabilities)

Actions include:

Tailored training of staff and carers, drop-in sessions for energy inquiries, energy studies for DPO buildings, study for the possibility of the establishment of an energy community and others.

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Technical Assistance to People with Disabilities | RES@EE Funding Scheme

The Cyprus Energy Agency offers a complete package of technical assistance to people with disabilities:

- 1) **Visit** to interested households across Cyprus
- 2) **Installation** of consumption measuring equipment to monitor energy use
- 3) **Simplified energy audit** of each household from certified CEA staff
- 4) **Findings report** with recommendations for energy efficiency measures and additional funding
- 5) Submission of all necessary application forms on behalf of the person with disabilities
- 6) **Continuous communication** in every step of the way, to help with any question regarding the implementation of measures



Thank You.

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