Identifying fuel poor populations to maximize the effectiveness of energy efficiency interventions

Ute DUBOIS, ISG Business School, Paris
ute.dubois@isg.fr

IEA WORKSHOP "CAPTURING THE MULTIPLE BENEFITS OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY"

Copenhagen, 18th -19th April 2013

Realising energy efficiency interventions targeted at fuel poor households

- How to design and implement energy efficiency (EE) measures
  - That will **remedy to the causes** of fuel poverty
  - In an **efficient** way ?

– Because fuel poverty has different causes and several symptoms, implementation of EE measures does not "happen" automatically
  - People have to be **identified**
  - Policies have to be **implemented**

→ **Identification is a crucial step of the policy process if EE interventions have to be realised at a large scale**
  - The case of France

Plan of the presentation

I. What is the problem with identification?

II. What practical approaches for identifying the fuel poor?

III. Challenges: how to improve the identification of fuel poor populations?

Part 1:
What is the problem with identification?

Why is it difficult to identify households?

- **Multidimensionality** → **no single way to address fuel poverty**

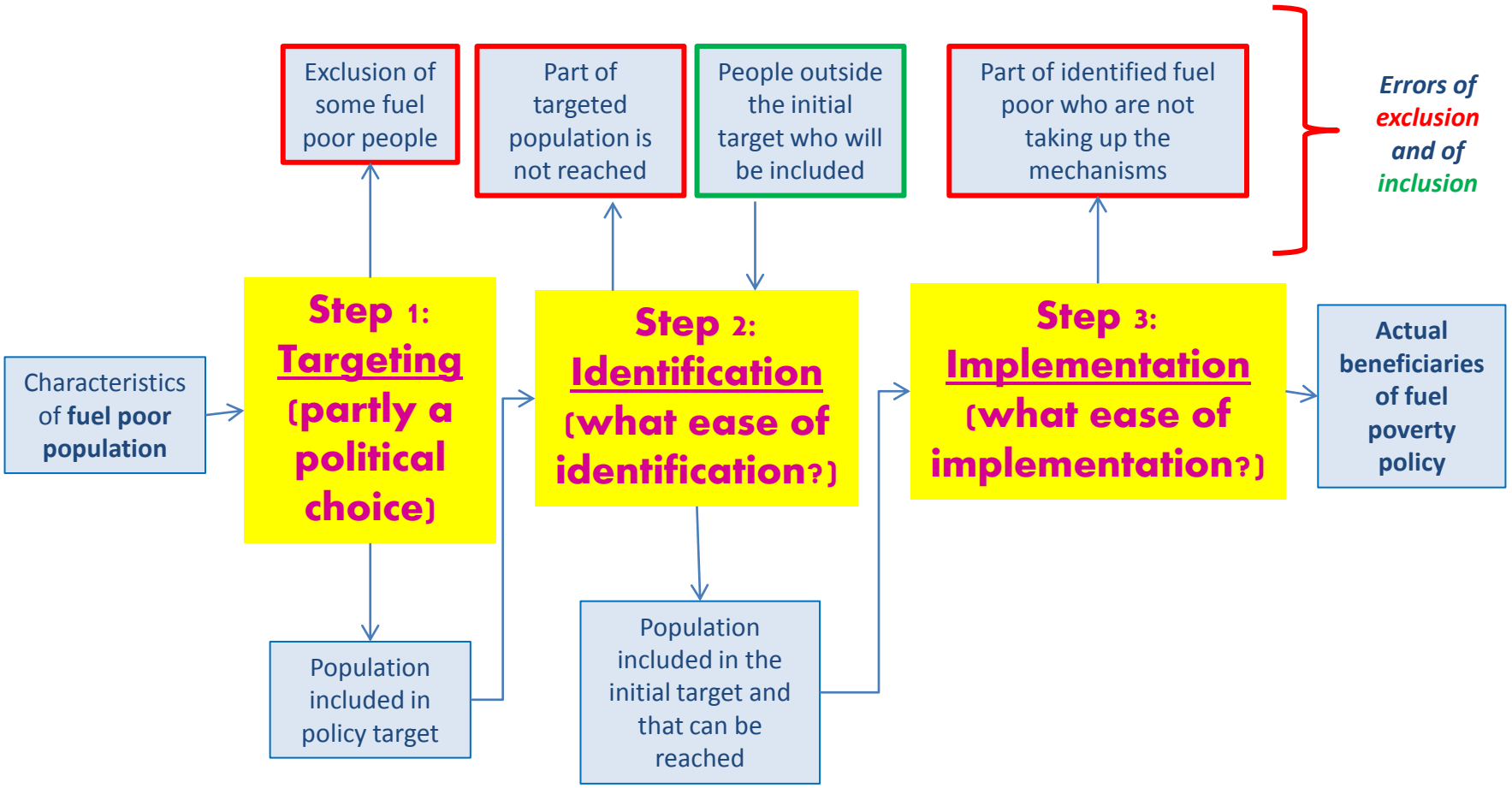
- **Demand side** (= households)
  - No real "demand" for identification (& for solutions)
  - ➢ **Self-referral could lead to poor results**

- **Supply side** (= policymakers)
  - No single policy domain
  - Various institutional levels of policy actors
  - ➢ **Who is in charge of what when it comes to finding out who is actually fuel poor?**

➢ **Households will generally not ask for help**

➢ **Identification is imperfect, costly and requires some efforts**

Identification in the process of fuel poverty policy implementation



Identification can be done in different ways

1) **Database crossing**
   - Who can provide relevant data?
     → information is dispersed
   - How can relevant information on the fuel poor be elaborated?
     → Privacy issues
2) **Decentralised identification**
   - Who is in the best position to do the identification work?
     → Proximity, trust, networks
3) **Geographic identification**
   - What available data? → relevance
   - At what geographical scale? → precision

→ **Geographic methods (mapping) important for the "industrialisation" of the process**

Part 2:
What practical approaches for identifying the fuel poor?

The national fuel poverty programme "Habiter Mieux"

HABITER MIEUX
une "aide travaux" pour un logement économe et écologique

- General philosophy: **adaptation to ageing of population**
  - Individual (80 % prefer to stay at home) and social question (cost)
  - What is necessary to stay at home?
    - Not only adaptation certain equipments (bathroom,...)
    - But also a warm home

- Approach to identification: **decentralised**
  - Local networks at Département level, to enhance commitment of local actors
  - Proposing identification tools (forms for data collection)

- Results
  - Energy efficiency interventions in the form of **large thermal renovations**
  - Energy efficiency gain: **38%** on average
  - But start of programme has been very **slow**
  - And success is largely **dependent on involvement of local actors**

Fiche de liaison « Aide à la rénovation thermique »
Programme Habiter Mieux dans les Yvelines

Yvelines
Conseil général

Publics cibles : propriétaires occupants aux ressources modestes dont le logement a été construit depuis au moins 15 ans

Date :

Coordonnées du ménage

Nom :…… Prénom :……
Adresse :……
Ville : ……Code postal :……..... N° téléphone :……..……
Vous souhaitez être recontacté le : ☐lundi ☐mardi ☐mercredi ☐jeudi ☐vendredi de : ….……h à ……..h

Renseignements sur le ménage

- Composition du ménage :
  nombre d'occupants :…. dont adultes :… dont enfants :…
- Ressources du ménage :…….€
  (revenu fiscal de référence de 2010, ligne 25 de l'avis d'imposition)
- Profession : ☐ actif ☐ inactif ☐ retraité ☐ non renseigné

Le ménage a-t-il bénéficié d'un prêt à taux 0 % accession au cours des 5 dernières années ? ☐ oui ☐ non

Plafonds de ressources 2012	
Nombre de personnes composant le ménage	Revenu fiscal de référence (€) – avis d'imposition N-2
1	16 772
2	24 619
3	29 567
4	34 523
5	39 497
Par personne sup.	+ 4 962

Renseignements sur le logement

- Type de logement : ☐ maison individuelle ☐ en mitoyenneté ☐ appartement en copropriété
- Année (ou période) de construction du logement :…… Année d'occupation : ……
- Nombre de niveaux habités: … Nombre de pièces:…. Surface approximative du logement en m² :……
- Type de chauffage central du logement : ☐ collectif ☐ individuel
  Energie utilisée : ☐ Gaz ☐ Fuel ☐ électricité ☐ autre……
- Absence de chauffage central : ☐ mode de chauffage : ……..
- Estimation du montant des dépenses énergétiques (selon factures électricité, gaz…):
  fuel :……..€ ☐ an ☐ mois gaz :……. € ☐ an ☐ mois électricité :……€ ☐ an ☐ mois
  autre :……€ ☐ an ☐ mois si chauffage collectif :……€ ☐ an ☐ mois
- Observations éventuelles sur l'état du logement :……..
  ……
- Niveau d'isolation thermique : plafonds : ☐ non ☐ oui ☐ partielle ☐ ne sait pas
  murs : ☐ non ☐ oui ☐ partielle ☐ ne sait pas
  fenêtres : ☐ non ☐ oui ☐ partielle ☐ ne sait pas
- Travaux projetés :……

Approaches used by organisations working on health issues

- General philosophy: **prevention of health problems of children caused by bad housing conditions**
  - Initially: lead problems in homes with damp
  - Then enlargement to other health problems linked to cold homes & mould: respiratory diseases, allergies, asthma...

- Approach to identification: **decentralised**
  - Direct: visual identification of bad homes & systematic visits
  - Through networks of partners: social workers, PMI, operators of housing renovations

- Results:
  - Diagnosis of health problems can lead to
    - Renovations
    - Relocation of families
  - **Effects of diagnosis vary** according to
    - Types of problems that are diagnosed
    - Local rules
  - Problem: **insufficiency of legal instruments** (difficult to oblige homeowners to make improvements)

Local initiatives targeted at fuel poor households

- General philosophy: **find fuel poor households to propose a first diagnosis and orient them towards various assistance schemes**
  - Objective of massive intervention
  - And reduction of delays of intervention

- Approach to identification: **combination of geographic and decentralised methods**
  - Mapping to identify areas at risk of fuel poverty
  - Relying on a network of partners: social workers at local level

- Results:
  - **Large size of potential identification network**
  - But **certain identification channels are easier to use** than others (debts)
  - **Time** required to identify the fuel poor much longer than initially expected
  - **Duration of process** (from 1st signalling to realisation of EE measures)


De grosses factures d'électricité, gaz ou eau ?
Participer aux ateliers Eco-gestes.
Des conseils et informations sur les tarifs sociaux et les gestes simples pour réduire vos consommations.
Un kit Solidarité Énergie vous sera offert
Année 2013, un vendredi par mois de 9 h 30 à 11 h à EPICEAS
29 rue de la Commune de Paris - 93300 Aubervilliers
Sur inscription les :
18 janvier - 15 février - 22 mars - 19 avril - 17 mai - 21 juin
20 septembre - 18 octobre - 15 novembre - 20 décembre 2013
Contactez le CCAS : 01.48.39.53.39
En partenariat avec :
IDEMU (Institut de Développement de l'Ecologie en Milieu Urbain) - EDF Solidarité
SIPPEREC - GDF Suez - CCAS (Centre Communal d'Action Sociale) - Epicéas


apc agence parisienne du climat
AVEC VOUS, POUR ÉCONOMISER L'ÉNERGIE AU QUOTIDIEN
Vos factures d'énergie sont trop élevées ?
L'Agence Parisienne du Climat est à votre disposition pour vous conseiller sur les économies d'énergies
CONSEILS GRATUITS ET INDÉPENDANTS
Rencontrez-nous dans le 19ème
Où ?
Au 156 Durable
156 rue d'Aubervilliers
Paris 19ème
Local basse consommation
Quand ?
Tous les :
mardis de 9h30 à 11h30
jeudis de 17h00 à 19h00
Comment ?
En appelant
le 01 58 51 90 20
Nous recevons uniquement sur rendez-vous.
AGISSONS ENSEMBLE CONTRE LE DÉRÈGLEMENT CLIMATIQUE

Part 3:
Challenges
How to improve the identification of fuel poor populations

1. Overcoming deficiencies of current identification methods

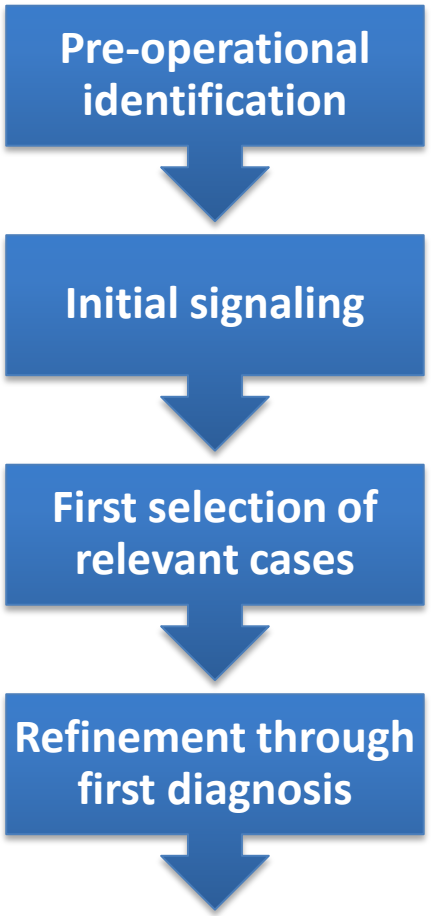
- **Dedicate resources to the task of identification**, which is very time consuming
  → Currently, no specific funding of identification

- **Building robust geographic identification methods**
  → Actual energy expenses are not a sufficient indicator

- **Be aware that network-based identification requires investment** in:
  → Creating / raising awareness of network members on fuel poverty
  → Creating information and communication tools

- **Explore the potential of using existing databases**
  → Privacy issues
  → Technical challenge of compatibility of databases

2. Refining the knowledge on the organisation of identification processes



Knowing, at the level of a territory, where the fuel poor are & what are their characteristics

Choosing (a) method of signaling (self-referral vs. pro-active identification), (b) who is in charge of signaling and (c) signaling tools

Requires a more precise assessment in order to "classify" them (i.e. who can really be helped by fuel poverty policy and who would better be helped by other policies?)

Requires a technical visit at the household's home (and competences both in the technical and in the social field)

Source: ARENE (2012)

3. Adopting an integrated approach because actual realisation of EE measures results from all elements of the chain

- **Failure of one "step" can compromise the realisation of energy efficiency interventions**
  - Example: asking people to pay for the technical diagnosis

- **Successful transition from identification to implementation** is dependent on:
  - Being able to establish trust relationships with households
  - Linking the social and technical diagnosis of the identification stage with
    - The realisation of measures at implementation stage
    - The financing of EE measures

Conclusion

- France is entering a period where methods are developed for identifying the fuel poor
  - **proactively**
  - **on a large scale**

- This is important because energy efficiency measures are **the main remedy to fuel poverty** because they address its causes

- In the same time it is not easy to implement measures targeted at the fuel poor because this **requires important efforts of identification**

- **Today, the main objective is to develop methods for "industrialising" the identification of the fuel poor**

Thank you for your attention!

Ute DUBOIS, ISG Business School, Paris

ute.dubois@isg.fr

IEA WORKSHOP "CAPTURING THE MULTIPLE BENEFITS OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY"

Copenhagen, 18th -19th April 2013