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# RETRACTED: Evaluation of post COVID-19 energy poverty and global trading impact on energy affordability

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Energy poverty become a serious global problem after COVID-19 among the developing and developed countries that must have to be addressed to meet United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Moreover, the factors contributes to energy poverty have given little attention. The study aims to overlooked on the energy affordability and accessibility among the Europeans living in Energy poverty. Therefore, study mainly concerning on the effecting factors such as bilateral commerce, globalization, and the quality of bureaucracy that possibly affect energy poverty. The influence of bilateral commerce on energy poverty was investigated using many robust panel data approaches, including cross-sectional autoregressive distributed lag (CS-ARDL), common correlated effects generalized method of moments (CCE-GMM), and instrumental variable regression. Annual data utilizes from European nations (from 2000 to 2019). According to the econometric findings, bilateral commerce enhances energy accessibility while raising energy prices. Economic globalization was meant to raise energy costs and restrict fuel access for Europe's poorest citizens. Study suggested that bilateral trade should be assessed to ensure energy demand and supply conditions meet to keep the energy pricing in the affordbale range especially among the low income families in the European countries. Across models, these results are consistent, allowing us to propose fresh energy accessibility and affordability conclusions in line with the SDGs.

## KEYWORDS

energy poverty, energy prices, bilateral commerce, panal data approaches, energy affordability

## Introduction

Over 1.1 billion people live in energy poverty (Tarekegne, 2020) and lack of access to clean energy, making the global scarcity of resources a major issue (Khandker et al., 2012; Ahmad et al., 2019). More than two million homes in Spain and 9 per cent of households in Italy are affected by energy poverty, and a significant number of these households suffer

from health implications due to their living conditions (Khandker et al., 2012). As a result, the overall population's socioeconomic well-being and productivity are negatively impacted by energy poverty (Martinez & Ebenhack, 2008). The traditional energy sources of coal, charcoal, wood, cereals, straw and animal manure are still used by 2.8 billion people today (Ahmad et al., 2019). Bio diesel cause pollution for indoor usage have substantial health consequences, particularly for women and children. Similarly, pollution from indoor sources (cooking meal and to keep warm the homes) is responsible for 2.8 million annual fatalities worldwide (Day et al., 2016). Developed countries' mainly focus is on economical, ecologically green, social, and political concerns is energy poverty (Aristondo & Onaindia, 2018). In developing world, air pollution, food scarcity, housing poverty, climate change, water shortages and energy is the key challenge (Chapman & Okushima, 2019).

Energy dearth is when a person or household cannot meet their planned needs because they cannot afford to do so, and this leads to social dilemma in the society (Thompson, 1998). Energy poverty is also known as "fuel poverty" (Azomahou et al., 2005) and described as a lack of gasoline as "poor energy affordability" and "a wide phrase encompassing difficulties related to energy accessibility."

Energy poverty is linked to rising energy prices, low salaries, and building and gadget inefficiency (Shahbaz et al., 2018). The entropy approach calculates the energy poverty score. Moreover, energy poverty is exacerbated by tax regimes, insufficient investment in energy infrastructure, and a lack of awareness of energy efficiency (Javid & Sharif, 2016) and clarifying the introductory energy use stage to fulfill necessities. Thus, energy poverty is the non appearance of acceptable options for accessing a sufficient, cheap, consistent, and adequate supply of high-quality, environmentally friendly, and economically beneficial energy services (Jalil & Feridun, 2011) and due to these negative consequences, energy poverty has significant negative consequences for the well-being of humans, economic bustle, and the environment (Anderson, 2016). Energy poverty has been identified and many countries have seen it as one of the most pressing development challenges, including some advanced countries, for several years (Grossman & Krueger, 1995).

Despite the importance of energy poverty in social transformation has been underestimated. In a broad sense, it is accepted that energy is a necessary resource human development and plant's survival (Muhammad, 2019). According to Tarekne (2020) more than a billion people are living in energy poverty. Eliminating energy poverty is essential for social transformation and social wellbeing in developed, developing, and least developed countries. Thus, energy poverty is a unique form of poverty from the more common form of poverty caused by a lack of income (Tamazian et al., 2009). On the contrary, many aspects of life, including health, social inclusion, environmental quality, and mental well-being, are adversely affected by energy insecurity; energy poverty

explains insufficient summer cooling. According to the Worldwide Energy and CO<sub>2</sub> Status quoted by (Sadorsky, 2010), China and India increased their carbon emissions by 85 percent of the United States. Asian countries are responsible of world carbon emission of 53%, and china is the biggest carbon emitter contributing 27% (9.8 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>) to universal emissions where 15% of global emissions (5.3 billion metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>) are attributed to the United States, the world's second-biggest emitter. Other hand india is the third largest contributor of the carbon emission of 6.8% (2.5 billion tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>) to global emissions in 2017. China and India continue to use large amounts of traditionally polluting energy sources (such as coal, oil, and natural gas) at the price of ecological worth to achieve quicker rates of economic expansion and global competitiveness (Rao, 2019).

They have remained the world's top two and three carbon polluters. That's had major ramifications, encouraging developed countries like the US to reject commitments like the Kyoto Protocol of Japan in 1997 to meet any binding emission targets set by the UN Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992. When the Paris Agreement came into effect in 2015, it soon became a hot topic in the global climate change debate because of the perceived differences in interests and obligations between affluent and developing countries (Adams & Klobodu, 2018). United States blaming developing economies as significant polluters resulting climate change and attaining quicker economic expansion by massively deploying unsustainable energy in their use and manufacture.

As globalization and privatization accelerate, emerging and developing economies must use more cheap nonrenewable energy sources to maintain their 'competitive advantage,' which necessitates more expensive renewable energy sources. This is the simple reason for the substantial deployment of murky energy in economic activities. Nonrenewable energy is cheap and available at any time for consumption and mining.

The European Union and its member countries have made it a priority in the past few years to solve the energy issue (Bélaïd & Youssef, 2017). According to European Commission estimates (2018) about 35 million people in Europe could not keep their homes warm in 2017 and in 2019 Clean Energy for All Europeans Package (CEP) with the aims to tackle the energy crisis and poverty in the European countries, also energy efficiency and energy security connected to energy poverty, energy poverty is becoming a public concern. On the other hand, Latin America has a far higher rate of energy availability. Its 2016 access rate was 96%, greater than in Africa and South Asia (Azolibe & Okonkwo, 2020). Power availability has increased by over 50% but not by 90%, despite several Latin American countries having higher electricity. Despite this, only roughly 22 million people have appropriate availability to power voltage, and over 80 million people cook with inefficient antique stoves using wood and charcoal. This study adds to the corpus of information about energy approachability and affordability, important for policy

mandates. Thus, the study provides new results and gave advice about trade profits. For instance, research shows how the market influences the entire price of the voltage energy and the resident's right to use basic energy needs. This study is mainly contributing in the SDG-7 (cheap and dependable energy), SDG-10 (reduce inequality), and SDG-13 (reduce poverty) are illuminated by these groundbreaking findings (climate action). Idleness and disparity reduced by Sustainable economic development and serious climate effect are priorities for the UN 2030 Agenda.

Trade-friendly policies should be prioritized in Europe to enhance income and maybe alleviate energy poverty suggested by researcher analysis. Europe's countries' institutions fail to offer inexpensive electricity to the region's poor. Second, reasonable estimates demonstrate that boosting trade in energy-related technology will help countries accomplish SDGs and reduce energy poverty by attractive bureaucratic value (and provide links for the decision-making process and plan development). Finally, this study examine significant policy possibilities for improving energy access and affordability in European Union.

## Literature review

The association of energy poverty in Europe and economic crisis was studied by [Halkos & Gkampoura, \(2021\)](#) and findings shows that Scandinavian countries have the lowest energy poverty in Europe however unemployment and recession in the countries worsen the energy poverty. [Apergis et al. \(2022\)](#) findings based on the GMM estimates using education main variable and data collected from 30 developing countries from 2000 to 2016 shows education reduces the energy poverty. [Drescher and Janzen \(2021\)](#) conducted study on topic of energy poverty in Germany postulated that energy is mainly related to education, labor force, inefficient energy, and poor housing conditions.

Although European countries have emerged as the world's fastest-growing economy, approximately 23 per cent of the population lives in poverty ([Milanovic, 2012](#); [Niazi et al., 2019](#)). China's setup is really in a deprived repair condition compared to other underdeveloped countries, such as India or Brazil. It resulted in the economy having to increase government monetary expansion assistance to eliminate poverty and inequality, as well as to address infrastructural needs to alleviate overcrowding and improve economic prospects.

Energy policies were initially investigated by [Bouzarovski et al. \(2012\)](#) in European countries where mainly focused on Bulgaria and reported that energy affordability poorly managed in the country. Energy poverty and policies were compared by [Kyprianou et al. \(2019\)](#) and measurement taken by the five EU countries (Cyprus, Spain, Portugal, Bulgaria, and Lithuania) to alleviate the energy poverty were discussed, where study Identified the weakness and strengths in the national energy policies towards the energy poverty and

recommendation were drawn how to alleviate the energy poverty in the country. Studies of a similar nature on a variety of factors that influence the quality of India's natural environment that are currently available on the internet. Economic expansion, according to [Sun et al. \(2022\)](#) is a contributing factor to environmental degrading practices and policies. One of the significant reasons for restricting the quality of India's natural pollution level, and this is one of the most significant causes for this. However, only a small number of European nations have discussed energy poverty in the past.

The prevalence of energy poverty in Romania ranges from 3.6 per cent to 16 per cent based on standard energy poverty indicators, while the multidimensional index estimates 10.5 per cent ([Ottinger et al., 2014](#)). An excessive energy burden, Bulgarian families have the highest incidence of energy poverty in the EU-27 nations. District heating of energy-deficient panels blocks of apartments exacerbates energy poverty in Croatia ([Du et al., 2016](#)). Energy poverty is prevalent due to the shortage of expenditure on building renovation and supplier-switch issues. The legacy of the previous economy is also blamed for energy poverty, which is a path-dependent phenomenon. Czechia has an estimated 17 per cent of its population living in energy poverty ([Sternier & Damon, 2011](#)). Author's also argued that energy poverty must be treated independently owing to the availability of governmental measures aiming at boosting energy efficiency and lowering family consumption.

European nations have an energy poverty problem aggravated by low incomes and squalid living conditions ([Zhao et al., 2022](#)). Many nations, particularly those with very vulnerable populations, have historically low operating and maintenance costs ([Song et al., 2021](#)), which suggest concealed energy poverty. To cope with energy poverty, people typically cut down on their energy use and unplug from the grid. The research on the lived experiences of the energy-poor shows that these individuals choose to meet their other fundamental requirements at the price of energy usage, for example. In addition, the energy-poor often cannot make large-scale financial expenditures to improve their homes' energy efficiency or renovate. There is such a crucial study gap in the literature that stimulates the question of whether we genuinely require more overall foreign aid or foreign energy assistance inflows in a growing economy like India to improve ecological quality.

Power rationing, frequent blackouts, and the failure of values to modernize buildings and services regularly are all repercussions of climate change. States in Southern Africa are investigating options ranging from transnational power exchange to regional and block electricity trading to address demands for hydropower ([Zhang et al., 2021](#)). In 2003, the incidence of energy poverty in the European Union was investigated and estimated that between 12.5 and 17.4 per cent of EU27 citizens fall within the category of "energy poverty. The authors rely on subjective energy poverty

indicators and certain house features from the ECHP dataset (Healy & Clinch, 2004).

Bouzarovski et al. (2012) performed a new EU27-wide energy poverty survey after nearly a century. The authors investigate subjective indices of energy poverty in four different situations and calculate a composite index. Three probabilistic models estimate the likelihood that families would experience energy poverty. A compound energy poverty indicator is an enhanced version of the benchmark indicator.

Micro-level Pan-European energy poverty research using objective measures is lacking for various reasons. The concept of energy poverty itself is ambiguous, which is one of the primary causes behind this. Energy Poverty Observatory (Barnes et al., 2011) has embraced the notion throughout the European Union (EU). A methodological challenge arises when it comes to direct energy poverty indicators and appropriate micro-level data. In the EU, there is no micro-data on the use of domestic energy and energy efficiency of the dwelling stock. There are several reasons for this, including the fact that the EU-SILC database is designed to track inequality and social inclusion in the EU.

Several studies have attempted to address the issue by using a typical data or specialized energy poverty surveys that are difficult to conduct throughout the EU. Enable-EU surveyed European energy usage in 2019 for this study. EU Horizon 2020 research and innovation funding program Enable-mission EU's statement is: " [Enable-EU] aims to study what influences people's decisions in three main consumption areas: infrastructure; heating and cooling; and energy (Kalisz and Aluchna, 2012). The study was aimed at 11 different European countries: Croatia, Belgium, France, Greece, Austria, Scandinavia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Portugal, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom (United Kingdom). The dataset was accompanied by a report that summarized and compared the findings from the participating nations. All respondents were invited to complete the survey portions containing general and socio-economic questions. An important aspect of this study was asking participants to provide information on their income and energy use. These two factors were used to categorize them at risk of energy poverty. The wide range of nations included and the similarity of the macroeconomic issues, this dataset is especially useful for identifying determinants of energy poverty throughout Europe.

Cadore and contrast the presence of the Phillips curve between fuel poverty and Average income in Europe using a panel of data from 27 European nations taken from Eurostat's EU-SILC survey for the period 2005–2018. Especially in southern and eastern Europe, they show that a decrease in energy poverty has been made feasible by rising living standards. Economic development alone will not always lead to reduced precariousness. Thus measures in favour of resource efficiency or family buying power must be implemented at the regional level. To test the Energy-Environmental Kuznets Curve hypothesis, (Rehman & Vinh

Vo, 2020), use a panel dataset of over 200 nations for the period 2005–2019.

They discovered that increased economic development favours renewable energy output and a negative impact on coal-fired generation. Increased use of renewable energy also helps to level the playing field regarding income distribution. Emissions pollution is a significant societal issue in Europe, and it is expected to worsen in the next years as energy costs rise, economic misery persists, disparities widen, and climate change increases unpredictability. In Europe, between 25 and 130 million individuals are believed to be affected by EP (Bouri et al., 2020). In particular, 11.5% of EU families could not keep their homes warm enough in the winter months of 2014. EP, on the other hand, is not uniformly distributed socially or financially, according to several research. Low-income families (especially single-parent families), individuals with disabilities or long-term conditions, the economically inactive, and people in low-paying jobs all experience above-average rates of EP in the social context (Khan et al., 2021).

Energy poverty has not been examined using a comprehensive approach considering its many elements concurrently. In addition, no previous research has looked at the impact of fiscal decentralization and national risks on energy poverty (Ahmad & Du, 2017), particularly in the context of Europe. Thus, the research aims to fill in the significant gaps in Europe's poverty of the energy economy to help this country eliminate all forms of energy poverty. For now, Europe can ensure that all its citizens have electricity access. However, the country is trailing behind in clean energy since it has not yet eliminated its dependence on conventional non-renewable sources. Europe's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are critical, and this research represents a significant step in that direction.

## Data and methodology

### Data processing

When describing the research population, we used chi-square tests to determine if the prevalence of EP (%) and the incidence of healthcare outcomes (percentage) had changed over the decades.

(Jena et al., 2021). There have been three major developments in searching for an extra-strong and long-term to fulfill the deficiency in energy, supply security, and environmental degradation. Many studies and investigations have examined whether adaptation and mitigation issues (Verhoef et al., 2015). Although energy poverty affects millions of people, it has received little attention. Lack of energy shows a clear picture of the inability of a household to receive and maintain levels for home use. Nonetheless, such problems continue to haunt people all across the world. To



recoup the energy poverty gap, many diagnostic indicators must be integrated to obtain a more comprehensive view of the transition. This paper will look at how bilateral commerce, globalization, and institutional quality might help the European Union relieve energy poverty. This analysis uses well-adjusted panel data for all 27 EU nations from 2000 to 2019. This study focuses on two parts of energy poverty: how expensive it is and how easy it is to get, all say that the authors got their data from the lowest 20% of the population's energy expenses quartile 1.

## Econometric framework

Energy deficiency threatens population fitness, education, and development. According to SDG 7, modern and reliable energy sources must be made available to all by 2030 (Hornik, 2021). The European Commission's commitment is to reduce energy poverty and must be addressed immediately with targeted measures, which need extensive regional assessments. An appropriate assessment can assist in establishing and implementing policy. For this reason, the authors look at two important components of energy poverty: energy costs (affordability) and energy access (accessibility). Eqs. 1, 2 give the model's usual functional form of energy poverty affects both aspects dimensions.

$$EXP_{it} = f(TRD_{it}, GDP_{it}, EGL_{it}, STR_{it}, BUR_{it}) \quad (1)$$

$$AFL_{it} = g(TRD_{it}, GDP_{it}, EGL_{it}, STR_{it}, BUR_{it}) \quad (2)$$

In our scenario,  $i$  denotes cross sections and  $t$  defines time dimensions, which is correspond to 27 EU countries from the years 2000–2019. There formulations of regression shows by Equations.

$$EXP_{it} = \delta_{1it} + \delta_{2it}TRD_{it} + \delta_{3it}GDP_{it} + \delta_{4it}EGL_{it} + \delta_{5it}STR_{it} + \delta_{6it}BUR_{it} + \alpha_i + \varphi_{it} \quad (3)$$

$$AFL_{it} = \delta_{1it} + \delta_{2it}TRD_{it} + \delta_{3it}GDP_{it} + \delta_{4it}EGL_{it} + \delta_{5it}STR_{it} + \delta_{6it}BUR_{it} + \alpha_i + \varphi_{it} \quad (4)$$

Expenses of energy and the ability to obtain it are both represented by EXP and AFL at the time  $t$  are substitute for energy poverty.

Vector  $\delta$  1 shows the unknown intercept, while the vector  $\delta_1, \delta_2, \dots, \delta_6$

The coefficient of all explanatory factors and  $\varphi$  it represent standard error, while  $\alpha_i$  marks the cross-section-specific term. Based on previous research by Curran and Eckhardt, (Porter, 1980), Each explanatory variable's predicted values are as follows: The recovery from energy poverty is likely to be helped by bilateral trade

$$\left( \delta_{2it} = \frac{\partial EXP_{it}}{\partial TRD_{it}}, \frac{\partial AFL_{it}}{\partial TRD_{it}} > 0 \right), \quad (5)$$

However, the coefficient's value might fluctuate based on if a nation have a net trade.

GDP, economic globalization, and quality of institutions are also predicted to have an expected impact are all

$$\left( \delta_{3it} = \frac{\partial EXP_{it}}{\partial GDP_{it}}, \frac{\partial AFL_{it}}{\partial GDP_{it}} > 0 \right), \left( \delta_{4it} = \frac{\partial EXP_{it}}{\partial EGL_{it}}, \frac{\partial AFL_{it}}{\partial EGL_{it}} > 0 \right), \left( \delta_{6it} = \frac{\partial EXP_{it}}{\partial BUR_{it}}, \frac{\partial AFL_{it}}{\partial BUR_{it}} > 0 \right), \quad (6)$$

respectively.

According to expectations, however, the Magnitude of the coefficient will change from one country to another due to disparities in the development of the economy, the permeability of the market, and the standard of institutions. As opposed to this, the projected mark of facilities trade is negative or modest because it does not immediately lessen poverty

$$\left( \delta_{5it} = \frac{\partial EXP_{it}}{\partial STR_{it}}, \frac{\partial AFL_{it}}{\partial STR_{it}} > 0 \right) \quad (7)$$

According to a large body of literature (Porter, 1985), cross-sectional dependency is common in panel data. Due to the country's monetary or business interdependence, multiple unobserved shocks may be blamed and influence one or more countries. As a result, we begin our empirical part by examining how shocks influence all cross-sectional units. The author uses cross-sectional dependence test to do so.

Due to panel data's cross-sectional reliance, the unbiasing and compromised parameter consistency. However. When cross-sectional dependency was evident, the and cross-sectional Augmented Dickey fuller test CADF panel unit root tests were used to investigate the stationary aspects. Eqs. 5, 6 in Pesaran's paper theoretically represent this test.

$$\Delta Z_{it} = \varphi_i + \varphi_i X_{i,t-1} + \varphi_i \bar{Z}_{t-1} + \sum_{l=0}^p \varphi_{il} \Delta \bar{Z}_{t-l} + \sum_{l=0}^p \varphi_{il} \Delta Z_{t-l} + \mu_{it} \quad (8)$$

The cross-section averages are  $\bar{Z}_{t-1}$  and  $\Delta \bar{Z}_{t-1}$ , respectively. CIPS statistics and values from the examination above were employed in the augmented CADF) test.

$$CIPS = N^{-1} + \sum_{i=1}^p CADF_i \quad (9)$$

For test statistics, CADF Eq. 9 shows I th module for cross-sectional in was provided by CADFi. The Caro & Sadr, (2019) cointegration method is used to continue the empirical investigation to elaborate on long-term phenomena between energy poverty and identify its elements. Using the unit root test, all variables are stationary by a combination of level and first difference. Second-generation cointegration is the name given to this method since it contains an error-correction mechanism

(ECM). Because it manages cross-sectional dependency and heterogeneity, the approach beats classical integrations in this regard. It uses four test statistics, two for group statistics and two for panel statistics (G t and G a) and (P t and P a), to determine the validity of the results.

$$G_t = \frac{1}{N} + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{\alpha'_i}{SE(\alpha'_i)} \quad (10)$$

$$G_\alpha = \frac{1}{N} + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{T\alpha'_i}{\alpha'_i(1)} \quad (11)$$

$$P_t = \frac{\alpha'}{SE(\alpha')} \quad (12)$$

$$P_\alpha = T\alpha' \quad (13)$$

There may be cross-sectional dependence in the panel data. Hence the researcher adopts a technique called CS-ARDL. This research describes the connection between variables like poverty in energy, bilateral trade, economic globalization, economic growth, services trade, and institutional quality. Although non-stationary and a combination of variables are involved, this strategy remains stable. Aside from endogeneity difficulties, the approach is also immune to the common problems with panel data (Alexander & Kent, 2022). The following equations are recommended for testing:

$$\Delta EXP_{i,t} = \phi_i + \sum_{l=1}^p \theta_{il} \Delta EXP_{i,t-l} + \sum_{l=0}^p \theta_{il} Z_{i,t-l} + \sum_{l=0}^1 \theta_{il} \bar{W}_{i,t-l} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \quad (14)$$

$$\Delta AFL_{i,t} = \phi_i + \sum_{l=1}^p \theta_{il} \Delta AFL_{i,t-l} + \sum_{l=0}^p \theta_{il} Z_{i,t-l} + \sum_{l=0}^1 \theta_{il} \bar{W}_{i,t-l} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \quad (15)$$

The describer uses the Dumitrescu-Hurlin (D-H) causality test to discover the connection between scarcity of voltage and its causes. This test is a strong way to deal with heterogeneity, and cross-sectional dependencies discussed earlier in this section. This method was made by (Pan, 2019) based on the granger non-causality test. You can see how the D-H panel's causality looks like a straight line in the below equations.

$$y_{it} = \alpha_i + \sum_{k=1}^k \gamma_i^{(k)} y_{i,t-k} + \sum_{k=1}^k \beta_i^{(k)} x_{i,t-k} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \quad (16)$$

Where insign represents the 27 EU countries at time t, I represent the discrete intercept, and I represent the coefficient slope, whose time dimension is not changed. Coefficient of regression and autoregressive parameter estimators, denoted by  $\beta_i^{(k)}$  and  $\gamma_i^{(k)}$ . They are anticipated to differ between countries. There is no causal association under the null hypothesis, but there is causal affinity under the alternative hypothesis. The normal and standardized test data for the D-H test are as follows:

$$W_{N,T}^{HNC} = N^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^N W_{i,T} \quad (17)$$

$$Z_{N,T}^{HNC} = \sqrt{\frac{N}{2M}} (W_{N,T}^{HNC} - M) \rightarrow N(0, 1) \quad (18)$$

where  $W_{N,T}^{HNC}$  stands for average,  $Z_{N,T}^{HNC}$  for standardised test statistic, and  $W_{i,T}$  for individual Wald statistic.

## Results and discussion

### Descriptive statistics of variables

Table 1 shows the results of the first step in investigating the research variables' distribution and standard error. The most dynamic statistic is bilateral trade, with descriptive and inferential statistics of 20.8545 and 3.52, respectively. Even the levels of skewness, and their related probabilities, show that all variables are regularly distributed. Overall, there were no statistical outliers. Furthermore, the moment condition is unrelated when overall variables showed unit roots; null hypothesis for all panels is strongly rejected at conventional significance, alleviating some of this anxiety. Traditional information criteria demonstrate that (PVAR 1) is the preferred model, and the validity of over-identification confirms by Hansen J-statistic, meaning that the instrument collection is adequate. The dynamics of interaction between the system's variables are complicated. PVAR cannot be easily interpreted without imposing identifying restrictions on the parameters by a raw coefficient. If the model is stable, an infinite-order VMA and error covariance matrix assumptions can be enforced.

### Cross-sectional dependance test

A state can preserve power and self-interest as a functioning rational agent by the grand functionalist idea. According to Giordano, (2020) neo-functionalism sees the establishment of supranationalism within land-living and beneficial purposes for improved political and expansions of MKT. An ideology of regionalism as an alternate called intergovernmental, keeping national sovereignty while maintaining supranational links without handing up total power to regional institutions keep national sovereignty to maintain supranational (Borisoglebskaya et al., 2019).

Regional integration and regional collaboration are the heart of both ideologies. The experiment of post-World War II and post-Cold War soviet governments encouraged significant discussions about regional integration and cooperation is listed in Table 2.

People often use the terms "regional integration" and "regional cooperation" interchangeably, but they mean different things (Leal & Perez, 2009). While we first try to re-center national political centers on broader institutionalized platforms with shared terrestrial borders for political and economic purposes, the second step allows national identities to be saved for working together. Even though regional cooperation is good, more European international relations are driven by regional integration.

TABLE 1 Statistic description.

Variables	Obs	Mean	StdDev	Min	Max	p1	p99	Skew	Kurt
EXP	7,184	4.256	0.477	2.177	5.179	3.045	5.127	−0.583	3.528
AFL	7,167	16.514	1.269	12.878	18.235	12.938	18.238	−0.529	2.938
TRD	7,179	19.878	2.517	7.162	25.668	13.015	24.855	−0.567	3.949
GDP	7,187	10.693	1.242	7.985	15.264	8.372	14.886	1.392	5.023
EGL	6,803	4.284	0.023	4.215	4.333	4.214	4.331	−0.381	3.775
STR	6,804	0.489	0.574	0.083	3.032	0.101	2.814	2.652	9.279
BUR	7,184	3.261	0.815	0.211	4.120	1.012	4.102	−1.091	3.868

TABLE 2 Cross-sectional dependence test.

Variable	CD-test	p-value	Average joint	Mean $\rho$	Mean abs( $\rho$ )
EXP	510.719	0.000	18.000	0.441	0.772
AFL	542.085	0.000	17.910	0.472	0.641
TRD	756.154	0.000	16.980	0.654	0.693
GDP	1,056.727	0.000	18.000	0.912	0.912
EGL	1,129.776	0.000	18.990	1.003	1.001
STR	640.767	0.000	19.990	0.571	0.612
BUR	34.185	0.000	18.000	0.032	0.041

TABLE 3 Panel unit root testing.

Test	Variable	Level	First difference
CIPS test	EXP	−6.078	−6.564**
	AFL	5.443***	10.008
	TRD	−14.489***	−9.212**
	GDP	−3.173***	−1.784**
	EGL	−84.92***	82.916***
	STR	1.715	−4.455***
	BUR	45.678	82.914*
	EXP	−5.719***	−26.729***
CADF test	AFL	1.434	−39.171***
	TRD	−12.656***	−46.478***
	GDP	−5.041***	−31.017***
	EGL	−84.09***	−84.079***
	STR	2.021	−28.113***
	BUR	46.204	49.305*

\*\*\*, \*\*, \* indicate the level of significance at 1, 5, and 10%, respectively.

We discovered a clear link between energy poverty and unfavourable health consequences as listed in Table 3. The economic crisis had a greater impact on the mental health of this group, notably in the area of depression. Persistent thermal unpleasantness has been shown to have a negative impact on

mental health, as have fears that the cold will harm one's health and wellbeing, as have concerns about high energy costs, as well as the fear of (or experience with) debt. Household financial debt and home instability are linked to worse mental health and health care utilization in people with EP. In the EU, as well as some of the HSVc, there was an upsurge in both scenarios during the financial downturn. In several EU nations, unemployment numbers rose due to the economic crisis. Several scholars have shown that long-term labour participation can have adverse effects on health.

These effects are exacerbated in countries with less developed employment rate protection devices and without active labour-market programs, as in HSVc. Finally, welfare cuts in the healthcare organizations ranged from cool and solidified to drastic cuts. Italy, France, Tuscany, and Portugal were the most severely afflicted HSVc nations, with Greece coming in second. These factors might have a role in the reported link between energy poverty and worse medical outcomes and the increase over time.

## Base model

To give a clearer picture of proposals on how countries in EU might use regional cooperation to combat energy shortage and achieve the SDG seven target of “universal access by 2030,” We've

TABLE 4 Panel cointegration empirics.

Test	Model-1		Model-2	
	Statistic	p-value	Statistic	p-value
Westerlund cointegration				
Gt	−12.988***	0.000	−5.028***	0.000
Ga	−26.798***	0.000	−6.485*	0.060
Pt	−86.791***	0.000	−58.28***	0.000
Pa	−12.573***	0.002	−5.612***	0.003
Pedroni Cointegration	t-statistics	p-value	t-statistics	p-value

divided our policy approvals into two categories. We present a policy roadmap for countries to follow Within European nations. It could be better positioned for power cooperation and trading. We identify significant emphasis areas for regional collaboration within countries in the region in the second category. Study propose a technological innovation that shows how north-south links might be enhanced and leveraged for better ends.

The Westerlund cointegration test is the best option, even when there is a serial correlation, structural breaks, heteroscedasticity, and cross-sectional dependence among the cross-sectional units. Cointegration is found in both models, and the null hypothesis that there is no serial correlation is ruled out. This shows that energy costs, fuel availability, and technology have important long-term relationships with their respective determinants. The researchers use the cointegration test to evaluate the empirical data's reliability, which validates the long-term Johansen co-integration connection between variables as shown Table 4.

In a framework regions electricity data use to make it cohesive, the regional cooperation must go beyond export and import in power. To drive national policy cooperate with a system and create homogeneity in nation's member. Strive for consistency when comparing for essential statistics such as adequacy, movement in products and services, and releases of carbon. Given the ambiguity of the UN SDG 7, EU regional bodies must agree on minimum standards for member nations' sufficiency (kWh/individual/year), mobility (kWh/individual/year for individuals or kW/year for installed generation capacity), and emissions (tCO<sub>2</sub>/individual/year).

This is vital to avoid kingdoms in the region using different criteria, which would deadlock progress toward the 2030 objective. To participate in energy peers and trading in different federations promote regional competition by liberalizing electricity markets. For regional power supply in the market, make flexible agreements, rather than bilateral contracts, and the system trying to balance the higher demand by power pools as shown Table 5. Furthermore, viable regional energy markets benefited all players and necessitated the establishment of legislation prohibiting unfair state aids that favor some national generation corporations over others (Saghiri et al., 2017).

When considering the social consequences of decarbonization, the ability of households to satisfy essential energy demands, dependable and cost-effective, is crucial. As part of the low-carbon transition, consumers must engage in building renovations and purchase low-carbon equipment, such as heat pumps. Additional finances to pay higher upfront capital expenses may be erratic and dangerous for low-income people (Barykin et al., 2021).

The efficiency of energy will save households money over a lengthy time; the higher upfront costs may put a further financial strain on low-income families that cannot buy energy-efficient appliances, homes, or cars, hence exacerbating energy poverty. Binary displays measure Decarbonization's effects on energy spending: "the proportion of energy expenditure for fuels and electricity in household income" and "the share of energy expenditure for fuels, electricity, and energy equipment in income" by decile cluster. Energy-related spending for petroleum, power, and energy apparatus by EU republic, PRIMES model for decarbonization scenarios,<sup>3</sup> HBS data to allocation national-level energy expenditure to family deciles, and total income per decile, as assessed by GEM-E3-FIT.

Energy prices fluctuate when the proportion of income spent on energy varies across the Member States and socioeconomic brackets. In 2015, 21% (on average across EU countries), this indicator was assessed at 21% for the lowest decile and varied between 4 and 50% in the different Member States (Sacks et al., 2020), while the indicator falls to an average of 3% of income in 2015 for high-income households in all Member States. Eastern Europe are more at risk than those of Western Europe countries, group of low income utilize more income to energy resources, For example, low-income households in Eastern Europe face substantial difficulties due to high energy usage compared to their income, according to the data. On the other hand, households in the Netherlands, Sweden, France, and Denmark spend a modest percentage of their income on energy-related costs BY Netherlands, Sweden, France, and Denmark.

Families with lesser income are more affected by variations in power prices because they spend a huge amount of income on power supply resources. EU Member states vary this situation, as evidenced by the wide range of income deciles across nations, middle and low-income households realms devote extra than 15% of their income on energy-related expenses (e.g. Bulgaria, Estonia and Lithuania).

There are both long- and short-term coefficients for interdependencies between the variables in the research in Table 6. European union nations' EP is influenced by factors like TRD, GDP, EGL, STR, and BUR. EP in the European Union nations is measured in two ways: affordability, which is decided by the energy costs of those in the bottom 25% of the demographic, and accessibility, which is defined by the



TABLE 5 Panel Empirics using CS-ARDL Estimations.

Variables	Model-1 (energy expenses)			
Short-run estimates	Coefficient	z-statistics	Coefficient	z-statistics
ECT	0.000***	3.991	−0.085***	−6.601
TRD	0.013**	1.693	0.083*	1.951
GDP	0.314***	2.522	0.012**	0.432
EGL	0.076*	0.074	0.013*	0.049
STR	−0.063*	−0.842	−0.042*	−1.531
BUR	0.642***	5.601	−1.769**	−6.063
Constant	0.279***	13.023	0.036***	8.222
Long-Run Estimates				
Lagged e.poverty	−0.912***	−36.862	−1.089***	−83.741
TRD	0.039***	2.433	−0.082**	−1.881
GDP	0.622**	4.164	0.013*	0.473
EGL	0.629*	0.061	0.046*	0.012
STR	−0.089	−0.933	−0.059**	−1.891
BUR	−8.107***	−6.025	−0.974***	−6.392
Constant	0.213***	10.762	0.035***	8.053
N	25	–	25	–
CD test	80.69***	–	22.25***	–
R-squared (MG)	0.99	–	0.89	–
F-Statistic	5.76	–	14.33	–

TABLE 6 Panel Empirics using CS-DL Estimations (Mean Group).

Variables	Model-1		Model-2	
	Coefficient	z-statistics	Coefficient	z-statistics
TRD	0.014**	2.471	0.184**	4.354
GDP	0.198**	2.245	−0.463*	−1.622
EGL	0.112***	4.834	0.869***	5.213
STR	−0.121**	−2.286	−1.354**	−2.464
BUR	−0.028	−0.757	0.099	1.053
Constant	0.149**	10.993	0.575**	6.282
N	27	–	27	–
CD test	154.59***	–	21.74***	–
R-squared (MG)	0.98	–	0.98	–
F-Statistic	4.25	–	4.99	–

availability of fuels and equipment in the kitchen. European Union nations' bilateral commerce has climbed by 1 per cent over the last year, which has resulted in an increase in energy costs of 2.3 and 4.6%, respectively.

B2B trade positively impacts the affordability of EP, meaning that bilateral commerce does not aid European union nations in their recovery from EP, according to these findings. As a result,

energy prices for the region's lowest 20% of the population are somewhat higher due to bilateral commerce in these linked nations.

In 2015, the energy expenditure share increased by 5.9 percentage points across income, including power-related equipment (including energy appliances, heating devices, and autos). In member states, high-income and

low-income groups have a difference in energy expenditure on transportation. High-income people have more expenses on energy use for transportation demonstrated by the HBS database. High-income purchase more expensive appliances and luxurious items. Middle and more income groups frequently buy classy energy equipment, highly efficient appliances, and luxurious items compared to low-income persons. As a result, when energy and transportation equipment expenditures are included, the stake of income spent on energy amenities by the wealthiest decile rises from 3 to 9%.

In the Reference scenario, the returns of families rise quicker than values of power, the average contribution of dynamism spending income falls across EU nations and income deciles from 2015 to 2050. Energy price is reduced slightly in low-income families as expenditure grows slower than their income. Indicator two shows the same outline, with energy expenditure share falling by 1.5% across the EU States and socioeconomic levels from 2015 to 2050.

Decarbonization necessitates large changes in household energy spending and subsequent distributional adjustments. Increased energy consumption across EU countries would result from high carbon pricing, owing to higher energy product prices. In 2050, energy Spending Indicator one rises by around 1 percentage point from Orientation in the EU, as fuel and electricity payments rise even though income falls. The biggest upturns are recorded in low salary categories, representing that the most vulnerable populations may face greater difficulty purchasing essential energy services, increasing the danger of deficiency (Lu et al., 2020; Ullah et al., 2021).

In the Reference scenario, Magnitude differs extensively by lower impacts with the highest values for Indicator 1. Apart from these two main variables, The TRD and GDP per capita account for 12.7 percent and 7.30 percent of total shock volatility in other variables in the row (7). Surprisingly, the role of GDP per capita as a shock receiver and transmitter is so important. Decreased future output levels can come from increased oil price volatility as a secondary major shock transmitter and GDP as a secondary prominent shock intake. This finding supports Table 4, column 7) shows significant shocks to GDP per capita and biofuel, 7.5 and 6.0 percent of overall shocks. Other factors in the row account for 12.7 and 7.30% of overall shock volatility (7). It is remarkable how crucial GDP per capita is as a shock receiver and transmitter. Increased oil price volatility is a second major shock transmitter, while GDP is a second major shock receiver. Other factors in the row account for 12.7 and 7.30% of overall shock volatility. It is remarkable how crucial GDP per capita is as a shock receiver and transmitter. Increased oil price volatility is a second major shock transmitter, while GDP is a second major shock receiver. Oil price impulsiveness hurts GDP and causes many GDP shocks (Hossain et al., 2020).

## Robustness analysis

Meanwhile, a prominent shudder intake in biofuel and stable with those of, who claimed that biofuels began to follow the price dynamics of crude oil as a result of policy intervention. Explained the results of the GDP jolt to biofuel for OECD countries. For Europe, (Matsuda et al., 2019), for emerging countries, for Central and South America, and for China all stressed the importance of income in determining biofuel consumption. The detail could clarify this conclusion that as GDP per capita rises, so does the pecuniary viability for countries to develop, maintain, and promote high-tech and cleaner biofuel policies and investment (Bučková et al., 2019). Furthermore, the outcomes are consistent with (Cai & Lo, 2020). They demonstrated that, regardless of the economy, instability in oil prices has an adverse and meaningful impact on GHG emissions. Tremors in oil cost use alternative or green energy sources to reduce oil consumption, resulting in reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Table 7 demonstrates the robustness test using CCE GMM and IV regressions. It is consistent with previous studies, such as, which showed that free trade increases emissions intensity and, as a result, energy carrier consumption. This implies that these economies need to increase trade and expose their local markets to international competition. As a result, local businesses may benefit from global trade and import as much as feasible at a reasonable price.

Several changes occurred throughout the study period despite the implications of the preceding findings. Increased linkages among global financial markets, for example, can be defined as a progressive progression. Other phenomena, such as commodity price booms, may be properly classified as bursts that have since faded. Additionally, the evolving attitude toward climate change over the last few decades may impact the relationship between energy and food prices.

Our baseline specification is PVAR (1), which produces variance decompositions of mistakes in 10-years-ahead forecasts of 10-years volatility. The results of the diagnostic tests show the portrayal offers the finest goodness-of-fit and thus the suitable estimates of instability spillover guides. However, in this paragraph, we conduct many tests to ensure that the results are stable under different PVAR model settings.

First, we use (Scherbakov & Silkina, 2019) spillover index to predict distances ranging in the period from one to ten, then present the minimum, maximum, and median indices. Since the sample size is less, Panel B has a wider confidence interval since more observations are omitted when using higher-order criteria. The results in less exact estimations. Third, it is possible to make the case that the strong link between agricultural energy use and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions affects the outcomes. Eliminate the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the PVAR system and replace them with trade openness and financial development to check the

TABLE 7 Robustness check with CCE GMM and IV regressions.

Variables	CCE GMM		GMM IV regressions	
	Model-1	Model-2	Model-1	Model-2
TRD	0.01910*** (3.59)	0.0522** (2.241)	0.065*** (11.04)	0.8767*** (13.122)
GDP	0.05797*** (4.81)	−0.1427*** (−2.766)	0.058*** (5.332)	0.1639*** (3.031)
EGL	−0.0358*** (−2.52)	0.2187*** (3.01)	1.097** (2.320)	2.3968* (0.521)
STR	−0.0429*** (−1.88)	−0.2361** (−2.819)	1.168*** (11.78)	6.8057** (6.871)
BUR	−0.04156** (−2.79)	0.3666** (3.312)	−0.288*** (−24.72)	5.4328*** (54.970)
Constant	−0.3518** (−0.37)	3.8366* (0.371)	−1.853** (−0.870)	67.096*** (3.2310)
N	28	28	28	28
Wald Chi <sup>2</sup> -Statistic	39.55	5.61	767.46	3,895.79**
Hansen overidentifying restriction	–	–	73.858**	33.627**
Endogeneity test	–	–	169.71**	76.24**

sensitivity. The volatility reduced-system index shows a discount of the spillover conclusion to one-third, with a maximum of 7% in 2001. Nonetheless, if CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were left out of the equation, the EEEE system's results would be impacted. ARDL model settings do not affect the Multidimensional poverty index. Additionally, the baseline model proposes a more conventional estimate of the time-varying spillover effect (Zhabko et al., 2019).

economic openness has a one-sided benefit of reducing energy poverty through increased accessibility. Only the middle and upper classes can afford the most advanced equipment and technology that offer greener and cleaner energy. Economic globalization and bureaucratic quality may moderate energy poverty, as these elements are directly linked to policymaking and trade laws.

## Conclusions and policy discussions

The research study investigated the impact of global trading impact on energy poverty in European countries. As a vital component of trade, energy is rarely discussed concerning energy poverty, trade products, and rising levels of economic globalization. For the individual, household, and national reasons, energy can be considered the lifeblood of all economic sectors. Several studies have looked into the impact of energy poverty on trade and other socioeconomic factors (e.g., well-being, gender, and education). However, there is a lack of research on the precise effects of bilateral commerce and economic globalization on energy poverty. The empirical data lead to some fascinating and persuasive conclusions. Our key finding is that bilateral trade throughout Europe has a significant negative impact on energy costs and accessibility. On the one hand, greater trade volume may hasten economic activity and produce moderate inflation due to economic openness, raising utility and energy costs for low-income households. On the other hand, bilateral trade may make innovative items, energy, and technologies more accessible in all European countries. Cooking technology and fuel accessibility for low-income groups may improve, yet these may become too expensive and out of reach for the poor. Economic globalization's robust analysis and empirical evidence support this conclusion, arguing that more

## Policy discussions and future directions

The empirical findings suggest that bilateral commerce between European nations should be reconsidered. All countries profit equally, persons in the lowest income quartile are taken into account, and environmental impact is avoided. To fulfill the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG-7: cheap and clean energy; SDG-8: foreign direct investment in green technology; SDG-9, industry, innovation, and infrastructure; SDG-13, climate action), new initiatives and regulations may be necessary. To reduce environmental impact, the Sustainable Development Goals firmly focus on affordable, clean energy, emphasizing renewable and greener energy accessibility and affordability. Given that many people still lack access to cleaner energy (electricity and equipment), policymakers must take initiatives to facilitate bilateral trade through synchronized and controlled rules governing product export and import. It is critical to make electricity more accessible to households.

It is also important to examine the large levels of immigration in European countries, which necessitates a variety of benefits and resource allocation. As a result, restricting trade or economic globalization may not be a viable option because ethnic and cultural variety encourages trade and business activity in the context of the

country's business and trade legislation. However, it is vital to note that the large benefits of immigration are likely to be eroded by new globalization policies and trade laws.

In conclusion, the extensive data is collected from the European countries underline the need to increase access to new energy sources and equipment while keeping costs low. Energy accessibility may have a broader impact on socioeconomic results and long-term growth if policies are developed to address exports and imports. Integrated efforts to create a governance structure and provide practices that build community groups to enable them to improve cleaner energy accessibility could be among the policy initiatives. It is especially true for persons living in rural regions and those in the lowest income quartile. As a result, this impact may help people see energy poverty as a problem that affects both developing and growing countries rather than being limited to a single region. This research could be useful in developing a policy framework to deal with bilateral trade, economic globalization, and energy poverty.

According to the study, policy-directing programs in trade (export and import structure) that focus on contemporary energy accessibility and involve key stakeholders could lead to implementing strategic measures to mitigate environmental externalities. The current analysis has one caveat: we only looked at bilateral commerce and economic globalization as potential avenues for influencing energy accessibility and affordability. Although the literature lists various ways to solve energy poverty, it is not possible to investigate all of them due to a lack of data. Income inequality, general economic complexity, product diversity, and ethnic diversity should be investigated further to see how they affect energy accessibility and affordability. Future research should also concentrate on the impact of trade and institutional governance on energy poverty in developing economies like Africa.

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## Data availability statement

The raw data supporting the conclusions of this article will be made available by the authors, without undue reservation.

## Author contributions

ES, Conceptualization, methodology, and OS software validation, Drafting and editing ES.

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