

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS - International Conference
“Energy poverty, clean energy, and the European energy divide”
Bucharest, 22-24 January 2019

*The conference is organized by the Babes-Bolyai University, through the Center for the Study of Democracy, within the framework of **European Energy Poverty: Agenda Co-Creation and Knowledge Innovation (Cost Action CA 16232)** at the beginning of the Romanian presidency of the EU council, in partnership with the **European Commission Representation** in Romania and with the support of **Enel**.*

This **policy-oriented** conference aims to address the need to deepen the understanding of energy poverty across diverse spatial sites. We seek to provide up-to-date scientific inputs and to ensure a transfer of knowledge and good practices with a general purpose to improving the quality of national and EU public policies. Also, the conference aims to foster **dialogue** between young and experienced **scholars** and relevant **stakeholders**, such as representatives of public institutions, the civil society, or private sector, in order to facilitate the exchange of ideas and reciprocity with the market. The schedule combines the academic component with an event hosted by the Romanian Parliament and with field trips aimed at exposing the participants to visible dimensions of energy poverty in Bucharest.

We rely on the premise that all European states (both EU and non-EU) now deal with this phenomenon in their national public policies. At the European level, it is considered a policy objective of the Energy Union and the “Clean Energy for all Europeans” legislative package. Moreover, the European Commission has committed substantial financial support for academic projects and networks aimed at developing meaningful research.

Nevertheless, there is still a substantial need to standardize the approaches of energy poverty and to create a common language and a set of standard instruments between scholars (Bouzarovski and Tirado Herrero 2015, Sovacool 2015) and policy-makers, who often enact single-dimensional policies, and at a larger scale, among EU Member States, which hold limited comparative understanding. Beyond the need for conceptual clarity, another significant challenge to deepen the understanding in the field across „spatial patterns” of energy poverty (Boardman 1991, Bouzarovski and Tirado Herrero 2015, Bouzarovski and Petrova 2015). There is still a need to understand the practical variations in the occurrences of energy poverty depending on the various economic, social, to some extent historic and cultural, but also political and institutional contexts and legacies. Moreover, the current literature on energy poverty is developed largely on Western (and, more recently, Southern) contexts and there is still a gap in knowledge and understanding when it comes to Eastern, post-communist contexts.

From a **methodological** perspective, we are aiming for a range of approaches, from case studies dealing with energy poverty strategies at local or national level, to comparative approaches or to large-N studies that may take into account behavioral issues related to energy poverty. We encourage researchers (particularly young ECI¹ researchers) with a variety of scientific backgrounds (such as, Political Science, Sociology, Anthropology, Law, Economics, Geography, Engineering, Health Sciences, etc.) to apply.

¹ “ECI” refers to researchers that are still undergoing their PhD studies or have less than 8 years since acquiring a PhD.

The conference is organized to include **three main components**:

1. An opening round table with policy-makers and stakeholders (location TBD)
2. The main academic component – hosted by the EC Bureau in Romania.
3. A field trip in Bucharest (locations TBD)

The **content** of the conference is guided by (but not limited to) the following topics and keywords: Energy divide, energy markets, energy infrastructure, consumption models & regulation, health outcomes & associated costs, social exclusion/integration, Gender, Justice, empowerment & disempowerment, financial/non-financial protection, off-grid communities, energy efficiency, public/private financing, indicators and measurements, innovative approaches, Post-communist societies and economies, public institutions, charities, CSR, energy clusters, trust.

Important dates:

All aspiring ECR participants should **submit an abstract** of no more than 200 words to the following email address: conference@democracycenter.ro, no later than **September 25th, 2018**.

The **decision** regarding the selection of papers will be communicated to the applicants no later than **September 30th, 2018**.

The **discussants** will be selected no later than **November 15th, 2018**.

The **final papers** should be submitted no later than **December 15th, 2018**.

Within two months of the conference the organizers aim to publish a special issue on energy poverty with an internationally ranked journal, with a selection of the conference papers.

Travel and accommodation costs for the participants are covered by the organizers, in agreement with COST regulations. Lunches are also provided by the organizers.

For any additional inquiry, email at: conference@democracycenter.ro

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Within the framework of ***European Energy Poverty: Agenda Co-Creation and Knowledge Innovation (Cost Action CA 16232)***

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