

European Energy Poverty:

Agenda Co-Creation
and Knowledge Innovation

Core Group Meeting

14 April 2019, Prague

Minutes by Stefan Bouzarovski and Siddharth Sareen

ENGAGER Core Group meeting, 14 April 2019, Prague

In attendance: Stefan Bouzarovski, Slavica Robic, Ute Dubois, Siddharth Sareen, Katrin Grossmann, Eleonora Gaydarova.

Agenda

1. Progress to date (reports from Chair, Vice Chair, WGs, STSM, Comms officer)
2. Activities planned in the next year
3. Substantive discussion on the Action's development: how are we advancing scientific knowledge – are we co-ordinating amongst ourselves sufficiently – what do we see as our key contributions – which gaps are we addressing as a whole etc.
4. Communications and dissemination

Key conclusions and follow-ups agreed

1. EP-pedia to be published as separate branded webpage. **Ute** to check with potential editors, **Stefan** to follow up with designers.
2. Potential new Core Group members positions to be considered.
3. Discussion: what is the most fundamental output and common legacy of the Action?
 - Providing clear guidance for decision-makers -> how to use this in practice -> what is context-specific vs general? Systematisation of indicators and decision-making pathways.
 - Innovation in engagement and methodology.
 - Iceberg metaphor: if energy poverty is like an iceberg what are the structural issues need to be put onto the table? 'A typology of icebergs'.
 - Defining regional building blocks and patterns. Transfers between building blocks. Do we have common patterns that can be abstracted?
 - Looking at the wider picture of energy inequality – energy rich and poor in the context of the energy transition and across sectors.
4. Important recommendation: We need to consider holding more frequent core group meetings, and making sure what we are doing is more coherent across working groups. **Stefan** to propose a mid-May CG meeting.
5. We need to think about communication to Action members. Overview of a timeline for different events and update on CG activities. **Slavica** to do this after next CG meeting.

6. Event list for the next budget period: proposal to shorten the Brussels meeting to one day and hold an autumn cross-WG workshop in Zadar. 30 participants. 19/20 September. Local organiser grant and accommodation rate unknown at this stage – **Slavica** to check. **Stefan** to propose to COST once budget gets approved.
7. Deliverables - **Katrin** to ask **Marlies** about integrating policy briefs across WGs in June, in anticipation of EUSEW. And to discuss with WG1 and 3 what support they would need to make a common brief.
8. 'Core' Action themes: **Ute** to send minutes to **Sid**, and **Sid** to type up themes, as a basis for discussion at next WG meeting and at Brussels MC.

Follow up: Five cross-cutting tracks / common contributions from ENGAGER

1. Guidance for decision-makers
2. Methodological innovation
3. Systemic embeddedness (overarching/guiding/implicit theme?)
4. Regional building blocks and typologies / Multi-scalar interactions
5. EP vis-à-vis inequality and energy transitions

Point by point below

1. Guidance for decision-makers (linked with point 4)

Good practices: incorporate in EP-pedia (linked website to be made Spring 2019)

Bad practices: address through specific contributions

Additional considerations: make results of academic papers more accessible to decision-makers

Equip decision-makers to systematically consider:

- Metrical/relational biases: What are the consequences of measuring EP? What/who is being forgotten or excluded?
- Material/structural limitations: How easy is it to measure certain things?

Prospective output: process diagram for decision-makers:

- Poses sequential questions on who they want to target
- Guides them towards particular information sources and solutions
- In 2020: process diagram (1-2 pager); app (funding?); top-notch paper (authors? Led by Stefan)
- Thereafter: 1 year to test process diagram within lifespan of ENGAGER; adventure comic?
- Activists want not the papers but mainly the results section

2. Methodological innovation

How can we generate findings and mobilise knowledge through co-production?

- Which current frameworks are adequate but under-utilised?

- Where is further work required?
- o Moving beyond indicators: living labs, open source mapping
- o Side effects of policies: identify contextualised strategic interventions

Means to improve communication of results

- Science communication training, use of infographics and storytelling techniques, up-skilling
- Use of active indicators as part of data mobilisation, leveraging open source citizen science

Use ENGAGER to cross-fertilise, channel insights from outside Europe, e.g., Urpelainen's EP trap book

3. Systemic embeddedness

EP as the tip of the iceberg, theorise drivers at higher levels of abstraction

- Link debates: multi-scalar connections, cross-sectoral linkages
- Where are injustices produced?
- o Link with national politics and regional political economy
- o Unpack institutional discrimination
- o Visioning exercises: develop realist utopian ideas

4. Regional building blocks and typologies / Multi-scalar interactions (linked with point 1)

Sub-national variation, complex spatial patterns rather than East/West 'European divide' (but see Stefan's European divide piece, and his and Harriet's 'grain of the city' piece)

- Identify commonalities at various scales – regional, urban, districts
- Levels of disaggregation (for patterns of regularity)
- o How low should we go? Data availability, decision-making power
- o Appropriate level to characterise EP? Country-specific institutional structures
- Qualitative fixes: deconstruct smaller-scale structural and infrastructural elements
- What is our basis for determining what matters?
- o WG1 meta-review: dedicate one STSM for a willing 'pestering person'
- o João's Portuguese parish work, Sergio's Barcelona sub-urban work

- o Another STSM focused on typologies to provide the basis for inductive approaches

5. EP vis-à-vis inequality and energy transitions

What is the cost burden allocation of energy transitions across social strata?

- Regressive taxation (e.g. through feed-in tariffs), biases in preferential siting and access, benefits are clustered with intersectionality (social identity (class, networks, gender), location etc.)
- Place-based work, thick consideration of organisational legacies, lived experiences

Focus on the energy rich and energy wealthy regions: people/places never targeted for energy savings yet benefit from energy efficiency, subsidies, renewable energy uptake

- Luxembourg workshop on eco-gentrification (November, Stefan and Catherine Wong)
- Sergio's project on energy inequality
- Change targeting, reconfigure research agenda to redistribute costs, expand policy conversation
- Discursive effect of different visualisation strategies, e.g., Kate Raworth's doughnut economics, Narasimha Rao's decent living energy, Ana Mengolini's work on technological innovation