

# 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