



European Energy Poverty: Agenda Co-Creation and Knowledge Innovation

Third Visiting Fellowship Call

30 August 2019

A) Short Term Scientific Mission – Summary description

The COST Action "European Energy Poverty: Agenda Co-Creation and Knowledge Innovation" (ENGAGER 2017-2021) supports Visiting Fellowships (also known as Short-Term Scientific Missions - STSMs), which are, primarily, exchange visits aimed at supporting individual mobility, strengthening existing networks and fostering collaboration between researchers. An STSM should specifically contribute to the scientific agenda of the COST Action, whilst at the same time allowing those participating in the missions to learn new techniques, gain access to specific data, instruments and/or methods not available in their own institutions.

The STSMs are intended especially for young researchers, especially PhD students and postdoctoral fellows. The duration of a standard STSM is between 5-90 days and the grant is 2,500€ maximum. In addition, Early Career Investigators (ECI), defined as researchers with less than 8 years since obtaining their PhD, can apply for a ECI STSM of 91-180 days and a maximum grant of 3,500€. The award usually covers economy travel and accommodation/subsistence, however the financial support is a contribution to the costs of a STSM and may not necessarily cover all the costs. Note, the STSM does not support research costs.

So far, more than twelve STSMs have been completed and funded by the "European Energy Poverty: Agenda Co-Creation and Knowledge" project, allowing, mainly, junior researchers exchange knowledge and experiences and work outside their units.

More information regarding the STSMs already completed and the relevant reports can be found in the website of the Action (<http://www.engager-energy.net/stsms/>)

B) Deadlines and Thematic of STSM applications

Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis, and will be evaluated at three census dates: **30/9/2019, 16/12/2019, 28/02/2020**. The applicant is free to choose the thematic/ focus area of his/ her STSM, if it is related to the aims of the ENGAGER Action. However, applicants are particularly encouraged to submit STSM proposals on issues like the ones mentioned below:

- Compilation and analysis of energy poverty indicators that are synergistic with distributed solar energy uptake (e.g., community energy, domestic and small industrial prosumers, micro-grids)
- Review of accountability mechanisms for just effects of energy transitions on energy vulnerable households with a focus on highlighting innovative new energy poverty indicators
- Conceptualisation of energy poverty indicators that can capture the effects of expanding electric mobility on households in order to recommend new forms of monitoring
- Policy and practices on pre-paid meters, disconnections and their linkages to energy poverty
- Linking Debates: establishing necessary links between energy poverty and debates that impact energy poverty such as demographic change, gender, or urban planning.
- Right to Energy: elaborating the links between activism for a right to energy and the academic debates
- Energy Poverty and Trust: explorations into a difficult relation by means of qualitative methods
- Making smart technologies, renewables, and energy efficiency measures just.
- Evaluation of projects that promote energy efficiency with respect to energy poverty alleviation
- Tax deduction for energy efficiency interventions vs subsidization for energy efficiency interventions: which practice has better results regarding energy poverty?
- Energy communities and energy poverty: Identifying problems in the current legal framework and proposing improvements

More information about the scope and the objectives of European Energy Poverty: Agenda Co-Creation and Knowledge Innovation can be found in the following link:

http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/ca/CA16232

C) Criteria for funding

Some basic prerequisites regarding STSM applications are listed below:

- The Applicant should be engaged in a research programme as a postgraduate or doctoral student, postdoctoral fellow or to be employed in an institution in a COST country.
- Applicants are responsible for obtaining the agreement of the host institution BEFORE the submission of their application.

Regarding the evaluation of STSM applications, this is performed by the Core Group (CG) of the Action, upon recommendation of the Action's STSM coordinator.

The selection of applicants is based on **the scientific scope of the STSM application that must be in line with the Action objectives. Necessary geographical and gender balance issues** are to be taken into consideration and applications from Early Career Investigator (ECI) **should be privileged.**

The evaluation criteria, values and weights are summarized in Table 1:

Table 1. Evaluation criteria, values and weights for STSMs

CRITERIA	Value		
	low	medium	high
Relevance of STSM with action objectives	2	5	10
Quality of application and applicant's motivation	2	5	10
Relevance of host institute's expertise with STSM objectives	2	5	10
Results directly exploitable by Action	2	5	10
Relevance of applicant's research interests and record with the action and the proposed STSM	2	5	10
Participant based in ITC and/or plans to undertake STSM in ITC	No 2		Yes 10
Applicant is ECI or PhD candidate	2		10
Other STSMs from same country	10		5
Other STSMs by same applicant	10		5

The above criteria have been approved by the CG of the Action.

D) Application procedure



The procedure concerning STSM is governed by the COST Vademecum (<http://www.cost.eu/Vademecum>), in particular, Chapter 6. The applicant should download the formal STSM application via the e-cost system (<https://eservices.cost.eu>), after registering to it, following the relevant instructions. After filling the application form, the applicant should send it electronically (via e-mail as an attachment) to the STSM coordinator of the Action, Dr. Nikolas Katsoulakos (katsoulakos@metal.ntua.gr) under the subject "Energy Poverty – STSM - <applicant's name>". Together with the application, any necessary documents that may be helpful in supporting the application may be sent, such as: CV, full workplan, motivation letter, list of publications, letters of support etc.)

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