



# European Energy Poverty: Agenda Co-Creation and Knowledge Innovation

## Fourth Visiting Fellowship Call

4 September 2020

### Short Term Scientific Missions: 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 and 90 days and the grant can range up to 2,500€. In addition, Early Career Investigators (ECI), defined as researchers with fewer than 8 years since obtaining their PhD, can apply for a ECI STSM of 91 to 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 expenses. Note that the STSM does not support research costs.

So far, over 15 STSMs have been completed and funded by the ENGAGER project, allowing, mainly, junior researchers exchange knowledge and experiences and work outside their units.

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

In the current round, applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis, with a decision target of no later than three weeks upon receipt.

## STSM topics

The applicant is free to choose the thematic area of their STSM, provided that it is related to the aims of the ENGAGER Action and particular Working Groups (WGs). However, applicants are particularly encouraged to submit STSM proposals on issues such as:

- The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on energy poverty in Europe and beyond, update on emergency measures and update on call one-year-after (all WGs);
- 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) (all WGs);
- Review of accountability mechanisms for just effects of energy transitions on energy vulnerable households with a focus on highlighting innovative new energy poverty indicators (all WGs);
- Conceptualisation of energy poverty indicators that can capture the effects of expanding electric mobility on households in order to recommend new forms of monitoring (all WGs);
- Policy and practices on pre-paid meters, disconnections and their linkages to energy poverty (all WGs);
- Social (grassroots) movements on energy poverty (all WGs);
- Right to Energy: Covid-19 and right to energy, support for the development of a WG3 toolkit on the right to energy and support for the organisation of an online-event on the topic (WG3);
- Support for tool kit development: thinking outside the box, links to other debates (a key priority for WG4);
- Making smart technologies, renewables, and energy efficiency measures just: literature review (WG4);
- Evaluation of projects / funding schemes that promote energy efficiency in buildings with respect to energy poverty alleviation, interplay with housing markets (WG4);
- Tax deduction for energy efficiency interventions vs subsidization for energy efficiency interventions: which practice has better results regarding energy poverty? (all WGs);
- Energy communities and energy poverty (WG1);
- Approaches to the issue of summer energy poverty (all WGs)
- Potential interlinkages between climate change and energy poverty (all WGs).

More information about ENGAGER's scope and the objectives of can be found at:

[http://www.cost.eu/COST\\_Actions/ca/CA16232](http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/ca/CA16232)


## Criteria for funding

The two key prerequisites for STSM are that:

- 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, through a letter of acceptance.

Regarding the evaluation of STSM applications, this is performed by the Core Group (CG) of the Action, upon a recommendation by the Action's STSM co-ordinator. The selection of applicants is based on **the scientific scope of the STSM application**. The STSM must be in line with Action objectives, while providing results that are directly exploitable by the Action. The applicant's research interests and record – as well as the proposed STSM – need to be relevant to ENGAGER. **Necessary geographical and gender balance issues** will be taken into consideration and applications from Early Career Investigator (ECI) **will be prioritized**. The scientific quality of the application will also be taken into account. These criteria have been approved by ENGAGER's Core Group.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the STSMs must be carried out in line with research ethics, health, safety and travel regulations applicable in both the applicant's country of origin and country of destination. Any possible adverse events or consequences associated with the STSM – including curtailment or cancellation of



travel – will not be the ENGAGER Action’s responsibility. In the event of a cancellation or interruption of the planned STSM due to travel or other restrictions, the costs will not be borne by the Action.

### **Application procedure**

The procedure concerning STSM is governed by the COST Vademecum (<http://www.cost.eu/Vademecum>), and Chapter 6 in particular. The applicant should download the formal STSM application via the e-cost system (<https://eservices.cost.eu>), after registering for it, following the relevant instructions. After completing 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](mailto: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 also be sent, such as: CV, full workplan, motivation letter, list of publications, letters of support etc.

### **For further information, please contact:**

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#### **Dr. Nikolas Katsoulakos – STSM coordinator**

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