



# 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. 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;
- 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 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.

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, Marielle Feenstra ([m.h.feenstra@utwente.nl](mailto:m.h.feenstra@utwente.nl)) 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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