



European Energy Poverty: Agenda Co-Creation and Knowledge Innovation

Second Visiting Fellowship Call

A) 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 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 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 up to 8 years since obtaining their PhD, can apply for a STSM of up to 4 months and with a maximum grant of 3,500€. The award usually covers economy travel, accommodation and subsistence. However, the financial support is a contribution to the costs of a STSM and may not necessarily cover all costs (for further details see <http://www.cost.eu/download/COSTVademecum>). As the grant amount is fixed, it is not necessary to collect receipts.

Six STSMs were completed in ENGAGER’s first phase. Their titles are presented below:

- Dr Iñigo Antepará – ***A methodology for quantifying energy poverty by using the energy performance of the building***
- Mr Raúl Castaño-Rosa – ***Identification of vulnerable homes from the fuel poverty concept. An indicator and assessment model***
- Dr João Pedro Gouveia – ***Multidimensional indicators of European energy poverty: Unpacking a national case***
- Ms Ana Paraušić – ***Energy poverty as an urban security challenge***
- Dr Victoria Pellicer – ***Exploring energy vulnerability causes via the capabilities approach***
- Dr Tauri Tuvikene – ***Post-socialist urban infrastructures – Co-Working on a book manuscript***

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

B) Deadlines and themes of STSM applications

In this phase applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis, and will be evaluated at three ‘census dates’ (1st of August, 1st of October and 1st of December 2018) and will be approved depending on available funds against a set of fixed criteria (see section C below). All STSMs must finish by the end of March 2019. The applicant is free to choose the thematic/ focus area of their STSM, if it is related to the aims of the ENGAGER Action. However, applicants are particularly encouraged to submit STSM proposals on the following topics:

- Review of the state of the art in energy poverty research and analysis
- Review of policies regarding energy poverty alleviation, with an emphasis on COST countries
- Meta analyses of existing policies to assess their innovation potential in combatting energy poverty
- Literature and policy review regarding how to identify and measure energy poverty
- Collection and analysis of statistical data from Eurostat, national statistical offices, the European Union Energy Poverty Observatory etc.

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 co-ordinator.

The selection of applicants is based on **the scientific scope of the STSM application. This 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 ¹	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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¹ According to COST, ITC (Inclusiveness Target Countries) include: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Serbia and Turkey.