COST Action 16232
European Energy Poverty:
Agenda Co-Creation and Knowledge Innovation
(ENGAGER 2017-2021)

Report on the COST workshop

"Reviewing existing and establishing new energy poverty indicators in Europe"

CERI-Sciences Po, Paris
October 22-23, 2018

On October 22 and 23, 2018 CERI – Sciences Po (Centre for international studies) hosted the first regional workshop of WG4. The workshop was jointly organised with WG1. The aim of the workshop was to review the existing poverty policies in Europe and to consider what actions could be considered as innovative when addressing energy poverty.

A broad range of speakers coming from Europe and France and from different professional background presented to us a broad spectrum of action they carry out to tackle energy poverty in their respective context.

 Neil Clapperton, CEO of Grampian Housing Association set out the case for a strategic approach to energy poverty, combining a person-centred approach to reduce demand through behaviour change, insulation of the envelope and the introduction of more efficient energy sources, with higher level market interventions. Their experience of creating a not-for-profit utility, Our Power, and innovations in domestic energy storage, renewable generation, and demand aggregation, present a real opportunity for a game changing reduction in energy costs for tenants.

Fereniki Vatavali, **adjunct lecturer at Hellenic Open University in Greece**, presented the results of a research carried out together with Evangelia Chatzikonstantinou on how civil society face the challenges of energy deprivation in Greece. Local urban movements as well as NGOs have been identified as the main actors of the civil society addressing energy deprivation. Through organising networks of electricians reconnecting disconnected households, providing legal advice to vulnerable consumers or putting political pressure to local and central authorities, local urban movements, such as 'Mesopotamia', developed a defensive approach and put in the spotlight the "right to energy". NGOs and consumers' organisations engaged in conflicts with public institutions to elaborate alternative solutions to cope with energy deprivation. For example, Greenpeace Greece, in cooperation with a couple of city authorities, fund the

construction of solar panel systems on the roofs of municipal buildings and transfer credits of the produced electricity to the electricity bills of vulnerable households, as a form of combating energy poverty.

Arpit Mahendra Kothari and Ferenc Fodor, from EDF R&D in France, insisted on the fact that the historic French energy supplier has developed a "solidarity" policy dedicated to vulnerable consumers for over 30 years and aims at developing actions on prevention, support and payment assistance . Three projects were presented. The first one, l'Atelier solidaire, developed in Toulouse how strong the partnership between public and private actors with local communities are key to bring concrete solutions to the daily life of vulnerable consumers. In line with the second priority action, another project called "digital inclusiveness via energy" has been launched. Coupled with training in digital use, it aims to empower people to both knowledge (their consumption pattern) and innovative solutions. Finally, EDF promotes the donation of energy, meaning that consumers donate directly through their EDF app to pay for energy bills for the poor. Every euro raised through this system will be match funded by EDF for an NGO (Fondation Abbé Pierre) to carry out action preventing energy poverty.

Maria Campuzano from Alliance Against Energy Poverty (APE) in Catalonia explained how the control of the electricity market of the five main energy companies in Spain and the situation of thousands of disconnections, led the citizens to get organised. They created the Alliance Against Energy Poverty to fight disconnection by exerting pressure on the Catalonian government to introduce a universal access to basic services. They impulse a legislative citizenship initiative with more than 140,000 signatures that was approved, adopted and implemented by the Catalan Parliament on July 2015. This law obliges the utilities to protect consumers against water and energy disconnections. In addition to the campaigning, the APE is organising collective assemblies every two weeks, so that people can share their experiences and advice in case of energy or water issues. These assemblies aren't led by experts but by affected people of energy poverty.

The **MAGE programme was presented by Elodie Lempereur-Rouger**, director of SoliNergy.

MAGE is the acronym for "Measure, Accompanty to Guarantee Energy Savings". The MAGE programme consists in offering tailor-made and long term support to families in energy deprivation and help them through connected objects to measure their real-time consumption in order to allow energy savings. The programme aims at empower the consumer so that the resident can become actor of his energy consumption and work on adequate solutions. This is possible through the involvement of a wide range of local partners who know the families and who represent the trusted party. Collective meetings and individual tailor-made support is organised. Energy audits as well as the real-time energy use data collected by sensor devices and followed-up with a tablet enable to elaborate an action plan on how to save energy without any comfort reduction or risks on the health that may include loft insulation for 1€. The programme is only 8 months old and will scale up thanks to new partnerships and distance coaching.

Chris Mooiweer, from Nerdalize, in the Netherlands joined the meeting by Skype and presented how his company, specialised in cloud services to compute intensive business, can place cloud servers in residential homes. The waste heat can then be collected to heat the home. The first experience carried out was with eRadiator, which was a room heater, but then they switched to water-based solutions to provide free hot water. Nerdalize work with ENECO and reggefiber to provide server heat. This created a win-win situation since it reduces the cost of their computer customers as they do not need to build a datacenter and the households get free hot water. For upfront costs amounting to 450€, a household can save 200€ per year. Although this project of Cloud Box hasn't been launched to solve energy poverty, this could be considered as a new business case notably in cooperation with housing cooperatives willing to reduce the consumption and carbon footprint of their tenants

Anna Mengolini, Researcher, at the Joint Research Centre, showed the preliminary results of a research JRC is carrying out on the link between smart grid technologies and vulnerable consumers based on the analysis of EU pilot projects. They explore the challenges to be addressed in tackling energy poverty via technological solutions so that they are inclusive and can play a key role in engaging vulnerable consumers. The research shows that the results vary from one country to the other and depend on the cultural and social situation. One of the main conclusions is that technological solutions alone are not enough to produce savings. To achieve this goal, consumers need to be involved from the early stages of pilot projects. Moreover, the innovation potential is not linked to the technology itself but to the target population. Engagement, privacy, trust, using the right language should represent key foci. Some recommendations emerge from the project. First, pilot projects should test smart grid technologies using vulnerable consumers as target groups. Second, the response of vulnerable consumers to time-varying tariffs should be better understood in order to avoid a stronger exposure of vulnerable consumers to price fluctuations. Furthermore, innovative schemes for energy efficiency could be tested to find ways of funding additional services and equipment. Finally, smart metering pilots could also be used to test a range of new services to vulnerable and energy poor households, e.g. ensuring adequate room temperature.

Marilyn Smith from EnAct, Paris concluded this session showing the importance of empowering vulnerable households in oder to address two main challenges: the high level of energy poverty and the low energy literacy worldwide. She showed the different means an organisation such as EnAct develop in order to be engage, inform and explain energy poverty. A project such as Cold@Home (http://www.coldathome.today/) and other documentary films and photo help make the story more personal. Inform and explain also means explaining the background of energy poverty. From personal EnAct wants to transform the information into a political issue and thus join advocacy group such as the the Right to Energy Coalition in Brussels. Social innovations addressing energy poverty are supported through Ashoka Foundation and Schneider Electric.

On the second day of the Paris workshop, WG4 and WG1 work separately on their respective deliverables and future projects. The results were a full commitment of all WG4 team to the future activities of the working group dealing with understanding energy beyond conventional solutions. Pink means that the members of WG4 are ready for action! WG1 members deepened their current projects (EP-pedia and survey) and looked into 2019 activities with the same enthusiasm. Cooperation between both working groups has been considered on some cross-cutting issues such as a qualitative analysis of households' stories to uncover the drivers of energy poverty at EU level.

Both groups looked into "the iceberg" of energy poverty and develop ideas to deepen the causes of energy poverty in Europe going beyond the traditional approach, both from a qualitative (households' stories and socio-economic and political system) and a quantitative perspective. The right to energy is also considered as a research lead for WG4 while WG1 is planning a study on how to build clusters of subnational entities around cooling and heating vulnerability.

Caption of the pictures

Picture 1: Neil Clapperton introducing the energy poverty issue in Scotland, Paris, 22 October 2018

From George Jiglau, Paris, 22 October 2018

Picture 2: Mesopotamia, Grassroot initiative, a call for a public event against property tax link with the claim "no home without electricity", 2011 in Greece

From the presentation of Fereniki Vatavali, Paris, 22 October 2018

Picture 3: Logo of L'Atelier Solidaire, initiative introduced by EDF R&D in Toulouse

From the presentation of Arpit Mahrenda Kothari and Ferenc Fodor, Paris, 22 October 2018

Picture 4: Logo of the Alliance against Energy Poverty in Catalonia

From the presentation of Maria Campuzano, Paris, 22 October 2018

Picture 5: Presentation of the MAGE programme

From the presentation of Elodie Lempereur-Rouger, Paris, 22 October 2018

Picture 6: Presentation of the experience of Nerdalize by Chris Mooiweer by Skype with the chair of the session Joao Pedro Gouveia

From George Jiglau, Paris, 22 October 2018

Picture 7: EnAct, logo of the Energy Action Project

From the presentation of Marilyn Smith, Paris, 22 October 2018

Picture 8: Logo of the Right to Energy Coalition

From the presentation of Marilyn Smith, Paris, 22 October 2018

Picture 9: Roadmap of WG4 and in pink distribution of the work among the members

From George Jiglau, Paris, 22 October 2018

Picture 10: The "iceberg": both WG1 and WG4 look into the iceberg to consider the drivers of the energy poverty

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