

## SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM) SCIENTIFIC REPORT

This report is submitted for approval by the STSM applicant to the STSM coordinator

**Action number: Action CA16232 - STSM ECOST-STSM-Request-CA16232-42193**

**STSM title: Behavioral and cultural approaches to analyzing energy poverty**

**STSM start and end date: 13/01/2019 to 27/01/2019**

**Grantee name: Ana Stojilovska**

### PURPOSE OF THE STSM:

My research goal was looking at energy poverty from cultural, anthropological and psychological perspective and investigating the behavior of energy poor households. This behavior of the energy poor is relevant for further research as it might contribute to better understanding of energy poverty, especially regarding the definition of energy poverty and its indicators.

The host country, Spain is also one of the countries with high share of energy poverty in Europe and an exciting place to observe research and activism in regard to energy poverty and vulnerability. The reason to spend my Visiting Fellowship at ICTA, UAB was to exchange and collaborate with Dr. Sergio Tirado Herrero who has an expertise in energy poverty particularly in Hungary and Spain, as well as in quantitative methods. I have presented my current research in my host institution in front of colleagues and students. I critically discussed the use of my quantitative data from my doctoral dissertation, which is closely related to behavior patterns of the energy poor. The Visiting Fellowship was a relevant part of my doctoral studies at CEU, as it enabled me to collaborate with other researchers in my area and to reflect on my work, methods and approaches.

### DESCRIPTION OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE STSMS

During the Visiting Fellowship I have produced a literature review of the cultural, anthropological and psychological approaches to energy poverty and behavior of energy poor households. Additionally, I have made a summary of secondary data (statistics, case studies) and primary data (my collected data as part of my doctoral research) on culture and behavior in regard to energy poverty, with a focus on Hungary, Spain, Macedonia and Austria. Both outputs enabled me to investigate in more detailed the role of behavior and culture in regard to energy use at the household level.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2019 I've presented my doctoral research at ICTA. It was titled 'Energy poverty and the injustice of heat'. With fresh empirical research findings from two European countries with different political legacies, standards of living and levels of energy poverty, Austria and Macedonia, I talked about novel findings about energy poor households' priorities in regard to energy use, and how these are related to the type of heating. I also discussed the distributive, recognition and procedural injustices per type of heating and how some heating systems are more often chosen by energy poor consumers. I've also explained the implications for the EU-led low-carbon transition. After the presentation, I had an extensive discussion with the students and colleagues which was very useful for reflecting on my findings.

Since I'm currently working on a horizontal matter, the quantitative analysis of my large dataset, I had productive discussions with Dr. Sergio Tirado Herrero about ways in which I can visually present my quantitative data and ways in which I can improve the generalization of the results coming from different datasets. I've also discussed a lot with Dr. Sergio Tirado Herrero my current doctoral research progress, in particular how I could improve the focus of my chapters, the organization of the material and the

interpretation of the results. I've also shared my syllabus titled 'Energy and culture' which I'm teaching in spring semester 2019 with Dr. Sergio Tirado Herrero and Dr. Tristan Partridge, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at ICTA who provided feedback and shared some of their work with me. It was useful to see those materials and reflect on my teaching materials and doctoral research.

A very interesting day was when I was present at a protest of the Alliance against Energy Poverty which demanded the cancellation of debts for several vulnerable consumers of the utility Naturgy. Since a few months ago I developed an academic interest about the energy activism taking place in Catalonia since I see lots of comparisons to the energy protests in Macedonia in 2013, the latter which I'm covering in my dissertation. I've learned a lot more about the work of the Alliance against Energy Poverty and what does their work mean in conceptual terms of vulnerability and energy justice. I've also introduced the idea to Dr. Sergio Tirado Herrero about comparing the energy protests in Macedonia and Catalonia as a future research avenue.

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED**

As envisaged in the application, these are the direct outcomes from the work during the Visiting Fellowship:

- literature review of the cultural, anthropological and psychological approaches to analyzing energy poverty and behavior of energy poor households

- summary of secondary data (statistics, case studies) and primary data (my collected data as part of my doctoral research) on culture and behavior in regard to energy poverty with focus on Hungary, Spain, Macedonia and Austria

- presentation of my current research at ICTA for students/colleagues

- discussion about the use of quantitative data in my doctoral dissertation

There are the additional outcomes:

- discussion about my doctoral research

- reflection on my syllabus "Energy and culture"

- observation of an Alliance against Energy Poverty's protest

Overall, I was able to reflect on my current research, to think about strategies to improve my quantitative data, and to plan future collaborations within the ENGAGER network. The thematic focus of cultural and behavioral approaches to analyzing energy poverty enabled me to gather useful literature and data for further academic research and teaching. The practical observation of the Alliance's activism was relevant to get to know their activities and to understand the work they do to contribute to the implementation of the law protecting social welfare recipients from disconnections, the role of their community, and their fight for right to energy and dignified life.

This Visiting Fellowship contributed to set of synergies:

- This research is a theoretical extension (culture and behavior) of my doctoral research. The literature review and the summary will be used in the future to produce an article

- This research enabled me to better prepare for my course 'Energy and culture' to be taught at the Department of Culture Anthropology, ELTE, Budapest (starting February 2019)

- This research would fit into my contribution to WG4 and WG3 of COST ENGAGER. In regard to contribution to WG4, which is exploring innovative solutions to alleviate energy poverty and focuses on the multidimensional aspects of energy poverty, the literature review of behavioral and cultural approaches to analyzing energy poverty would add to increased understanding of these under-researched approaches. In regard to contribution to WG3 which studies the dialogues between ENGAGER and a diverse group of relevant stakeholders and is coordinated by Dr. Sergio Tirado Herrero, the field observation of the protest of the Alliance contributes to understanding the impact of the vulnerable consumers who are a new actor in the energy poverty arena.

- This research would fit into future Horizon2020 proposals

- This research and my courses made use of the data and materials collected by the Energy Poverty Observatory

- Intensified cooperation between CEU, ELTE and UAB

### **FUTURE COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)**

Since I'm part of ENGAGER, there are a lot of opportunities for collaboration with Dr. Sergio Tirado Herrero and other colleagues in regard to further pursue the behavioral approaches to analyzing energy poverty and vulnerability. I've invited Dr. Sergio Tirado Herrero and Dr. Tristan Partridge from ICTA to be guest lecturers in my spring course 'Energy and culture' at ELTE. As a current doctoral student at CEU together with my supervisor we are looking for joining consortia for the new set of Horizon project calls on the topic of energy poverty, energy and community, and innovation. In this regard, we would like to continue to cooperate with ICTA and be part of joint proposals.