

## SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM) SCIENTIFIC REPORT

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

**Action number: CA 16232**

**STSM title: Peri-urban societies in energy poverty: a cross-national study of governance addressing the Roma in Romania and the Bedouins in Israel.**

**STSM start and end date: 23/11/2018 to 02/02/2019**

**Grantee name: Vornicu-Chira Andreea**

### PURPOSE OF THE STSM:

(max.200 words)

The purpose of the STSM was to explore and compare cross-national perceptions of policymakers on the challenges related to extreme energy poverty populations (off-grid, disconnected, or otherwise) that live on the edges of cities and societies. In addition, the aim is to map multi-level governance approaches to the challenges associated with extreme energy poverty in these groups, and potential policy solutions.

### DESCRIPTION OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE STSMS

(max.500 words)

These are the main activities carried out during the STSM:

- Reviewd the literature on the energy poverty-justice-segregation nexus and how peri-urban communities are affected by the phenomenon.
- Documentation on case studies. After reviewing the literature, I had skype meetings with the coordination team for documenting the case studies and for an in-depth understanding of both contexts.
- Identified and contacted the main stakeholders from Israel.
- Developed the research instruments. With the supervising team I developed the research instruments: the semi-structured interview guide designed for various stakeholders – public authorities, NGOs and Electricity Company representatives.
- Fieldwork in Israel. During the time spent in Israel I conducted interviews with various stakeholders, such as: representatives of the Regional Councils, the National Bedouin Authority, NGOs, Electricity Company, mayor of Hura municipality and independent consultants.
- Fieldwork in Israel – wrap-up. In this stage of the project I transcribed the interviews and reviewed the data obtained.
- Identify and contact the main stakeholders from Romania and prepare the fieldwork in Ferentari and Pata-Rat communities.

- Fieldwork In Romania. In Romania I conducted interviews with various stakeholders, such as: electricity company representatives, NGO representatives, consultants, members of the Parliament, local authorities.
- Fieldwork wrap-up. As a final part of the project, I start analyzing the data collected, I attended the COST Conference from Bucharest and I collected feedback for an academic paper.

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

After the two main fieldworks were finalized, these are the main findings:

#### **Israel**

These are the main factors that are related to the phenomenon of energy poverty:

- Poverty (affordability to connect to the grid, pay bills, live in legal settlements)
- Administrative procedures (building permits, connection to the grid, the importance of BLUE LINES, IDs)
- Political (land disputes, former housing policies)
- Cultural (different understandings of the space and land, clan based society)
- Environmental (communities are spread, transition from diesel generators to PVP)

#### **Romania**

These are the main factors that are related to the phenomenon of energy poverty:

- Poverty (affordability to connect to the grid, pay bills, live in legal settlements)
- Administrative Procedures (land titles, building permits, legal contracts of renting the space, IDs)
- Political (little interest in these communities, social benefits, preferential tariffs)
- Environmental (communities live in precarious conditions, health hazard areas)

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

Being as well a result, and part of a future collaboration, the STSM team is working now on an academic paper that includes the main findings of the both fieldworks. The academic paper is based on the presentation held on a COST Conference in January in Bucharest and explores the particularities of both sites included in the research design.

In addition, the team has connected with other researchers from Israel (Tareq Abu Hamed from Arava Institute for Environmental Studies) and there are possibilities for continuing the research.